

# The Quarterly Review

*News and announcements from The Alabama State University Department of Social Work*

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## Department of Social Work Receives Full Reaffirmation

The Alabama State University Department of Social Work was recently awarded reaffirmation of accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the national accrediting body for social work education for both its Bachelor of Social Work and Master of Social Work programs. The affirmation is for an eight-year period, through 2031.

The State Department of Education in Alabama approved the development of a social work program at ASU in the late 1960s. By 1971, seven courses were offered, and sociology majors were able to select social work as a concentration. When social work was offered for the first time as a major in 1974, four students were enrolled. By 1979, one-sixty-four students were majoring in social work.

During the 1982-83 academic year, the social work program began the process of applying for accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). It was granted initial accreditation by CSWE in 1989 and was reaffirmed in 1992. The Social Work department gained full status as a separate academic department in the fall of 1994 and was reaffirmed in 2000, 2008, and 2018. It remains the only accredited Bachelor of Social Work program in Montgomery, AL.

In the 2016-2017 academic year, the department applied for accreditation of a Master of Social Work program. It was granted initial accreditation by CSWE in 2018.



*Denise Davis-Maye, Ph.D., LICSW  
Professor & Chairperson  
Department of Social Work*

## The Chair's Report

Greetings Hornet Social Workers!

This has been a whirlwind semester with new achievements, goals, and opportunities for our students, faculty and staff!

Our students are earning scholarships, fellowships and great employment opportunities! Our faculty members are completing doctorates, winning research grants and guiding our students toward their goals! In the chairperson role, I am adapting the adage "We can't make a world that we can't dream!" And the Department of Social Work has BIG dreams! We are moving closer to returning home to Beverly Hall, operating our first Child Welfare Practice Simulation Lab, and creating enhanced spaces for our students to grow and access peace! We have several exciting partnerships that will yield exciting opportunities for students and faculty! Stay tuned!

We are in our 50th year as an established department at Alabama State University and are gearing up to celebrate that amazing milestone and hope that our alumni will join us as we plan for the 2024 celebration! If you have received a call from us - we thank you! If you have ideas about how we should celebrate, please send an email to [socialwork@alasu.edu](mailto:socialwork@alasu.edu) with 50th Anniversary in the message line!

We are #OntheRoadto50!

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## Pressley Successfully Defends Dissertation

We are delighted to congratulate Assistant Professor, Dr. Tracy D. Pressley on successfully defending her dissertation entitled, "A Home in the Village: A Constructivist Grounded Theory Inquiry on the Adoption of older African American Foster Youth with Severe Emotional Behavior Challenges," with the University of Alabama School of Social Work. Her commitment to excellence continues to inspire us all.



*Tracy D. Pressley, Ph.D.*

### New Program Directors Take The Helm



*Ms. Sharonda Pettaway,  
BSW Program Director*



*Dr. Shanae Shaw,  
MSW Program Director*

Among the changes at the start of the Fall 2023 semester was the appointments of new program directors. In August, Ms. Sharonda Pettaway, Assistant Professor assumed the role of BSW Program Director while Dr. Shanae Shaw, Assistant Professor now heads the MSW Program. We thank former directors, Ms. Riane Hinton-Smith (BSW) and Dr. Dawna Nelson (MSW) for their years of leadership and guidance.

### Welcome to the Team



The Department of Social Work welcomes Ashley Cochran, Ph. D., to the team. She is an Instructor who holds a Doctorate of Social Work from the University of Southern California where she focused on the prevention of homelessness with former foster youth. Her Master of Social Work degree is from the University of Connecticut with a concentration in Casework, and a Bachelor of Social Work from Alabama State University.

### Nelson & Mumpfield: Changing the Trajectory of Social Work in the State and Beyond



*Ms. Kai Mumpfield*



*Dr. Dawna Nelson*

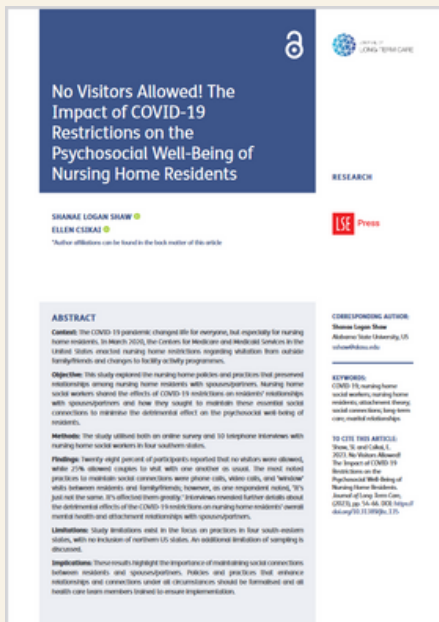
Ms. A. Kai Mumpfield, LICSW, in her role as Chair and District 2 Board member for the Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners and Dr. Dawna Nelson, LMSW in her role as Social Work Workforce Development Research Fellow with the Alabama Council on Higher Education led updates and discussions related to the state of Social Work in Alabama at the “State of Social Work Symposium” held at Gordon Persons Auditorium in October. The profession is making significant strides in the state!

## Shaw Research Published in Journals



Dr. Shanae Shaw recently published two papers: *"No Visitors Allowed! The Impact of COVID-19 Restrictions on the Psychosocial Well-Being of Nursing Home Residents,"* in the Journal of Long Term Care, and *"The Preservation of Spousal and Partner Relationships Among Nursing Home Residents,"* in the Journal of Gerontological Social Work.

Scan the QR code below to link to the Journal of Long-Term Care publication pdf.



Scan the QR code below to link to the Journal of Gerontological Social Work publication pdf.



## Department Navigates Software Support Tool

Dr. Ronda Westry, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs-Student Success Units Director of Retention/A.C.E.S., was guest speaker at the Department of Social Work's November faculty/staff meeting. She provided an in depth presentation on EAB NAVIGATE, the university's academic advising software system that offers a variety of support tools connecting students and faculty to improve educational outcomes.



## Congratulations



Dr. Dawna Nelson was promoted to Associate Professor of the Department of Social Work. She was also appointed to the Alabama Rural Health Association Board of Directors. Scan the QR code to be directed to the announcement in the ARHA Newsletter.



Ms. Riane Hinton-Smith, BSW Instructor, presented her research topic: “Academic Motivation of African American BSW Social Work Students,” at the 51st Annual AL-MS Education Conference November 9th and 10th at the Embassy Suites in Hoover Alabama. Contributors: Dr. Jeffrey Yarvis, Dr. Calvin Smith, Dr. Tabitha Brookins, Dr. Onick Lewis.

Ms. Hinton-Smith was also recently selected by the Executive Board of the Alabama PTA to chair the Exceptional Child Program.

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## Students Win Prestigious Scholarships



*Keundra Hightower*

Keundra Hightower received the Juliette Derricotte Scholarship for graduate study related to the area of Social Group Work, a national scholarship from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Joycelyn Broadnax received the Thurgood Marshall College Fund United Health Foundation Diversity in Health Care Scholarship in the amount of \$5,000.



*Joycelyn Broadnax*

Ms. Hightower and Ms. Broadnax both graduated from ASU with Bachelor of Social Work degrees in May 2023 and are currently enrolled in the Masters of Social Work.

## Chair Returns After Fulbright Ambassadorship in Ethiopia

Fall 2023 saw the return of Dr. Denise-Davis-Maye, Chair of the Department of Social Work, after completing a one-year assignment to Bahir Dar University in Ethiopia as a visiting scholar. She had taken a sabbatical in 2022 to travel to the East African country on assignment as a Fulbright Ambassador Distinguished Scholar awarded by the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

The Public Affairs Division of the U.S. Embassy in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, the Institute of International Education and Gondar and Bahir Dar Universities in Ethiopia established the Ambassador's Distinguished Scholars Program in 2017. While stationed in Ethiopia Dr. Davis-Maye taught gender ethics and qualitative research methods as well as visited several countries in the region.

Dr. Shanae Shaw served as acting department chair in Dr. Davis-Maye's absence.

Scan the QR code on the right to read the full story of Dr. Davis-Maye's work abroad as published by Alabama State University's Public Information Department.



*Dr. Denise Davis-Maye, Fulbright Ambassador Distinguished Scholar to Ethiopia, pictured here at an medieval, rock-hewn church in the town of Lalibela, located in the Amhara Region.*

*Photo courtesy of Dr. Davis-Maye*



## County School Board Member Speaks to Class

Ms. Arica Watkins-Smith, Montgomery County School Board District 7 representative, was guest speaker at Ms. Riane Hinton-Smith's Policy I Social Work 356 class. She provided insights on Title I, the federal program that supplements funding to school districts in an effort to narrow the gap in academic achievement between low-income students and their peers.



### Tasty Tuesday Creates Buzz

Tasty Tuesday, the monthly gathering of Social Work students and faculty, has made a positive impact within the program. It engages ASUs Social Work Community around academic achievement, professional preparation, self-care and campus community issues aimed at student retention and successful matriculation toward graduation.

Participants enjoy conversations over a meal and, as was the case for the October meeting, bubble wand fun in the Abernathy Hall courtyard. The final event of the semester was held November 14th with plans to expand in the Spring.



### Leaders Co-Host Domestic Violence Awareness Event

In observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Sexual Assault and Violence Awareness (SAVA) fellows, Bobbie Harris, Nicole King, Britney Smith, and Amaya Finley, in conjunction with Ms. Cheryl Lang and the Violence Against Wo(men) Program (VAWP) held a vigil on the steps of the Dunn-Oliver Acadome last month. The goal was to honor and uplift survivors while raising awareness about the devastating impact of the abuse. This show of support joined the national to empower the community with ways to stop what is often a crime shrouded in silence. VAWP coordinates "comprehensive services and resources for the University that help to reduce offenses in the areas of sexual assault, domestic violence and dating violence and stalking. For more information, call 334-229-6767.



### Students Engage in Social Justice Discussion

Ms. Jessica Withers, Instructor and BSW Field Coordinator along with Mr. Lloyd Davenport, Adjunct Instructor, recognized World Mental Health day in the field seminar class by providing snacks and engaging them in the "Circle of Learning" social justice discussion.



### Social Work Joins Recruitment Tour



The ASU Buzz Tour took off for Mobile, AL to visit Bishop State Community College November 2nd, as part of the Port City Classic events. Ms. Jessica Withers, represented the Department of Social Work, on the day-long trip providing prospective students with information about ASU. Also, a select group of students were awarded scholarships.

### ABSW Promotes Preparedness



The Association of Black Social Workers club distributed kits to residence halls in October. The outreach project addressed Emergency Preparedness, which is one of the organization's focus areas. The carefully wrapped baskets included weather radios, flashlights, glow sticks, thermal blankets, and batteries. To donate to their ongoing effort call 334.604.6163.

### Faculty Member and Alum Attend Dallas Conference

Dr. Dawna Nelson and Gaylne Williams (MSW C/O 2021) traveled to Dallas, TX in June 2023 for a protocol team meeting for HPTN 096: Building Equity Through Advocacy, an HIV prevention study aiming to reduce HIV rates among Black men (inclusive of cisgender and transgender men) who have sex with men (MSM) in the southern U.S. Dr. Nelson and Gaylne are a part of the study's



Onyx Coalition, a diverse convening of social service providers and community advocates addressing and supporting the needs of Black Same Gender Loving Men to prevent and treat HIV through a culturally competent, community-driven approach in Montgomery, AL. The team presented about structural and cultural barriers to prevention treatment specific to Montgomery, AL

## Department Hosts Ethiopian Fulbright Scholar

On September 26th, the Social Work Department hosted Dr. Adugna Abebe Bihonegn, Fulbright Visiting Scholar, at the Montgomery Interpretive Center. His lecture topic was: Political Influence on the Indigenous Social Welfare System of Ethiopia. The ASU community as well as students and faculty from Miles College attended the event.



## Resource Room Donations Increase, Partnerships Expand



Members of Iota Phi Lambda, MU Chapter showed up in a big way to donate food, and toiletries to the Resource Room in August. We thank them and the organization for the generous support!

### Help-a-Student!

Hunger, food insecurity and the need for critical supplies are realities students regularly face.

The good news is you can help the Resource Room alleviate those stressors.

**Help-a-Student by donating:**

- laundry detergent, 48 oz or smaller, or pods
- frozen breakfast sandwiches
- toilet tissue and other hygiene products

**Call 334.229.6957 to schedule a Thursday drop-off.**

104 Paterson Hall, Alabama State University

Scan the QR code to donate funds.







*Photo courtesy of David Campbell, University Photographer*

The Department of Social Work and ASU Athletics teamed up to provide the Resource Room with food and clothing items. The partnership keeps students and their academic success at the forefront while striving to lend support that meets their needs.



*Photo courtesy of David Campbell, University Photographer*

## Events and Activities Gallery



Phi Alpha Honor Society club members participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's River Region on November 4th. The event is held in over 600 communities throughout the country and is the world's largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's care and research.



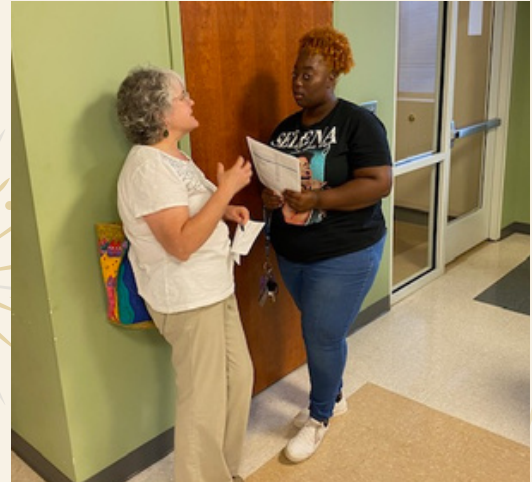
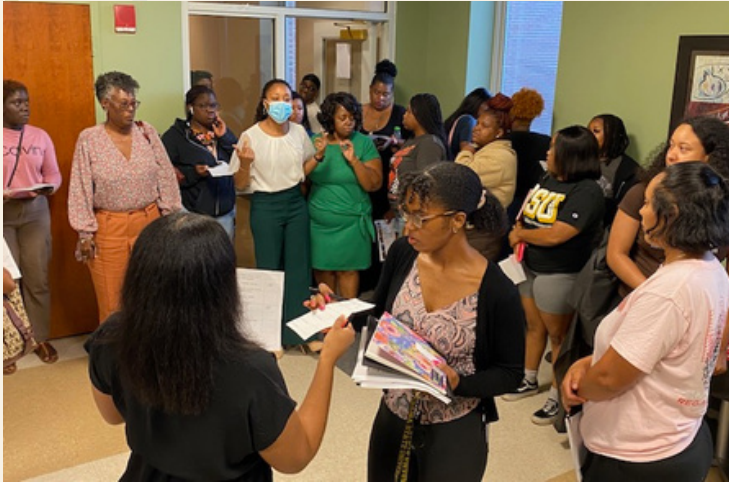
Dr. Dawna Nelson, and Ms. Riane Hinton-Smith attended the Percy Julian High School Career Expo in August. They had the opportunity to meet and chat with over 250 students.



The University of Michigan Department of Social Work visited ASU in August for a MSW recruitment event geared towards Bachelor of Social Work seniors. They provided information about funding and scholarship monies earmarked specifically for HBCU graduates, thus presenting a great opportunity for students interested in pursuing their MSW. They gave a presentation to students in the Methods II courses and provided dinner.

### Events and Activities Gallery

The Fall 2023 semester kicked off with the Bachelor of Social Work and Master of Social Work Program Orientation. Students met the program directors, department chair, faculty and representatives from various campus departments while learning more about the programs, policies and procedures, field placement, etc. Hats off to everyone who helped make it a successful event. And many thanks to our students for making the most of the opportunity!



Connection Day, the annual university wide program that hosts prospective students and families, was held in Dunn Oliver Acadome in September. Participants received information about admissions, majors, scholarships and support networks. They were treated to free admission to the ASU vs Alcorn football game as well as other fun activities. Ms. Kai Mumpfield, Ms. Sharonda Pettaway and Dr. Tabitha Brookins, represented Social Work.



### The Inside Scoop

*In this segment, get the “inside scoop” on a faculty or staff member of the Department of Social Work. Meet Ms. Jessica Withers, in her own words.*

Ms. Jessica Withers is a graduate of Alabama State University and the University of Alabama. She enjoys working with youth and adolescents because they keep her young and full of life. Ms. Withers has worked with children, families, and the geriatric population. She currently serves as the BSW Field Coordinator in the Department of Social Work. Ms. Withers is a member of the ASU National Alumni Association and a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Ms. Withers is outgoing, enjoys spending time with family, listening to different genres of music, and thrifting. If you don't truly know her you may think she is afraid of being outside in the sun. However, she looks forward to outside activities such as go-karting, day parties, four-wheelers, food/music festivals, carnivals, and Mardi Gras.



She also enjoys decorating, painting, creating unique gifts, and most importantly couponing lol. Ms. Withers loves seafood and playing different games such as dominoes, taboo, jenga, and connect four. She's down to earth and truly an old soul at heart. Her favorite time of the year is the holidays where there is much baking, singing, comfy pajamas, Christmas movies, laughs, and family fun.



## The Quarterly Review



**Denise Davis-Maye, Ph.D.,  
Chair, Professor**



**Tabitha Brookins, Ph.D.,  
Associate Professor**



**Ashley Cochran, Ph.D.,  
Instructor**



**Lloyd Davenport,  
Adjunct Instructor**



**Penny Genous,  
Adjunct Instructor**



**Debra Hickey,  
Administrative Assistant**



**Riane Hinton-Smith,  
Instructor**



**Dawna Nelson, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor**



**Kai Mumpfield,  
Director of Field  
Education**



**Sharonda Pettaway,  
BSW Program Director  
Assistant Professor**



**Tracy Pressley, Ph.D.,  
Assistant Professor**



**Tonya Scott-Williams,  
Administrative Assistant**



**Shanae Shaw, Ph.D.,  
MSW Program Dir.  
Assistant Professor**



**Jessica Withers,  
BSW Field Coordinator**

# Save the Dates

## March 14 - 15, 2024

Alabama State University  
3rd Annual  
Child Welfare & Community  
Conference

Registration opens soon.  
CEUs available.

