

# THE WEEKLY UPDATE

THE NEWSLETTER OF OHIO UNIVERSITY  
DEPT. OF SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

February 11, 2008

## **Government Relations Action Alert**

*New Web Site to Assist Borrowers with Student Loan Debt*

The burden of student loan debt has been growing more unmanageable for social workers and students over the last several years. A recent survey by the Council on Social Work Education found that the average loan debt of social work students graduating in 2004 with a master's degree in social work was \$26,777. Those with bachelor's degrees in social work faced repayment of \$18,609 in loans and those with doctoral degrees in social work were \$32,841 in debt. Repayment is particularly challenging for social workers, whose salaries continue to be among the lowest for professionals in general and for those with master's level educations in particular. In 2001, 22 percent of social workers earned under \$30,000 and 20 percent earned between \$30,000 and \$39,999. The median salary for social workers with two to four years experience was \$35,600.

The National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) and the Project on Student Debt have developed the Student Loan Borrower Assistance Project (visit <http://www.studentloanborrowerassistance.org/>) that can help loan saddled social workers and other borrowers to find out more information about the recently passed College Cost Reduction and Access Act, among other student loan related issues. This multi-featured website was created for people who already have student loans and want to know more about their options and rights. The site enables the borrowers to browse a wide range of issues, such as loan basics, default and delinquency, bankruptcy, loan cancellation, repayment, and collections.

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act forgives outstanding education debt for those persons that meet the eligibility requirements. Those that would benefit are employees that have made 120 monthly payments on their loans while serving full-time in social work in public child or family service agencies, government, nonprofit, military, education, and others areas. The loan forgiveness provisions became effective on October 1, 2007.

Preventing problems by providing up-front information about the intricacies of student loans is critical in preventing default. Although the site falls short of providing legal advice about individual cases, it does give a comprehensive overview of the issues and complexities that borrowers face in trying to manage their student loan debt.

For any further information, please contact:

National Association of Social Workers –  
Ohio Chapter  
33 North Third Street, Suite 530  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
614-461-4484 phone  
614-461-9793 fax  
[Membership@naswoh.org](mailto:Membership@naswoh.org)  
[www.naswoh.org](http://www.naswoh.org)

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## Volunteer Opportunities

### My Sister's Place is seeking volunteers!

My sister's place staff has heavily relied on volunteers for over 30 years in the daily operation of the shelter. Volunteering at My Sisters place allows you an opportunity to share something special with a client or her children. Volunteer duties may include: interacting with adult residents, organizing/participating in fundraisers, participating in activities for children, assisting in client intakes and departures and sorting donations.

Training begins in February. If you are interested in a one year commitment of at least four hours a week, call Rachael at 594-8337 for more details and a phone interview.

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## Scholarship for BASW Undergraduates

**Title IV-E Child Welfare Scholarship Program/ UPP is giving students an opportunity for their future to consider advocating and helping children and their families. Ohio University BASW students will have a chance to earn a scholarship of \$5,000.00 per year of service agreement upon requirements. For more information, please contact: Tracy Prichard, Ohio University UPP Coordinator [pritchar@ohio.edu](mailto:pritchar@ohio.edu) or Tel.: 597-1727**

## 2008 Summer Research Internship on Poverty and Adolescent Risk

The School of Public Health in the University of Alabama at Birmingham is offering a summer research internship for students interested in studying neighborhood poverty and its impact on adolescent behavior. Students who participate in the internship, which is in its 11th year, will conduct a survey of adolescents living in public housing and other very low-income neighborhoods in Mobile and Prichard, Alabama. This longitudinal survey, which has

been administered annually since 1998 and has been funded by the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), the National Institute for Drug Abuse (NIDA), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), addresses challenges that young people face as they grow up in impoverished neighborhoods, including violence, alcohol and drug use, sexual behavior, the development of self-esteem and a sense of the future, and family dynamics. Interns will also have an opportunity to participate in other studies involving the same population.

The School of Public Health in the University of Alabama at Birmingham is soliciting applications from students who would like to participate in this unique learning experience. Interns, who may be either undergraduate or graduate students, will be required to live in Mobile between May 19, 2008 and August 1, 2008. The first week, they will receive rigorous training for the project, including recruiting research participants, interviewing, and the general conduct of field research. Following training, they will go out in the field; their work will involve door-to-door recruitment of survey participants (to obtain parental permission and informed consent and to schedule a survey time), documentation of the recruitment efforts, and data collection (through administration of the survey in both group and individual settings). Each student who participates will receive a stipend (\$7.50 per hour) to cover living expenses. The university is also willing to accept students desiring course credit, although this should be arranged through their home universities.

International students must contact the International Student Offices at their own university and at the University of Alabama at Birmingham to determine whether they are eligible to participate, and to arrange all of the paperwork for them to be paid. General work hours are between 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM, with some limited weekend work required. The University of Alabama at Birmingham will accept 20-30 student interns into the program.

In the past, the university has accepted students from a variety of social science and related disciplines, including Public Health, Psychology, Sociology, Social Work, Political Science, Criminal Justice, Human Development, African American Studies, Women's Studies, Education, and Biology. All interns will have access to the data for academic purposes. Three students have completed master's theses using these data, and others are using the data for doctoral dissertations.

Internship applicants should have good communication skills, be able to work well in a team setting, and be sensitive to issues of race and poverty. The university will help interns find either commercial or university (dormitory) housing.

The university's preference is for students who can spend the entire summer in Mobile. However, during past years, the university has accommodated some students who have not been able to join the research project until June, hence, a second training session will be conducted beginning June 4, 2008.

For more information, please contact John Bolland (contact information is listed below). Interested students should send the Department of Health Behavior a note indicating their interest and a resume (with names of and contact information for three references). Screening applicants will begin on March 17 2008, although applicants will be accepted until all positions are filled (typically at least the middle of April).

John M. Bolland  
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School of Public Health  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
RPHB 227  
1530 3rd Avenue South  
Birmingham, AL 35294-0022  
(205) 975-7149  
bollandj@uab.edu

## THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

"Justice for Victims, Justice for All" follows the ideals that support the U.S. system of justice and inspire the nation's quest for equity. It declares that justice for all cannot be achieved without justice for victims of crime.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week, **April 13-19, 2008**, will serve to remind everybody that crime can strike anyone. Every year tens of thousands of college students become victims of stalking, sexual assault, homicide, robbery, and other crimes. If you or someone you know is a victim of crime, there is a help. Please visit: [www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org) for detailed information.

### DID YOU KNOW? *CRIME CLOCK*

*HOMICIDE* – One person is murdered every 31 minutes

*RAPE* – One person is raped every 2.7 minutes

*ASSAULT* – One person is assaulted every 7.2 seconds

*THEFT* – One home is victimized by theft every 2.3 seconds

*BURGLARY* – One home is burglarized every 9.1 seconds

*DOMESTIC VIOLENCE* – One woman is victimized by an intimate partner every 1.3 minutes. One man is victimized every 6.7 minutes

*CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT* – One child is reported abused or neglected every 35 seconds

*DRUNK DRIVING* – One person is killed in an alcohol-related traffic crash every 29 minutes

*IDENTITY THEFT* – One person becomes a victim of identity theft every 8.7 seconds

*ELDER ABUSE* – One elderly person is victimized every 2.7 minutes

*HATE CRIME* – One hate crime is reported to the police every 73 minutes

*U.S. Department of Justice*

The National Center for Victims of Crime web site, [www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org), and the National Crime Victim Helpline, 1-800-FYI-CALL offers direct advocacy, information on available programs and services for victims, and referrals to more than 16,000 organizations that serve crime victims throughout the U.S.

## Empowered Woman's Week

### Monday Feb. 11

Women's Center Open House

8am – 7pm

Cake cutting at 3pm

Baker 4<sup>th</sup> floor

Fierce fashion show

9-11pm

Baker Ballroom

Co-sponsored by Women Acting for Change

### Tuesday Feb. 12

Pam Jenkins: The aftermath of Katrina

6pm

Walter Hall 135

Sponsored by the Women's Center

Empowered woman's poetry slam

w/slam poet Alix Olson

9-11pm

Baker theatre

Co-sponsored by SAC, Women's Center, Women's Studies Program, Open Doors, Up in Arms, LGBT Center

### Wednesday Feb. 13

Dine and Discuss

Noon – 1pm

LGBT center – Baker 354

Sponsored by the LGBT Center

A woman's work: Panel Discussion

5-7pm

Baker 231

Sponsored by the office of career services

Empowered women's rock show

8-11pm

w/ Erica and the littlebeans, ones and zeros

Front Room

### Thursday Feb. 14

Brown bag Thursdays

Noon – 1pm

Readings from the awakening women's center

Co-sponsored by the women's center

Empowered women's folk show

9pm – 12am

w/ nervous but excited

Baker 240/ 242

Co-sponsored by the LGBT center

### Friday Feb. 15

Vagina Monologues

8pm, doors at 7:30pm

Baker Ballroom

Sponsored by the lost flamingo company

Up in arms performance

9pm-12am

Hahne theatre, Kantner Hall

Benefit for My Sister's Place

Sponsored by up in arms

Hip-hop congress movie night

12am-2am

Baker 233

Sponsored hip-hop congress

### Saturday Feb. 16

Vagina Monologues

8pm, doors at 7:30pm

Baker Ballroom

Sponsored by lost flamingo company

Queer prom

9pm-12am

Walter Hall Rotunda

Sponsored by Ally

### Sunday Feb. 17

Self Defense Workshop w/Cheryl Cesta

3-5pm

Women's center

Co-sponsored by sexual assault prevention program

Until the violence stops: A documentary by Eve

Enslar

8pm, doors at 7:30pm

Baker Ballroom

Sponsored by lost flamingo company

### Monday Feb. 18

Until the violence stops: A documentary by Eve

Enslar

8pm, doors at 7:30pm

Baker Ballroom

Sponsored by lost flamingo company

Make it happen: Empowerment starts from within

lecture by Janice Collins

8:30 – 10:30pm

Baker 239

Empowered woman's week is brought to you by  
empowering women of Ohio.

Meetings Tuesdays at 9pm in Baker 501