

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

GSWA Newsletter

VOLUME I, ISSUE 1

First Quarter
Spring Semester, 2008

Inside this issue:

- Spotlight Social Work Student
- Focus on Field Placement
- Meet your Graduate Social Work Association

Spotlight Student, Ana Liza

As a Social Work Graduate Student, Ana Liza has had a remarkable opportunity to increase her knowledge and growth in the Social Work profession while making an impact on an important part of our community. Ana describes her experience with us, "I have really enjoyed working with Dr. Furman as his research assistant and have learned a great deal on many topics he has asked me to research. One of the research projects Dr. Furman gave me was on the issues facing many living in this country illegally. Specifically, reactions of many cities in the U.S. to the growing immigrant

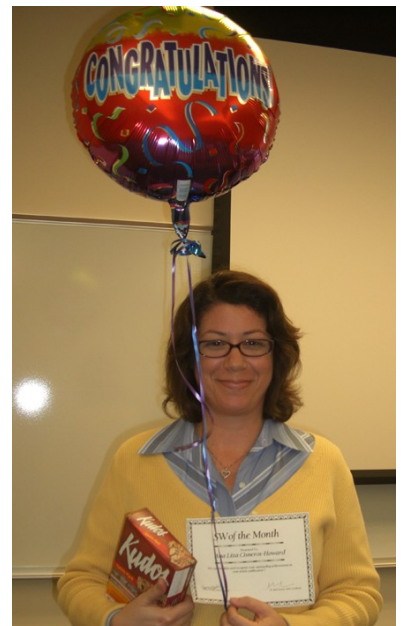
population in their communities. I have a special interest in the Latino population and found that some of the information I was reading was eye-opening. It also reminded me of how resilient many folks that come to this country seeking a better life really are. Dr. Furman informed me that some research I found and wrote to him about was going to be included in an article he and another professor were writing. Of course, I feel it is an honor to be included and am very excited about the opportunity.

I plan to continue writing about the Latino population and specifically

the issues Latino children face in our community."

As a non-traditional student, Ana recently celebrated her 8th wedding anniversary with her wonderful and supportive husband and 13 year old step son. She enjoys spending time with her family, including Paris, her 5 year old spoiled Maltese. When you run into Ana in one of your classes or along the halls of CHHS, congratulate her on her accomplishments as our Spotlight Student of the Month!!

If you want to include any information in our next newsletter, send an email to Kelly Woodland kasuter@uncc.edu
Or Ann Skelton askelto1@uncc.edu



Focus on Faculty, Shanti Kulkarni, Ph. D., LCSW

Dr. Shanti Kulkarni completed her PhD in Social Work at the University of Texas at Austin with a portfolio in Women and Gender Studies with a specialization in Women's Health and Relationships. Her research explores the developmental and contextual factors related to interpersonal violence theory and prac-

tice. She has over a decade of clinical social work experience, which has encompassed working in medical and psychiatric settings, community agencies, and private practice. Dr. Kulkarni enjoys teaching human behavior in the social environment theory and advanced family practice courses in the gradu-

ate program. She lives in Charlotte with her seven year old daughter Meera, and their two dogs. Dr. Kulkarni will serve as this year's GSWA Faculty Advisor!



President, Lauren Wylie

This year has brought many changes to our Graduate Social Work Association President, Lauren Wylie. After completing her first semester as a Full Time MSW, she was nominated to lead our GSWA into the new year. A position she gladly accepted and has already begun her role as your President.

Lauren is currently in her first year field placement at Council for Children's Rights. She thoroughly enjoys her role there and loves to see her agency as a place for change and to better the future for children in our community as well as across the state. Lauren is from Davidson, NC and completed her un-

dergraduate work here at UNC in May, 2007. She has a concentration in Mental Health.

When not focusing on school, Lauren like to watch movies like My Best Friends Wedding and The Last Kiss and eating her favorite ice cream, Ben and Jerry's Phish Food! And she hates reality TV!!



Vice President, Megan Gandy



Megan comes to the UNCC MSW program seeking to provide clinical services to people with mental illnesses. Prior to enrolling in the program, she was working as a case manager for a Community Support agency in Concord, NC, serving adults and children who are dually diag-

nosed with both a mental illness and a developmental disability. She has also worked in a therapeutic wilderness camp for troubled adolescent males in Salisbury, NC. She is currently in field placement at Alexander Youth Services.

She studied Psychology at Lenoir-Rhyne College in

Hickory, NC, for her undergraduate degree, with a concentration in Family Development and almost completed a minor in Music. One interesting fact about Megan is that she was once a locally performing musician and started an all-female band, and she has recorded three short

Treasurer, Rachel Miller

Rachel was born just outside of D.C. in Leesburg, VA. and moved to Concord when she was 12 years old. A graduate of Northwest Cabarrus middle and high school she went to Wake Forest University majoring in Psychology. After graduating in 2006, she got a job at Walgreens as an assis-

tant manager and has worked there ever since. After taking a year off of school to work full time at Walgreens, Rachel has come back to continue her education in Social Work! She looks forward to finishing school and going into counseling, and leaving Walgreens be-

hind! Rachel has played the piano since the age of 4, and she loves sports, music, movies, and live performances. She is currently in her first year placement at Hope Haven and manages to continue to work at Walgreen 30 hours, while managing her course schedule every week!!



Secretary, Samantha Corey



Samantha Corey is from Grand Ledge, MI. She has a BA in Psychology and Business from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI. Being born and raised in Michigan this is the first time Samantha's been out of her comfort zone! She has three much younger siblings still living in Michigan but has really enjoyed

exploring the Charlotte area and all it has to offer.

Samantha originally planned on pursuing a law degree but after volunteering at Head Start she decided being an advocate for children would be better suited for her as a social worker so here she is!! She is interested in School Social Work as well as examin-

ing attachment relationships of young children. Samantha is currently in field placement in the Gaston County School District primarily working at John Chavis Middle School in Cherryville.

Full Time Student Liaison, Ann Skelton

Ann is a first year MSW student. She is originally from Mississippi, however has lived in Charlotte for five years. Ann attended Mississippi State University where she earned a bachelor's degree in Educational Psychology. Before entering graduate school, Ann worked for a Mortgage Lender in Char-

lotte as a loan processor and closer.

Ann's field placement is currently at the Cabarrus Health Alliance, giving pregnancy tests and providing educational and emotional support to pregnant women in Cabarrus county. Starting in March she will focus on the teenage popu-

lation.

Ann has great interest in working in an at-risk school upon graduating. She hopes to work in an CMS high school next year.

When not studying or working at her placement, Ann enjoys traveling, live music, and spending time



Extended Program Student Liaison, Kelly Woodland

Kelly is a first year MSW student in the Extended Program. She is originally from Colorado and has lived in the Charlotte area for over 5 years. With a background in education, she worked in the day care industry before deciding to go back to school. She has a BS in Human Develop-

ment and Family Studies from Colorado State University. Kelly's focus in Child Welfare and she hopes to work in the Non-profit sector upon graduation. She is also working toward a graduate certificate in Nonprofit Management through the Masters of Public Administration.

Kelly now lives in Concord with her husband of almost two years, along with two dogs and one cat!! She currently works part time at The Wine Room at Afton Village, a cute little wine bar just off I-85 at exit 54. She is a non traditional student, expecting her first child any day now!!

MSW Student Representative, Mallory Goldman

Mallory is a first year, Full Time MSW student with lots of energy and passion!! She was very active in the nomination of this year's GSWA representatives so it's only fitting she becomes our Student Representative!

Mallory is from Fredericksburg, VA and recently gradu-

ated from Radford with a BSW. She wants to work with children

Mallory is currently a first year intern at International Adoption Guides in Belmont, NC. She thoroughly enjoys working with families completing their dream of becoming par-

ents!

When not in school or her internship, Mallory loves meeting new people. She also enjoys being outdoors, specifically camping!! She really looks forward to traveling the world, she is especially interested in touring Africa!



Field Liaison, Wesley Sturgis

Wesley is a 2nd year full time MSW student working currently in his 2nd year placement at Presbyterian Hospice and Palliative Care. Upon graduation he hopes to continue working in the Charlotte area in the area of Mental Health.

Arriving into the MSW program having taken somewhat

of a long and torturous path, his life experience has given him a wonderful breath and appreciation for life. Growing through his personal struggles and trauma has helped him recognize the support needed to transform from being a victim to a survivor. His intentions are to help others through crisis and trauma using a systems

framework and the strengths perspective. Wesley is a non-traditional student and values the experience and relationships he has made along the way. He looks forward to continuing the strong relationships with both colleagues and professors as he hopes to make this a better place in which to live.

Focus Field Placement, Alexander Youth Network

Alexander Youth Network (AYN) is a non-profit agency based in Charlotte that provides mental health services for children and adolescents between the ages of 6 and 17. AYN has five different offices in the piedmont region with an array of service levels including in-patient, out-patient, school-based, and community-based programs. AYN's history is rooted deep within the surrounding community, and has been a part of Charlotte since 1888. As a 1st year intern at AYN, I have felt

extremely welcomed, supported, and encouraged to grow during my education experience at this agency. Working with emotionally and behaviorally disturbed children is a challenge for many reasons. But AYN's emphasis on providing *quality* professional services to these children and their families has been an excellent model of care to learn by for my future work in the field. AYN's commitment to children and their families is the guiding force for any service they pro-

vide. Their commitment is evident by their refusal to simply move "clients" in and out of services as it is convenient to the agency, but rather to provide a "wrap-around" treatment model that includes services for every step in a child's treatment. I highly recommend AYN's services to professionals, the internship to students, and employment opportunities to future professionals!

Written by Megan Gandy, 1st year Intern and GSWA Vice President



6220 THERMAL ROAD
CHARLOTTE, NC 28211

P 704.366.8712
F 704.362.8464

Lenoir Regional Office
140 TREMONT PARK DR. SE
LENOIR, NC 28645

P 828.757.9706
F 828.757.0059

Upcoming Events....

- March is Social Work Month—Watch for more information to follow!
- Graduate Student Appreciation Week March 10th—14th
- Starting things off: Games and Snacks Monday, March 10th 12—5 2nd floor SAC
- MSW Social—Friday, March 14th 5:00 pm at Ham's