New masters qualifications for the Counselling and Social Work professions

Faculty of Education, The University of Auckland

We are pleased to announce that two new masters programmes will be offered in 2011 – the Master of Counselling and the Master of Social Work. Both programmes can be studied by qualified social workers, while the Master of Counselling will also be relevant to those with experience in teaching, counselling, or nursing. Both programmes are offered through taught courses and the completion of either a thesis or a research portfolio.

The Master of Counselling is an opportunity to gain a postgraduate qualification in the field while using theory and research to inform current and future practice. It allows students of this degree to explore the critical components of theory, research and practice and to contribute to the counselling-related research environment. Because this qualification is cohort (group) based, it offers a professional learning and development opportunity in a supportive environment. Delivery will be mainly face-to-face at the University’s Tamaki Campus and will include a variety of learning methods including lectures, discussions, skills laboratories, seminars, workshops and group work.

The Master of Social Work is preparation for advanced professional responsibility in social work. Students of this degree will learn advanced approaches and interventions in social work practice and develop the skills to critique and undertake social work research to enhance practice. It is designed with the needs of practising professionals in mind and will be taught at the University’s Epsom Campus in short intensive face-to-face blocks supported by online resources. Workplace or clinical placements are not required.

Both programmes are 240 points and are equivalent to two years of full-time study, with part-time study options also available. Students may exit from the programme after completing the first year of either degree with a postgraduate diploma qualification in either Social Work or Counselling Theory.

The faculty is proud to offer these new programmes to meet the professional and personal needs of practitioners in these fields. Delivery will be mainly face-to-face at the University’s Tamaki Campus and will include a variety of learning methods including lectures, discussions, skills laboratories, seminars, workshops and group work.

For more information on these programmes come to the:

Postgraduate study presentation for Counselling, Social Work and Human Services
Faculty of Education Open Evening
Wednesday 18 August, 6.30–7.30pm
J3 Lecture Theatre, Gate 3, 74 Epsom Avenue, Epsom
(or visit the information desk anytime between 4 - 7.30pm)

Register to attend at:
www.education.auckland.ac.nz/openevening

There will also be sessions covering the undergraduate degrees offered in Social Work, Human Services (Youth Work and Disability Studies). Visit the open evening website for session times and details.

Welcome

The last few months have been very busy. The School hosted the third professional supervision conference – “Common Threads, Different Patterns”, held on 29 April - 1 May. This was very successful and approximately 300 delegates attended the pre-conference workshops and the conference. There were more than 20 professions represented at the conference. School staff participated in eight presentations. Presentations and papers from the conference will be available on the conference website shortly.

Over the period April to June we hosted Professor Viv Cree from the University of Edinburgh. Viv gave a seminar on her research on Children and HIV. This was a good opportunity to raise what is a very secret and stigmatised problem, that is, the impact of HIV (parental and own) on children in families. Viv was interested to share with others that New Zealand faces similar problems to Scotland: how does a small country support these children adequately when so much of the health budget is being spent on medication? While in the school, Viv also gave lectures to undergraduate and postgraduate students.

We’re delighted to have Associate Professor Cynthia Poindexter with us during July and August and we will welcome Professor Eileen Munro to the School for a week in September. The School is also delighted to announce that in 2011 we will be offering the Master of Counselling and the Master of Social Work degrees. We encourage you to attend the information session in August (see details on this page).

Thank you for the warm response to our first issue of “Partnerships”. We received wonderful feedback and also some offers of interesting new social work placements and counselling practice opportunities. We hope you enjoy this issue and find an event to note in your diary.

LIZ BEDDOE
Head of School
School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work
Faculty of Education
First practitioner secondment a success

The first practitioner to be seconded under a new arrangement between Child, Youth and Family (CYF) and The University of Auckland has just completed a semester with the School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work. Senior Practitioner Toni Luxton would usually be working with families and children but was seconded for Semester One. Her day-to-day job at CYF involves assessing children’s wellbeing and safety, working with children in care to return them to their families or to find a suitable family for them to live with, court work and family group conferences.

While at the faculty, Toni has lectured in topics related to her work such as family violence, social work best practice and law, and has been a visiting practicum supervisor for third-year students in the Bachelor of Social Work. She also completed a course in Professional Supervision and attended the recent ‘Common Threads, Different Patterns’ supervision conference sponsored by the faculty.

Toni says it’s been a very valuable opportunity to step back from her work, reflect on her practice, and see things through the eyes of students.

“I’ve also had time to read and catch up with the latest research, and I really enjoyed spending time with the students. This fantastic opportunity has given me lots of ideas about where to go next, what to focus on with my own practice, and how to support new social workers in my role at CYF.”

New NZ Foundation Certificate in Youth Mentoring

The first certificates in the new NZ Foundation Certificate in Youth Mentoring were presented on 28 June by the Youth Mentoring Network. This is a charitable trust that works alongside individuals and organisations working with young people. Until recently, the only training for such mentors has been within a small number of specialist programmes. This certificate programme will now provide professional development to informal mentors and community programmes that work with youth.

The Faculty of Education’s Sabrina Zoutenbier and Fiona Pienaar are involved with the network as specialist trainers in communication and listening skills for the new certificate qualification, which is running in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch this year.

“In the Auckland intake, many doing the course have been employed to work with young people to keep them away from risky behaviours such as drug abuse and gang involvement,” says Sabrina.

Fiona and Sabrina recently travelled to Christchurch to deliver the programme. This intake of thirty mentors included teen parents who will work with other teen parents, and a group of young Polynesian males who will work with at-risk youth. The Wellington programme will be run later this year.

Living every moment: a panel discussion on HIV and chronic illness

We invite you to a panel presentation led by Cynthia Poindexter, Fulbright specialist and guest faculty member.

Date: 11 August, 9am – 12.30pm
Venue: The University of Auckland - Tamaki Campus Building 730, Room 220
Cost: $50 per person (includes morning tea) $25 students with ID and beneficiaries

Contact Rani Krishnan (r.krishnan@auckland.ac.nz) for a registration form and venue map.

Visiting Academics

Associate Professor Cynthia Poindexter from the USA has joined the School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work over July and August as a Fulbright Senior Specialist. During her time in New Zealand, she will be teaching in a range of courses, presenting seminars and engaging in a research project on the experiences of HIV positive African migrants and refugees in New Zealand with Associate Professor Christa Fouché from The University of Auckland, Dr Mark Henrikson from Massey University and colleagues from the New Zealand AIDS Foundation.

Cynthia Poindexter has been a social worker for 35 years, the last 23 years in the HIV field. She was the first social worker at the first AIDS Service Organization in South Carolina in the mid-1980s. She has taught graduate social workers at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Boston University, and Fordham University, New York, where she is currently Associate Professor. She has been a trainer with seven HIV-related professional education projects. She has produced more than 60 HIV-related published articles, chapters, essays and reviews and is editor of the 2010 Handbook of HIV and Social Work: Principles, Practice, and Populations.

Eileen Munro, Professor of Social Policy at the London School of Economics will be a guest of the School during the week 7-13 September. Eileen was a social worker for many years before taking up an academic career. She has studied philosophy, in particular the philosophy of science, and this has fuelled her interest in the reasoning skills needed in social work.

Her current research interests include how best to combine intuitive and analytic reasoning in risk assessment and decision making in child protection, and the role of the wider organisational system in promoting or hindering good critical thinking. At the request of the Secretary of State for Education in the UK she is currently undertaking a review of child protection and will be producing a final report on this in April 2011.
Social Work Field Placements
– accolades and opportunities

The first 60-day practicum for our 3rd year Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) students has just concluded. We would like to pay tribute to the agencies, their supervisors and teams who have supported, mentored and welcomed our beginning practitioners. Our students truly valued you and the experiences they were able to learn from and build their practice frameworks. Thank you to all the people and agencies who continue to support and contribute to growing these social workers of the future.

Our very first cohort of 4th year students will be out on their 2nd and final 65-day fieldwork experience from the end of July and they will be graduating at the end of this year. A small group of 3rd year students will also complete their first placement during Semester Two. It is very rewarding to see our students out there making the connections from theory to practice, bringing curiosity, enthusiasm and anticipation to their roles as students within your agencies and organisations.

Here is where our students have been since April:

Child, Youth and Family sites Grey Lynn, Onehunga and Takapuna - thank you Martha, George, Jianye and Deb
Open Home Foundation - thank you Carla and Karen
Shine (previously known as Preventing Violence in the Home) - thank you Natalie and Ashna
Waitemata DHB - thank you Brendan
Anglican Trust for Women and Children - thank you Judy, Kawkeb and Kim
Mangere College Social Workers in Schools programme – thank you Karen and Jo
Glen Innes Family Centre - thank you Rachel and Chris
Problem Gambling Foundation - thank you John, Wenlei and Gus
Family Start Manukau - thank you Leainne, Robyn and Tania-Rose
Odyssey House Trust - thank you Claire
Buchanan Rehabilitation Centre - thank you Glenda and David
Health and Disability Commission - thank you Hemant
Barnardos Royal Oak - thank you Joy

Thank you all once again for your continued investment in our partnerships. We value your willingness to assist our students to gain the knowledge and experience necessary to build their practice skills in a safe and nurturing environment.

Would you like to invest in the future of social work by becoming a fieldwork educator/supervisor for social work students?

We would love to hear from you, please contact Cherie Appleton to discuss how we can partner with you.

Phone: +64 9 623 8899 ext 48558
Email: c.appleton@auckland.ac.nz
Mobile: 027 292 5591

We offer free fieldwork education/supervisor workshops twice a year (next one 30 August 2010). These workshops explore the role of the supervisor/fieldwork educator; offer upskilling, networking and a Continuous Professional Development seminar. Lunch is provided and the workshops are open to everyone who supports our students on practicum, or would like to in the near future. Invitations will be sent to our current partners shortly. You are welcome to register your interest in attending by emailing Margaret Barnett at ma.barnett@auckland.ac.nz

Helping rebuild lives after loss
Read about Trisha McLean – a masters student study Counselling - and her work at the Grief Centre (New Zealand Herald – Herald Jobs 21/07/2010)
Recent publications:


PACIFIC RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM:

Cross-cultural Conversations about Pacific Identities, Mental Health and Wellbeing

30 September, 8.45am – 3.30pm
The University of Auckland - Tamaki campus

This one day Pacific research symposium is co-sponsored by the Auckland branch of the New Zealand Association of Counsellors and the School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work at The University of Auckland, to promote dialogue among researchers and practitioners in fields related to the mental health and wellbeing of people of the Pacific - Māori, Pasifika and Aboriginal.

Of the many themes that interweave to shape Pacific people’s lives and wellbeing, particular strands that will be addressed in this symposium include identities, “in-betweenness” and connectedness; change, loss, grief and gain; resilience and joy; spirit and wellbeing.

For further information and registration details email Catherine Readhead at newday4u@xtra.co.nz