



THE SOCIAL BUZZ

East Central University's Social Work Program Newsletter

Greetings from the Director



Greetings!

What a wonderful and exciting semester! During March, we celebrated social work month by honoring the power of continuing education through training provided to students and faculty on trauma and self-care. Also, we had the privilege of President Pierson declaring March as Social Work month on our campus. I find it fitting that this year's theme for social work month was Elevate. I see our students elevating the social work profession in a multitude of

ways. This elevation is evidenced by the powerful work students are taking part in during their internship experience as well as what our graduates are doing to advocate for social change and the underserved.

It is remarkable to get to see how our students live out the mission and values of social work and elevate our profession.

Best Regards,

Amy Ward

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Phi Alpha Induction

On March 12, seniors Kathryn Cruice and Lacey Powers were inducted into Phi Alpha Honor Society. Phi Alpha is an internationally recognized honor society that acknowledges academic excellence while promoting humanitarian goals and ideas through volunteer and community service opportunities. East Central University's chapter, Phi Upsilon, strives to also promote strong bonds among students through our semester induction ceremonies, chapter meetings and leadership opportunities. The requirements for East Central University's Phi Alpha chapter are as follows:

- Declared social work as a major
- Achieved unconditional admission into the social work program and be in good standing
- Completed 9 semester hours of required social work courses
- Earned a GPA in the top 35% of ECU Social Work majors

Phi Upsilon President, Amy Hare, and sponsor, Shelley Bailey, conducted the ceremony, witnessed by students, faculty and staff. Refreshments were served following the event, which was held in the Student Engagement Center.



New members participate in the Phi Alpha Induction Ceremony

Phi Alpha Honor Society Raises Awareness of Homelessness

Phi Alpha Honor Society students stayed in a tent for 19 hours to help those dealing with homelessness in our community. The students set up booths at tables and a tent on campus the week of April 8th to raise awareness and money to benefit Mama T's B&B, Ada's homeless shelter, which opened last August. For every \$25 donated, the students pledged to spend 1 hour in the tent the following week. Students created cardboard signs with facts about homelessness, including the fact that 9% of four-year college students and 12% of community college students reported complete homelessness in the last year. In a matter of three days, the students were able to raise \$484.73.

On April 18, Phi Alpha students and their sponsor spent 19 hours in a tent on campus, again with facts about homelessness, in order to raise awareness. Prospective Phi Alpha member Samantha Hall shared a bit about her experience with the community service project by saying, "One thing that really made me consider how this population feels was how standing outside asking people for money and being ignored or looked down upon feels. I really cherished the dedication my team showed when we were out in the tent giving every minute back to those who we gave our word to for their donations! This experience has taught me so many things that I could never have learned in a classroom." After the tent event, a donor gave the extra \$15.27 to round out the total donation to Mama T's to \$500. On May 2, a check for \$500 was presented to Mama T's by Phi Alpha President Amy Hare, Vice President Lacey Powers and sponsor Shelley Bailey. The funds will help with operation costs, as the facility provides emergency, preventive and extended stay services to those facing homelessness.



Phi Alpha students camp out to raise funds for Mama T's B&B



Students present a check to Mama T's B&B

Professional Programs in Human Services Awards Banquet

Several social work students were honored during the Department of Professional Programs in Human Services Awards and Recognitions Program, which was held on April 26, 2019. In addition, Social Work Student of the Year was awarded to Kirstyn Campbell, while the Outstanding Social Work Intern was granted to Brock Neely. The Distinguished Alumni award was bestowed to Ashlee May.

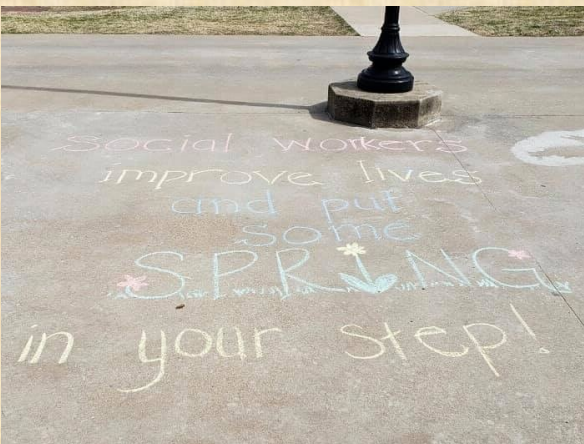
Congratulations students!

Events



President Patricia G. Pierson proclaimed March as "Social Work Month" on campus during a ceremony in Danley Hall

Social Work Month: Elevate Social Work!



The Social Work Student Association chalked up campus as part of the activities for National Professional Social Work Month,

Dr. Jim Burke delivers a lecture, *The Body Keeps The Score*, to social work students during National Social Work Month



Events



Members of the Social Work Student Association held a silent auction during Law Day to raise funds for their organization.



The Social Work Student Association officially presented the Family Crisis Center In Ada with laundry detergent donated as part of the "Loads of Love" drive. Thank you to everyone who participated!



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.

Congrats to our May 2019 Graduates!



Graduates include: Morgan Hull, Kimberly Talkington, Deana Byrd, Alisia Ortiz, Brock Neely, Hazel Wallace, and Brandon Meador



Upcoming:

- June 3rd: summer semester begins
- August 16th: Internship and New Student Orientation
- August 19th: Fall semester begins
- September 6-7: NASW OK Annual State Conference

Calantha's Corner

Hello my fabulous Social Work folks,

I just want to take a moment to talk about trees. I know what you are probably thinking, "Hey library lady, I didn't go into biology for a reason," which is fair, but bear with me.

My most recent obsession (besides lavender green tea and Call the Midwife) is a book called *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben. In addition to a fascinating tale about our massive friends, Wohlleben inspires with his description of the resilient bond trees of a species (or "family") share. Did you know trees warn each other of threats, lean on each other during storms, and nourish the most vulnerable among them? All this occurs through their powerful, intertwined root system.

This got me to thinking about my own "family" (by choice or birth) who keep me resilient even in the most chaotic of tempests. I could not be me without the strength supplied by my loved ones, and I imagine you are the same. In light of this, I recommend you take a moment to send just a drop of nourishment to those who keep you standing no matter the weather.

As always, for suggestions on tea, Netflix shows, or books, feel free to contact your very own friendly librarian at ctillotsn@ecok.edu and/or make an appointment at https://ecok.libcal.com/appointments/calantha_tillotson.

All my appreciation,

Calantha

