We asked our six social work faculty members what a particular value means to them and how a person can best embody that value. Here are their responses!

**Importance of Human Relationships:**

*Dr. Hilary D. Joyce*

The importance of human relationships is social work’s recognition that people have a basic need for connection with others. Calling your parents. Sunday dinner with family. A night out with friends. All represent ways we embody the importance of human relationships in our personal lives. Family therapy, support groups, and kinship care are examples of how we demonstrate the importance of human relationships in our professional practice. Our connections with others are used to enhance well-being.

**Service:**

*Nana Daronatsy*

The NASW Code of Ethics states the ethical principles that flow from the 6 core values “must be balanced within the context and complexity of the human experience.” The ethical principle of service is to help people in need and to address social problems. While this sounds straightforward, it has a deep but subtle reverberation in my practice life. I have often asked myself, in countless clinical situations (including agency discussions), “Whose needs am I meeting?” How and why I ask a question to a client, how and when to advocate for serving clients, while acknowledging agency needs for policy and procedure; this sometimes requires thoughtful reflection and discussion. The Code goes on to state “social workers elevate service to others above self-interest.” This is why we enter the field, but sometimes we still need to examine our motives.

**Competence:**

*Angela Burque*

Competence in social work is larger than the positive intent or desire to be of help to others. Competent social workers are adept at blending the best of social work knowledge, values and skills in every task, with every client system, everyday. Competence involves gaining knowledge and growing through unassigned, unscripted extra effort, attention and time. Competent social workers believe that relevant learning
experiences are larger than your personal interests and desired career specialization. Truly competent social workers recognize and value the benefits of understanding the historical, recent, and present-day context of all individuals and groups, especially those who are vulnerable and marginalized. Competent social workers "show up" everyday, and strive to “be present” in every interaction. Interactions with and on behalf of clients require “showing up.” “Showing up” is more than being at a meeting or an interview. “Being present” involves purposeful, strengths-based, respectful and empathic attention to the exact point of intersection between you and the client and their presented concern. Truly competent social workers not only agree that self awareness is important, but engage themselves each day in recognizing how they are impacted by others and how they impact others. Truly competent social workers believe that their responsibility to learn is on-going and never ends.

Social Justice:
Dr. Danielea Werner

Social Justice is Social Work. At a foundation level, social justice is working toward equality for ALL. A social worker who embodies social justice works to recognize and reduce personal bias as well as identify and eradicate social injustice. Without true understanding and commitment to social justice, social workers:
- Cannot completely respect the dignity and worth of all clients and client systems.
- May lack integrity and competence due to judgmental attitudes and personal bias that interferes with ethical practice.
- May only make a commitment to serve those who the individual deems deserving and therefore further marginalize and oppress vulnerable clients.
- Cannot completely value and appreciate the importance of human relationships due to a lack of understanding the importance of true equality.

Integrity:
Dr. Carole Zugazaga

Social workers behave in a trustworthy manner. The foundation of any professional relationship with clients, colleagues, or constituents at its core lies integrity. On an individual level, we must start from a place of integrity – first with ourselves - understanding our own strengths and needs. We should not be afraid to speak truth to power, operationalizing our professional ethical principles and standards.

Dignity and Worth of a Person:
Emily Myers

The value of dignity and worth of the person guides me to treat all persons in a caring and respectful manner. I seek to acknowledge individual differences, ethnicity and culture, strengths and capacity, while actively promoting the responsiveness of organizations, communities and social institutions to persons’ unique needs, and preventing or eliminating conditions that threaten their dignity and worth.

Thank you to the faculty for their participation in "Strengths," and their constant support of students in the pursuit of knowledge

Help for Haddie’s Home
By: Rachel McLain

Throughout March, the Social Work Club will be championing Haddie’s Home, a safe house for young women coming from adverse circumstances in their personal lives that was also founded by an Auburn University alumnus. Members of the Social Work Club will be collecting pocket change on the concourse in front of the Haley Center on the 2nd, 4th, and 6th days of March from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The monetary donations will be used to buy supplies for Haddie’s Home. Boxes for item donations (paper towels, deodorant, face wipes, etc.) will also be placed within the sorority chapter rooms on campus on March 4th and picked up on March 20th. Club leadership members are hopeful that all sororities will participate in this endeavor. If other students would like to make an item donation, please bring supplies to the Social Work Club meeting on March 12th at 5:00 p.m. in the Haley Center 7030.

This is a fantastic opportunity for students to get involved with charities located within the Auburn community! Supervisors at Haddie’s Home have been overjoyed at the idea of student involvement and are very hopeful for a successful month, as they do not often receive donations to help offset the costs of necessities for the girls living in the home. All donations are appreciated!

Nana’s Corner

“IT’s not the load that breaks you down, it’s the way you carry it.”
- Lena Horne

It’s midterms, and everyone is busy. I want to remind you that we all experience stress, and that it’s not the stressors themselves, but what we do with them that makes a difference. I learned this from the hospice family caregivers who were often providing 24/7 care to their loved ones for months, and sometimes years. The caregivers who seemed to handle it best were those who learned how to take “mini-breaks” from care; you see, they didn’t have the resources to take a weekend "spa vacation" or go hiking in the woods. Instead, they took 5 - 10 minutes just for themselves.

Here are some examples of calming activities to do when you experience stress:

Journal
Sing
Put on music and dance
Write a letter
Read escapist fiction
Listen to a relaxation exercise
Call someone and offer them encouragement
Give a compliment
Ask someone if they need help with a task
Take a walk in the backyard
Notice everything with all five senses
Take a hot bath
Just breathe
If you have more than 5 - 10 minutes for self-care, the list can be even longer. Everyone is busy; don’t be too busy to take a few minutes for yourself. It’s important to make your personal list of what nourishes your soul, and then, “just do it!”

Nana Daronatsy

#1 March 2, 2015
Women’s Leadership Conference

By: Hallie Feldman

The Women’s Leadership Conference is an annual event sponsored by the Women’s Resource Center, a division of the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs. This year it will be held on Friday, March 13th from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon. This event will be located at The Hotel at Auburn University & Dixon Conference Center. Throughout the event there will be speakers talking about issues concerning women and breakout sessions that focus on specific topics such as stress management and healthy relationships. Lunch will also be provided! This event is a great opportunity to help students and other members of the community get involved, hear about issues going on, and learn ways to help others. Men are certainly welcome as well.

The theme this year is, “Women as Game Changers.” Women have a powerful role in society and there are many ways to influence their leadership skills. As a social worker, it is critical to understand what is going on in the world around you, especially concerning the issues women are experiencing in society. This is an event you definitely do not want to miss!

For questions, please contact Hallie Feldman at hgf0006@auburn.edu or Belle Brooks at bhb0001@auburn.edu

The Auburn University Social Work Program mission is to make a positive impact on the social problems within the State of Alabama by training generalist social work personnel who are capable of addressing the problems unique to Alabama’s poor, advocating on behalf of the disenfranchised, including children and families at risk, and dealing with diverse populations, by establishing and maintaining community partnerships, and by developing and implementing research techniques and evaluative strategies designed to address these problems in a collaborative manner.

Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Social Work

7030 Haley Center
Auburn University, AL 36849-5049
Phone: (334) 844-5049
Fax: (334) 844-2851

#1 March 2, 2015

Intern Spotlight: Jennie Hurst

I am currently completing my senior internship at Fellowship House in Birmingham, AL. My field instructor is Elizabeth Stewart, who also received her BSW from Auburn University. Fellowship House is a medium intensity, residential treatment setting for people with alcohol and/or substance dependence. Residents of the program can also be helped with co-occurring disorders while in the program. I work primarily with the intake department – helping with computer data input, orientation for new residents, and leading some classes. Classes and lectures are offered and required for residents, ranging from topical discussions to on-site 12 step meetings to workouts to job training and budgeting. Since Fellowship House is a residential setting for adults, it is high energy and there is always something to be done.

Although I have only been at Fellowship House for a few weeks, I have learned much more than I originally anticipated and have been surprised by how much theory and social work perspectives have been directly applicable to working here. I have been exposed to new knowledge in areas of medical and legal practice and have been able to learn new ways of interacting with people, which is absolutely imperative in this field if you have not figured this out already. I enjoy the fast pace and high energy that is present in this type of setting as it keeps me on my toes and busy all day. The biggest takeaway I have had from being at Fellowship House is coming to the realization that anyone could be in this type of treatment setting and all people deserve respect and proper treatment no matter his or her background. It takes a special kind of person to be a social worker, and I wish all of you the best as you come closer to this part of your studies.

Jennie Hurst
Bachelor of Social Work, 2015

About Jennie: “I like sportz and I don’t care who knows. I like listening to old music and pretending I live in the 1970’s. I like people watching and being more observant than you might think.”

Update: Jennie has recently been accepted to the Boston College School of Social Work as a candidate for a Master’s Degree of Social Work.

2nd Annual Social Work Month Symposium

By: Rachel Morrell

In addition to the many events going on within the social work department in March, the students and faculty will also be welcoming Pam Clasgens, Development Director of Health Establishments at Local Schools (HEALS), to Auburn on March 18th. Mrs. Clasgens will lead a discussion revolving around the successes and challenges concerning health care access for low-income children.

Participants will include students, faculty, and local social work practitioners. (Practitioners will receive two Continuing Education Units for their attendance.) After Mrs. Clasgens has finished speaking, all participants will disperse into breakout groups where discussions will be led regarding how to address the problems that currently exist within the system. Students are strongly encouraged to attend this event, as this is a great opportunity to communicate with faculty members and local practitioners in a different environment than they are accustomed.

When asked about what she hopes students will gain from the experience, Dr. Hilary Joyce said, “I hope that students will gain an understanding of the challenges low-income families face and that improvements can be made for the current system. This is also a great occasion for students to participate in Social Work Month!”

This free event will take place on March 18th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Haley Center 1403 and is open to students from all majors.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Ms. Delaine Gibson at 334.844.4646 or dzm0013@auburn.edu

For questions, please contact Dr. Hilary Joyce at hj0002@auburn.edu