

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

NEWSLETTER - University of Minnesota, Duluth, School of Social Work, December, 1971

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

A new and innovative School of Social Work is currently in the planning phase on the UMD campus. The School is a response to meet the need for additional social work educational resources in Minnesota and the Midwest. The School is administratively separate from the existing School of Social Work on the Twin Cities U of M campus. Six faculty are on board at the present time and five to seven additional faculty are expected to arrive by the end of next year.

WHAT WILL THE MSW PROGRAM ENTAIL?

The UMD School is planning to offer an MSW degree program which specializes in the area of social development. The intent is to train highly skilled practitioners in developmental social welfare: community organization, social policy and administration skills necessary to effectively engage in the development of social service programs. The School will be involved with local, national and international social development projects.

Although the degree plan has not yet been approved by all the necessary accrediting bodies, our stated intention is to operate on three possible time spans. A student admitted to Advanced Standing status could complete the MSW degree requirements in 12 months. Semi-advanced status students would require 15 months, and students lacking advanced status requirements would need approximately 18 months to complete the program.

WILL THERE BE A BA SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM?

The School anticipates offering a full BA social work major which would provide the students with a high degree of practice preparedness for direct service roles in social welfare agencies. The BA program will be based on a liberal arts foundation. Faculty members will teach simultaneously on the MSW and BA level.

ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAM ASPECTS?

We plan to develop a large outreach continuing education program offering full academic credit applicable toward either the BA or MSW degree. In addition, consideration is being given to providing an AA degree in preparing human service professionals. All of the degree routes are on an educational continuum allowing transfer of credit from one degree level to another.

The UMD Criminology Center is a formal administrative and academic structure lodged in the School of Social Work. Professional preparation in the criminal justice field is considered a priority area. The Criminology Center has been a very active and effective educational resource institution over the past several years in the northeastern portion of Minnesota. The Center staff is presently involved in two large criminal justice planning projects. One is to develop the program for the Northeastern Minnesota Corrections Center. The other involves human relations training project evaluation of the Duluth Police Community Relations Program.

WHAT WILL BE THE SCHOOL'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY?

The Duluth area, having a population of well over 100,000 residents, is currently going through some rather painful economic changes and such changes have tremendous importance for the social service effort in general. The School plans to play an active role in working with local agencies through social development approaches to generate effective social service programs as well as to train professionals for the agency effort.

WHAT ABOUT THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS?

At this point nearly 100 applications have been received for the MSW program. We are unable to begin processing applications until the School receives the go-ahead from the University of Minnesota Board of Regents and the Council on Social Work Education. We would like to begin with 25 MSW students this coming June. If this is not possible, we will begin in September. The BA program is already operational. Letters of inquiry are welcomed, and as soon as the admissions process is operable, inquirers will be informed.

OTHER INTERESTING FACTS

The MSW program will utilize social development block field "projects" extending over an 18-week period. Placement sites will be located in the Duluth area as well as in other regions and other countries.

There will be a strong emphasis on making social work educational and training resources available to American Indian communities.

The total School of Social Work approach hinges on the concept of a dynamic, interdisciplinary learning center.

The School is housed in an old mansion which is being renovated on the basis of an "open landscaped" office design. We are implementing some rather innovative open-space usage concepts in carrying out the educational programs.

The MSW social development curriculum focus will encompass a variety of social welfare priority areas such as rural social and health services, regional planning for criminal justice, comprehensive welfare legislation, social service and community programs in Indian communities, local community involvement and the like.

A GENERAL NOTE

The UMD School of Social Work is starting at a time when many other professional schools are experiencing severe retrenchment and when the social work field in general seems to be covered by a blanket of gloom. Indeed, this has made our task extremely challenging. At this point we have every reason to believe that the new UMD School will play a major role in the redefinition of social work. We feel we are on to something and eager to get underway.

We would like to introduce our Faculty:

John F. Jones, MSW Michigan, PhD Minnesota, was at Milwaukee last year, and before that spent five years in two stints in Hong Kong, administering social services and teaching social work. He came from Ireland originally, has traveled widely and has five languages at his disposal. His specialty is in the areas of social policy and community development. He is the Director of the UMD School of Social Work.

Richard C. Broeker, MSW and PhD Minnesota, was on the Minneapolis faculty most recently; prior to that he was in direct service and supervision with the Wisconsin Dept. of Health and Social Services. He is active in Minnesota Welfare Assoc., Council (and Minn. Conf.) on Social Work Education and NASW (current Chairman of the Southern Minn. Chapter.) He is Associate Director of the UMD School.

Ira H. Holland, MS George Williams, EdD Columbia, has taught social work at Maryland, in California, Indiana, Oklahoma and Florida, as well as China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan, and was a Fulbright Fellow in Egypt. He has worked for YMCAs, Presbyterian Board of Ecumenical Missions and the WRA. His responsibilities at UMD are related to admissions, field work and library resources, as well as teaching.

C. David Hollister, MSW and PhD Michigan, came from the Berkeley School and has taught at Milwaukee and Michigan. He has special interest in corrections and research, and worked for a Boys' Training School in Michigan. He is now on a short exploratory trip to Africa, with stops in the Middle East. He is currently teaching criminology part-time in the UMD Sociology Dept.

Romine R. Deming, MS Michigan State and PhD Iowa State, has worked in the corrections field in Alaska and Wisconsin. Most recently he has developed integrated criminology concentrations at Iowa State and UMD. His curriculum development work in Northern Minnesota has included Mesabi and Hibbing State Junior Colleges. He is founder and Director of the UMD Criminology Center as well as a member of the School of Social Work faculty.

Frances E. Skinner, MA Michigan, MSW Minnesota, has worked in settlements, child care program and International Institute in Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth. She developed the undergraduate program in social services at UMD and has been teaching in it for the past several years. She is an Associate Professor in the Sociology Department, to be transferred to School of Social Work.

P.D. Kulkarni, Univ. of Nagpur and DSS from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay, both in India. Mr. Kulkarni has worked for the Department of Social Welfare of India in many capacities, including that of Director. He has taught at the University of Delhi. Most recently he has been regional adviser on social development planning for the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, in Bangkok. His specialties are research and social development. He will join the UMD faculty in March.

A TRAVELING FACULTY

Dr. Jones has been consulting with CSWE and the UN Social Development Div. in New York and with the Universities of Minn. (Mpls.) and Michigan on curriculum. He has been on faculty recruiting trips and University administrative missions.

Dr. Broeker has commuted to Minneapolis frequently, and spent most of a week in Washington, D.C. with both governmental and private funding groups.

Dr. Hollister gave a paper at the Chicago Conference of International Association of Chiefs of Police and went to Washington for the Police Foundation in Nov. He met with UN representatives last week.

Dr. Holland attended the quarterly meeting of persons involved in admissions, held in the Twin Cities.

Three faculty members attended the Fall Workshop of the Minnesota Conference on Social Work Education.

In addition there have been many visits with colleagues at other Minnesota and Wisconsin colleges.

S E A S O N S G R E E T I N G S !

