Message from the Field Office

Welcome to the 2015-2016 academic school year! We are looking forward to a great year of field experience and working together as we continue to create a distinguished learning environment for our students.

There have been lots of exciting changes at The School of Social Work. We would like to announce Stacey Kolomer, Ph.D., who will now be serving as the Interim Director School of Social Work. Dr. Kolomer was previously our MSW Coordinator/Associate Director. We are also pleased to welcome Peter Nguyen, Ph.D., LCSW, our new MSW Coordinator.

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### UNCW Field Faculty

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### Faculty Liaisons

- **Jessica Strong,** Ph.D., MSW  
- **Karen Sandell,** Ph.D.  
- **Brian Williamson,** MSW, LCSW, LCAS, CSI  
- **Chris Hall,** Ph.D., MSW, LCSW  
- **Debbie Wyse,** MSW, LCSW  
- **Tee West,** MSW, LCS-W-A  
- **Arthur Frankel,** Ph.D., MSW, LCSW  
- **Yvette Gosline,** MSW  
- **Lauren Williams,** MSW
Trending in the Field: Social Work Safety

Safety is an important issue for everyone; and we feel it’s important to bring awareness to SAFETY in the field.

“Ringstad (2005) reported the results of a national study of 1,029 NASW members, finding that:

*62% had been subject to psychological aggression in the past year, with 85.5% experiencing this at some point in their careers.

*14.7% had experienced physical assault perpetrated by clients in the past year, with 30.2% having experienced this at some point in their career.”

We believe this is a vital concept for our students to fully understand; not only in the classroom but out in the field with their agencies. To allow for further growth as social work practitioners, the Field Office will be holding a SAFETY PANEL here on campus.

**Please join us in a professional discussion on SAFETY and see how we can all help ensure safety for our colleagues in the community. Free for all field instructors!

UNCW Field Office Presents: Social Work Safety Panel

**When:** Wednesday October 28th

**Where:** UNCW, McNeill Hall

Multipurpose Room #1051

**Time:** 9:00am – 11:00am

**Panel Participants Include:**

Linda Huffman, NHC DSS

Ryan Estes, Coastal Horizons

Mandy Houvouras, Open Gate

Shelly Chambers, Potentials

*2.0 Social Work CEU’s, free of charge for all field instructors.
Spotlight: BSW Alumni Tifini Steif

In this issue, the spotlight is on Tifini Steif, BSW ’13, whose field placement was with Domestic Violence Shelter & Services, Inc. Ms. Steif currently works as a medical case manager at Open Door in Elgin, IL. Open Door is a patient centered medical home that specialized in serving clients living with HIV/AIDS.

What has the transition been like from BSW student to full time social work professional? As a BSW student I was taught how to write in the third person and take diligent notes. This has served me well in the field. I document client information on several different databases and all progress logs are in third person. As a professional in the field, being informed of referral resources is an important factor when assisting my clients. The transition from student to employed professional has been very easy given the tools I acquired as a BSW student.

How did your BSW field experience prepare you for entering the field after graduation? My BSW field experience assisted me in taking the unknown out of a service agency. I saw firsthand what it was like to work with clients and it gave me a sense of confidence. I was taught the importance of documentation, not only for accountability but also for funding. I participated in outreach services and experienced how fun involving the community could be. Having an internship at a domestic violence shelter reinforced my understanding of confidentiality and safety. After leaving my field experience I felt like I had a greater understanding of what I needed to pay attention to not only for my own safety but for the safety of my clients and their children as well. I knew to lock the doors and who to call in case of an emergency. I was aware that files needed to be locked and to pay attention to pictures taken and social media sites. My internship granted me the opportunity to work in a shelter, in local schools, outreach, running reports and grant writing. I left with a well-rounded understanding of how an agency works and I continue to sharpen those skills as I move forward with my career and education.

This newsletter we focus on safety in the field. Since entering the social work profession, how do you ensure safety for you in the field? I generally have clients meet me in my office. There have been several situations that called for staff support as well as local law enforcement. Mental health issues, substance abuse and frustration surrounding medical conditions all play a role in how a client will react in this setting. Cultural and language barriers also create a barrier in communication and can lead to safety concerns at times. I attempt to ensure I am not left at the office alone. I inform other staff members that I am with a client using our electronic scheduling database. Staff keeps the office areas fairly quiet to ensure that raised voices are heard by other staff members. Clients are escorted by a staff member at all times when leaving the waiting room area. If de-escalation techniques do not work in a volatile situation; I immediately inform the client that we will have to reschedule the visit. When going to a client’s home I ensure a staff member knows when I arrive and how long I expect to be there. We also contact each other upon completion at a client’s home. All case managers know to have their cell phones and keys readily available. Communication remains a top priority to assist with safety.
The Field Office would like to introduce faculty who are interested in connecting with you in the field! They would like to talk, assist, collaborate and learn from our field instructors. Review their interests and see how your agency/programs could join with them. Please email these faculty members. They are eager to come to your agency and begin conversations about ways to CONNECT.

Kristin Bolton, Email: boltonk@uncw.edu
*Program evaluation, working with local agencies to meet their evaluation needs, created Center for Healthy Communities Division of Community Assessment and Program Evaluation (D-CAPE).
*Violence prevention, resilience, solution-focused brief therapy.

Jessica Strong, Email: strongj@uncw.edu
*Veterans, military members and their families, especially families with young children, spouses, and student veterans. *Resilience and resilience building.

Noell Rowan, Email: rowann@uncw.edu
*Gerontiology *LGBT population *Alcohol and Drug Addictions *Spirituality and the impact on social work education and practice

Chris Hall, Email: halljc@uncw.edu
*Practice, supervision, evidence, and politics of clinical social work. *Open to partnering with any practitioner, agency, and community to increase client outcomes, projects, and grants.
*Development of clinical agencies and private practices.

Bob Blundo, Email: blundor@uncw.edu
*Impact of mindfulness to enhance ability of students to focus with their clients. *Trained in using Laughter with a wide range of issues, Laughter Yoga. *Interpersonal Neurobiology. *Involved in MindUp program in local elementary schools.

Andrea Jones, Email: jonesal@uncw.edu
*Exploring issues of concern to the community and agencies in those communities. *Interested in designing and developing programs to address those issues.

Jacquelyn Lee, Email: leej@uncw.edu
*Trauma, mindfulness, caregiving, workforce development, professional self-care