



SPRING 2014

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Save the Date:  
Alumni Gathering:  
Thursday, September  
25, 2014



# Nazareth COLLEGE

## Department of Social Work

Volume 9, Issue 2

### Congratulations 2014 Graduates!



### Students Participate in Legislative Action Day

On March 4, 2014 Professor David Hall and Professor Shirley Sharp attended the New York State Social Work Education Associations (NYSSWEA) Annual Legislative Action Day in Albany with 30 social work junior and senior students. It was a day-long event. In the morning, the group joined with other social work students and faculty from throughout New York State to lobby for the NYSSWEA's single policy issue, the New York State Dream Act. In the afternoon, Nazareth students and faculty met with our New York State local legislators, Senators Ted O'Brien, Jo Robach, Michael Ranzonhofer, and Assembly Members Bill Nojay, Mark Johns, Joe Morelle, David Gantt, and Harry Bronson to continue the advocacy for the Dream Act. Senior students, Melanie Beacham, Catlin Lefton, Gretchen Smith, Blake Griffin, Audrey Lawrence, Shaniece Heath and Roger Youmas acted as leaders of teams to engage with the Senators and Assembly members on this legislative issue.

### Congratulations Clinton Global Initiative University Students!

Congratulations to the social work undergraduate and graduate students who developed successful "Commitment to Action" proposals, accepted by the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGIU). This is Nazareth College's first year as a Network Member of CGIU. Recognized social work students are:

**\*Kumba Tachequee, Kaelen Austin, Jacqueline Lindsey/Social Work Graduate Students**

**Project Title: Supporting Safe Birthing Practices in Panrieng, South Sudan** (seeking to access community resources and form a partnership in Rochester with the South Sudan Village Care Project)

**\*Omonike Oyelola/Social Work Undergraduate**

**Project Title: Sick the Cycle** (raising awareness about the chronic and debilitating effects of sickle cell disease in order to better educate the community about risks)

**\*Danielle Ashton, Alyson Durant/Social Work, Community Youth Development Undergraduates**

**Project Title: Voices of Youth: Parental Incarceration** (empowering the children of incarcerated parents by promoting healthy life skills, education aspirations and positive self-value)

**\*Gina Bessing/Inclusive Childhood Education/Psychology Undergraduate, former social work, work study student**

**Project Title: Yoga Empowerment Partnership (YEP)**

(engaging high school girls to promote health and wellness, realization of self-worth, strengthening of self-esteem and the development of self-advocacy)

## SPRING 2014



***John Lukach*** - Recipient of the Helen W. Guthrie Award  
for Excellence in Fieldwork,  
with Field Instructors, Mary Fitzgerald & Jackie Bill

***Justine Smith & Gretchen Smith*** - Recipients of the  
Sister Paulette Ulton Social Work Students of the Year  
(with Professor David)



***David Ochoa*** - Recipient of the Professional and Personal  
Growth Award (with Professor Sharp)

***Elizabeth David & Caitlynn Berger*** - Recipients  
of the Helen W. Guthrie Award for Excellence in  
Fieldwork





# AWARD RECIPIENTS

***Melissa Waite & Gretchen Smith*** - Recipients of the Portfolio "With Distinction" Award



***Dawn Dobucki*** - Recipient of the Mary F. Hannick Award for Excellence in Fieldwork, with senior student ***Megan Houtenbrink***

***Audrey Lawrence & John Lukach*** - Recipients of the Helen W. Guthrie Memorial Award for Excellence in Fieldwork (with Professor Sharp)



***Katrina Sherwood*** - Recipient of the Mary F. Hannick Award for Excellence in Field Instruction, with senior ***Melissa Waite***

## Mary's Place

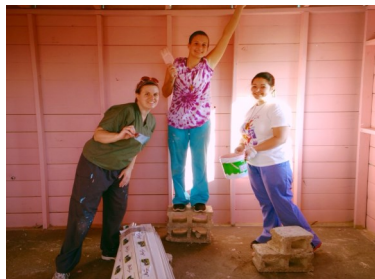
Throughout the spring semester, the Department of Social Work continued its partnership with Mary's Place, an organization serving children and families of refugee backgrounds in Rochester. In March, social work faculty cooked dinner while social work students served the food and spent time getting to know the children in the after school program. In April, the Introduction to Social Work class volunteered at "Therapology Day," a career fair event with activities and exhibits which introduce children to the allied health professions in the School of Health and Human Services at Nazareth. The students displayed a social work poster and drew ecomaps with the children.



## Social Work in Jamaica

Guided by Prof. Mark Primus and Nuala Boyle, Director of the Center for Civic Engagement, 10 social work undergraduate and graduate students recently traveled to Kingston, Jamaica as part of the Department's International Social Work service-learning course. Prior to traveling, the students studied Jamaican history, culture, and politics. While in Jamaica, the students stayed at St. Theresa's Retreat Center, a former convent. The students completed service work coordinated through the Jamaica Volunteer Foundation, St. Patrick's Foundation, and the Department of Social Work at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. Service-learning projects included working at Mother Theresa's Home for the Elderly and the Children's Hospital, as well as painting two recently built homes in Riverton (a town built amidst and on top of a dump outside of Kingston). The students also participated in nightly lecture, discussion and reflection. Upon return to Nazareth, the students led a symposium focused upon sharing the experiences and insights gained through the trip.

**\*\*Stay Tuned! The next International Social Work course will include travel to Kerala, India\*\***



## Students Tour New York City

On April 4 and 5, 22 social work students and two faculty members (Professors David and Primus) visited New York City. The social work group had a guided tour of the United Nations followed by a tour of Henry Street Settlement House, one of the oldest settlement houses in the United States, and founded by Lillian Wald who was born in Rochester and is buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery. The group also visited Ellis Island and the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. Students and faculty bonded for these two days as they reflected on issues such as advocacy and immigration, and their impact on social work practice.

### Thank you ASWS Officers!

Thank you to our graduating ASWS officers: Andrea Licata, Blake Griffin, John Lukach and Stephanie Kester. Our graduating officers leave ASWS in the capable hands of Ghazia Tariq (president), Colleen Rasmussen (vice president), Leslie Patriarco (secretary), Elizabeth David (treasurer). Welcome Ghazia, Colleen, Leslie and Elizabeth!



**Nazareth College**