As I have said, the first thing is to be honest with yourself. You can never have an impact on society if you have not changed yourself... Great peacemakers are all people of integrity, of honesty, but humility. - Nelson Mandela

I am excited to begin another year as Assistant Director of field Education at UNCC in the Social Work Department. My vision for the BSW field education program is to produce competent, professional, and innovative social workers. It is vital that social work students learn to practice the profession through active involvement, participating in experiences in which they can apply social work theory and ethics while learning the policies that mold community and political decisions. Field education allows established social work professionals to challenge, support and guide students through reflection, conceptualization and integration of theory and practice.

Our Senior BSW students are excited to be serving in a variety of practice settings and our BSW Juniors will soon begin to explore field placement options. BSW students are placed throughout the region. Our placement agencies this year include: Aldergate, Alexander Youth Network, Alzheimer’s Association, Beyond Today, Buddy Kemp Cancer support Center, Cabarrus Partnership for Children, Carolina Refugee and Resettlement Center, Caromont Gaston Hospital, Communities in Schools – Mecklenburg and Rowan counties, Daymark Recovery Services, DSS in Mecklenburg, Gaston, Cabarrus, CMC-Horizons, Easter Seals, Elon Homes, Florence Crittenton, Family Preservation Services, Gaston Health Department, Gaston County Schools, Guardian Ad litem – Mecklenburg, Inner Vision, Mecklenburg County Community Supports, Latin American Coalition, Mecklenburg Sherriff’s Department, Rowan Regional Medical Center, Southminster, Timeout Youth, Union County Council on Aging, and Union County Alliance for Children and Youth.

I look forward to a rewarding year filled with professional and personal growth.

Sincerely,

Heather Douglas, MSW, LCSW
Assistant Director of Field
hdouglal1@uncc.edu
704-687-7937
Dear Students

Friday, August 22nd is the first day of Field for BSW Students. You should report to your agency at the discussed time and location determined in your prior meeting. Students will have an orientation on Thursday August 21st at UNCC which will count for 8 hours towards their field hours in August. BSW students will be in their placement Thursday and Friday, equaling 16 hours weekly. Each student should have done the following:

- Make contact with your field instructor if you have not spoken to them directly;
- Verify your actual work hours and where to report;
- Verify the dress code for the agency;
- Review the calendar with the field instructor to make sure that they do not have any holidays or teacher work days that may conflict with your field schedule. Discuss options with them on how to assure you will complete your hours on time.

Good luck and have a great year!!

Information for Students in 2014-2015 Placements

You are now becoming acclimated to your field placement agency. Ask yourself the following as you consider areas for growth:

- What are you discovering about yourself? Do you prefer short-term work or long-term work? Do you like spending your time in the agency or do you prefer field work, such as going on home visits? Are there personalities or problems that you have difficulty working with? Do you see each experience as a learning opportunity?
- Are your writing skills where they need to be for the social work profession? If not, what are you doing about that?
- Are you gaining an understanding of how funding and policies impact direct services to clients?
- Would you be able to competently describe your agency’s mission, organizational structure and services to someone who isn’t familiar with your agency?

Please reach out to your Faculty Liaison if you have concerns or questions about field placement. We want it to be a rewarding experience.

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”
-Mahatma Gandhi
Information for Students in 2015-2016

- If you have not done so already, please sign up through Niner Advisor for a pre-placement meeting with Ms. Heather Douglas, Assistant Director of Field Education. Meeting times begin on 9/23/13 through 11/12/13. This is a requirement of all students before placement. There will be a pre-placement form available at the front desk in the social work department that you can fill out prior to your visit, or while you are waiting to meet with Ms. Douglas. Please begin to think about the 3 populations or practice areas of interest.

- During your final year in the BSW program, you will be at your field placement Thursdays and Fridays in the Fall semester and Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in the Spring semester. This will culminate into over 500 hours of field education. To prepare for a placement that is the best possible fit, it would be helpful to think about the following questions: Are you interested in direct practice or more policy based macro practice? What type of environment do you feel you would thrive in? Do you prefer an office setting or a setting that is more community oriented, incorporating home visits? Do you prefer a casual or more structured environment? What types of population issues interest you?

Field Planning Timeframe

A reminder of the important tasks that need to be completed to ensure a successful field placement:

- Beginning September 24th – Mid November – meet with Ms. Douglas for your pre-placement planning appointment
- 11/13/13 – Field Fair
- 1/17/14 – Field placement application and resume due to Ms. Douglas at hdougla1@uncc.edu
- Late January/Beginning of February – Interview with agency – if accepted, field placement agreement must be signed and returned to Ms. Douglas to confirm placement
- Spring 2014 – Clinical requirements due

SAVE THE DATE: Social Work Field Fair - November 12, 2014

The annual Field Fair for the Department of Social Work will take place on 11/12/14

9:00-12:00 in SAC (Student Activity Center)

BSW students seeking 2015-2016 placements are being asked to attend. Social Work professors may permit students with class conflicts to attend for a portion of the time.

This is a chance to interact with social work professional in various agencies and practice settings. It is an opportunity to ask questions, engage with future field placements and leave a positive impression at your agency of choice. Please dress professionally and bring your resume and pertinent questions.

“True peace can rarely be imposed from the outside; it must be born within and between communities through meetings and dialogue and then carried outward.”
— Jean Vanier, Finding Peace
SPOTLIGHT ON NEW ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Cheryl Whitley joined the Department of Social Work in spring semester of the 2013-2014 academic year. She has over 15 years of experience as an Administrative Assistant in the Medical, Mortgage and Insurance. Cheryl is the first friendly face when you enter the Department of Social Work. She can be reached at 704-687-7938 and can be of assistance if you are trying to reach the Assistant Director of Field Education, is able to place mail in faculty boxes and answer questions.

She is married and has two children, as well as two Chihuahua dogs. Cheryl loves to travel and her two favorite destinations are Myrtle Beach and New York City. The favorite part of her job at UNC Charlotte is the contact with the students.

Save the Date– Fall Information Sessions

**September 19th  2:00-3:00**  
Clinical Care Management and Social Work in Healthcare

**October 10th  2:00-3:00**  

**October 31st  2:00-3:00**  
School Social Work– Information on this practice area and Licensure requirements

**November 7th  2:00-3:00**  
Mental Health Practice

Heather Douglas  
704-687-7937  
hdouglas1@uncc.edu

Karen Pelletier  
kpellet1@uncc.edu