

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

# NEWSLETTER



Written By : Brianna Mathura

## DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### *New Field Placement Partner*

This semester, we welcome **Happy New Day LLC** as a new field placement partner! Intern Brianna Mathura shares, “My experience thus far has been exceptional. The clinical opportunities here have significantly contributed to my professional growth. Ms. Kimberly Banks, CEO of Happy New Day LLC, exemplifies outstanding leadership.” We deeply appreciate Happy New Day LLC’s commitment to nurturing healthy family dynamics and providing our students with valuable experiences.

### *VSU Chapter of the Association of Black Social Workers*

The VSU chapter has started the term strong with record-high enrollment—45 members! Led by 2023-2024 RA of the Year, President-elect Javien Rountree, the chapter continues to foster growth and community engagement among its members.

## CSWE CONFERENCE

We’re thrilled to announce that our department attended the Council on Social Work Education’s annual conference in Kansas City, MO! Representing us was Dr. Brittany Short, Professor Jane Parker, Dr. Sade Younger, Professor Gary Taylor (Conference Presenter), & Dr. Christin Haynes.



Javien Rountree

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Spring 2025 Registration Open: Contact Ms. Bishop for assistance.
- Spring Classes Begin: 1/21/25.
- Add/Drop Deadline: 1/27/25.
- Graduation Application Deadline: 2/28/25
- End of Semester Celebration: 11/22/24 @ 6-9pm, Location TBD



Sameer Baker



Dy-Mon Hickman

## Alumni News

**Congratulations to our alumni on their new positions!**

- **Sameer Baker** (BSW '24): Lead Teacher at a charter school.
- **Shadae Ruffins** (BSW '24): Case Manager at Tri-Cities Hospital.
- **Dy'Mon Hickman** (BSW '24): Certified Substance Abuse Counselor.
- **Carla Slaughter** (MSW '24): Student Support Specialist with Newport News Public Schools
- **Alicia Mosher** (MSW '24): State Certified Pre-Screener with RBHA
- **Amaya Smith** (BSW '23 MSW '24): School Social Worker within Hopewell District Schools



Shadae Ruffins

## Professional Opportunities

- **Boost 200 Program:** Assists Counseling and Social Work Supervisees with supervision costs. Contact Dr. Younger for more information.
- **Apply for QMHP-T:** Virginia Board of Counseling offers QMHP-T certification opportunities.
- **Career Openings:** Richmond Behavioral Health Authority has year-round BSW and MSW positions. Explore these roles on their [career page](#).
- **Happy New Day LLC Positions:** Offering QMHP-T/A/C roles. Visit [Happy New Day LLC](#).



# TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

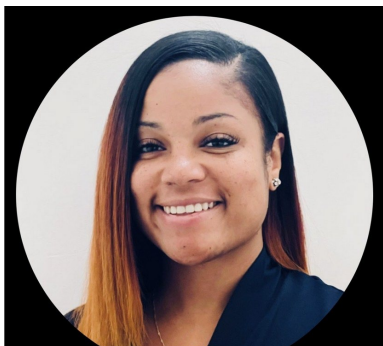


## DR. SADE YOUNGER

In August, Dr. Younger led a financial therapy workshop and a wellness retreat with Virginia State University. In September, Dr. Younger hosted virtual workshops on financial behavior and entrepreneurship in DC. In October, Dr. Younger led financial wellness workshops for the Greater Philadelphia Urban League and Center for Financial Inclusion, and was a panelist on behavioral economics for the Society for Financial Education Conference.

## PROFESSOR JANE PARKER

Ms. Jane Parker has transitioned from her role as Director of the BSW Program to Assistant Professor. With over a decade of dedicated service at VSU, she has been a guiding light for students and a champion of social work education. In her new role, she will continue focusing on teaching, mentoring, and student success. We are also proud to share her reappointment to the Bright Point Community College Human Services Advisory Board for 2024-2025 and her continued roles as Chair of VSU's Social Work Advisory Board and Professional Advisor. We look forward to her ongoing impact!



## NEW BSW PROGRAM DIRECTOR DR. BRITTANY SHORT

Dr. Short assumed the role as BSW Program Director in July 2024. Dr. Short previously served as BSW Field Director for two years. By prioritizing informed decision making and self-determination, Dr. Short seeks to motivate and empower both faculty and students to become knowledgeable, skilled professionals who can make a positive difference in the social work field.

## PROFESSOR TAMMY WALTON INTERIM FIELD DIRECTOR

Ms. Walton, with us since 2015, assumed her new role as Interim Field Director in August. Her longstanding dedication to our students and program coupled with her expansive knowledge in field education will surely continue to inspire.



## PROFESSOR GARY TAYLOR

Congratulations to Professor Gary Taylor for representing the Department of Social Work and Virginia State University as a presenter at the CSWE Conference in Kansas City, Missouri! For more of his valuable insights, be sure to tune in to The G Taylor Show, where he explores essential topics in social work and mental health. Professor Taylor offers practical self-care strategies and entrepreneurial insights for social workers. You can find his podcast on YouTube, Apple Podcasts, and Spotify!

# TEAM HIGHLIGHTS



## The Association of Black Social Workers & The Social Work Club

The Social Work Club and the Association of Black Social Workers recently took part in the Chesterfield Food Drive, which was held on campus on Saturday, September 3, 2024.

## Voter Registration

The Social Work Club, Political Science groups and others to register students and community members to vote and educate them on the voting process.



## Welcome, Ms. Tiffany Fells!

An Emergency Service Clinician with Chesterfield County CSB, Ms. Fells brings diverse experience working with various populations. We're excited to have her on the team!



## Welcome, Dr. Dante Daniel!

An alumnus of the VSU BSW program, Dr. Daniel brings expertise in policy and a Doctorate in Law and Policy, enhancing our program with his unique perspectives.

## Exciting Opportunity for Social Work Faculty!

Earn an additional \$200 per student as an MSW Field Supervisor! This rewarding role allows you to make a significant impact by mentoring and guiding MSW students through their field placements. As a supervisor, you will meet with your assigned student for one hour each week to provide support, professional insight, and valuable feedback on their fieldwork experience.

Join us in shaping the next generation of social work professionals while boosting your own professional portfolio and earning extra income!

For more info contact Dr. Lucombe @ [dlucombe@vsu.edu](mailto:dlucombe@vsu.edu)





## Scholar Highlights

### ***Congratulations, Gina Miao!***

A dedicated senior in our department, Gina was honored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Virginia with the Youth Leader Award for her impactful community contributions.

### ***Introducing Cedric Alexander***

Our new President of The Social Work organization, Cedric Alexander, is driving positive change with his vision and commitment. Look out for his insights and updates as he leads us forward.



## Leadership

**Dr. J.D. Fedrick**  
Department Chair  
jfedrick@vsu.edu  
(804) 524-3853

**Ms. Felicia James**  
Executive Assistant  
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(804) 524-3853

**Ms. Felicia A. Bishop**  
Academic Advisor  
fbishop@vsu.edu  
(804) 524-1217

### BSW Team

**Dr. Brittany Short**  
BSW Director  
bshort@vsu.edu  
(804) 504-7028

**Mrs. Jean Fuller**  
BSW Program Administrator  
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(804) 524-1435

### MSW Team

**Dr. Sade Younger**  
MSW Director  
syounger@vsu.edu  
(804) 524-2471

**Ms. Felicia James**  
MSW Program Administrator  
fjames@vsu.edu  
(804) 524-3853

## Mental Health Resources

Students can access individual, couples, and group counseling sessions, with each student eligible for eight sessions per semester. For on-campus support, reach the Counseling Office at (804) 524-5939 (Memorial Hall, 4th Floor). The office also provides 24/7 assistance. For additional support, The James House Crisis Line is available 24/7 at (804) 458- 2840.





### Editor's Note

Hello, I'm Brianna Mathura, your Fall 2024 Graduate Assistant. As I advance in my social work journey, I hold to the principle that *"Empathy is the key that unlocks the door to understanding."* Together, let's continue to make a meaningful impact through our shared dedication to social justice.

### Share Your News & Flicks!

We love to celebrate the achievements & milestones of our team! Whether you've published, launched an exciting project, received an award, have any personal or professional news, or you just want to share your social work pictures, we'd love to hear from you! It's **you** that inspire and strengthen our program. Submit your news today and let us spotlight your journey in our next issue!

[socialworkprogram@vsu.edu](mailto:socialworkprogram@vsu.edu)

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