ECU Get’s New PI, Coordinator, And Program Assistant

Ruth Harrison began her new duties as Coordinator of the CWEC at ECU on August 1, 2007. Prior to her employment at ECU, Ruth was the Program Manager for the Staff Development Team of the Family Support and Child Welfare Services section of the NC Division of Social Services. Ruth brings 28 years of child welfare experience to her new position, nine years with the training system and nineteen years of direct county practice and supervision. Ruth has a BA in Psychology from Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College) and a MSW from ECU.

Ruth loves traveling and bowling and, as a Virginia native, is an avid Redskins fan. Ruth is commuting half of the distance since she started working at ECU. Her family is very appreciative of the fact that she is actually able to stay up long enough to spend time with them now. She is excited about her new position, the opportunity to influence child welfare in a different way, and the opportunity to grow professionally.

Demetria David has joined the team at ECU NC Child Welfare Education Collaborative, as our Administrative Support Associate. She was hired through ECU Temporary Services in April 2007 and transitioned into permanent status in June 2007.

Ms. David joined us at our peak, which is when classes are finishing up and students are crazy because they are about to graduate. Demetria jumped right in “Head first”! The students took an interest in her right away. During our 2007 Scholar Recognition Event, Mona Lesane graduating MSW Scholar spoke on behalf of the graduates expressing their thanks. Demetria is currently a student her self. She is pursuing her undergraduate degree in Business Administration and will graduate in December 2007.

Demetria is originally a city Gal. She lived in the Big Apple, NYC for 30 years and Tampa, FL for 2 years. She has made Greenville, NC her home for the last 2 years. Demetria “Love’s It!” and she is here to stay. Demetria is married and has two beautiful girls ages 14 and 8. Demetria has expressed that working for the Collaborative has been a great experience in her growth in this field and encourages students, faculty and staff to pop in or call to chat at Rivers Bldg RM 219-A Ph: 252-328-2419.

Dr. Glenn Stone joined East Carolina University as the Director of the School of Social Work in July 2006. He became Principal Investigator of the ECU Collaborative in July 2007. Prior to joining ECU, he was the Director of the Social Work Program at Miami University of Ohio. He received both his Ph.D. and MSW in Social Work from The Ohio State University. Dr. Stone has a broad practice background including community mental health, juvenile justice, and treatment foster care. On a personal note, he has three wonderful daughters and one more on the way. According to Dr. Stone: I guess I will eventually get the whole ‘raising daughters’ thing right after 4 attempts!
North Carolina State University Get’s New PI

NC State says “goodbye” to Linda Williams, as our Principal Investigator (PI) as Ms. William has moved into the new position of BSW Program Director.

We are thankful that Linda will continue to be around to give support to the program.

We welcome on board, Jodi Hall, as the new PI for the CWEC for NC State. Jodi is an alumna of the BSW program at NCSU and a MSW graduate of UNC-CH. For the last six years, Jodi served as Department Head for Human Services Education at Wake Technical Community College, as well as, adjunct instructor for the Social Work Department at NC State University. Jodi’s experiences span from child welfare to program development and from teaching to student advising. In August of 2007, Jodi came on board as a full-time faculty member of NCSU and is the department’s BSW Field Coordinator and CWEC PI.

A Warm welcome to Jodi Hall.

New Director for Moore County Department of Social Services

On April 19, 2007, John Benton, BSW/MSW scholar, became the new Director of Moore County Department of Social Services. John was a 2001 BSW scholar from North Carolina State University. He worked for Johnston Co. DSS to complete his BSW contract obligation then attended East Carolina University as an MSW scholar. After graduating in 2004 and completing his MSW contract obligation, he became a Licensing, Recruitment and Clinical Supervisor at Johnston Co. DSS. John has been through both Collaborative programs and was our first Innovative Practice Scholar Award winner for the 2007 NC-CWEC Conference.

Moore County is located in the sand hills region of North Carolina. If you travel south on 15/501, you’ll pass the Department of Social Services. John told me he wants to have scholar interns and scholar graduates at Moore County. When I asked John “Why would a scholar want to come to Moore County?” He said it was “innovative, growing, and great for outdoor activities. There’s farm land, golf, it’s horse country and it’s the best DSS in the State.” He said it’s a great place to live when night life no longer appeals to you. At Moore Co. DSS, you’re only an hour from Cary/Raleigh, Chapel Hill, Greensboro and two hours from Charlotte.

I asked John about one of his biggest challenges as a new Director, and he said the “county processes.” Since Moore is a small county, things are more closely monitored there. When I asked how the Collaborative helped to prepare him for his new position, he said “it taught me how to work with outside systems and different agencies. It gave me networking skills with county people and taught me how to streamline advocacy efforts. It taught me how I work in the agency as a whole.”

The advice he leaves for scholars is simple—“Listen. From day one you’re taught to listen to your clients. I encourage you to listen to those who have gone before you, learn from them and as you gain experience; you will be the ones that forge the way for tomorrow.”----Jo Adams

John at his office at Moore Co. DSS
ATTENTION SCHOLARS

SAVE THE DATE

March 28, 2008

NC CHILD WELFARE EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE CONFERENCE

“SECONDARY TRAUMATIC STRESS AND THE CHILD WELFARE PROFESSIONAL”

Sponsored by East Carolina University CWEC and the Collaborative Central Office

If your address or email have changed, contact your University Collaborative Coordinator.

Nominations for Awards

The 2008 Collaborative Awards will be presented at the Spring Conference sponsored by East Carolina University and the Collaborative Central Office on March 28, 2008. At the Conference we would like to recognize some of the wonderful things our scholars, field instructors, and faculty have accomplished.

One award is for “Innovative Practice Scholar Award.” This award is for employed scholars and their contribution to enhancing or strengthening their practice with children and families. This is a scholar who has gone above and beyond their regular work duties.

The second is “Outstanding Field Instructor Award.” This award is for an outstanding agency field/task person (non-university). The field instructor nominated can be current or a recent field/task instructor.

The third award is Child Welfare Innovative Teaching and Learning Award. This award is for a child welfare faculty member who introduced a program or project and how it has affected the way you practice child welfare.

You’ll be receiving your nomination forms shortly!!

If your address or email have changed, contact your University Collaborative Coordinator
Where Are They Now?

ECU
I just wanted to share with you that I am employed at the same place I interned. I am currently working at Harnett Co. DSS and loving every minute of it! I have been employed here since May.

Our director, Pat Cameron, makes every employee feel important. Each month we “gather around the tree” and Mr. Cameron updates all employees with relevant news. He allows us to share success stories and to pray for others when needed.

The atmosphere is family-friendly among employees and family-centered with our clients. I couldn’t ask for a better place to work!

ECU has given me a chance to be prepared and I can’t thank the School of Social Work enough! The Collaborative (CWE) has really changed my life and I am very pleased I decided to go this path.

Thanks again for everything!

Thanks!
Krissy Thomason, MSW
ECU Alumni—Go Pirates!

ASU
Updates on graduates and employment:

Lauren Cho                     Durham DSS
Shea Laws                      Cabarrus DSS
Michelle Cole                  Catawba DSS
Amy Storie Horney              McDowell DSS
Brandon Gaddy                  McDowell DSS
Rici Goodhue Reid              Gaston DSS
Ginger Souther                 Yadkin DSS
Jennifer Hall (MSW from UNC-C) Iredell DSS
Sara Osborne (MSW from ECU)    Wilson DSS

UNC-CH
Holly Yaeger, ('04 UNC-CH), has recently been promoted to the LINKS Coordinator position at New Hanover County DSS in Wilmington, NC. Her primary responsibilities will be outreach and services to 18-21 year old who “aged out” of foster care and she will be presenting a workshop on your who age out of foster care at the Statewide GAL conference in Raleigh.

Sweetly Togba, Collaborative graduate of 2004, has been promoted to a Supervisory position at the Durham Department of Social Services. She began working in Durham after graduation in September, 2004. Sweetly was also married recently and her married name is now Sweetly Darlingstain Sanders.
Adrian Wilson is a Social Worker for Iredell County DSS in their foster care unit
Lisa Burgess is employed with Caswell County in their foster care unit
Lesley Francisy is their Interstate Services Specialist with Durham County DSS County
Beverly Oesch is a CPS investigator/Family Assessor with Johnston County DSS
Nichole Roman is working at Gaston County DSS
as a CPS Investigator/Family Assessor
Be sure to stop in and say “Hello” if you are ever visiting in their agencies.

Appalachian State University

Greetings All! I trust everyone is doing well. Summer has come and gone, and may be best remembered for leaving the mountains very dry. However predictions for “color season” are good—won’t you miss driving behind those long lines of ‘leaf lookers”? Appalachian is very caught-up in the recognition from the big win over Michigan—however the overall football team’s at-home win record is even greater.
Students had a fall break of 2 days last week, and you can probably recall those pressured time when you were going into the final weeks of classes. The social work hall at Chapell Wilson is busy most days with a large number of social work students and the first on-campus, full-time MSW students. We are in the same space, although the numbers of students grows and grows. The off-campus, part-time MSW classes at Hickory Metrolina Educational Center in Hickory were positive and successful. In fact, there has been an informational session with perspective students interested in beginning another off-campus, part-time MSW cohort.
Currently the programs offers BSWs: full-time on-campus and part-time off-campus cohorts in Catawba, Rutherford, Cleveland, and Wilkes counties; 2) MSWs: full-time on-campus and part-time off-campus in Hickory. Dr. Leon Ginsberg directs the social work program. New faculty: Drs. Glenda Short and Sally Brockson have joined. Dr. Short is Field Coordinator and Dr. Brockson teaches introductory classes. Familiar faculty names are Drs. Ashcraft, Renkert, Christain, Sprinkle and Green, Ms. Kaplan, Mr. Powers and Mr. Gilbert. Dr. Kittle has taught field seminar in Rutherfordton this semester. Plus Amy can’t be forgotten! There are a number of new Adjunct Instructors covering field supervision.
I have been preparing some factual updates on Appalachian’s history with the Child Welfare Education Collaborative and WOW—that is so gratifying!! 57 Child Welfare Scholars have been selected since spring semester, 2001.
Who’s who for Fall/2007 Semester: 4 Scholars continued: Jessica Reitzel (doing field placement with Catawba DSS), Angel Richardson (doing field placement with Watauga DSS), Rachel Williams (doing field placement with Henderson DSS), and Samantha Hanner. Plus selection of 4 new scholars: Lisa Courtney, Regina Drake (doing field placement at Ashe DSS), Dawn Cole (doing field placement at Gaston DSS), and Tanesha Williams (doing field placement at Rutherford DSS). Some of these ASU Scholars may be employed or interning in your agency—make contact with them. I am very proud of you!!!
----- by Judith W. Child Welfare Education Coordinator

Lesley Francisy is their Interstate Services Specialist with Durham County DSS County
Beverly Oesch is a CPS investigator/Family Assessor with Johnston County DSS
Nichole Roman is working at Gaston County DSS
as a CPS Investigator/Family Assessor
Be sure to stop in and say “Hello” if you are ever visiting in their agencies.
Beth Osborne is currently teaching the second year MSW field seminar class (which includes the agency visits) and the required Intro to Child Welfare course that is required of their BSW scholars. She also does the occasional guest lecture in various social work classes both at ECU and at area community colleges and serves as faculty advisor for several MSW students, some of whom are Scholars. This is the first semester in three years that she is not an external field instructor for scholars in agencies that do not have the capacity to provide this. Beth is coordinating the ECU CWEC Book Club for the BSW’s this semester and she is coordinating the Statewide CWEC Conference that ECU is co-sponsoring with the Collaborative Central Office that will take place in March.

Twenty-four new Child Welfare Scholars were selected for participation in the Collaborative Program at East Carolina University. We welcome the following Scholars to the Collaborative Program:

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<td>Doneika Harris</td>
<td>Donne Boone</td>
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<td>Laura Hensley</td>
<td>Scott Brown</td>
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<td>Brian Murphy</td>
<td>Thomas Burke</td>
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<td>Amanda Thawley</td>
<td>Dara Burleson</td>
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<td>Oglatha Woodard</td>
<td>Lindsey Duvall</td>
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<td>Lacey Kallestad</td>
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<td>Amber Perry McMichael</td>
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<td>Nikka Walker</td>
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<td>Jaqueline Ward</td>
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<td>Kathryn Williams</td>
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The Collaborative at ECU won honorable for their Homecoming Door Decoration. Twenty doors were entered at the College of Human Ecology. They received a plate and a visit from the ECU Pirate.

The Door at the ECU Collaborative
Second Retirement for Deborah Ryals

Toward the end of her final semester as the Collaborative Coordinator and Teaching Instructor at East Carolina University, Deb Ryals began sharing with her classes the news that many of us had come to dread – that she would be retiring during the summer of 2007. After hearing about her upcoming retirement, a young student approached her and commented, “But you don’t look 65…” No one enjoys a good laugh more than Deb, and laugh she did, when she shared this story with those attending her retirement luncheon held June 31, 2007. Despite having worked 35+ years as a professional social worker, Deb is quick to point out that she is years away from being in her sixties!

Deb Ryals at her “Second Retirement” Luncheon

Joining Deb in celebration of her exemplary social work career were family members, long-time friends, current and former co-workers and colleagues. After lunch, guests took turns at the microphone sharing ‘Deb’ stories and reminding her just how important she had been to the social work profession and how much she had meant to them. In reflecting on the many important positions Deb has held during her professional career, none would be viewed as more important to her than her role as ‘mom’ to Kristen and Jimmy. When the two of them took the microphone at Deb’s luncheon to speak, it was easy to see why Deb is such a proud mother.

Everyone present was reminded that not only has Deb excelled in the workplace, she has done a fine job of parenting as well. And when Deb’s husband Phil gave his emotional tribute, more than a few in the audience could be seen wiping away tears. Luncheon attendees also enjoyed meeting and hearing Deb’s mother. Most people who know Deb feel as though they know her mother, as she is often used to illustrate points in Deb’s lectures and presentations.

Phil Ryals, Deb and Linner Griffith.

Prior to Deb’s luncheon, the ECU Collaborative Office solicited comments from scholar graduates, students and other CWEC faculty about the personal and/or professional impact Deb has had on their lives to be compiled into a ‘CWEC Memories’ scrapbook and presented to her at the luncheon. Numerous email responses were received and include words and phrases such as the following: inspiration; role model; coach; intelligence; leadership; drive; dedication; passion; mentor; a true moral compass; and, the single most influential person in my college career. One scholar grad summed it up by saying that Deb was “not leaving a job, but leaving a legacy.”

During her career, Deb has received numerous honors and awards for her contributions to the profession. Another one was added during the luncheon with Deb being conferred the prestigious Order of the Long Leaf Pine with the rank of ‘Ambassador Extraordinary.’ This award from Governor Michael Easley was presented by Dr. Linner Griffin in recognition of Deb’s extraordinary service to the State of North Carolina, her contributions to the community, and extra effort in her career. The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a civilian in North Carolina and past recipients include Michael Jordan, Charles Kuralt, Rev. Billy Graham, and William C. Friday.

Since her retirement, Deb and her husband have become boat owners and are looking forward to hours of enjoyment on the waters in and around Washington and Beaufort County. Deb continues to inspire others as a workshop presenter and guest speaker at various conferences and events and plans are underway for her to serve as an external field instructor next semester for an ECU MSW student. In other words – the legacy continues…——by Beth Osborne

7
We had a great summer at JMSW. Here are some updates.

We welcomed our new Department Chair at UNCG. Cathryne Schmitz, PhD comes to us from Radford University in Virginia. She has much experience as a social worker, educator and advocate. We welcome her to our community!

Professor Maura Nsonwu spent much of the summer doing research for her doctoral work on Liberian refugee women. She has been conducting interviews in North Carolina and in Texas.

Professor Dan Beerman spent the early part of the summer in Costa Rica with students from UNCG. He also worked with the Casa Viva foster care program doing a program review of their fledgling effort to bring foster care to Latin America.

We have talked to and seen a number of our scholar graduates over the summer and in the early fall. It is always great to see our graduates and to hear about their exciting work in the field.

As part of our work with the collaborative we are developing a training module that will engage students in learning about issues related to working with Latino families in North Carolina. To that end we have developed a video resource that gives students beginning information on issues related to Latino families. Our vision was to get researchers in the university on video as a way to bridge their research to a wider group of students and even to graduates! We have a draft of the project complete (on DVD) and we have university people talking about issues like nutrition, gender and immigration. We also have our 2005 graduate Alanna Alexander leading off the video talking about her work in the Hispanic Family Centered Unit in Forsyth DSS. Alana has been part of this pioneering effort to bring cultural sensitivity to service delivery of Latino clients. We were impressed with what Alanna had to say and it fit very well with the research that we included from university based researchers who are also on the DVD.

A note about current child welfare scholars. We are pleased that four of our second year JMSW (2 year program) went to Jena, Louisiana for the recent rally in support of civil rights activities in that community. They went to share the experience, support the effort and learn about the process. They interviewed residents and participants and are making presentations in class and at their field agencies about this experience. Congratulations to Annette Estrada, Jonathan Evans, Wendy Johnson and Dayo Phoenix for their creative work on this project.

We will end on an exciting program note. Beginning in the summer of 2008 we will admit our first advanced standing class. That means that we now offer a one-year, two year and three-year track to receive the MSW! As in the past all teaching/learning is done in the context of the NC A&T and UNCG environment, which focuses on diversity and multicultural learning.

---by Dan Beerman

North Carolina State University

Meet our NCSU CWEC 2007 Fall Scholars

1. Jean-Marie Hawkins
2. Jessie Rosenberg
3. Jordan McCoy
4. Mariam Abdulraheem
5. Glenn Boston
6. Malissa Street
7. Tiffany Montford-Raynor
2007-2008 CWEC Scholars at NC State University

On September 24, 2007, NCSU scholars had the pleasure of receiving a tour of the Wake County Healing Place of Wake County, Women's Facility, courtesy of Jo Lawson, Program Director. Scholars enjoyed a meal with a selected group of residents who are currently involved or had been involved with Children's Services and were able to hear of their experiences. They learned the facility operates on a peer-to-peer therapeutic model that meets the needs of Wake County's homeless women with addiction issues.

The scholars would like to share that The Healing Place is always looking for volunteer groups to adopt the decorating/furnishing of a room in their facility and or invite individuals to donate slightly used clothing and future items. The Healing Place takes donations around the clock. Just call and let them know that you will be dropping by. Visit their website at [www.hpowc.org](http://www.hpowc.org)  —by Deborah Hairr

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UNC-Chapel Hill

2007 Graduation Celebration for Chapel Hill Child Welfare Collaborative Scholars

The UNC-CH Child Welfare Collaborative held a year-end celebration for its thirteen May 2007 graduating scholars at Spanky's in Chapel Hill. Wanda Reives serves as the Chapel Hill Coordinator, and Joanne Caye is the Faculty Liaison for the program.


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Chapel Hill Hosts Collaborative Scholars for Child Welfare Prep for Field

The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill hosted six days of Child Welfare Preparation for Field held July 31-August 2 and August 7-9. Four different schools participated in the training.

Back Row Left : Sharon Valentine, UNC-CH, Susan Wiseman, UNC-CH, Jeneya Garrett, UNC-CH, Blair Payne, UNC-CH, Teresa Bryant, UNC-CH, Pamela Moye, NC A&T Faculty, Shayna Hood, UNC-CH, Rhonda Reese, UNC-CH

Middle Row: Melanie Moore, ECU, Katie Spencer, ECU, Jolee Faison, UNC-CH, Allison Sanders, UNC-CH, Jennifer Smith, UNC-CH, Katie Williams, ECU, Chanitta Deloatch, UNC-CH, Wanda Reives, UNC-CH Coord.

Front Row Left : DeAnna Negrete, UNC-CH, Alicia Colombo, UNC-CH, Joanne Caye, CWC Faculty, Keyette Fowler, UNC-CH, Fatina Lorick, UNC-CH.
Wake County Department of Human Services’ Scholars

Wake Co. DHS is one of the largest social services agencies in the state of North Carolina. The Collaborative has had a total of 32 scholars go to work at Wake. We still have nine who are working on their collaborative contract obligation. All the scholars there, so far, have had their MSW’s. Wake Co. DHS has one main agency in Raleigh and 3 satellite agencies: Southern Regional Center in Fuquay-Varina, Eastern Regional Center in Zebulon, and West Regional Center in Cary.

I met with Megan Muzychka and Emily Freeman to talk about the agency and the successes they have had at Wake. Megan is a graduate of Meredith College and received her MSW from East Carolina. Megan has been working in Wake Co. for two years. Emily graduated as a BSW Scholar from NC State University and received her MSW from East Carolina University. Emily has been at Wake Co. only since September.

Emily Freeman, BSW/MSW Scholar

Both scholars said Wake DHS is progressive, a good place to work and they were impressed with the services Wake had for their clients. Not only were their supervisors supportive, but their co-workers are very willing to help each other out. Going to trainings and professional development is very important to the county so they get a lot of support for this. Wake in Raleigh is now moving toward blended teams and have a Family Centered Institute which the scholars feel works better for families. The typical case load for Megan when she began was 16 existing cases “Because I’m a scholar,” she said and smiled. Emily started out slow and has gradually built her case load to nine. Both scholars are in Treatment: Emily in Home Services and Megan in Sexual Abuse.

Megan Muzychka, MSW Scholar

The scholars said Wake is always trying to improve services for the clients. “So many services are located in-house. We have contact people such as doctors and psychologists to call upon especially with sex abuse.” They are very current in their knowledge of their families because of the services being so close.

Management takes into account opinions of their workers—so does supervisors. They felt it was good to have meetings to keep abreast of new things going on in the agency.

I then asked how the collaborative had helped them. Emily said her field experiences were extremely helpful. She did her BSW internship at Wake Co. and her MSW in Beaufort Co. “That led me to stay and want to be here. [in child welfare] It’s the whole experience of the Collaborative—making connections and networking. A lot of scholars stay after their commitment in Wake. Wake is on the cutting edge of child welfare.”

— by Jo Adams
This success story is about a mother with three children, a sister and a social worker with the goal of keeping a family together.

Mom was a functional drug user who would leave her three children with her sister. At first, it was occasional babysitting, and then it daily then several days at a time. Sis was a single mother too, with one child of her own. That made four children Sis had to look after. One day, Sis could not take it any more so she brought Mom’s kids to Wake Co. DHS and said “Take them.” The children were split up: two went with their father and one stayed with Sis.

Megan Muzychka began working with Mom. She put services in place and Mom went to the Alcoholism Treatment Center in Wake Co. They provide detox, inpatient treatment, intensive outpatient treatment and traditional outpatient services. From the intensive outpatient treatment Mom received, she was then able to go to the Aurora House, which is a year long alcohol and drug treatment center that assists in continued treatment. They also offer employment assistance and housing assistance upon completion of the program.

Megan said Mom did all of this on her own. Without having DHS to take custody or transfer custody to her sister, Mom was able to reunite with her children successfully.

But without Megan’s help we really don’t know if there would be a happy ending to this story. She was with Mom from the beginning to the end although she gives Mom all the credit.

Scholars are making a difference in Wake Co.

If you would like to Spotlight your DSS and talk about the success you are having, please contact Jo Adams, Employment Support Coordinator jeadams@email.unc.edu