



HARDIN-SIMMONS
UNIVERSITY

RECOGNIZING THE HSU SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

By: Bridget Cloud

WHAT'S HAPPENING

After a year of adjusting to the “new normal” due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our students have continued to exemplify what it means to have a servant heart. At the beginning of the year, the students had an opportunity to meet one another during our first “Tailgate” Event to kick off the fall semester. The theme of this year’s Social Work Club was “THE SOCIAL BUNCH”; a play on the Brady Bunch show, as seen in our virtual zoom meeting boxes. Many of our events have made a comeback, including a few new exciting events. In the wake of this transition out of the pandemic, our seniors are

preparing to graduate, complete state licensure requirements, submit grad school applications or become apart of the work force. Juniors are completing their field placement prerequisites, and learning where their next journey begins for field placements next year. Our freshman and sophomores are continuing to complete their volunteer hours and are preparing to take on Policy and Practice classes in the upcoming semesters.

This group is the epitome of a “Social Bunch”, as we have stuck together through this phase of life and have continued to make an impact in our society.

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Upcoming Events

- April 29 – Social Work Banquet
- May 11 – May Term Begins
- June 1 – Summer I Term Begins
- July 6 – Summer II Term Begins

FA20-SP21 Events

- SW Student Orientation FA20 and SP21
- SW Tailgate Fall Kickoff
- Guest Speaker Adam Lucio: Life with a Disability
- First Annual Veteran’s Day Event on Anderson Lawn
- Sigma Beta/SW @ Mission Thanksgiving
- NASW-TX Virtual Advocacy Week
- First Annual Women’s International Empowerment Event
- SW Prom Party
- Sigma Beta “Words Matter” Event
- Social Work Annual Awards and Banquet

SW CLUB MEETINGS

Our meetings provide beneficial insight, fellowship, and sense of community within the program! With great thanks to our officers, faculty, staff and students, our meetings are always enjoyable. These meetings provide a great space to build relationships and learn more about HSU, the Social Work program, and profession. Of course, our meetings are all about the business for the club, but also like to have fun and keep it interesting.

We’ve found a way to ensure all students have an opportunity to attend at least one meeting each semester by rotating between days of the week. One of the six NASW ethical principles is the importance of human relationships, so we practice intentionality by planning strategically to ensure all students have the opportunity to engage and participate.



Social Work Club officers help to lead Social Work Student Orientation.



CAMPUS OPPORTUNITIES

College is a season of growth in many aspects. We recognize the importance in celebrating milestones, and we help students on campus do the same. This gives us an opportunity to welcome our new students with open arms.



Pictured (left to right): Krystal Mason, Bailey Strength, Shandria Taylor, Susie Middlemas, Nicole Moncrief, Courtney Horton, Lauren Cantrell, Melissa Milliorn.

Every year the Social Work Club teams up with our Sigma Beta Honor Society to volunteer at Mission Thanksgiving! This event provides an opportunity to give back canned food, drinks, clothing, toys, and more to our community! This is an exciting moment in providing dignity and worth to others.



Pictured: Christopher Beavers and Bridget Cloud.

This year we have added 2 new events to our program! For our first event, we have implemented a Veteran's Day event in the month of November. Social Work Club officers, staff, and students gathered on Anderson Lawn to recognize our veterans for their service. Due to its' success, President Bruntmeyer has asked that this becomes an annual event on campus!



Pictured: Melissa Milliorn, Brittney Pierce



Our second new event celebrates Women's International Empowerment Day in March! This day was celebrated with lemonade and

inspiring words from our students and staff. We succeeded in bringing attention to the strength of women, and collaborating with other HSU clubs to make an impact on campus.

Each year, Sigma Beta creates an event to promote humanitarian goals and ideas. This year we brought in guest speaker, Melanie "JaeHee" Chung-Sherman, for our "Words Matter" event to speak about inclusivity within our daily communication.



Students continue to stay busy during March Madness! Our program provides the students with extensive knowledge, values, and skills surrounding generalist practice through education and participation in advocacy events and more!

SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

Policy students prepare Advocacy packets and travel to the capitol to speak to our state Representatives about social justice topics they have researched all year. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, students participated online in the National Association of Social Workers' (NASW) *Advocacy Week*. This event helps students prepare and better understand the aspects of Macro level social work, while also advocating for topics they are passionate about.

NASW-TX BSW ANDREW MARKS ADVOCACY AWARD



This year, senior, Courtney Horton, was recognized by NASW for her work in addiction recovery, homelessness, and affordable housing.

This award is only given to one BSW and one MSW student in Texas, and recognizes his or her work for their advocacy efforts to create change within their community.

Congratulations, Courtney!

JUNIOR –LEVEL POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

As part of the Policy II class, junior-level students are to continue to work on their advocacy efforts and write letters to magazine or news editors so as to spread awareness about their topic. This year, junior, Bridget Cloud, had her letter advocating for the "Implementation of Comprehensive Sex Education in Texas Schools" published in the Abilene-Reporter News! Way to go, Bridget!



Highlighting our Junior Policy Students' Advocacy Efforts!

With NASW's Advocacy Week becoming virtual for the 2021 year, our policy students had the opportunity to learn from professionals in varying fields over the span of one week, and were given the opportunity to receive an Advocacy Certificate through their work within the community.

Christopher Beavers' work focused on preventing racism within the criminal justice system.

Bridget Cloud focused on implementing comprehensive sex education into Texas schools, with a focus on human sexuality education.

Tony Whitted advocated for the mental health and prevention of suicide in veterans.

Lauren Stokes' advocacy efforts focused on the prevention of police violence on disabled citizens.

Our program is intentional in establishing productive and lasting relationships within the surrounding community. This helps us to not only make connections in the community, but to also collaborate in bringing awareness to vulnerable populations!



COMMUNITY ACTION

➤ As part of our Women's Empowerment Event and Women's Empowerment Month, the HSU Social Work Club created the "Panties for the Pandemic" donation drive. We collaborated with local agencies such as Hope Haven, Faith Works, and the Noah Project to collect new and unopened panties and toiletries. This event showcased the objective to provide dignity and worth to these individuals, to stress the importance of human relationships, and to serve our community.

Pictured: Katherine Bisson (Hope Haven), Bridget Cloud

➤ Every Spring, our students, faculty, and CPS collaborate to host an event for girls in the foster care. We are thankful for those who donated funds, supplies, and time to our event! Without our community partners, we would be able to adequately provide such a beautiful event to these young ladies. This year we were not only faced with challenges due to COVID-19, we were also faced with SNOWVID, a severe snow storm that shut the town down for a week and pushed back our original date for Prom Party. A major theme within this year is adversity. We are all graced with the ability to continue to push through these obstacles, and that can also be said for these young girls. It is always a joy to put a smile on these faces and show them their worth.

Pictured (left to right): Brittney Pierce, Courtney Horton, Melissa Milliorn, Claudia Lasater, Shandria Taylor, Lauren Cantrell.

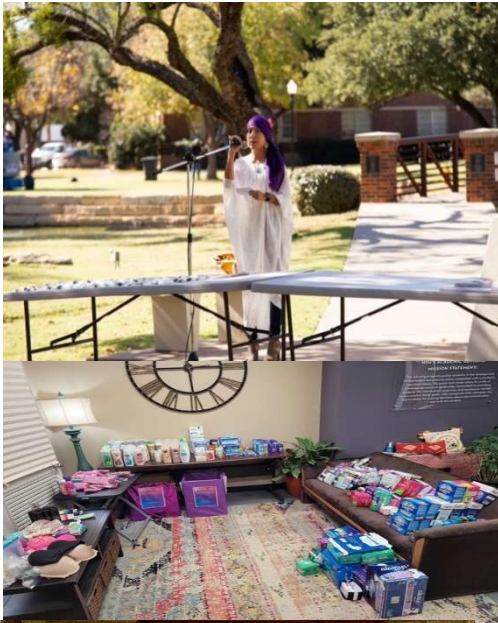
Community Partners:

- United Supermarkets
- Sam's Club
- First Financial Bank- Judge Ely
- Junior League of Abilene
- AIO Sorority
- Dillard's
- Little Italy- South 14th
- Baron's Service Parts
- HSU Social Work Class of 2021
- Daryl & Liz Phariss
- Black Top Paving
- Russell & Beverly Guthrie
- Kevin & Elizabeth Beavers
- Amber Grandchamp
- Jodi Fry
- President Bruntmeyer
- Dr. Cook, Dr. Sergeant, & Dr. Tucker



WE SURVIVED A PANDEMIC!!

As social work students, we understand the importance of making a positive impact in our classwork, campus, and community, even during an unprecedented disruption such as a pandemic. Our students, faculty, and staff continue to overcome any adversities resulting from the remnants of COVID-19 and have embodied the values of the social work profession.



THANK YOU SENIORS FOR YOUR HARD WORK THIS YEAR AND SERVANT HEARTS. YOU ALL ARE ON THE PATH TO SUCCESS AND WILL BE MISSED BY ALL CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021!!



HISTORY IS MADE!!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST EVER SOCIAL WORK/PSYCHOLOGY GRADUATE, KRYSTAL MASON! NOT ONLY IS SHE THE FIRST EVER SWPSY GRADUATE, SHE IS ALSO THE ONE WHO PIONEERED THE IDEA TO CREATE THIS DUAL-MAJOR OPPORTUNITY! THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PROGRAM!