Social Work: A Profession of Choice

SASW Provincial Conference
May 27-29, 2015
Executive Royal Hotel
Regina
Austin Mardon, PhD, CM, graduated with a major in geography from the University of Lethbridge in 1985. The following year, at age 24, he was investigating meteorite impacts 170 km from the South Pole as a junior field member on an Antarctic meteorite recovery expedition sponsored by NASA and the National Science Federation. He received the U.S. Antarctic Service Medal for his work. However, the extreme hardships of the expedition affected him mentally and physically. While he went on to earn masters degrees in science and education and published a number of articles and books, his health issues persisted. At the age of 30 he was diagnosed with schizophrenia.

Although some of his abilities are compromised by the disease, Austin earned a PhD in geography from Greenwich University, Australia; continued his remarkable publication record, including articles in both Science and Nature; was elected an International Fellow and Corresponding Fellow of the Explorers Club of New York; and was inducted into the International Academy of Astronautics.

Equally impressive has been his work on behalf of the mentally ill. In addition to giving countless interviews to the media on the topic of mental illness, Austin has published articles about faith and schizophrenia, homelessness, medication, and income support. He has provided leadership as a member of the board of directors of both the Edmonton and Alberta chapters of the Schizophrenia Society, and for a number of years he was coordinator of the Alberta Mental Health Self-Help Network. "I hope to soon see the day when schizophrenia is treated like any other disease and is finally detached from the stigma that makes a difficult burden to bear even worse," added Austin.

Austin has received a number of awards, including the Order of Canada (2007). Others include: the Flag of Hope Award (2001) and the Bill Jefferies Family Award (2007) of the Schizophrenia Society of Canada; the Distinguished Alumni Award of the University of Lethbridge (2002); the Presidents Award of the Alberta chapter of the Canadian Mental Health Association (2002); the C.M. Hincks Award from the national division of the Canadian Mental Health Association (2007); and the Medal of Honour of the Alberta Medical Association (2010).

A popular member of the Speakers' Bureau of Alberta, Austin has publicly assisted the medical profession by supporting development of policy positions that have helped medical providers treat those with mental illness. Austin is currently Assistant Adjunct Professor with the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre at the University of Alberta.

Conference at a glance

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 27, 2015</td>
<td>6:00-8:00 SASW Annual General Meeting</td>
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<tr>
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<td>8:00-10:00 Opening Reception</td>
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<td>Thursday, May 28, 2015</td>
<td>7:30-8:30 Registration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:30-9:30 Welcome and Keynote Address</td>
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<td>9:30-9:45 Coffee</td>
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<td>9:45-12:15 Workshops 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td>12:15-1:30 SASW Awards Lunch</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:30-4:30 Workshops 3 &amp; 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday May 29, 2015</td>
<td>7:30-8:30 Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:30-11:30 Workshops 5 &amp; 6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:30-12:30 Lunch – 11:50-12:20</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:30-1:00 &quot;Foul Play Not Suspected&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1:00-4:00 Workshops 7 &amp; 8</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4:00-6:00 Registration</td>
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SASW Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, May 27th

6:00—8:00 p.m.

Reception and networking 8:00—10:00 p.m.
Peggy Worrell (MSW, RSW) is a semi-retired social worker with 40 years of experience, primarily in mental health, geriatrics, palliative care, and teaching for the U of R. In recent years, she has invested her time and energy in becoming a writer. In April 2014, her first collection of short fiction, *Proudflesh*, was published by Thistledown Press. Peggy will be presenting a play adapted from one of the stories in the collection, "Foul Play Not Suspected". It is a 30 min. one-woman play about an elderly woman on the brink of death in her bathroom.

"Raw, riveting, no holds barred ... Peggy Worrell's emotional, down-home dialogue makes *Foul* both an intimate and laugh-out-loud theatrical experience.”

Shauntay Grant, Spoken word artist Poet Laureate for Halifax, Writer, Musician, Spoken word artist,

"*Foul Play Not Suspected* is a funny, poignant ultimately hopeful piece about how we meet the end of our time here. *Foul Play Not Suspected* is a rare thing – an intelligent, complex role for an older woman.”

Yvette Nolan, Playwright, Dramaturg, 2012 Writer-in-Residence, Saskatoon Public Library

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**Workshop Descriptions**

*(Detailed descriptions are available on the web site.)*

**Thursday, May 28**

**Morning**

1. **Mental Health Case Management: A Collaborative Approach.**

Case management has become increasingly popular within human services; however as a profession and an area of expertise it is not widely understood. Our workshop will provide a clear definition of case management used in mental health services, through a multi-media presentation using case studies and interactive group discussion.

Bonnie Chappell, BSW, RSW, Beth Fisher-Fuentes, BEd, BSW, RSW, Tammy Frank, BA (Psychology), BSW, RSW: Children’s Team, Mental Health and Addition Services, Saskatoon Health Region.

2. **Ambiguous Loss: Living in Limbo**

The complexities inherent in grieving a physically or psychologically absent loved one will be examined and guidelines for possible interventions outlined.

Sylvia Keall, MSW, RSW, Consultant for Families of Missing Persons; grief and bereavement counsellor and educator.

**Afternoon**

3. **Risk Management in Social Work Practice**

In this changing world with a constant threat of lawsuits, social workers need to consider how to protect themselves and minimize potential risks.

Presented by members of the SASW Education Committee

4. **Honouring the Strengths and Skills of Families: Integrating the Practice of Social Work by Applying the Narrative Approach**

The workshop will introduce the narrative approach in general by briefly unpacking the philosophical underpinnings and exploring some general strategies. It will present the Narrative approach as an empowerment based methodology and a wide ranging companion for social work practice.

Terri Peterson, MSW, RSW, Primary Health, KidsFirst, Mental Health Counselling Program, Saskatoon Health Region
Morning

5. Insider Practice: Managing Boundaries in Small Communities
Can you practice ethically in communities where everyone knows each other? This workshop will offer some practical tips for keeping your clients and yourself protected.
Presented by members of the SASW Education Committee

6. Fat is a Social Work Issue
We are bombarded with messages about weight, body shape, and health, most of which reinforce the notion that fat=bad/unhealthy. As members of a profession committed to social justice, we have an ethical responsibility to explore our biases and consider practice approaches that promote body diversity.
Sydney Bell, BSW, RSW and Erin Beckwell, MSW, RSW. Primary Health, Saskatoon Health Region

Afternoon

7. Adolescent female knowledge, identity & power
We need to encourage adolescent females to recognise their knowledge, who they are and how they can use their power. How can we do this?
Tanya Pivovar, MSW, RSW, Counsellor, True Life Holistic Counseling & Consulting

8. Integrative Body Psychotherapy – An Energetic/Relational Model
Integrative Body Psychotherapy creates awareness of holding patterns in the body and old relational patterns. Understanding our unique history/physiology enables positive changes here/now.
Katherine Harriman, MSW, RSW, DreamsWork Counseling and Consulting and Norine Shewchuk, MSW, RSW, Saskatoon Community Clinic

Registration and payment for this conference is available on-line only, at www.sasw.ca.

Prices:

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<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>One Day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SASW Members</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>$90</td>
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<tr>
<td>SASW Student members</td>
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<td>$35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Members</td>
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<td>$120</td>
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Fee includes lunch both days. May 28th lunch will include presentation of awards. May 29th lunch will be followed by “Foul Play Not Suspected”.