2004

The Association of Black Social Work Students

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**Degree Type**
Open Access Senior Honors Thesis

**Department**
Social Work

**Keywords**
Association of Black Social Work Students Michigan Ypsilanti

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THE ASSOCIATION OF BLACK SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS

A Senior Thesis Project Submitted to the Eastern Michigan University Honors Program
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Graduation
With Honors in Major

Approved at Ypsilanti, Michigan on this date ______________________

_____________________   ____________________
Supervising Instructor                                        Department Head

_____________________   ____________________
Honors Advisor                                                  Honors Director
My name is Patricia Hall and I am currently the president of the Association of Black Social Work Students and I have been in office since September 2003. This folder contains my achievements thus far as president. The reason why I am creating this folder is because it is required that I do so for my honors project. Also, I am creating this letter as an introduction to my honors project, in hopes that by downsizing the actual content, it will provide clarity.

The National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) promotes the welfare, survival, and liberation of people of African ancestry. Members of NABSW recognize the necessity of African descent to maintain control of our communities and accountability of ourselves and of others of African ancestry. Through its members, NABSW reaches out to link with other people of African ancestry throughout the Diaspora.

The student chapter of ABSWS at Eastern Michigan University meets the third Saturday of each month from 1:00 pm-3:00 pm in room 368 at the School of Social Work. Even though the organization is open to the entire campus, we have had only African American participates thus far. As a student organization we focus on uplifting one another as students and helping those that are in need. For the Thanksgiving holiday we collaborated with the Vision Office and had a can food drive. We placed a box in Welch Hall and on the third floor at the School of Social Work. We successfully collected over one hundred can good items and proceeded to give the can goods to the Vision office and they distributed them as they saw fit.

To begin the Christmas Holiday season we began with the hopes of adopting a family that had six children. But as time passed we realized that the goal we desired to achieve was unrealistic with the money and the time span that we had to work with. We, as an organization, decided to collaborate with the Vision office and adopted a family from the tree that was in the library. We joined forces with the MSW student organization and were able to collect enough money to purchase everything that was on the list for the family we were supporting.

As president of the Eastern Michigan University Student Chapter of the Association of Black Social Workers (ABSWS), I have made great strides in bringing the cohesiveness of the student organization together. The following is introducing the content of my project from what I’ve done from the beginning to the end of my project.

As president I believe that in order for us to understand where we are going as a culture it is important to understand where we have come from. I believe that the mission statement of the ABSW organization clearly articulates this.

The brochure was created to use as an educational tool that speaks about the organization as a whole.

ABSWS is a national Social Work organization and therefore we must governor ourselves to the social work code of ethics.

The membership forms were created so that our record keeping could remain accurate in that it offered accountability to those who claim to be a part of this student organization.

I worked along with Rhonda Delong (the web-master at Eastern Michigan University) in creating our website for ABSWS. It was created to allow anyone to be able to obtain information about our organization.

There were many flyers that were created to announce our upcoming meetings along with different events that we had scheduled.

The following bulleted list is a more simplistic way to define the contents of my honors project:

- ABSWS Logo, along with the mission statement
- ABSWS Brochure, along with letter head stationary paper
- Implemented NABSW Code of Ethics
- ABSWS Membership Form
- Contacts for ABSWS
• ABSWS Website
• ABSWS first Meeting Flyer
• Meeting agenda
• ABSWS second Meeting Flyer
• Flyer for Thanksgiving can food drive
• ABSWS meeting agenda for Nov. 15th
• ABSWS announcement flyer for last meeting of the year
• Thank-you note to the MSW student organization
• History of ABSWS

In conclusion, I hope the above information provides a sense of clarity and cohesion before my audience becomes engaged in my project. I would like to also note, as being president of the ABSWS, I realize it has offered many challenges as well as taken me to a higher level and expectation in the field of Social Work.
MISSION STATEMENT

The national Association of Black Social Workers comprises of people of African Ancestry committed to enhancing the quality of life and empowering people of African Ancestry through advocacy, human services, and research.
That one day this nation will rise up and live out the meaning of its creed:

“We hold the truth to be self-evident:
That all men are created equal.”
Unity –Self Determination


Collective Work ~

Cooperative Economics

Purpose ~ CREATIVITY~ FAITH
Association of Black Social Work Students
Eastern Michigan University
ABSWS

Faculty Advisors:
Dr. Sylvia Sims Gray
Claudette Braxton
Room 314 Everett L. Marshall Building
734-487-4484
CL_ABSWS@emich.edu

Make A Difference!
The Association of Black Social Work Students—ABSWS—is a local chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers. We are a student run, faculty advised group who all have the same goal: that of becoming Social Workers.

In our roles as Social Workers, each of us has chosen to dedicate ourselves to improving social conditions for African Americans in the communities where we work and live. Joining the ABSWS at EMU can be your first step towards achieving that goal. Through the ABSWS, you will get first hand experience in working within the community, while benefiting from the guidance of our faculty and staff.
The National Association of Black Social Workers

Mission Statement of the NABSW:
The National Association of Black Social Workers, comprised of people of African Ancestry, is committed to enhancing the quality of life and empowering people of African Ancestry through advocacy, human services, and research.

Vision Statement
The National Association of Black Social Workers will work to create a world in which people of African Ancestry will live free from racial domination, economic exploitation, and cultural oppression. By 2002, in collaboration with national, international, and other appropriate groups NABSW will continue to leverage it’s collective expertise to strategically develop the capacity of people of African Ancestry to sustain and flourish. Our vision is guided by the principles of Nguzo Saba, which are Unity, Self-determination, Collective Work, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith; and the principles of Maat, Which are Right, Truth, Justice, order, Reciprocity, Balance, and Harmony.
**Why join the ABSWS?**

While giving back to the community, you will gain:

- Experience to list on your Résumé
- Valuable Field Experience
- Leadership Skills
- Group Work
- Cultural Awareness

And most importantly:

You will get the satisfaction of knowing that you have started down the path to learning how to make your community a better place to live.

So bring your ideas and your enthusiasm to the next meeting of the ABSWS and find out how you can:

**Make a Difference!**
N.A.B.S.W. Code of Ethics

In America today, no Black person, except the selfish or irrational, can claim neutrality in the quest for Black liberation nor fail to consider the implications of events taking place in our society. Given the necessity for committing ourselves to the struggle for freedom, we as Black Americans practicing in the field of social welfare set forth this statement of ideals and guiding principles.

If a sense of community awareness is a precondition to humanitarian acts, when we as Black social workers must use our knowledge of the Black community, our commitments to its self-determination and our helping skills for the benefit of Black people as we marshal our expertise to improve the quality of life of Black people. Our activities will be guided by our Black consciousness, our determination to protect the security of the Black community and to serve as advocates to relieve suffering of Black people by any means necessary.

Therefore, as Black social workers we commit ourselves, collectively, to the interests of our Black brethren and as individuals subscribe to the following statements:

♦ I regard as my primary obligation the welfare of the Black individuals, Black family and Black community and will engage in action for improving social conditions.

♦ I give preference to this mission over my personal interests.

♦ I adopt the concept of a Black extended family and embrace all Black people as my brothers and sisters, making no distinction between their destiny and my own.

♦ I hold myself responsible for the quality and extent of service performed by the agency or organization in which I am employed, as it relates to the Black community.

♦ I accept the responsibility to protect the Black community against unethical and hypocritical practice by any individuals or organizations engaged in social welfare activities.

♦ I stand ready to supplement my paid or professional advocacy with voluntary service in the Black public interest.

♦ I will consciously use my skills, and my whole being, as an instrument for social change, with particular attention directed to the establishment of Black social institutions.
A.B.S.W.S.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _______________________

Date: _______________________

Student ID#: ___________________

Permanent Address:

Campus Address:

_________________________________

_________________________________

Campus Phone#: ___________________

Phone#: ___________________

Email Address

_________________________________

Would you consider being an officer? ______

Classification (please check):

___ freshman ___ sophomore ___ junior ___ senior ___ grad

Dues: $20.00 Pd: ______ Date: _____
Association of Black Social Work Students (ABSWS) at Eastern Michigan University

Make A Difference!

Eastern Michigan University Chapter
ABSWS
Faculty Advisors:
Dr. Sylvia Sims Gray
Claudette Braxton
Room 314 Everett L. Marshall Building
Phone: (734) 487-4484
Email: CL_ABSWS@emich.edu

ABSWS LINKS:
About Us
Why Join Us?
Events and Meetings

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The Association of Black Social Work Students--ABSWS--is a local chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers. We are a student run, faculty advised group who all have the same goal: becoming Social Workers.

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LINKS:
ABSWS Home
About Us
Why Join Us?
Events and Meetings
ABSWS: Why Join Us?

While giving back to the community you will gain:

Experience to List on Your Resume

Valuable Field Experience

Leadership Skills

Group Work

Cultural Awareness

And most importantly:

You will get the satisfaction of knowing that you have started down the path to learning how to make your community a better place to live. So bring your ideas and your enthusiasm to the next meeting of the ABSWS and find out how much you can:

Make a Difference!

LINKS:
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About Us
Why Join Us?
Events and Meetings
ABSWS: Events and Meetings

The **ABSWS** meets every third Saturday of the month in room 386 Marshall from noon to 1 p.m.

Our membership dues are $20.00 per year, which includes the national ABSWS quarterly newsletter describing upcoming events and current activities.

**Some of the other events and projects that the local chapter has planned for this year are:**

Adopt a Senior - (Christmas, for needy seniors)

Adopt a Family - (Christmas and Thanksgiving, needy families in the community or campus community)

Visits to Local Senior Centers (senior town center, we will fill out paperwork and visit people, helping them in various ways such as shopping). Gift and tea baskets for seniors

Holiday Gathering, December 6, 2003 at the Lakehouse (University Park) from noon to 2 p.m. White elephant gift ($5 limit) for those who want to participate.

Dinner for Graduating Students

Fundraisers (at our November meeting, we are asking everyone to contribute $10 to our bottled water sale. For Thanksgiving, we have a canned goods drive. Other fundraising events will be forthcoming).

**LINKS:**

[ABSWS Home](#)
[About Us](#)
[Why Join Us?](#)
[Events and Meetings](#)
Make A Difference!

Join us for Our First Meeting of the Fall Semester.

- Do you want to do something more meaningful this year?
- Are you looking for a challenge?

Join us for the first meeting of the
ABSWS-Association of Black Social Work Students

Saturday, September 20, 2003
12:00P.M. -1:00 P.M.
Everett L. Marshall Building Room 368

We provide the Snacks-you provide the enthusiasm.

Come visit us and find out how you can make a difference!

Faculty Advisors and Student Officers will be on hand to meet you and answer all your questions.
ABSWS Meeting
Saturday September 20, 2003
12:00PM- 1:00PM
Rm386 Marshall

1. Welcome and introduction of officers and Faculty advisors

2. A Overview of ABSWS (Dr. Sylvia Sims-Gray)

3. Upcoming events
   a. Create baskets for tea and senior community
   b. Fund raiser Event
   c. Adopting a family/senior for the holiday
   d. Sponsor staff for breast walk
   e. Participation in MLK day and Black history month
   f. Educational meeting with NASW

4. Membership dues

5. Nomination of office of secretary

6. Next meeting scheduled Tuesday November 11, 2003 at 5:00 In Room 368 Marshall

7. Thank you for coming adjourned
Make A Difference!
Join us for Our Second Meeting of the Fall Semester.

- Do you want to do something more meaningful this year?
- Are you looking for a challenge?

Join us for the Second meeting of the
ABSWS-Association of Black Social Work Students

Tuesday, October 14, 2003
5:30-6:30 p.m.
Everett L. Marshall Building Room 368

We provide the Snacks-you provide the enthusiasm.

Come visit us and find out how you can make a difference!

Faculty Advisors and Student Officers will be on hand to meet you and answer all your questions.
THE ASSOCIATION OF BLACK SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS NEEDS YOUR HELP

We will be sponsoring a can food drive to benefit those in need during the Thanksgiving holiday.

We will be collecting non-perishable items from November 1st through November 15th 2003. There will be boxes throughout campus where you can distribute your non-perishables. We appreciate your help.

For further information please contact Patricia Hall @ 484-6896 or Claudette Braxton @ 487-4484.

The box will be located at the 3rd floor lobby.

Thank you in advance for your donation:

Happy Thanksgiving

The Association of Black Social Work Students collaborated with the Visions Office at McKinney Union to collect non-perishable items for needy families for the Thanksgiving holiday. We placed collection boxes in Welch hall and at the School of Social Work.

We collected over one hundred non-perishable items. After the can goods were collected and received by the
vision office they were distributed into the community, as the vision office deems fit.

ABSWS Meeting
Saturday November 15, 2003
12:00PM- 1:00PM
Rm 368Marshall

8. Opening by Dr. Sylvia Sims Gray

9. Collection of Membership dues of $20.00 for those who have not paid and collection of $10.00 for fundraiser

3. Holiday potluck scheduled for December 6, 2003 (For ABSWS Members only) Bob’s Lake house

4. On behalf of the officers and faculty of ABSWS, we would like to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!

5. Meeting adjourned
Happy Holidays
Our last meeting of the year!
ABSWS Holiday Gathering
For members only
Saturday December 6, 2003
From: 12:00PM-1:30PM
Eastern Michigan University
Bob’s Lake House
Please remember to bring a dish to pass and the infamous white elephant gift!

The association of black social workers needs your help!
We have adopted a family of six for Christmas!
Please donate to our endeavor
The ages of the children are from 3-14
some request are a baby doll, video movie,
a Cd player, games, art supplies,
We will have a box located upstairs in
Marshall next to the reception desk until December 17, 2003
For more information please call Patricia Hall @ 484-6896 or
Claudette Braxton @487-4484
Happy Holidays!
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

The Association of Black Social Work Students along with the Masters of Social Workers Students joined in collaboration with the Vision Office in McKinney Union. We adopted a family from the Christmas tree that was located in the Halle Library. Between the two Social Work organizations, we successful raised $100.00 and were able to purchase all the items that were on the list for the family.

The Association of Black Social Work Students held a Christmas Potluck for the membership at Bob’s Lake House here on Eastern Michigan University campus. The party was a great success.
HISTORY
(Unable to locate online – hardcopy in the book).
"I Have A Dream"
by Martin Luther King, Jr,

Delivered on the steps at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. on August 28, 1963.
Source: Martin Luther King, Jr: The Peaceful Warrior, Pocket Books, NY 1968

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of captivity. But one hundred years later, we must face the tragic fact that the Negro is still not free.

One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land.

So we have come here today to dramatize an appalling condition. In a sense we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir.

This note was a promise that all men would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check which has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation.

So we have come to cash this check -- a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice. We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug
of gradualism. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all of God's children. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment and to underestimate the determination of the Negro. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights.

The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges. But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.

We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. we must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force.

The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny and their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom.

We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall march ahead. We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" we can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a
larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi
cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to
vote. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls
down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and
tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow cells. Some of you
have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the
storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have
been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that
unearned suffering is redemptive.

Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to Georgia, go back to
Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing
that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the
valley of despair. I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties
and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply
rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true
meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are
created equal." I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the
sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit
down together at a table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the
state of Mississippi, a desert state, sweltering with the heat of injustice and
oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a
dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be
judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a
dream today.

I have a dream that one day the state of Alabama, whose governor's lips are
presently dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, will be
transformed into a situation where little black boys and black girls will be able
to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters
and brothers. I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day every valley
shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places
will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory
of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. This is our
hope. This is the faith with which I return to the South. With this faith we will
be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith
we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful
symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to
pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for
freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new
meaning, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land
where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let
freedom ring." And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true.
So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let
freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from
the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania! Let freedom ring from the
snowcapped Rockies of Colorado! Let freedom ring from the curvaceous
peaks of California! But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of
Georgia! Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee! Let freedom
ring from every hill and every molehill of Mississippi. From every
mountainside, let freedom ring.

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every
hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day
when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles,
Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of
the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! free at last! thank God Almighty, we are
free at last!"

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