



What's Up – A Newsletter from the UM School of Social Work

Welcome to your monthly email from the University of Montana School of Social Work. We will highlight different happenings in our school and the social work field each month. We want to create a sense of connection and understanding of the many beautiful things happening at your school.

We hope you all take time to rest and recharge through the Winter break.

Social Work Students – Advocate!

The social work profession has a long history of promoting policy change to better serve individuals and communities facing oppression. We also have a call to participate in political advocacy within our [Code of Ethics](#). We hope all students will find their advocacy niche and work to pursue social change with and on behalf of oppressed individuals and populations.

Quick Examples of advocacy you can start with:

1. **Direct Action** - Dr. Carew's November trip to D.C. is a perfect example of direct action, attending a rally or other event to promote a cause. To find out what might be happening in your area, sign up for communication from organizations you believe in (possible examples: ACLU, Montana Women Vote, or look at your NASW chapter for additional ideas)
2. **Individual Action** - letters to the editor or Opinion Pieces. Dr. Jen Molloy and I recently authored this [piece regarding the Missoula Crisis Levy](#).
3. **Build and share knowledge** - Get educated about an issue you care about: This is an excellent place to start if you're wondering what might line up with social work values: [NASW Action Center](#)

Research Excitement:

Congratulations to **Dr. Jessica Liddell**, Assistant Professor of Social Work for the publication of the following article in Studies in the journal, Studies in Social Justice [“We Live in a Very Toxic World: Changing Environmental Landscapes and Indigenous Food Sovereignty.”](#) (Liddell, J. L., Kington, S.G., & McKinley, C.)

Give-back Opportunities: 3 Ideas

- Volunteer at a senior center; share a talent, play cards, serve food, or find other ways to connect with seniors in your community. November and December are often lonely months for many older adults.
- Spread good news; pledge to share only positive information on your social media for a day (or more!)
- Donate blood or plasma

Student Spotlight:

MSW student **Thomas Basolo** featured in [Confluence Podcast](#). This episode of Confluence is the second in a two-part series honoring our graduate student veterans during Veterans Week. Thomas Basolo retired from the military in 2017. In this episode, we discuss his study in social work, his service ethic, and his support for other veterans struggling with various issues as they acclimate to civilian life, especially addiction.



We wish you a safe and happy winter break!

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