

# The Scholar Alumni Newsletter



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Jo Adams, Editor

## The Scholar Alumni Newsletter Begins

**W**elcome to our first Scholar Alumni Newsletter.

What we would like to do with the newsletter is to bring you greetings and discuss some important topics about the Collaborative and working in a DSS in child welfare. This, our first issue, is about what the Universities are doing on campus this semester. I would appreciate any comments or ideas you might have about future newsletters, if you are still working in child welfare, if you received a promotion, or why you decided to leave. My email address is [jeadams@email.unc.edu](mailto:jeadams@email.unc.edu). Let me know what is going on in your world. Now, here is what's happening at the Central Office and at the Collaborative Programs around the state.

### Collaborative Central Office

There are two new positions at the Central Office this fall. In response to feedback from previous graduates, the Collaborative Central Office is launching an initiative to provide scholars with a resource person during the transition from school to work. My name is Jo Adams and I am the new Employment Support Coordinator. I will be developing support services for graduates during the initial period of employment and assessing needs for new employees and those needs of the agency.

We have another new position in the Central Office – that of Evaluation Coordinator. Laurie Selz Campbell (you may remember her as the coordinator of the Insoo Kim Berg Conference last Spring) will be serving in that role. Laurie will be gathering many kinds of information that will help us to understand the Collaborative's strengths, as well as areas in which we can improve. We also want to understand as much as we can about Scholars' employment experiences once you have graduated from the collaborative. Laurie will be contacting Scholar Graduates at various times for written surveys, phone interviews, and possibly focus groups. She looks forward to working with you!

Martin Hall is a first year doctoral student and will be the Research Assistant working with the Collaborative this year. He will be working with Laurie on some of the evaluation activities. Martin is a 1<sup>st</sup> year doctoral student at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work. He earned a BA in Education from the College of Education at Morehead State University, and a MSSW from the Kent School of Social Work, Louisville, KY.

Martin's area of interest includes prescription drug abuse, substance abuse prevention and treatment, poverty and rural/Appalachian issues. He has served as a CPS Specialist in New York, a Legislative Intern with the Kentucky House of Representatives, and a Children's Program Specialist at the New Life Domestic Violence Center in Phoenix, AZ.

## A Note from the Director. . .

It was great to see so many graduates at the recent Social Services Institute in Hickory. I appreciate all the ideas you shared with me and hope that you will continue to give us feedback about your experiences and how we can strengthen the program. With the addition of two half time positions in the Central Office, we will be able to increase our program evaluation activities and strengthen strategies to support graduates as they transition from school to employment. Also this year we will continue to work on expansion funding so that other universities can participate in the Collaborative. The statewide implementation of MRS strategies will provide many opportunities for advanced practice and as the needs continue to grow, we hope to increase the number of child welfare scholars in each county.

Thanks for being such great ambassadors and advocates.

Evelyn Williams, [ewms@email.unc.edu](mailto:ewms@email.unc.edu)

## JMSW

The JMSW program is getting used to the new quarters of the UNC-G facility in the 1929 Stone Building. Renovations were completed last spring and we moved in May. It is a state of the art facility with wireless internet, a consumer research facility and tele-learning center.

In late August, we welcomed a full time class of 38 and part-time class of 28. We are proud of our great graduates and we hope to visit with you when we come out to do field visits for our placed students.

Dan Beerman, CWEC Coordinator

## NC State University

Change is good, right? Well, we have had a few changes in the Scholars Program at NC State University. After three outstanding years as Collaborative Coordinator, Jo Adams left our campus to move into the Collaborative Central Office as Employment Support Coordinator. This a great move for Jo who always had such good relationships with our students and graduates.

Our new Collaborative Coordinator, Deborah Hairr, joined the program in September after 6 years as Director of New Life Christian Adoptions and 8 years prior to that in child welfare at Harnett County DSS. Welcome Deborah!

John Benton, one of our first scholars who is now a Supervisor with Johnston County DSS, has been working with faculty Linda Williams and Natalie Ames on a project that uses video technology to teach objective assessment skills. The focus is on assessing and documenting situations that are injurious to child safety, and John has contributed his expertise gained through his work at the DSS. He and Dr. Ames presented this project at the Rural Social Work Conference in West Virginia this summer.

Linda Williams, PI, NC State

## East Carolina University

Good news! Our ECU Collaborative is full staff again. Bess has had her baby and is back at work and Beth Osborne joined us as the new faculty member. We're excited about kicking off a new year.

Based on feedback from Alumni we're working to initiate more connections with our grads. We will have an annual conference this year and all current and former students are invited. Watch for flyers as we hope to have this in late February. Also, we are currently developing content for special topic seminars and if all goes well, we will not only be hosting these here on campus but bringing them to a location near you!!!!

If you have a special topic, presentation or workshop you would be willing to offer our students, please let us know. We'd love to hear from you. Give us a call or come see us. We're still on 2nd floor Ragsdale.

Deb Ryals, 252-328-2100

# Appalachian State University

Greetings from Appalachian State University!

The fall semester is off to a busy start with Dr. Kellie Reed-Ashcraft as Interim Director of the Social Work Program and Co PI for Child Welfare Collaborative. Dr John Turner assumed his position as Director of the Institute of Health and Human Services at ASU effective July 1<sup>st</sup>; though he remains Co-PI on the Child Welfare Collaborative project. Dr. Julie Sprinkle, former ASU BSW and MSW & PhD graduate of USC, is the newest addition to our faculty. Tiffany Christian and Lauren Renkert are now identified as "Dr." Transiting into retirement has allowed both Drs. Gross and Kittle to teach part-time on and off campus.

Off-campus cohorts continue at Hickory, Yadkin and Rutherfordton. The plans for adding an MSW program, both on campus and off-campus in Hickory, next fall are in full force.

There were seven Child Welfare Scholars graduated 2004-2005 and all gained employment shortly after graduation. Seven (7) CW Scholars continued into Fall/2005 semester and there are currently applications/interviews scheduled for two slots. Sara Osborne is the only Scholar in field placement; she is at Guilford DSS (a new agency resource for ASU).

Until next time ... Judith W. CWEC Coordinator

## University of North Carolina - Wilmington

Dr Karen Sandell, who had served as the Principal Investigator for the Child Welfare Collaborative at UNCW since its inception has accepted the position of Associate Dean of the Graduate School. The Collaborative has a new **P I**. Dr Reggie York, currently the interim Dean of the Department of Social Work, has a background in child welfare and is familiar with the Collaborative from his previous position at East Carolina University. We are very pleased to have Dr York on-board. Dr Sandell's contribution to the Collaborative program at UNCW is greatly appreciated. We wish her well in her new position.

Gwendolyn Clark, LCSW continues as the Collaborative Coordinator.

Graduates update: Gloria Miller is working for Mecklenburg County DSS, Youth and Family Service. Amy Johnson is working on her MSW at East Carolina. Stacy Green is job searching.

## University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

The Collaborative at UNC-CH had eleven scholars graduate in May 2005 and all have secured employment. One difference this year was that most graduates secured their employment in an agency that was not the agency for their field practicum. Two scholars recently were promoted to Supervisor after only two years in the system and only one had prior child welfare experience. We are maintaining contact with our graduates and we continue to send certificates of completion and gifts to scholars when they complete their employment obligation.

This year we have 28 scholars in the program for 2005-2006. There is a significant increase in the number of part-time applicants this year as Winston-Salem has started their Advanced Standing part-time program this year.

UNC-CH will sponsor the Law school/Social Work Event again this year. It is already set for March 2006.

Wanda Reives, Coordinator