UPCOMING EVENTS

HEALTH INSURANCE ENROLLMENT
SESSIONS AT Pitt SSW
Friday, November 17th
12:00PM-3:00PM 2309CL

Apply between November 1st and December 15th for 2018 Marketplace coverage. Applications for Medicaid and CHIP are accepted year-round.

SEE OUR FULL EVENT CALENDAR HERE

The SEC wants to help connect
Students raising children

*FILL OUT THIS FORM* TO GET CONNECTED WITH PEERS IN A NEW MSW STUDENT-PARENT SUPPORT NETWORK

DON’T FORGET TO VOTE!

• blocks out time to go to the polls
• find your polling place
• carpool with a friend or drive your elderly neighbor
WHERE IN THE WORLD CAN SOCIAL WORK TAKE US?
Monday, November 6th
12-2PM 2017CL

Are you interested in learning about social work education opportunities in other countries? Are you interested in learning about how to work with individuals from other countries here in Pittsburgh? Come to the International Fair where you will learn about these opportunities and more!

EVALUATING AND NEGOTIATING OFFERS
Thursday, November 9th
12:00PM-1:00PM 2309CL

Participants will receive information on the various components of compensation (salary, benefits, retirement, etc.) and strategies on how to negotiate the strongest deal possible.

RACE IN PITTSBURGH:

- THE JUSTICE SYSTEM
- LGBTQ INTERSECTIONS

Please join us for 2 panel discussions:

1) What’s Happening in the Justice System
2) Intersections of Race and LGBTQ issues in our community.

Each dialogue will take place from 7-9 pm at Church of the Redeemer.

Monday November 13, 2017: Larry Davis, Dean, School of Social Work and Director, Center on Race and Social Problems, University of Pittsburgh, will be joined by Alfred Blumstein, Professor of Urban Systems and Operations Research at the Heinz College of Carnegie Mellon, David Harris, Professor at University of Pittsburgh Law School, and Celeste Taylor, Voting Rights Advocate, to discuss What’s Happening in the American Justice System.

Thursday, March 15, 2018: SAVE THE DATE for a forum discussing issues of Intersectionality of Race and LGBTQ Issues.

GREAT ISSUES FORUM AT REDEEMER: WINTER 2017-18

November 13, 2017:
The Justice System

March 15, 2018:
LGBTQ – Race Intersections

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER,
SQUIRREL HILL
5700 Forbes Avenue,
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
412.222.7100
redeemer@pittsburgh.org

We seek to promote understanding and encourage action around justice issues.

WE SEEK TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING AND ENCOURAGE ACTION AROUND JUSTICE ISSUES.

Stay tuned to receive a link from the SEC to a live ballot. Polls will open Tuesday, October 31st and close November 7th.
HEAR FROM THE SEC BOARD, PT. 2
By NK Owusu, Diversity Chair

With election season upon us, current SEC members share their experience while in office.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK SPEAKER SERIES
Monday, October 30th
12:00PM-1:30PM 2017CL

“As Direct Practice representative, I have been able to interact directly with MSW staff to determine strategies for making the MSW program accommodating and accessible for students. I have helped with planning incoming student orientation and planned a Valentine’s Day themed event for students this past February. Rewards of the position has been getting an up-close view of how the MSW program and course offerings work, and witnessing MSW students come together through various events. Challenges have included logistic planning and ensuring that advertisements for events are prepared for distribution in a timely fashion.” – Kristin Roelofson, ’18.

“Being the International Student Representative, I have had the opportunity to host the International Dinner, and World Social Work Day Poster Session. I also attend monthly International Committee meetings. Anyone vying for this position should be interested in organizing events related to international social work issues, and be willing to serve as an advocate for international students in the program.” – Jane Seyoonyoung Lee, ’18.

“As the COSA representative, it’s been a great opportunity to represent the voices of students to faculty and staff and gain experience in planning and programming. I highly recommend anyone interested in these aspects in running for this position.” – Kylea Covaleski, ’19.

Follow SEC on social media!
Check out our website
Or email us at pitt.sec@gmail.com
The MSW Student Executive Council mourns the loss of Alina Sheykhet, a twenty-year-old Pitt student who was presumably murdered by her ex-boyfriend on October 8th. We are one Pitt community, and Alina was our sister. We were her classmates, neighbors, and friends. Many of us are still dealing with the tragic loss of our fellow Pitt student.

Intimate partner violence is real. It exists on our campus. It sometimes happens behind closed doors, but make no mistake, it is a devastating issue that must be addressed, especially by those of us in the social work field. If you are a survivor of intimate partner violence or sexual assault, know this: we hear you, and we believe you. You are not alone. There are many resources on and off campus to help you. On campus, the SHARE office and the Title IX office both have counseling and legal support available to you at your discretion. There are walk in hours at the Pitt Counseling Center for those who are in need of professional support. The Women’s Center and Shelter of Pittsburgh has a 24-hour hotline (412-687-8005), medical and legal advocacy, support groups (including one for men), and an emergency shelter for those fleeing an abusive relationship. Attached you will also find a list of resources separated by county from Southwest PA Says No More, a campaign dedicated to ending domestic and sexual violence.

If you are deeply unsettled and heartbroken by the death of Alina, we urge you to call your elected officials, share your concern about this issue, and advocate for legislation that would protect survivors of abuse. If you are registered to vote in Pennsylvania, there is currently a bill at the state level that would help intervene in cases like Alina’s if it were to become a law. Senate Bill 196 would “[require] an electronic monitoring device be placed on the defendant if the defendant is found to present a substantial risk of violating the final protection from abuse order or committing a crime against the victim punishable by imprisonment.” In Alina’s case, this would have likely led to the imprisonment of her abuser after he broke into her apartment two weeks before she was murdered. Instead, the current laws allowed her abuser to post bail after the break-in, which ultimately cost Alina her life. Even though she took the appropriate legal precaution by filing for a Protection From Abuse order, or a PFA, the current system did not ensure her safety.

PFAs are not enough. We must collectively create a culture where sexual and relationship violence is unacceptable, where survivors are believed, and where people like Alina are safe from the reaches of their abuser. As social workers, it is our duty to actively pursue solutions to domestic violence and support survivors.

The SEC would like to stand in support of a society which protects survivors of abuse. As future social workers, we know it is up to us to push for cross-sector solutions that would prevent and interrupt the cycle of intimate partner abuse. Know that we will stand for your integrity as human beings and as fellow Pitt students. This letter reflects opinions held by the SEC board, and does not speak for the program or the University.

With support,

Pitt MSW Student Executive Council 2017