Upcoming Continuing Education Events

Kelly Ward, PhD, LCSW, LCADC
Clinical Supervision in the Social Work Setting
May 14th & 15th, 8am - 4pm
May 16th, 8am - 12pm

Carolyn Bradley, PhD, LCSW, LCADC
Chris Costello, LCSW, LCADC
Social Workers in Private Practice
Wednesday, July 9th, 9am - 4pm

Mary Kay Jou
Leaving Home: Understanding the Immigrant & Refugee Experience
Thursday, July 10th, 9am - 4pm

monmouth.edu/socialwork
Registration & printed brochures with original artwork as well as a full list of Spring and Summer continuing education programs are available.
Web registration coming soon!
FIFTEEN DAYS IN MEXICO BY KENNETH COOPER

I am one of the four dual degree candidates in the Masters of Divinity program at Drew University and Masters of Social Work program, here at Monmouth, but getting closer to the threshold of graduation in May from both institutions. I started the beginning of this year fulfilling the cross-cultural requirement with thirteen other seminarians in Mexico for fifteen days. I will consider my immersion in the Mexican culture as a transformative requirement, as you will see in what follows.

The group arrived in Mexico City on Saturday and stayed at the Anglican Seminary for the first seven days and the last seven days in Chiapas, approximately a ninety-minute plane ride from Mexico City. My formation as a minister and social worker birthed as we toured and heard testimonies from the marginalized, lectures from the scholars and faith statements from the religious. I was not in Mexico just as a minister, which I am, but I was also there as a social worker—it was revelatory—the two are intricately woven together, but neither overrides my humanity. Rather, they both strengthen it. Dwight Hopkins defines theology as human speech about God’s relation to humanity. The IFSW defines the objective of the social work profession as one to promote social change, problem solving in human relationships and the empowerment and liberation of people to enhance well being. In other words, the minister advocates and stands between the divine-to-human relationship where the social worker advocates and stands between the human-to-human relationships. One without the other is insufficient, but the two in conjunction can empower the individual resulting in stronger community.

On one hand, I experienced the beauty and richness of Mexico through my God given five senses, which most of us take for granted or ignore. I tasted the chicken with mole sauce, the authentic quesadillas, and enchiladas. I smelled the spicy sauces simmering in pans at restaurants and the beautiful flowers in the palace’s garden. I touched the texture of cloth used by indigenous women to make a living and sculptures crafted in ancient Aztec times that still exist. The greatest sense used to capture the entire experience was my sight. I saw and climbed the pyramids of Teotihuacán that existed before the Mayas. I saw the great architect at the sacred Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. I saw the history of a people in the National Museum of Anthropology and on a mural painted by Diego Rivera on the walls of the government building. I saw and stood in the middle of the Plaza of Three Cultures. I almost forgot, I saw the simple yet sublime—Mexico’s mountainous peaks and beautiful valleys. I heard Mexicans sing and play, especially in Chiapas, folk music with the marimba and balloons popping in the sky with the wishes of children, during the festival of the Three Kings.

On the other hand, these same senses allowed me to understand the depravation and the underside of Mexico rarely seen or heard in media outlets. Unless an individual dares to travel to this country, Mexico and many other developed countries’ situations are overlooked or swept under the carpet of capitalism, greed and oppressive policies. I saw the oppressed population in the countryside of Mexico, a region where the government opens the water valve for only two hours a day, in order to ensure that tourists in other parts have an abundant supply of water for twenty-four hours. I heard the cries of mothers and wives left alone to raise the family, because the father and sons went north (the United States) to make more than Mexico’s $4.50 a day minimum wage, knowing that it may cost them their lives. I felt the pain of corn farmers, who used to grow nine different types of corns (Mexico is known as the country of corn), crying because they no longer grow corn due to the far-reaching effects of NAFTA. Now, a country that used to grow and export nine different types of corn is limited to one type of corn genetically made (US Patent) and imported into the country. As I entered into one of many autonomous communities, I touched the hands of masked Zapatista’s strapped with machine guns, who took my passport, because I was under their law and jurisdiction. I saw the fire of determination in the eyes of Zapatistas’ leaders, both women and men, as they expressed the desire and will to experience and practice true liberation from an oppressive government. I experienced breaking bread and singing songs of hope with Base Community Christians in dire poverty and abandoned by the Catholic Church to find out the mystery of salvation through community. I found solidarity with a young woman who guided me in making tortillas over a rock ditch fire with my own hands after explaining that is how she makes a living. Continued on page 6.

1 Hopkins, Dwight N. Heart and Head, Black Theology Past, Present and Future. New York: Palgrave, 2002

NEW 1 Credit Course for Initial

Are you interested in becoming a Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC)? The Department of Social Work is offering a new 1 credit course this summer called Addict Considerations. The class is being held over 3 full days on May 19, 22 and 23 and replaces the continuing education workshops that were offered through the Professional Education Program. Current graduate students may register for this course listed as SW-603-A01. New students will need to complete a non-matriculated admission form through the office of graduate admissions.
FACULTY BUZZ
Carolyn A. Bradley, PhD, LCSW, LCADAC

PRESENTATIONS


10/07: Bradley, C. Women and AA. Women’s Health: Addiction, Trauma & Health Conference. NJ Dept of health & Senior Services, Princeton, NJ.


5/07: Bradley, C. Strength for the Journey: The Spirituality of the Therapist and the Client. NASW-NJ Annual Conference, Atlantic City, NJ.

JOURNALS


BOOKS

CONTRIBUTED CHAPTERS

Bradley, C., Richards, R. & Doyle, R. Education.

CURRENT RESEARCH

Hi! I am Natalie Solga, an MSW student in the ICD Program. My friend Andrea Toland and I interned with the International Federation of Social Workers at the United Nations. I feel very lucky to have had this experience and I have gained a lot from it.

Coming to Monmouth from Northeast Minnesota, I wanted an international experience that I couldn’t get anywhere close to home. With encouragement from Andrea and Dr. Mama, I pursued an internship at the UN, and I got it! Through my internship I attended many information sessions and meetings at the UN where I was connected to amazing people doing some amazing things. Some of the people I worked with have been at the UN for decades and were abundances of knowledge and experience. Some people I worked with were new and bringing innovative ideas to their organizations and brought comfort to me as I struggled with trying to navigate and fit in at the UN. During the time I was at the UN there were 2 Commissions that I was able to participate in, the Commission on Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women. Both of these were great opportunities to see how the UN works at all levels and how these levels collaborate (sometimes). People gathered from all over the world to be heard, work together, and try to solve some of the major issues that our world is plagued with.

I took the information I learned about the UN, the various NGOs, and the struggle for human rights faced by people around the world and brought it back to NE MN and taught it to 8th graders back home who have not been exposed to many global issues or issues of human rights. They did not even know what human rights are. Now they are seeking out ways to promote human rights and have a positive impact on the world. Continued on page 6.
The Department of Social Work is pleased to welcome our International Scholar in Residence, Dr. Atiqur Rahman, to the department for the spring semester. Dr. Rahman is one of the leading social work gerontologists in Bangladesh. He is the acting secretary general of the largest non-governmental organization in Bangladesh working with the aged. The Bangladesh Association for the Aged and Institute of Geriatric Medicine (BAAIGM) works closely with the government to provide care and services for the more than 10 million elderly people in Bangladesh. Primarily, the organization provides health services, social supports and recreation services.

Dr. Rahman has been teaching Social Work Research and has participated in numerous lectures. As part of the Global Understanding Convention, Dr. Rahman gave a lecture about BAAIGM. In addition, he graciously accompanied four Mexican delegates from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Dr. Rahman recently stepped down from being the Dean of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and is still on the faculty there. He has published two books on social research, and his current interests are in gerontology. The Department would like to graciously thank Atiqur for his contributions this semester.

**International & Community Development Student Research Presentations**

Second-year and advanced standing International and Community Development students presented their semester-long research projects in an academic poster session last December. Students’ work was qualitative and focused on evaluating the impact of programs, interventions, or policies in their field placement agencies. Students will be able to conduct skilled program evaluations in their practice following graduation, making one of many important contributions to community organizing and agency administration in social work!

- **Andrea Toland**
  Student Loans and Their Affect on Students at Monmouth University

- **Katy Holland & Hannah Tilton**
  (not pictured)
  Outcome Evaluation of International Youth Advocacy Federation Development Conference

- **Hannah Tilton**
  Youngsters No More: Evaluation of Youth Participation in

- **Lynda Ziemba**
  Women’s Health, HIV/AIDS and

- **Lisa Wilson**
  (pictured with Kim Hines)
  Hunger and Food Insecurity

- **Kim Hines**
  Volunteer Enthusiasm and Learning

**Enter: Atiqur Rahman**

The Department of Social Work is pleased to welcome our International Scholar in Residence, Dr. Atiqur Rahman, to the department for the spring semester. Dr. Rahman is one of the leading social work gerontologists in Bangladesh. He is the acting secretary general of the largest non-governmental organization in Bangladesh working with the aged. The Bangladesh Association for the Aged and Institute of Geriatric Medicine (BAAIGM) works closely with the government to provide care and services for the more than 10 million elderly people in Bangladesh. Primarily, the organization provides health services, social supports and recreation services.

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CONTEMPORARY CLINICAL PRACTICE
WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE TRANSGENDERED
THE FUTURE IS NOW!

On April 11, 2008 folks gathered in Wilson Auditorium to listen to the first annual Greta Singer Lecture in Clinical Social Work. The goal of the lecture and afternoon panel was to gain an understanding of the unique therapeutic needs of transgendered people. The day started with keynote lecturer, Arlene Istar Lev, a social worker and family therapist from Albany, NY. Ms. Lev gave an amazing introduction to the emotional, physical, medical, and human rights issues which impact the lives of people who are transgendered. The afternoon panel included clinician, Jim Clarke; medical expert, Lisa O’Connor; neuropharmacologist, Alden Masonis; attorney, Leslie Farber; and parent and advocate, Margo Saltzman. The variety of experts and breadth of information did justice to the importance of this cutting edge social work issue.

The Department of Social Work would like to acknowledge the following list of donors who have generously supported the Annual Greta Singer Lecture in Clinical Social Work. So far we have raised over $13,000!

Kemi Akinjiola  Stella Carpenter  Alison R. Filgate  Elena Mazza  Arlene Silver
Anonymous  Judy Cerchiello  Ashley Friedman  Jana Montefusco  Barbara Singer-Borges
Joyce Applegate-Tillson  Robin Clambrone  Terry Hennessy  Janet Moss  Dr. Boyd Swartz
Sharon Beskin-Goodman  Marcell Colmer  Kathryn Irving  Vanessa Moss  Rita Torres
Millie Bickling  Eileen Corcoran  Andrew Kolisz  Paula Neal  Victoria Wade
Carolyn Bradley  Sonal Dave  Leah Lazzaro  Priscilla Oughton
The Brunetti Foundation  Laura DiGiovanni  Robert Lowry  Barbara Rookey

Yes! I would like to contribute to the Greta Singer Lecture in Clinical Social Work.

☐ $1,000  ☐ $500
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Your gift is greatly appreciated and is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.
Kenneth Cooper, continued from page 2.

We live in a diverse and complex society that is a myriad of cultures, beliefs, values and religions. The responsibility, therefore, of the contemporary academy that focuses on and take seriously human interaction as a vocation is to prepare its students as leaders by offering them the opportunity to encounter the ‘other’ in the context of the ‘other,’ from the lenses of that vocation. Drew Theological School mandates that encounter for those who matriculate into the Masters of Divinity program. The classroom challenges the students from a scholarly perspective; however, the cross-cultural trip challenges the existence of their privileged status and shapes their theology in global context, in ways the classroom can never accomplish. A transformation takes place during this—what I call—a “cross the borders” trip. A mystical force the student cannot deny enables them to build a mental bridge that connects classroom pedagogy with that of experiential pedagogy, resulting in cultural solidarity. In addition, it emboldens them to practice, instead of mimicking, their professed vocation.

As you read above, my “cross the borders” trip was transformative, because it enlightened me to the fact that my greatest asset as a minister and social worker is the use of my senses. This is imperative for social workers, because our senses are consistent, whether abroad or local, whether macro or micro and are always available, if we do not ignore them or take them for granted. These senses allow us as members of a human interaction vocation to experience truly our differences and to share the value of humanity. I would be remiss if I did not tell you the last treasure that made the trip one of transformation. Last semester, in Dr. Barbera’s class, we read an article, written by Gustavo Esteva, out of the Post-Development Reader book entitled “Basta! Mexican Indians Say ‘Enough’.” Esteva wrote about the Zapatistas movement (EZLN) and their autonomous communities in Chiapas. “Wow,” or at least that is what I said, because my “cross the borders” trip brought the reading to life. In the autonomous community in front of masked Zapatistas, I finished my mental bridge that connected classroom pedagogy with experiential pedagogy, resulting in cultural solidarity. In addition, it emboldens them to practice, instead of mimicking, their professed vocation.


Natalie Solga, continued from page 3.

After joining the NGO Committee on Human Rights I got a position transcribing and summarizing meetings to be published into a celebratory book in commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. While transcribing isn’t very fun, it was an opportunity to meet and collaborate with many people promoting human rights in amazing ways. And it paid!

Our largest task as students was the planning of the first Global Social Work Student Conference in conjunction with the 25th Anniversary of Social Work Day at the UN and to assist with the planning of the 25th Anniversary of Social Work Day at the UN. Due to the immense success of the Student Conference, it will now become an annual conference. It was amazing to see the energy and passion displayed by the participants and to know that I played a part, even if it was small, in making that opportunity available to them. If anyone wants to talk more about this placement,

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**Calling all alumni...**

Please take a moment to fill out this quick survey and send it to
Department of Social Work
Monmouth University
West Long Branch, NJ 07764-1898
Or fax this page to 732-263-5217

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