What’s Happening Now…

DID YOU KNOW???
The Advanced Standing program is an accelerated Master’s degree program available to recent Bachelor’s of Social Work graduates. This program is a great opportunity to receive a Master’s degree in one year opposed to the traditional two year track.

North Carolina State University has recently accepted a cohort of 27 students in the social work department. These students, who encompass various cultural backgrounds, diverse work experiences, ages, and life experiences, share compassion for social justice. On July 1, 2010 these Advanced Standing students began classes. If you would like to be part of the next cohort, contact: Jamarian Harris at jamarian_harris@ncsu.edu or (919) 515-4666.

General Requirements:
- BSW degree from a CSWE accredited social work program.
- Degree must not be more than five years old.

North Carolina State Requirements:
- 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale
- B or better in all Social Work Courses
- Less than a 3.0 must submit GRE scores

Words of Inspiration
Perseverance…
“As Social Workers we may face obstacles that will shake the core foundation of our profession, especially during disheartening moments. However we must never lose sight of our vision, which is to positively impact the lives of others. Harriet Tubman once said… ‘Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world’. Therefore, never allow anyone or anything to stand in the way of your dreams!”

By: Neida Rodrigues, MSW Graduate student
In a recent interview with Dr. Tina Hancock, she noted the following significant developments during the past year:

- The BSW program grew by 10%
- The MSW program enrolled the highest number of students thus far
- A Concentration in Generalist practice was added to better respond to the needs of the community
- The first class of Advanced Standing students were instituted
- Dr. Karen Bullock, a nationally recognized scholar, joined faculty with support from the Provost’s Office
- The faculty prepared for the 2013 re-accreditation while completing self-assessments for both the BSW and the MSW programs
- Our student organizations have been vibrantly active and highly visible to CHASS and the university at large
- The March Anti-Bullying Symposium was very successful and attended to capacity, making the news on television and radio and celebrating alumni at the reception that followed

“I am pleased to be able to provide the leadership for these kinds of accomplishments. We have a very strong Social Work program that is the result of administrators, faculty, and students working together to accomplish our mission and goals. We look forward to even greater accomplishments in the future.” Please visit the website at http://socialwork.ncsu.edu/graduate.php for all the excitement! Thank You!

Valuable experiences shared by Social Work Graduates

Kathy Rinehart  
(BSW, 1995)  
Values her past experience as a 1995 undergraduate at NC State, during which the staff responsible for her internship placement contributed to her choice in employment today. Kathy has embraced her career in social work as a 1996 MSW graduate from East Carolina University in Greenville, NC with a concentration in mental health. Kathy was an instructor at the University of Kansas from 2004-2005. She acquired her LCSW and currently works for a mental health agency offering therapeutic interventions and supervision to provisionally licensed social workers. She also conducts workshops in Person Centered Thinking.

Meredith Ellington  
(MSW, 2010)  
As an Intern for the Emergency Department of WakeMed Hospital, she learned a great deal regarding the true overall meaning of social justice issues. Meredith’s advice to current MSW students is to never stress about finding a job because having an MSW provides greater advantages for job opportunities. Meredith has claimed her success as a medical social worker currently employed with the Carteret Home Health & Hospice in Morehead City, NC.

Pamela Denning  
(BSW, 1982)  
Her most valuable experience while at NC State was the intellectual climate, how respectful instructors were of student’s questions, and how they nurtured the desire to learn. Dr. Denning stated that she made lifelong friendships and had an ideal education at NC State. Since leaving NC State, she has received a Masters in Social Work from East Carolina University and a Doctorate of Philosophy with a concentration in Marriage and Family Studies from Capella University. She is the Chairman of the Social Work Department at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina and is well known on the Shaw campus for her contributions in the community.
Refresher Tips for Social Work Practice

By LaDawn Bridges

The Journey to Clinical Licensure in North Carolina

An LCSW is…

- A preferred state license for social workers with a MSW, DSW, or PhD degree who practice clinical social work.

- Licensed Clinical Social Workers diagnose and treat clients who have mental and behavioral disorders.

- The Provisional License (P-LCSW) is the first step for new graduates and applicants in acquiring the LCSW. Approved applicants who are issued the P-LCSW may practice as clinicians under LCSW supervision in order to achieve the experience requirements.

- To apply for the P-LCSW you must have:
  - An official notarized application
  - Non-refundable application fee of $100 (US dollars)
  - Three completed Professional Reference Forms in sealed envelopes (signed over the closure)
  - Official transcripts in an envelope sealed by the school

Note: Application reviews may take two to three months to process.

For more information, contact Jamarian Harris at (919) 515-4666 or Jamarian_harris@ncsu.edu

Job Searches

If you are searching for the perfect job opportunity or career path, read Social Work Career Development: A Handbook for Job Hunting and Career Planning (2nd edition), a tool by Carol Nesslein Doelling to assist with job hunting. Also consider purchasing books off of NASW press website www.naswpress.org for a fraction of the cost.

Memberships

Become a member of Social Work websites such as:

- www.socialwork.com
- www.clinicalsocialwork.com
- www.socialservices.com
- www.centercsw.org

Continuing Education Units (CEU’s)

CEU’s are not based on the number of hours given for the class. In North Carolina, CEU’s are credited for the number of hours you spend at the event. For example, you attend a seminar which advertises 3 CEU’s, but the seminar lasts for 8 hours. You can receive 8 hours credit toward the 40 hours that are required.

Marketing

Learn how to market your skills. Consider taking online marketing classes or listening to podcasts that promote ways to market your skills.

Build Your Brand

Volunteering is an opportunity to build your resume. Remember to include these relevant social work experiences to your resume.

Networking

For those who enjoy social networking, join LinkedIn to learn first-hand about the daily challenges in the field of Social Work. For example, occurrences in different parts of the country may eventually change North Carolina’s practices for social workers.

Academia/Getting Published

Always consider the power of academia. Consider getting published, especially if you are interested in becoming a faculty member or associate faculty member in Social Work.

First Impressions

Consider printing your resume on high quality paper with matching envelopes. Also, make sure your cover letters are not “generic”. Always remember to smile when meeting potential contacts.

Support

Maintain relationships with colleagues and supervisors that you can call at any time. There will be occasions when you will need fresh and unbiased opinions to support tough decisions.

Don’t Take It Personal

Consider all opportunities and experiences as learning tools in your career path. When negative situations occur, don’t take it personal. Learn the power of self-preservation.
1. A six-year-old child lives with a foster family. His father is in prison and his mother is in residential treatment for alcohol dependence. The child is small for his age, often has temper outbursts, and has difficulty completing schoolwork. The social worker notes that his speech is immature. What should the social worker do FIRST?

A. Work with the foster parents on a behavior modification plan  
B. Suggest that the child’s teacher refer him for special education placement  
C. Refer the child for assessment for fetal alcohol syndrome  
D. Work with the child’s biological mother toward reunification

2. A social worker is conducting a first interview with a client who attempts to dominate the interview from the beginning. The client complains that his telephone is tapped, and says that his house is watched by the police. How can the social worker BEST develop rapport with the client?

A. Interrupt the client to ask factual questions about his background  
B. Ask the client about the ways in which the social worker can be helpful with these problems  
C. Question the client about when he first believed that his house was being watched  
D. Ask the client to describe the evidence he has that his phone is being tapped

Preparatory LCSW exam courses are offered by the NASW twice a year at Moses Cone Hospital located at 1200 N. Elm Street in Greensboro, NC. Refer to the NASW website for session dates.
"Day in the Life of"
Get to Know the Students,
Get to Know the Program

Talking to three different social work students, we learned what the programs offered them and the journey they have been on ...

Meet Aurora Macedo enrolled in the Advanced Standing Program. She graduated in May of 2011. Here is what she had to say ...

What has been the hardest part for you in completing this program?
“The most difficult part of this journey has been learning to effectively manage my time with school work, job, internship, family, sorority, and friends. With a demanding schedule…coffee became my BFF in graduate school!”

If you received any financial assistance such as scholarships, grants, or financial aid, do you feel like your ability to be successful was greatly increased? If so, how?
“Receiving financial aid during my graduate studies has been a tremendous help by decreasing stress associated with personal finances. Financial aid provided me the opportunity to experience the Master’s program at NCSU.”

Have your career plans changed since the beginning of the program? If so, how?
“No, my career plans have remained the same. I was ready to graduate, receive the P-LCSW, and embark on the REAL journey of a professional social worker. I’ve learned so much about this profession, about others, and most importantly about myself that I’m eager to see where the career leads me.”

Meet Maynard Jeannis enrolled in the BSW Program.
Here is what he had to say...

What has been the hardest part for you in completing this program?
“As a junior in the Social Work program I haven’t reached a part in the program that I found difficult because I enjoy the work we do.”

If you receive any financial assistance such as scholarships, grants, or financial aid, do you feel like your ability to be successful was greatly increased? If so, how?
“When you receive any financial assistance the pressure of doing well or maintaining a high GPA is always there because of the possibility of losing some money if you don’t perform well.”

Have your career plans changed since the beginning of the program? If so, how?
“No”

Meet Stacy Blakenship is graduate of the Traditional three year Program. Here is what she had to say...

What has been the hardest part for you in completing this program?
“Two things- Keeping my life balanced by having complete control in maintaining the standards that I set for myself, doing my internship hours, and keeping up with my outside job to keep a roof over my head. Also, I learned how to get all of my school work done, while without losing my social life and time with my family.”

If you receive any financial assistance such as scholarships, grants, or financial aid, do you feel like your ability to be successful was greatly increased? If so, how?
“I only receive loans. I think I received a $200 scholarship, but it makes such a small dent in my payments I hardly noticed it.”

Have your career plans changed since the beginning of the program? If so, how?
“I came into the program knowing that I wanted to open a non-profit for people diagnosed with SPMI who are low-income and high-need, using alternative therapy methods for treatment. But, I have also always wanted to do art therapy and have never known how to be able to implement that desire. I was finally given the opportunity to be able to do art therapy, but with the geriatric population in this new internship, along with cognitive therapy and memory stimulation, I have discovered that I have an affinity for doing group therapy sessions, and that I love, love, love working with the geriatric population.”

By: Melissa Kepley and Tammy Miller
SOCIAL WORK OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

The 1st year traditional program students are currently participating in various community service projects as part of their Generalist Practice course. These students are upholding the social work value of service, while also reaching out to populations at risk. Some of the various community service efforts include spending time with the elderly at nursing homes, preparing healthy meals for low income families, and reading to elementary school age children. We applaud these social workers for making a difference and changing the world one day at a time. Keep up the great work!

Job Opportunities

What’s the scariest part of graduation? Besides paying back that student loan? Looking for a job is at the top of many students’ list. Here are some ideas to help jump start your search.

Top Websites:

- www.Indeed.com: Searches job postings from many different companies and organizations at one time.
- www.Careerbuilder.com: Searches job opportunities by career categories. You can also post your resume.
- www.Monster.com: Searches job openings that match skill and location
- www.Socialworkerjobbank.com: Lists social work job opportunities in your area
- www.Socialservice.com: Shows social service job listings throughout the U.S.

Top Searches:

- Search county homepages for social work openings- for example: wakegov.com
- Search North Carolina’s state job openings at: osp.state.nc.us/jobs
- There is also a link to the NASW nationwide jobs! Hint: if you are a NASW member you can access more opportunities! naswnc.org-
  Click on the “Classifieds” button to explore jobs available in North Carolina.
- Check out the Social Work Department’s webpage: http://socialwork.chass.ncsu.edu/index.php, there is a listing of organizations that you may be interested in.

Use the following keywords in a search engine:
social work, BSW, MSW, mental health, behavioral health, substance abuse, juvenile justice, counselor, social services, or the name of any company you may be interested in.

Other ideas:
Networking! Ask your intern supervisor to forward your resume to their contacts in the community.

DON’T FORGET the N.C. State Career Center here on campus. You can get help with your resume and other helpful hints! Find them at: ncsu.edu/career/, 919-515-2396, or 2100 Pullen Hall on campus.