

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

NEWSLETTER - University of Minnesota, Duluth, School of Social Work, April, 1972

THE FIRST GRADUATE CLASS

The graduate program opens on August 28. 25 students will enroll in an accelerated 12-month MSW program. These students will have completed a certified Council on Social Work Education undergraduate social work major or its equivalent. Other students who do not qualify for the accelerated program will be admitted throughout the remainder of the year.

Nearly 150 students have requested application materials for this coming year. Because of procedural matters relating to the accreditation process, the School was unable to begin the admissions process until April.

NOTE FOR APPLICANTS TO GRADUATE PROGRAM IN SOCIAL WORK

It is our intention to process applications within a month after they are fully completed and returned. We have now been informed that because of the normal problems associated with the opening of a new program, this month time span might be unrealistic. The School will do everything within its power to process completed applications as rapidly as possible. Applicants can call or write the School to learn the status of their application if they so desire.

NEW FACULTY MEMBER ARRIVES

P. D. Kulkarni has joined the faculty as an Associate Professor. Mr. Kulkarni is a native of India. He received an LL.B. degree, College of Law, Nagpur. He has a post-graduate diploma in social sciences from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay, India. Most recently he has been the Regional Advisor on social development planning for the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East in Bangkok, Thailand. He holds a B.S.c., College of Science, Nagpur, India.

Professor Kulkarni brings with him a wealth of wisdom and practical experience in the international social development field. In April he participated in the third Anspach Conference on "International Social Development" held at the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Kulkarni recently authored an article published in the Indian Journal of Social Work entitled "Social Policy in Asia - A Regional View" (April 1972).

FACULTY ON THE MOVE

Jack Jones, Director, recently returned from Chicago after an extensive faculty recruitment trip. Dr. Jones was also in attendance at the Council on Social Work Education National Meeting in Atlantic City in April.

Fran Skinner was one of a selected group of educators called together in Kansas City by the Council on Social Work Education to discuss the relationship of social policy to undergraduate social work education.

In June, Dave Hollister will be traveling to the National Conference on Social Welfare in Chicago to present a paper, "Organizational and Professional Domains in an Emergency Psychiatric Service," and then on to the American Sociological Association meetings in New Orleans in August to present a paper entitled "School Bureaucracy as a Response to Parents Demands."

In May, Dick Broeker will be traveling to the University of Maine in Portland to talk with students and faculty about social development. Dick and Fran Skinner were speakers at the recent Duluth Parent and Family Life Education Institute focusing on "Practical Wisdom for Parent Problems."

OTHER HAPPENINGS

Renovation at the School is in full swing. The old Duluth mansion where the School is housed is being prepared for the first group of students in August. It is anticipated that the dust will have settled and the new plaster dried sometime in mid-summer.

The School hosted an Open House for the undergraduate social service student association in April. The undergraduate association is planning to work closely with the faculty on problems related to social work education as well as on other general social welfare concerns.

The School hosted a National Association of Social Worker's meeting on comprehensive welfare reform and the President's H.R. 1 welfare bill. The School intends to take an active role in welfare reform on both national and local levels. About 40 Duluth area residents turned out for the meeting.

SUMMER SOCIAL WORK INSTITUTE SERIES

Two summer social work institutes, "Residential Treatment for Youth" (June 26-30) and "Management/Planning for Welfare Agencies" (June 10-14) have temporarily been tabled. We will most likely offer the two institutes at a later date once the School becomes fully operational in August. Our initial intention was to open the School in June; the institutes were planned accordingly. With the setback in the opening date, it was decided to postpone the institute series.

TO ANSWER SOME OF YOUR QUESTIONS

The UMD School is offering a highly specialized graduate program in regional and national social development. The following statements provide some insights into what the program will be like.

What is meant by regional and national social development?

Social development implies institutional change through the conscious use of policy and planning to bring about a rise in the levels of living and quality of life for any people as they move toward goals of their own choosing.

The emphasis is on community and regional social welfare problems rather than on individual client problems.

Social development has an international orientation to planning and policy.

Examples of specific social development concerns at the UMD School: regional planning and rural social welfare services; poverty and welfare reform; human rights and minority groups; public health policy and health delivery systems; community/regional social service coordination; and regional criminal justice planning.

What is the academic program like?

The concern is to train social workers in community organization and development, management, comprehensive planning, administration and social welfare programming.

Only minimal casework and group work course content is covered in the graduate program.

Considerable attention is centered on social policy matters (public welfare law, national health programs, etc.).

Students will be trained to work with local neighborhood groups, communities and regions to help people become increasingly self-sufficient in dealing with their social welfare needs.

There is considerable course content on political and economic processes.

While the graduate program is designed for students who have aptitudes for working with communities and carrying out administrative and planning roles, many may come with casework or group work experience in direct service agencies.

School of Social Work
University of Minnesota, Duluth
2627 East Seventh Street
Duluth, Minn. 55812

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