Dr. Ronald Dolon Scholarship

The Department of Social Work is working to establish a scholarship in recognition of **Dr. Ronald Dolon**'s many years of contributions to Ball State, the department, and students throughout his career.

He joined the faculty in 1971 and has been teaching students the fundamental skills needed to practice social work throughout his time within the department. Dolon provided an exceptional educational experience to nearly every BSW student that graduated from our program in the past 40 plus years.

His research focuses on interpersonal violence, humor as stress management, and older adults. This fund would be used to provide financial assistance to students in our graduate program who choose to focus on working with older adults. We initiated the fund drive during One Ball State Day, and we were able to raise almost $1,800 toward this scholarship. We will be sending out additional materials about the scholarship and hope that all who know Dolon will consider contributing to the fund.

**ADMISSION DATES**

**BSW Application**
The next deadline for submitting a bachelor in social work (BSW) admission application is July 1. [admission application](#)

**MSW Application**
The deadline for submitting a master in social work (MSW) admission application is June 15. Prospective students must apply to the Graduate School and the MSW program. We will begin accepting applications for 2020 in early Fall.
Legislative Education and Advocacy Day for Students

Seventy of our BSW students visited the Indiana Statehouse in February for our annual Legislative Education and Advocacy Day (LEAD) event. Students had the opportunity to tour the Statehouse, view legislative committee meetings, and meet with members of the Indiana House of Representatives and Senate. Students also advocated for legislation impacting their future clients. A special thank you to Senator Tim Lanane, Representative Sue Errington, Representative Melanie Wright, Senator Mike Gaskill, Representative Tony Cook, Representative Terri Austin, and Representative Wendy McNamara for taking time to meet with our students.

Guardian Scholars Program

The Guardian Scholars program, established by and housed in the SSRC, serves current and former foster youth attending Ball State, provides academic support, resources, leadership development, and campus/community engagement activities to assist these youth toward graduation and professional and personal development.

Student Symposium

In April, 13 of our BSW students presented research posters at the Annual Student Symposium. This event has been hosted by Ball State for more than 20 years and provides students with the opportunity to showcase their scholarly and creative projects while gaining valuable feedback from faculty and judges. Our students presented their survey research on a wide range of topics, including social media usage, the impact of the opioid epidemic, hygiene, road rage, and safer sex. Thank you to Dr. Jonel Thaller for leading these efforts.
Virtual Reality Simulations Assess Risks in Homes

Josh Raines, assistant director of the SSRC, has been developing virtual reality simulations for social work students and taking the results nationwide. Collaborating with Dr. Glenn Stone, department chair, and Judy Gray, associate professor, students enrolled in Social Work 410 have been using virtual reality since Spring 2018 to learn about home health and safety visits. These simulations help students build effective practice habits to assess risks/protective factors associated with drug and opioid issues, as well as racial disproportionality in child welfare outcomes.

Building Healthy Communities Explores Timely Topics

Our Building Healthy Communities Workshop in January was a great success. The event included workshops covering topics affecting our neighborhoods and communities and featured speakers from Second Harvest Food Bank, Volunteer of America of Indiana, Indiana Habitat for Humanity, and the National Association of Social Workers. The workshop was part of Ball State’s Centennial celebration recognizing the College of Health.

We had a large turnout and awarded continuing education units (CEUs). Thank you to all who attended. We love seeing familiar faces and providing networking opportunities for students, agency supervisors, community members, and Ball State faculty/staff. A special thank you to our speakers: Jena Ashby, Dorica Watson, Beryl Cohen, and Shannon Schumacher. Stay tuned for an informative and fun CEU event during Homecoming week!
Alumni Spotlight

Katie Lucas began her career as a nursing aid at The Woodlands in 1980. Early on, she took a social service designee course at Ball State. This fueled her desire to earn a degree in social work. While working full-time at The Woodlands, she embarked on a part-time educational journey. Ten years later, at the age of 54, Lucas graduated with her BSW in 2001. “The longer I went, the more determined I was that I would finish.” She is now celebrating her 39th year at The Woodlands and continues to serve the Department of Social Work as a consistent practicum supervisor. She also instilled her love for social work in her daughter. Her daughter has her MSW and works for FEMA.

Celebrating the Social Science Research Center

After 38 years of service to Ball State University, Ann Brown, assistant professor and director of the Social Science Research Center (SSRC), is retiring. We thought the best way to celebrate Brown is to highlight the projects she will leave behind to a capable staff. These are just a few of the current SSRC projects and just a snapshot of the millions of dollars in grants secured by Brown and her team. We will miss Brown more than she could ever know. Congratulations on your retirement!

Adult Tobacco Survey Examines Hoosier Attitudes

The SSRC is currently administering their third Indiana Adult Tobacco Survey for the Centers for the Disease Control and Prevention and the Indiana State Department of Health. This externally funded research project examines Hoosier adults’ attitudes towards tobacco and Indiana’s control and prevention efforts. This project is helping more than 75 students gain interprofessional research experience during their time at Ball State. Results from these research projects are processed by the SSRC and reported back to help the Indiana State Department of Health plan services and measure the effectiveness of their control efforts for Hoosiers.

Health Professions Building

The Department of Social Work will relocate to the new Health Professions Building by August 2019. It is located on Riverside Avenue between Martin and Dicks streets.

Faculty Openings

We are currently seeking applications for part-time instructors of social work. Applications are being accepted through June 1.

Faculty Announcements

- **Dr. Ronald Dolon** presented at the Lilly Conference on Teaching for Active and Engaged Learning in Anaheim, California. His presentation was “Laughademics: Humor as a Teaching Strategy.”
- **Dr. Matt Moore** presented a workshop, “Sustaining Boundaries in College Athletes,” at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Annual Convention. He also presented a workshop on partnering with international students in policy courses at the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors Annual Meeting.
- **Dr. Matt Moore** received a Fulbright Scholarship to teach and do research at the University of Bucharest in Romania. He will be gone the spring semester of 2020.
- **Dr. Jonel Thaller** and **Dr. Greta Slater** presented with colleagues from Public Health and Nursing as featured guests at a Ball State College of Health event. They presented on trauma and trauma informed care in opioid addiction recovery for pregnant and postpartum women.