Wilson-Eldridge Award

The purpose of this award is to keep the memories of two very important people that lost their lives in the summer of 2008. Jerome Eldridge Jr. was the loving son of our Social Work student Tamara Ellis. And secondly, we lost Melissa Wilson who was starting her senior year in the Social Work Department with a certificate in Addiction Studies. Both are greatly missed.

The Words of Melissa Wilson

Throughout my life, I have found three areas of interest that always seem to captivate me: Anthropology (the study of the origins and customs of mankind), Sociology (the study of development and the functioning of society), and Psychology (the study of the mind and mental states and processes). As I understand it, social work takes all three of these aspects and applies them into a hands-on working model by interacting directly with society. What more could one ask for!

Addiction

If somehow we could snap our fingers and there would no longer be any drugs in the world whatsoever, would there be no more addiction? Would there be no more suffering? Or is it possible that addiction is not really about drugs; that addiction is really about the relationships that human beings form with one another and all sorts of things? That it’s about the difference between establishing good relationships and bad relationships? Who is going to be in control? Who is going to say what this relationship should be between ourselves and these plants and chemicals and substances? Is this a decision that we just put in the hands of government? Is this a decision we put just in the hands of doctors? Just in the hands of the pharmaceutical companies, the tobacco companies, the alcohol companies and all the other corporations that profit off of the production and sale of these things? The true challenge is how we learn to live with these substances in such a way that they cause the least possible harm and the greatest possible good. What will cause people to wake up and say ‘Stop’? What will cause people to say, ‘Enough is enough’? What will cause people to say, ‘I value my freedom even if that freedom involves a measure of risk’?

The words of Ethan Nadelmann (born March 13, 1957 in New York City) is the founder and executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance, a New York City-based non-profit organization working to end the war on drugs. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBW07ITbagc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBW07ITbagc) by user ‘droppingknowledge’.

Essay Question:

After reading “The Words of Melissa Wilson” how do you think one could apply all three areas of study and formulate a response to one of the questions that Ethan Nadelmann raises in the above paragraph “Addiction”? You are to share your personal feelings, along with cited research to back up or debate your response. You will be judged on content, research, and grammar.

Deadline for receipt of essay: Thursday, December 10, 2015
Wilson-Eldridge Essay Guidelines

The award is specifically for the pursuit of the student’s social work education. Students are to be majoring in social work at Madonna University and actively enrolled in social work courses at Madonna University. A committee of three will make the final selection of the recipients.

Format your essay as follows:

1. Cover page with your full name, address, and phone number
   (Only the cover page will have your name on it, DO NOT put name on any other page)

2. APA – Typed

3. Three (3) pages for the body of the essay

4. Reference page

All essays must be received by Carol Cieslak, Social Work Secretary (Room 2211) no later than Thursday, December 10, 2015