A SEASON OF

2015 BSW GRADUATES
(name & field placement)

Macy Beer, BSW
Providence Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center

Erin Dickinson, BSW
Braun Educational Center

Ruby Gunderson, BSW
Safe Families (Minneapolis, MN)

Grace Harrington, BSW
Lawndale Christian Health Center

Dana Nagelkirk, BSW
Howard Area Community Center

Tina Nazer, BSW
Illinois Institute for Addiction Recovery

Allyssa Prasse, BSW
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

Rachael Reule, BSW
Braun Educational Center

Kristen Smith, BSW
Quito, Ecuador

Sarah Stang, BSW
Pass Pregnancy Center

Alicia Tracy, BSW
The Bridge Teen Center
GREETINGS!

The 2014-2015 academic year was a blessed season of new beginnings, transitions, and growth. Program founders, Dr. Mackenzi Huyser and Dr. Rose Malinowski, completed their service to the social work program and the Trinity Christian College community the summer of 2014, and Cini Bretzlaff-Holstein stepped in as interim department chair and program director for the 2014-2015 academic year. Bretzlaff-Holstein accepted the offer to continue serving in these two positions in the social work program. It was with great pleasure Lisa Doot Abinoja joined the Trinity family and the social work program as the new field director in fall 2014.

Within the pages of the 2014-2015 annual review, you will read stories of events, accomplishments, and overall updates in the Social Work Department as the program continues to grow and transition into the next stages of its story. We thank each of you for your continued support, encouragement, and prayers for the program and our students as the next chapter of the program moves forward.

Cini Bretzlaff-Holstein, MSW, LSW
Department Chairperson

2014-2015 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK FACULTY

Cini Bretzlaff-Holstein, department chairperson
Lisa Doot Abinoja, director of field education

Amy Terpstra, adjunct professor

GROWTH

BSW Class of 2015
FRONT: Tina Nazer, Sarah Stang, Rachel Reule, Macy Beer,
Dana Nagelkirk, Grace Harrington, Erin Dickinson
BACK: Kristen Smith, Ruby Gunderson, Alyssa Prasse, Alicia Tracy

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Greetings..........................................................3
Social Work Student Activities...............4-5
Department News.....................................6-7
Upcoming  Events...................................Back
**LSWO CONFERENCE**

Two social work students attended the Latino Social Workers Organization (LSWO) annual conference on the campus of the University of Illinois at Chicago on October 17, 2014. "The Latino Social Workers Organization (LSWO) has been focused on the recruitment and retention of Latinos in social work education since its inception. Some of the key historical events which have been instrumental in enhancing social work students and professionals are Social Work Summits, National Conferences, Mentorship and Guidance for Social Work professionals and students, Collaborating with Schools of Social Work to provide continuing education..." and so on.


**DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM**

On March 19, 2015, the junior social work majors in the SWK 315 – Diverse Populations course with social work professor Lisa Doot Abinoja attended the Dominican University Graduate School of Social Work’s 8th Annual African-American and Latino Social Work Symposium. The theme of this year’s symposium was “Criminalization of Communities of Color: The Social Work Response.” The event included speaker panels and various workshop presentations on topics covering the Criminalization of Work, the School to Prison Pipeline, the Criminal Justice System and Police Accountability, Restorative Justice, and the Criminalization of Migration.

**SWSO EVENTS**

The purpose of the Social Work Student Organization (SWSO) is to create a place for BSW social work students to gather for fellowship, prayer, support, community service, community building, and policy advocacy. For one to be eligible for membership in the Social Work Student Organization, one must be a currently enrolled student in the BSW program and be in good standing with both Trinity Christian College and the program.

The role of the SWSO Officers is to work together and have equal responsibility for student advocacy, social planning, community outreach, and spiritual growth. SWSO plays an integral role in the identity and culture of the social work program operating from a spirit of community, service, and justice.
STUDENTS PARTNER WITH CHICAGO COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Numerous opportunities to partner with Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) were engaged in this past academic year. The Community Social Action Policy course has partnered with CCH the past several years for a service learning project in which they have done activities such as signature tables and conducting in-district meetings with legislators.

One senior BSW student completed her field placement at CCH, and recruited a number of her colleagues to participate in various CCH activities such as traveling to Springfield to meet with legislators at the state capitol and participating in a rally in downtown Chicago for the Fight for 15 campaign. We are thankful for the chance to continue to partner with CCH each year.

SOCIAL WORK STUDENT ACTIVITIES

“Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.”
– Benjamin Franklin

SOCIAL WORK EVENTS CONT’D

This past academic year was filled with numerous Social Work Student Organization (SWSO activities) such as SWSO coffee breaks at the Bootsma Bookstore & Café (BBC), partnering with Habitat for Humanity in Kankakee, IL for a day service project, Halloween movie night, Self-Care High Tea, Christmas ornament party, Black History Month viewing of Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom, and attending NASW-IL Advocacy Day. The 2015 SWSO Officers are looking forward to planning an exciting event in celebration of NASW’s 60th anniversary in October!

SOCIAL WORK MONTH

SWSO participated in a couple of activities in celebration of this year’s Social Work Month theme “Social Work Paves the Way for Change” in March. In addition to a crafting activity for social work majors to participate in, the 2015 SWSO Officers also encouraged their colleagues to participate in a campus wide awareness campaign with a banner the students made stating how they pave the way for changes as BSW students. This banner was hung in the lobby of the Jennie Huizenga Memorial Library to raise awareness about the profession and Social Work Month specifically. Students put their hand print on the banner, signed their name, and wrote a short response to the prompt on the banner, which read “I want to pave the way for change by…”

STUDENT-MADE BANNER FOR SOCIAL WORK MONTH IN THE LOBBY OF THE JENNIE HUIZENGA MEMORIAL LIBRARY.


Students participating in Fight for 15 rally in downtown Chicago.
DEPARTMENT NEWS

TOP 25 CHRISTIAN COLLEGES FOR A SOCIAL WORK DEGREE PROGRAM
Trinity Christian College has been listed as one of the Top 25 Christian Colleges for a Social Work Degree Program in 2015 by Social Work Degree Guide. It is an honor for Trinity Christian College’s social work program to be named one of the top 25 Christian colleges for social work. We are proud of our students and alumni who seek to pursue their vocational call for service through the social work profession. We thank the many voices who have influenced the growth and cultivation of the social work program, from our founders to past and current advisory group members, as well as our various field placement partners. We share this honor with all of them.

PROGRAM GROWTH
The social work program at Trinity Christian College continues to grow as more and more students are either entering the college as freshmen declaring social work as their major, students transferring into the college to pursue their BSW degree, or students already at Trinity who choose to change their major to social work. There are currently 62 social work majors in the social work program. To date, the social work program has graduated a total of 116 BSW students with 3 more to graduate this December as part of the BSW Class of 2015. It has been our longstanding goal to have graduating classes of ten to fifteen students each year. We are seeing these numbers in both our junior and senior classes with a summer and early spring influx of transfer students. We also are seeing strong numbers in our freshmen and sophomore classes. It is an exciting time for the social work program at Trinity.

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT COLLABORATIONS
Over the summer, Lisa Doot Abinoja worked on two separate collaborations with other departments at Trinity Christian College. The first collaboration was with a faculty member in the Business Department and a faculty member in the Theology Department. All three programs have a class focused on leadership, so they took the opportunity to look for overlap and propose a combined class. The collaboration was fruitful and many new ideas came out of that collaboration. Lisa will teach the class in the upcoming semester with some improvements, and hopefully the class will launch to combine all three majors in one class in the 2016-2017 academic year.

Additionally, Lisa is working with a faculty member in the Nursing Department to collaborate on courses that focus on the community and macro level of practice. The social work students in the macro course will come together with the nursing students to work on the same community this Fall semester, Harvey, and will collaborate on two health fairs in October. It is our hope that these early positive collaborations with other disciplines will lead to a career of positive collaborations.

CEU EVENTS
During the 2014-2015 academic year, the Department of Social Work offered four CEU workshop (3.0 CEUs each) to Licensed Social Workers (LSWs) and Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs). In addition, the Department of Social Work has partnered with Trinity’s Department of Psychology to offer CEUs for these workshops to Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) and Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors (LCPCs) as well.

A variety of topics were covered: “The Power of With: Transforming Communities” presented by Bethany Harris, PhD in August; “Leadership Development in Social Services” presented by Susie Bohun, MSW, LSW in October; “Motivational Interviewing: Conversations that Support Behavior Change” presented by Peg Dublin, BSN, MPH in March; and “Couples in Conflict: A Faith-based Approach to Conflict Resolution” presented by Mikal Rasheed, PhD, LCSW in April. Many thanks to the guest speakers who shared their knowledge and expertise for these workshops.

THANK YOU TO THE 2013-2015 ADVISORY GROUP

With gratitude and appreciation, thank you to the 2013-2015 Advisory Group Members who served the social work program these past two years. These members represent social workers and social service professionals from the Chicagoland area. Advisory group members serve a two year term and serve the program by making connections to the practice community. Their words of wisdom, encouragement, feedback, and input are of the utmost importance to the Department of Social Work, and we thank each person for taking the time to participate in the continued development and cultivation of the social work program at Trinity Christian College.

FACULTY UPDATES

CINI BRETLAFF-HOLSTEIN
Cini Bretzlaff-Holstein, MSW, LSW continues to serve the Department of Social Work as the BSW Program Director and Department Chair. She recently began the second year of her doctoral work through St. Catherine University-University of St. Thomas School of Social Work’s Doctorate in Social Work (DSW) degree: Education as Practice.

This past academic year she co-presented on Good Health for All: Closing the Food Gap at the North American Association of Christians in Social Work (NACSW) Convention. She also co-presented at the Association of Baccalaureate Program Directors (BPD) Conference with social work faculty colleague, Lisa Doot Abinoja, on the social work program’s professional development series entitled Cultivating Student Professional Development.

LISA DOOT ABINOJA
Lisa Doot Abinoja, MA, LCSW had a busy year in her role as the new Field Director in the Department of Social Work at Trinity Christian College. She had the opportunity to teach mostly Junior and Senior Social Work students about leadership, human behavior in the social environment, how to work on the community and organizational level of practice, and finally how to work with diverse populations. The students were a joy to work with this year and taught her as much as she taught them.

In the spring semester, she had the opportunity to co-present with Cini Bretzlaff-Holstein at Baccalaureate Program Directors meeting in Kansas City on the program’s Professional Development Program. The conference was a great opportunity to network with other Social Work Educators. Lastly, she supervised the social work program’s Senior Social Work majors in their field placements, and was overjoyed to see how well the students were prepared for those placements and to receive such positive feedback from the field sites on their work.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Throughout the year, assessment data on program competencies is collected from students and program partners. The data below shows two areas which our graduates excelled in with regard to the program competencies and their field performance (mean scores are based on a 5.0 scale).

**Student applies critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.**
(Field Instructors μ=4.60)

“Student is a critical thinker. She is very engaged and desires to do an excellent job. She is very open and willing to learn. Student is aware of racial disparities and own biases. She has received excellent feedback from her colleagues as an effective developing social worker.” – Field Instructor

“Student’s social work intervention skills are developing nicely. She is able to articulate professionally using both written and oral forms of communication. She has observed different models of assessment and intervention using Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT) skills, prevention models through Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) activities and participated in evaluation methods.” – Field Instructor

**Student engages in policy practice to advance social and economic well-being and to deliver effective social work services.**
(Field Instructors μ=4.59)

“Student attended Advocacy Day at the Capital and advocated for those we work with and advocated on behalf of our families and organizations.” – Field Instructor

“Student created a fact sheet about transportation rights of homeless students and created a Fight for 15 PowerPoint. These documents were strong and informative.” – Field Instructor

To request a full report of program competencies, please contact Professor Cini Bretzlaff-Holstein, department chairperson, at 708.239.4850.
The mission of the social work program is to prepare community-centered generalist practitioners motivated by their callings to serve as Christ-like change agents committed to promoting human and community well-being.

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<tr>
<th>2015-2016 CEU WORKSHOPS</th>
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<td><strong>AUGUST</strong></td>
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| August 13th | Cultural Competency at All Levels of Practice  
9:00am-12:30pm | Grand Lobby-Ozinga Chapel |
| **OCTOBER** |  |
| October 8th | Trauma Informed Care: The Nexus of Attachment Theory, Complex Trauma, and Recovery  
9:00am-12:30pm | Grand Lobby-Ozinga Chapel |
| **MARCH** |  |
| March 26th | Advanced Motivational Interviewing  
9:00am-12:30pm | Grand Lobby-Ozinga Chapel |
| **APRIL** |  |
| April 21st | TBA  
9:00am-12:30pm | Chicago Semester offices in downtown Chicago |

Each workshop offers three (3.0) CEUs for LSWs, LCSWs, LPCs, and LCPCs. Registration fee is $20 per CEU workshop.

For questions about upcoming CEU workshops contact Cini Bretzlafl-Holstein at Cini.Bretzlafl-Holstein@trnty.edu or 708.239.4850.