The School of Social Work is launching a new part-time hybrid MSW Program for eastern Washington. The hybrid program will eliminate the former Yakima part-time MSW Program (the last student cohort graduated June 2013) and Spokane part-time MSW Program (current student cohort graduates March 2014) to create one part-time MSW program to serve all of eastern and central Washington. A survey of potential students showed that most part-time students preferred weekend class sessions rather than evenings or Mondays. The hybrid program provides face-to-face class meetings up to three weekends (Saturday and Sunday) per quarter (year-round) at the EWU Riverpoint Campus in Spokane. Remaining course content will be delivered on Canvas and use distance delivery technologies to keep students and faculty connected. Our Field Office will work with agencies throughout central and eastern Washington to arrange for practicum placements near students’ home communities. The Everett and Vancouver part-time programs continue as evening programs. The School of Social Work remains committed to making graduate social work education available to residents throughout Washington. As always, our highly respected full-time teaching faculty will be covering teaching assignments for all our full- and part-time programs.

The Alliance for Child Welfare Excellence, our partnership with the University of Washington School of Social Work and the DHS Children’s Administration, is now the established leader in competency-based child welfare training and education. Together we are building an integrated and seamless education and training system for caregivers, foster parents, entering child welfare professionals, supervisors and administrators. Our Child Welfare Training and Advancement Program (CWTAP) remains strong as is our commitment to building and maintaining the workforce to serve our most vulnerable children and their families.

The School of Social Work Alumni Association leaders have begun meeting regularly. News from alumni coordinator, Diana Valdez, appears elsewhere in the newsletter.

Martha Raske, Director and Chair
School of Social Work
SHARON BOWLAND, PhD comes to us with a broad background in social work, psychology and theology. She has more than 25 years of practice experience in community mental health. She won the 2009 Dissertation of the Year award from the Society of Social Work and Research for research entitled, “Evaluating a Psycho-Social-Spiritual Intervention with Older Survivors of Interpersonal Trauma.” In 2012, she was named as a John A. Hartford Faculty Scholar. She is currently conducting research with older African-American women living in a low-income housing community. This work is undertaken to determine the specific needs of older trauma survivors and to develop interventions that are tailored to their needs and concerns. Bowland is also involved in research to test a self-transcendence intervention with older adults. The intervention is designed to increase self-transcendence, life satisfaction and acceptance, and to lower depression in adults living in independent or assisted living communities. She is delighted to be back in the Northwest after a 10 year absence. She has two daughters and a grandson living in Portland and a strong interest in hiking all the regional trails. Bowland added, “No chance that I will be done with that anytime soon!”

CYNTHIA NOVER, PhD joined the EWU School of Social Work in fall 2013, as an assistant professor and currently teaches graduate-level practice courses. Nover is a recent graduate of the University of Utah, where her research focus was improving medical care for people with serious mental illness. Nover received her master's in social work from California State University, Sacramento, and has worked as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker serving individuals with chronic mental and physical illness in northern California and Washington, D.C. A former Peace Corps Volunteer (Philippines, 2003-2005), Nover has also traveled to 17 countries throughout Asia and Eastern Europe and has worked in Mongolia to improve social work research methods and to improve access to a national cancer treatment center in Ulaanbaatar. Nover has also served two Americorps terms of service to improve access to after-school programs for transition-age youth and to assist community members with advocating for improved welfare benefits. Her research interests include health, mental health, interdisciplinary team work and international social work. Nover will be teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in the 2013-2014 school year at the Cheney, Riverpoint and Vancouver, WA campuses.

CHRISS WILLIAMS, MSW, an Eastern CWTAP graduate, has served students and the university as an agency field instructor, and is currently the director of the Everett part-time MSW Program. Williams spent the past 8 years working for Children's Administration as a CFWS social worker, a facility investigator, and a foster home licensor. Prior to joining the department, Williams worked with homeless teens and teens in crisis. Much of his professional and personal life has been devoted to providing people with the knowledge to make important decisions that affect their lives. Perhaps more importantly, his work has been geared toward empowering students and clients to learn on their own when guidance is no longer available. Williams earned his BA in psychology from Western Washington University and graduated from EWU's Everett part-time MSW Program in 2007. He enjoys volunteering as a music teacher for terminally ill children and as a respite camp counselor for the profoundly disabled.

TIMOTHY HILTON, PhD joined the faculty as an associate professor in the fall 2013 quarter. He holds a master's degree and PhD from the University of Chicago. Hilton also has more than 10 years of social work practice experience in the areas of welfare and work, case management, homeless services, and evaluation and policy. Prior to coming to EWU, he was a faculty member and program director at Northern Michigan University’s BSW Program. His areas of research include homelessness, low-wage work and prisoner reentry. He has published several research articles in these areas and has also co-authored a textbook on research methods. In addition, he has served on several community boards and other groups focused on issues of poverty and social justice. Hilton plans to continue his research and service in the greater Spokane area. He lives in Spokane with his wife Samantha and their two daughters, Annabel (age 5) and Natalie (2).
**TIPS FOR ONLINE CLASSES**

Tips for succeeding when taking a college program with an online component:

- **Technical requirements:** Make sure that you can access the materials and have an understanding of how to navigate the software and tools.
- **Do not delay in connecting with your instructor:** Do not wait to have multiple assignments returned, ask questions early and request assistance if needed.
- **Get organized:** Make a schedule/calendar. Know your timelines and when assignments are due. Allow ample time to complete each assignment.
- **Create a regular workspace:** Choose a location that's free of distractions, where it is easy to focus and study.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

This is a first! The very popular Children’s Justice Conference is heading to Eastern Washington on May 12-13, 2014, at the Spokane Conference Center. Attendees will learn current evidence-based strategies and techniques for keeping children safe and families strong, which will be presented by national and local experts. More than 90 workshops will offer excellent networking opportunities and make this the “not to be missed” conference of the year. EWU social work students will be volunteer hosts for the event. Conference registration information will be available in early February 2014. Check the website at **www.dshscjc.com**.

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**ALUMNI NETWORK**

According to Diana Valdez, one of the organizers for the School of Social Work alumni network, she and other volunteers are exploring ways to connect the School’s alumni with a variety of annual events and activities. The network’s initial goals are to reconnect alumni with colleagues in their cohorts, and to provide a variety of volunteer opportunities for alumni who will make contributions to the school’s mission and goals. One volunteer stated, “the school’s MSW Program transformed my life. I just want to give back.” The network planning committee will soon be sending out a brief electronic survey to learn more about alumni interests. If you are interested in more information, please contact the network by email at sowkalumni@ewu.edu.

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**HIGHLIGHTS**

Since the first social work class was offered in the summer of 1898 at Columbia University, social workers have led the way developing private and charitable organizations to serve people in need. Social workers continue to address the needs of society and bring our nation’s social problems to the public’s attention. ([www.naswdc.org/pressroom/features/general/history.asp](http://www.naswdc.org/pressroom/features/general/history.asp))

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**MOVING FORWARD**

The School of Social Work is exploring ways to better serve our graduates and welcomes you to contact us with any questions. We want to hear from you about how we might help you stay connected with former students and faculty, keep up with changes in the social work profession, network with colleagues, and reach across the generations of BASW and MSW graduates who share common values and experiences. Alumni, please send me a note about how we might better serve your needs. Are you interested in providing leadership to organize more alumni gatherings? Let me know! Contact me at mraske@ewu.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.

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_Martha_
Now taking applications for the Everett part-time evening MSW Program, part-time hybrid MSW Program for eastern Washington (new weekend option replaces Yakima evening & Spokane one-day Monday), and Cheney/Spokane full-time MSW Program. Application deadline is Feb. 3, 2014.

For more information go to www.ewu.edu/csbssw/programs/social-work.xml.