

# THE SOCIAL BUZZ

East Central University's Social Work Program Newsletter

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## Greetings from the Director

Greetings and thank you for reading the East Central University's social work newsletter. This has been an exciting and busy semester.



Social Work students have continued to demonstrate their desire to change the world and serve their community through classwork and service learning projects. Students have demonstrated their ability to work with individuals, groups and the community. They have participated in simulation labs on campus, attended Legislative Day at the State Capitol and advocated for a world free from child abuse during April's Child Abuse Awareness month. I continue to be amazed by student involvement. Our students exude a passion for social work and helping.

The success of our students, is the success of our program.

Best,

Amy Ward

## Phi Alpha Honor Society's New Officers

Phi Alpha Honor Society is a national society for those majoring in Social Work. The ECU chapter is Phi Upsilon. While new to ECU, our goal is to grow as an organization, stimulate interest in preparation for a career in social work, recognize and promote scholastic achievement while improving and furthering the goals of social work in the community. This semester, we voted in new officers. We would like to congratulate and recognize Rebekah Byrd as the chapter President, Shaya Harris as Vice President and Melody Harris as Secretary/Treasurer.

Also new this semester is the inclusion of prospective members in Phi Alpha meetings and activities. In order to be a full member, students must be a social work major with unconditional admission into the program and be in good standing. Full members must have completed 9 hours of social work courses, have an overall GPA of 3.25 and a 3.5 in social work courses. A prospective member needs to have declared social work as a major, completed 45 credit hours and have an overall GPA of 3.25 GPA or greater.

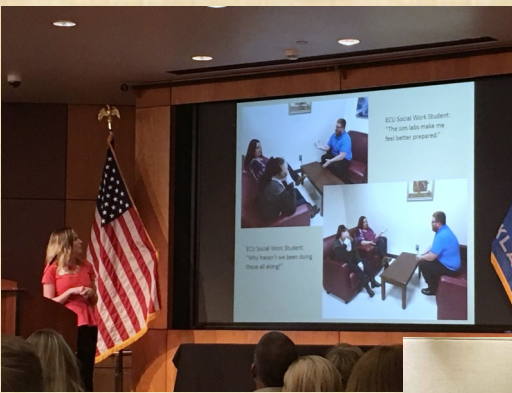
For more information about Phi Alpha, please contact instructor Shelley Bailey.

# Simulation Lab Project Comes Full Circle at 2018 DaVinci Ceremony

Simulation labs are an innovative way to give social work students the opportunity to interact with clients, groups, and communities in a safe but realistic environment. Thanks to the support from the Oklahoma DaVinci Institute and a lot of hard work over the past year, The ECU social work program has been able to implement this idea and is now proud to announce that it has been fully embedded in our curriculum.

To bring the project full circle, Program Director, Mrs. Amy Ward, presented the implementation process and success of the program during the 2018 DaVinci Honors & Awards ceremony held earlier this spring.

We continue to work towards improving this innovation and making it meaningful for students.



Mrs. Ward presenting the success of the simulation labs during the 2018 DaVinci ceremony

ECU Social Work faculty, as well as President Pierson and Dr. Lancaster, support Mrs. Ward (and her husband) at the 2018 DaVinci ceremony



# ECU Students Offer Support During Teacher Walkout

This month's Teacher Walkout was an unprecedented event in Oklahoma. A large number of school districts closed, allowing for their teachers and staff to participate in the walkout at the capitol. In order to continue to provide for students in need, area schools offered meals during this time, as well as bus transportation to and from their cafeterias. In order to support the cause, ECU Social Work students Shelby Bryant, Rebekah Byrd, Morgan Hull, Brandon Meador, and Britney Ridenour, along with Instructor Shelley Bailey, offered their support to those who took advantage of this meal opportunity by serving meals and visiting with students at Homer Elementary school in Ada.

ECU Social Work Students take a break after serving lunch to students in need at Homer Elementary school during the Teacher Walkout



## 2018 Legislative Day at the Capitol

Social Work students Kim Dickson, Brandon Meador, Brock Neely and Britney Ridenour participated in the 2018 Legislative Education & Advocacy Day at the state capitol on April 23. The morning consisted of presentations and discussions on several topics including the Teacher Walkout, House Bill 2932 & Senate Bill 1179 which would cut access to medical care/SoonerCare for low-income parents, and Senate Bill 1140 which would allow private agencies to deny foster and adoption based on sexual preference. After lunch, students were able to explore the Capitol building and talk with senators and representatives. Students were fortunate to meet with Senator Allison Ikley-Freeman (District 37) to discuss the pros, cons, concerns and ideas regarding SB 1140 and future issues. Ms. Ikley-Freeman was very open, candid, and welcoming of discussion regarding this bill, as well as HB 2932 & SB 1179. Following this interaction, students were able to sit in the observation deck of the House of Representatives to listen and watch our state representatives discuss different bills, such as a bill regarding sentencing for juveniles who have committed violent crimes and one addressing substance abuse and mental health.



Social work students and instructor inside the rotunda at the Oklahoma State Capitol

Social work students outside the Oklahoma State Capitol



## Human Resources Department Awards Banquet

Several social work students were honored during the Department of Human Resources Awards and Recognitions Program, which was held on April 13, 2018. Scholarship awardees included Rebekah Byrd and Melody Harris. Social Work Student of the Year also went to Rebekah Byrd, while the Outstanding Social Work Intern was granted to Alejandra Martinez. The Distinguished Alumni award was bestowed to the late Darin Griffin and was accepted on his behalf by his father. Congratulations students!

## Events



Current and previous ECU social work faculty and students attend the 2018 NASW-OK conference



Students volunteer at the 2018 Ada Children's Fair



In honor of Child Abuse Awareness month (April), members of the Social Work Student Association delivered baked goods to local professionals who work to end child abuse every day of the year. Recipients included Chickasaw Nation Indian Child Welfare, Pontotoc County DHS, Pontotoc County Sheriff's Office, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), and the Ada Police De-

April 27th, 2018

## Congrats to our May 2018 Graduates!



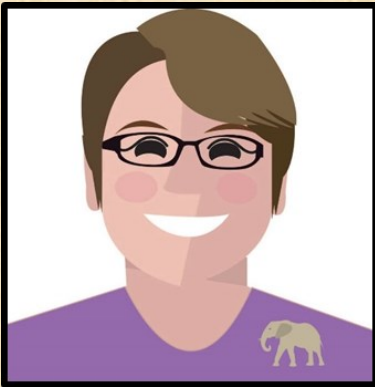
### Upcoming:

- June 4th: summer semester begins
- August 17th: Internship and New Student Orientation
- August 20th: Fall semester begins
- August 24th: Social Work Student Association kick-off meeting

Graduates include: Shaya Harris, Yvonne Beale, Manda Lemaster, Jessenia Salas, Casey Lefever, Samantha Long, Ashli Worcester, and Jamie Smith



## Calantha's Corner



Happy April, my fabulous Social Work folks!

Linscheid Library has entered the wondrous world of social media, and you should check us out by visiting:

- Our Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/ECUlibrary/>)
- Our Blog (<http://ecok.libguides.com/>)

Like our Facebook page to stay current on upcoming library events and view videos of your very own librarian dressing as the Sorting Hat, reading a children's book, or answering "Stump the Librarian" questions.

Subscribe to our blog to see what other ECU faculty/students are researching or what new resources the library has to offer. If you are interested in being interviewed for the blog, email my colleague, Marla Lobley, at [mlobley@ecok.edu](mailto:mlobley@ecok.edu).

Please remember, if you need anything at all, you can email me at [ctil-lotsn@ecok.edu](mailto:ctil-lotsn@ecok.edu) or make an appointment at [http://ecok.libguides.com/human\\_resources](http://ecok.libguides.com/human_resources).

Your Friendly Librarian,

Calantha

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