



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

FIELD NEWSLETTER

FALL 2021

Welcome to the 2021-2022 academic year! The ISU Department of Social Work, Field Department, is sending you this Field Newsletter to keep you informed about ‘everything Field’. Please contact the [Field Director](#) if you or your agency has an update that you would like to have included in a future newsletter. Thank you for your continued support of our students and your ongoing dedication to our program!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please mark your calendars:

- **July 29, 2021** Field Instructor Orientation/Training (11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) presented virtually by JoEllen Henson, Field Director
- **July 29, 2021** Sonia Training for Field Instructors (12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.) presented virtually by JoEllen Henson, Field Director, and Rachel Magill, Summer Field G.A.
- **October 22, 2021** ISU and HCI Collaborative Conference “Psychopathology” presented virtually by Dr. Joshua Lowinsky, M.D., DFAPA, Board Certified Adolescent and Adult Psychiatrist
- **October 22, 2021** Field Meeting (12:00-1:00 p.m.) presented virtually by JoEllen Henson, Field Director
- Please refer to the attached “Fall 2021 ISU Department of Social Work Field Calendar” for other important Field-related dates

NEW FACULTY—Dr. Yi

The Department of Social Work is so excited to welcome a new faculty member this semester! Dr. Yi is teaching a few classes this Fall: SOWK 382 and SOWK 384 in the BSW program, as well as SOWK 501 in the MSW program.

Dr. Yi received her PhD from Indiana University School of Social Work (IUSSW) with a minor in Economics; her BA in Social Work and MSW (accredited by CSWE) from Soongsil University, Seoul, Korea. While she was in her doctoral program, Dr. Yi taught social work students at a range of educational levels - from undergraduate to doctoral level. She began her career as a generalist social worker after completing her BSW program. During her

BSW, Dr. Yi worked at a student counseling center at her university in Korea for about two years. She worked with individual students and assisted with group therapy. While this provided experience in a micro-level setting, Dr. Yi wanted to expand her scope, so she moved to a new community and worked with low-income families - children, women, and older adults for about two years. Working in a community, Dr. Yi desired to make long-term changes for the people and realized the significance of policy on the quality of underserved people. So, she entered the MSW program and concentrated on social policy. With her MSW degree, Dr. Yi worked as a researcher at a national research institute in Korea, Korea Research Institute for Vocational and Educational Training (KRIVET), analyzing social and economic policies in Korea. After moving to the United States, she also worked as a program evaluator for the Title IV-E program project, collaborating with the Indiana Department of Child Services.

Dr. Yi is very passionate about research. She is currently interested in caregivers and racial/ethnic minority older adults and learning about how we can leverage technology to enhance the quality of life and reduce health and socioeconomic disparities. To expand her preliminary research, Dr. Yi would like to investigate the experience of family caregivers in Terre Haute and develop a sustainable support system for them working with communities.

Students, please help us welcome Dr. Yi to ISU this semester!

Submitted by: Rachel Magill, Summer Graduate Assistant

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to our Spring 2021 Scholarship Recipients!

Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Scholarship—Kara Ooms

The ISU Department of Social Work would like to congratulate **Kara Ooms**, a second year MSW student, for being chosen as a recipient of the Area Health Education Centers scholarship! The AHEC Scholarship Program is a two-year program for students in health professions looking to work in rural and medically underserved communities across Indiana. The program consists of students working alongside professionals to network and participate in online trainings and community-based learning. Kara says that the coolest thing about the program is that the students can connect with other future medical professionals across Indiana through several trainings and conferences.

In her free time, Kara enjoys being outdoors, hiking and camping with friends. When the weather isn't the greatest, she also likes reading and working out. Kara is a member of the National Association of Social Workers, National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification and American Therapeutic Recreation Association. She likes to keep up with opportunities through these organizations to further her understanding and knowledge of each area.

Kara graduated from ISU in 2016 with her undergraduate degree in Recreation and Sports Management and has been working as a Recreation Therapist at Terre Haute Regional Hospital for 4 years. She made the decision to come back to ISU for her MSW as she found that

she enjoys working in mental health and wanted the ability to do more. Through the Master of Social Work degree, Kara will be able to provide more therapy and other services.

In the future, Kara hopes to find a way to incorporate her skills as a CTRS and MSW to be able to provide therapy and advocacy for underserved populations. She will graduate with her MSW in May of 2022!

MSW Scholarship—Savannah Woolley

The MSW scholarship was awarded to **Savannah Woolley**, a full-time MSW student at Indiana State University. Savannah received her bachelor's in psychology with a minor in sociology through Indiana State in 2020 and is proud to continue her education to support her career in mental health. She has a passion for, and extensive experience working in community based mental health services and plans to continue serving this population upon graduation in 2022.

Savannah's greatest accomplishments are her children, Isaak and Presley, and with this scholarship she will have expanded opportunities to grow professionally and personally. She plans to increase her involvement in the community systems to identify needs and strengths of the population and services provided. Savannah has received strong encouragement and support from her current supervisor, Matthew Duchene, who she attributes a lot of her professional growth. Congratulations, Savannah!

Social Work Scholarship—Alondra Ramirez

The Social Work Scholarship was awarded to full-time BSW student **Alondra Ramirez**. Thanks to the Social Work Scholarship, Alondra will be able to continue her education at ISU. After graduating, she will be pursuing her master's degree to become an LCSW. She hopes to work with women who have gone through abuse and/or sexual trauma. Alondra has gained experience with this specific population by volunteering at Hope Recovery, a nonprofit organization that helps survivors of abuse. She hopes to continue gaining experience through her senior internship at CODA. Alondra encourages any future applicants and students currently enrolled in the social work program to engage with their professors and to enjoy their time in the program. She is very thankful for her time at ISU and her social work professors who have provided her with guidance towards her future.

Lena M. Reading Scholarship – Katherine Gerren

In fall of 2021, **Katherine Gerren** will be a full-time honors student in the BSW program at Indiana State University. She is a nontraditional student and travels from Washington, Indiana to be a part of the social work program at ISU. The Lena M. Reading Scholarship will allow Katherine to continue to achieve her goals at ISU while also fulfilling her roles as a wife and mother. Her advice to future applicants and BSW students is to always believe in yourself and take an active role in your own education. Don't be afraid to speak up or ask for help. Take the time to create a learning atmosphere that you can succeed in; you will get out of your education what you put into it. Believe in yourself and don't be afraid to mess up. Some of life's greatest blessings come on the heels of our biggest mistakes. Katherine has been personally affected by

addiction and the trauma that comes as result of that lifestyle. Amid her battle with addiction, God used people, social workers, and therapists to help her understand, overcome, and maintain a life of recovery. As a result, she feels like she has been called to do the same. Her desire is to be a light to populations affected by trauma and addiction and help them on their healing journey. She plans to continue her education in the MSW program here at ISU with dreams of one day opening her own practice specializing in trauma therapy for children and adults. Congratulations, Katherine!

Robyn R. and Joseph J. Lugar Honors College Social Work Scholarship—Autumn Bontrager

The Robyn R. and Joseph J. Honors College Social Work Scholarship was awarded to **Autumn Bontrager**. She will be continuing her education in the Fall 2021 semester as a Senior BSW student. Autumn is very grateful for the social work department and all of the opportunities she has had through them. She is looking forward to continuing her internship at the Pride Center of Terre Haute. Autumn would like to thank the Lugars for choosing her for this scholarship. Congratulations, Autumn!

MSW STUDENT SPOTLIGHT—Amberleigh Maurer

Amberleigh Maurer is in the Advanced Standing Master of Social Work Program here at ISU. She has completed internships with the Salvation Army and Gibault Children's Services and will begin her clinical internship placement at Harsha Behavioral Center beginning in the fall.

Throughout Amberleigh's three semesters as an intern at Gibault, Amberleigh has helped create and pilot the Family First Program. The Family First Program consists of educational materials and activities to be sent home with each child in hopes of continued improvement upon their discharge from Gibault. Before this program, when children were discharged, parents were given very minimal resources to help their child succeed, and often it was discovered that children were not maintaining progress as projected at home. Thanks to Family First, parents are now provided a plethora of information to better help their child – and ultimately, their family – improve their functioning and succeed after their time at Gibault.

Amberleigh earned her associates degree in Psychology from Lakeland College, her Bachelor of Social Work from Indiana State University, and will graduate with her Master of Social Work in May of 2022.

BSW STUDENT SPOTLIGHT—Abbi Hamm

Abbi Hamm will be a senior BSW student this year at ISU and is from Terre Haute. She graduated from Ivy Tech with her Associates Degree in December of 2019 and was drawn to ISU because she had heard about how wonderfully the university works with transfer students. Abbi had a very smooth transition between the two schools, beginning with a meeting with the BSW Program Director, Robyn Lugar. Professor Lugar helped Abbi feel right at home at ISU.

Throughout Abbi's time at ISU, she has been very involved with the Terre Haute community and the university. In March of 2020, at the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic, she was asked by a social work professor to be a resource volunteer for Vigo County Mutual Aid. Abbi posted daily food resources to the VCMA Facebook page, and within a short amount of time, she saw the huge need that was happening within Vigo County. Subsequently, Abbi planned and hosted two coat drive events ended up collecting 500 coats for community members in need. With the help of a fellow student and the VCMA family, the coat drive enabled VCMA to provide winter coats to individuals in need of them. This was the ultimate learning experience for Abbi, and she is so thankful to ISU!

Abbi's junior internship placement was with Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice of the Wabash Valley, and her senior field placement will be with Hamilton Center's in-patient unit; Abbi is very excited for all the experiences she anticipates having there.

Submitted by: Rachel Magill, Summer Graduate Assistant

FIELD INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT—Rick Stuffle, LCSW, LCAC, MSW

Rick Stuffle is an LMHC and Clinical Director at Hamilton Center. He is a Field Instructor for Masters level social work students. He is a really great teacher, especially whenever others are having trouble understanding or implementing something. Rick works really hard at what he does and allows interns to provide a range of services to consumers to get as much experience as possible. Rick is very kind, gives great feedback, and works really well with students to accommodate their lives and schedules. He is overall just a great FI with a lot of knowledge!

Submitted by Paige Lett, MSW student

FIELD AGENCY SPOTLIGHT— CODA

The **Council on Domestic Abuse, Inc. (CODA)** is a domestic violence shelter in Terre Haute, Indiana, serving persons of any gender and their minor children who have experienced domestic abuse. CODA's mission is the elimination of domestic violence and sexual assault through societal change and the empowerment of abused individuals and their minor children.

The nonprofit organization provides many services in the community at no cost to the clients, including an emergency shelter, 24/7 crisis hotline, legal advocacy and support, sexual assault advocacy and support, a children's program, education and prevention programs, and a volunteer and internship program. The Council on Domestic Abuse can house up to 35 individuals at one time in their emergency shelter, and continue to provide case management once clients are able to move out into the shelter into a safe space.

The organization does such valuable work in the community, and is such an under-utilized resource! CODA provides many experiences for interns, such as allowing them to shadow and practice skills used in each step of the Generalist Intervention Model! CODA hosts internship at the BSW junior, senior, and MSW generalist level. For anyone interested in participating in the organization's internship program, email the [Volunteer/Intern Coordinator](#) !

Submitted by Rachel Magill, MSW student

SONIA DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM—



“A powerful central placement management tool.” “Sonia's comprehensive and flexible feature set is designed to help at key stages of your student placement program – ensuring seamless transition of student data, records management and efficiency through automation and workflow mapping – all in a single platform.”

Welcome to Sonia!

Moving forward, the Social Work Department has chosen to utilize a new data management system called Sonia. We will use this system to manage Timesheets, Schedule of Hours, Learning Plans, Midterm Evaluations, Journals, and all communication between the Department and Field Agency Personnel will take place here. Throughout this past summer, our MSW students have piloted Sonia, and we all like it so much that we will continue using this system for years to come! This data management system has proven to be more efficient and easier to navigate for everyone – students, faculty, and agency personnel.

A Sonia orientation session will be provided to Field Instructors and Task Supervisors on July 29 from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM via Zoom. A student orientation to Sonia will be held on August 12 from 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM via Zoom. Each session will be recorded so that those who are unavailable can watch the orientation at a time that is convenient for them. Please keep an eye on your email for more information about these sessions!

MEET OUR GA'S—

Julianna Gallion is a first year Graduate Student in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Master's Program. Julianna earned her Bachelor's degree in Marketing from Indiana State University. After graduating in 2019, she began working in sales, but decided that she wanted a change to a more fulfilling career. Outside of her time spent on her education, Julianna enjoys doing a wide variety of things. She enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and her two bunnies. She also enjoys spending time outdoors in her garden, swimming, and going on hikes with her boyfriend. Some other hobbies of hers include painting, reading, and volunteering for

her church. She is very excited for the opportunities her graduate program and assistantship will bring her this August!

Rachel Magill is in the Advanced Standing Master of Social Work Program here at Indiana State University. She spent the summer as a graduate assistant for the Department of Social Work and will continue in that position throughout the 2021-2022 academic year. Rachel has assisted the department faculty with many things throughout the summer, such as learning and implementing our new field education software, Sonia, assisting Field Director JoEllen Henson with numerous field education projects, and other administrative tasks. Throughout this upcoming academic year, she will serve as an APA writing assistant and resource to our BSW and MSW students.

In May of 2021, Rachel graduated from ISU with her Bachelor of Social Work and Certified Nonprofit Professional certification. She began the MSW Advanced Standing Program in May of 2021 and will graduate with her MSW in May of 2022. In her undergraduate years, Rachel was very involved on campus and in Terre Haute with many organizations through volunteer, employment, and internship opportunities. Upon obtaining her MSW, Rachel plans to move to Michigan with her boyfriend and become an LMSW School Social Worker and pursue policy advocacy/community organizing as well. In her free time, Rachel enjoys spending time with her friends and family, attending concerts (pre/post COVID), playing Animal Crossing, watching *Stranger Things*, and trying new foods and restaurants.

Kara Ooms is a second year Graduate Assistant in the Department of Social Work. As a Graduate Assistant, she assists in simulation events, MSW program recruitment and other administrative tasks. She has her BS in Sports and Recreation Management from Indiana State University and has been working as a Recreational Therapist at TH Regional Hospital for the past 4 years. She enjoys integrating Music and Art therapies as well as mindfulness practices into her work. When Kara's not studying on campus or working at the hospital, she's doing a thousand other things - you can find her visiting local parks, planning her future sustainable homestead, learning, listening to podcasts, and reading. She enjoys being outdoors and is actively working on crossing National Parks/travel locations off her bucket list. Her love for nature, love for people and with the encouragement from friends, she decided to pursue a master's in social work to gain licensure and is determined to become a wilderness therapist.

MSW DCS SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Department of Child Services (DCS) encourages and supports its staff to improve their education and employment status. DCS staff are able to apply for the IVE Scholarship if accepted into a participating MSW program. Specifically, the DCS office in Vigo County currently has two Scholars enrolled at Indiana State University, Erin Boyll and William Welch. Julia Larson is a Scholar from the Tippecanoe County DCS office. Erin, William, and Julia are completing their work-based practicums this summer. Each student is working on individual projects within DCS.

Erin Boyll-During my nearly 8 years at the Department of Child Services I have taken on several roles including Peer Coach, Permanency Roundtable Facilitator and Peer Mentor. I have

experience working as a Family Case Manager in both Assessment and Permanency, had the opportunity to work in specialized units with the Adoption Team and the START (Sobriety Treatment and Recovery) Team and am now working as an Intake Specialist at the Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline.

I am so grateful to have been awarded the DCS Scholarship, which has opened the door to my newest role of graduate student and gotten me one step closer to my long-time dream of earning an MSW.

In my DCS Practicum this summer I have worked with the Clinical Services Specialist Team, increasing my knowledge in Child-Focused Treatment Reviews and how recommendations are made for children in DCS's care. I have also worked with Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT) training to become a CIRT responder, researching evidence based practices on secondary traumatic stress (STS) and creating an informational resource packet for CIRT and DCS staff. This includes a guide for facilitating a CIRT response using the Psychological First Aid model, as well as several resources to increase staff knowledge on STS and resiliency building. It is my hope that this project raises awareness about CIRT responses and helps reduce the stigma for child welfare workers when seeking support for STS or following a critical incident.

Julia Larson- I have been with DCS for almost seven years. I was excited to start graduate school through the DCS MSW program. It is a great opportunity to expand your learning in family and child welfare. During my summer internship, I got the privilege to work with the Focused Needs Director at DCS on a Human Trafficking Project. I was able to attend many virtual meetings and training with my field instructor to increase my knowledge. My project involves researching resources available to Foster and Kinship Parents and compiling them into a guide. This guide will be introduced to Region 5 Foster and Kinship Parents to help bring awareness of human trafficking.

William Welch- I am currently a supervisor with the Department of Child Services in Vigo County where I have a concentration on permanency of families as well as Family Recovery Court. I have been with DCS for 5 years and prior to that I worked within the Indiana Department of Correction for 15 years in a multitude of roles. I am very appreciative to the Department of Child Services for awarding me this scholarship so I can pursue my MSW. I have one year left in the program and I am currently interning at DCS focusing on children in residential placements and how best to help these children be able to stepdown into a less restrictive environment and finding them their forever family; additionally, helping our clinical team. Starting in the fall I will start my clinical internship at Harsha Behavioral; I am very excited to begin this new chapter.

FALL 2021 ISU DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK FIELD CALENDAR

Thursday, July 29	Orientation for new Field Instructors 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Thursday, July 29	Field Instructor Sonia Training 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. (Virtual)
Tuesday, August 17	Fall Semester Begins: Students may begin placements after in-class orientation
Monday, September 6	Labor Day: University Closed
Tuesday, September 7	August Timesheets Due
September 27-28	NASW Indiana Chapter Annual Conference (virtual)
Friday, October 8	Fall Break (No Day or Evening Classes)
Tuesday, October 12	September Timesheets Due; Midterm Evaluations Due
Friday, October 22	ISU/HCI Collaborative Conference on "Psychopathology" (virtual)
Saturday, October 23	Homecoming: Indiana State University vs. TBD
Tuesday, November 9	October Timesheets Due
November 22-26	Thanksgiving Break
Monday, November 29	November Timesheets, Completed Learning Plans, Final Evals
November 29-December 3	Study Week
Friday, December 3	Last possible day of Field Placement
December 6-10	Final Examinations
December 11	Commencement

Please feel free to view the [ISU Calendar](#) as well as the [Department of Social Work Events](#) for additional campus events and information.

For questions, concerns, or feedback, please contact:

Faculty Field Liaison: [Julie Campbell-Miller](#)

Faculty Field Liaison: [Hailee Lauritzen](#)

Faculty Field Liaison: [Robyn Lugar](#)

Field Director: [JoEllen Henson](#)