

# THE ADVOCATE

*The latest news and updates from the UA Little Rock  
Student Social Work Organization*

We are proud to present the second issue of *The Advocate*, the official newsletter for the Student Social Work Organization. *The Advocate*, published monthly and include profile features, upcoming events, and articles relevant to the field of social work. We hope you find our publication both insightful and informative! Happy reading!



By Tameka Seals

## Department Spotlight: Deborah Fudge, BA/BS

This summer, we were fortunate to acquire a new member of our department - Mrs. Deborah Fudge. No, you will not find her teaching policy, statistics, or human behavior, or anxiously awaiting her to grade an assignment you submitted; but you will most likely find her - and the touches of her important work as the administrative assistant - throughout the social work department.

Mrs. Fudge graduated from UALR with a BA in Psychology and BS in Health Sciences with an emphasis in Health Promotion. She is also pursuing a Master's in Adult Education. Mrs. Fudge loves spending time with her kids, grandkids, family and friends, and has been married to her wonder husband of six years, who is also her 'military hero!' She sews in her spare time, and co-workers and students would probably be surprised to know she drives a 1961 Chevy truck. (Ask her to show you a picture - it's nice!)

Mrs. Fudge is not a woman of many words, but she is never short on action. Don't believe me? Ask her co-workers:

Dr. Danforth remarks, "'Deborah is an absolute asset to not only the school of social work as a whole, but also to each individual faculty member. She is always there to answer my questions, and has been an important resource for students who need assistance. Whether it's helping me organize complicated travel procedures or directing me to where I can find some afternoon candy, Deborah is always ready to jump in and help. We are so lucky to have her in the School of Social Work, and I can't imagine this place without her.'"

"Deborah is a pleasure to work with. Our daily operations as a department depend on someone in her position to be competent, professional, learn complex tasks quickly, in addition to being able to juggle many tasks at once. Deborah incorporates all of these qualities." - Dr. Kim Jones

Dr. Kapp wrapped things up by saying, "Deborah has been a shining light in the School since she joined us. Not only is she fluent in Boss, Banner, Schedule, expense reimbursement and other UALR foreign languages, being around her is a treat!!! She has the same, even, pleasant interaction with everyone that shows up at her door. I am very grateful she has joined us."

And, you know what? We are grateful, too. Welcome to the School of Social Work! Thank you for your commitment to students and education.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**OCT - DEC 2019:  
SOCK + WINTER  
CLOTHES DRIVE**

**DEC 3 - 11:  
FINAL EXAMS  
DEC 6:  
LAST DAY OF INTERNSHIPS  
DEC 12:  
FINAL GRADES DUE**

**DEC 20 - JAN 1:  
UNIVERSITY CLOSED  
HOLIDAY BREAK**

**JAN 20:  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR  
HOLIDAY (CAMPUS CLOSED)**

**JAN 21:  
SPRING CLASSES BEGIN**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING  
EVENTS OR WAYS TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE  
VISIT: [WWW.UALRSSWO.COM](http://WWW.UALRSSWO.COM)

## BSW Student Spotlight: Emilia Zsuzsanna Rak



### Quick Stats:

- First-Generation Hungarian American (enjoys dual citizenship)
- Father was a freedom fighter in the Hungarian Revolution of 1956
- Mother to 4 adult daughters: Erika, Monika, Marianna, & Kristina
- Was born in the United States, but did not learn to speak English until she began school
- Member of Nu Delta Chapter of Phi Alpha Honor Society
- Has a featured TED Talk "The 411 on Service Dogs"



Enjoy your well-deserved winter break. May it be filled with warmth, security, and happiness.

Your 2019-2020 SSWO Officers

### Emilia's Story

I've long been a proponent of raising awareness regarding domestic violence; busting stigma and educating the public about the dangers of victim shaming. One would think that social workers and students of social work, in general, would be especially knowledgeable about this topic. And yet, I have been saddened to witness first-hand callous commentary regarding the women who risk their lives by choosing to remain in abusive domestic situations because they are literally brought to their knees by their abusers in every conceivable way, as if these women were somehow to blame for staying because "they just don't leave in spite of all the helpful resources that are out there."

Please, fellow social justice warriors, if you take away nothing else from this interview, remember that if this happened to someone "like me, at this stage in my life", it could happen to anyone AT ANY TIME. For those of you who will be working with clients in these circumstances, be patient and be kind. Please try not to let your frustration because of your "inability to help" get the better of you. Keep trying. Because for every so many women who just couldn't leave, there will be that one who you will be able to help.

### Why Social Work?

Several years ago after many, many years of reaching out to numerous individuals and organizations begging for help, not getting ANY assistance, I was brought into the paths of several social workers who treated me with tremendous kindness and respect and bent over backwards to try and help me. At first I thought it was because they were just being nice to me for whatever reason. I then, quickly realized that these people had no hidden agenda; that they were literally "just doing their job". After I had taken an intro to SW class I knew immediately that I had found my calling. I decided that I was going to give back to all of those SW's who had helped me "just because it was their job" by paying those kindnesses forward to whomever life would bring into my path.

### 3 Most Valuable Lessons Life Has Taught Me

- "Happiness is not about having what you want, but about wanting what you have." - Rabbi Hyman Schachtel
- "Coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous." - Albert Einstein
- Always be kind because you never know what a person's struggles are.

### Dream Job After Graduation

My areas of interest are still related to art therapy, but I also enjoy promoting public awareness and education about service dogs, animal assisted therapy, and mental health-related issues. I would love to be able to conduct research, design helpful programs for organizations, gain funding for those programs, and finally implement them on a grand scale!

## Congratulations to Amy Johnson, MSW Student



Congratulations are in order for Amy Johnson, whose research project was accepted into a peer-reviewed journal! To learn more about Amy's research, you can reach her at: [akjohnson@ualr.edu](mailto:akjohnson@ualr.edu). Well done, Amy!

## ABSW + SSWO Partner to Sponsor 32 Families Angel Tree Families for Christmas

The Association for Black Social Workers and Student Social Work Organization partnered in a big way to support thirty-two angel tree families this Christmas. Students in Dr. Danforth's MCP I course worked this semester as community partners for organizations within the University District. One of the organizations, St. Luke Learning Center, provides childcare and education to economically disadvantaged families.

Team members Ashton Denton, Kynnedi Allen, Jordan Fowler, Cynthia Jones, and Tameka Seals worked with St. Luke to create an on-site resource room to provide access to job opportunities, social programs, food, and clothes, in addition to the angel tree!

Thank you to each individual and group who generously contributed to this joint effort!

## SSWO Struts Their Stuff in Support of 2019 LR Pride Fest



Pictured: SSWO members and social work students who participated in the Little Rock Pride Fest. Volunteers assisted with setup, coordination of activities, and events in support of the local LGBTQ community.

If you would like to submit an article or event for an upcoming issue of The Advocate, please contact: Tameka Seals at [tlwhite4@ualr.edu](mailto:tlwhite4@ualr.edu).