



Britt Burch Sworn into the Practice of Law May 8

On Monday, May 8 Britt Burch was introduced to the Anson County Court by Attorney Sophia Gatewood Crawford as a candidate for admission to the North Carolina Bar. Following her introduction to the Court, Britt was officially sworn into the practice of law by the Honorable Edwin G. Wilson, Jr.

Britt is the daughter of April Burch and granddaughter of Graylon Burch of Wadesboro, and granddaughter to Rev. L. Alvin and Bobbie Patterson of Salisbury. Britt graduated from Wake Forest University in 2013, and graduated from Elon University in May 2016 with her Law Degree and a Masters in Business Administration.

During her academic career Britt traveled to Ghana, Nicaragua, England, Ireland, Shanghai and Hong Kong. She hopes to continue traveling in her professional career. Britt is currently working for Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center where she drafts and negotiates contracts for biomedical research on humans and animals.

Pictured above are, from left, Judge Edwin Wilson, Britt Burch and April Burch.

Jennifer Denine Smith Awarded \$20,000 Counseling Fellowship From NBCC and Affiliates



The NBCC Foundation, an affiliate of the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC), recently selected Jennifer Denine Smith of Wadesboro for the National Board for Certified Counselors Minority Fellowship Program (NBCC MFP). As an NBCC MFP fellow, Smith will receive funding and training to support her education and facilitate her service to underserved minority populations.

The NBCC MFP is made possible by a grant first awarded to NBCC by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in August 2012. The Foundation is contracted by NBCC to administer the NBCC MFP, as well as training and collaboration activities, such as webinars, that are open to all National Certified Counselors (NCCs). The goal of the program is to strengthen the infrastructure that engages diverse individuals in counseling and increases the number of professional counselors providing effective, culturally competent services to underserved populations.

The NBCC MFP will distribute \$20,000 to Smith and the 22 other doctoral counseling students selected to receive the fellowship award. Smith is a graduate of Wingate University, in North Carolina, and Webster University, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and is currently a doctoral student in the counselor education and supervision program at Argosy University-Atlanta, in Georgia. Smith is a licensed professional counselor in North Carolina and a National Certified Counselor. Smith is currently interested in investigating the research to practice gap that exists among school-aged students diagnosed with serious behavioral and emotional disorders (BED) and academic success, the role of the school counselor, and best practices when working with students presenting with behavioral and emotional challenges. She is currently a military and family life counselor, where her role is providing counseling to assist service members and their families with challenges faced throughout the cycle of deployment - from leaving their loved ones and possibly living and working in harm's way to reintegrating with their family and community. Smith also provides short-term counseling and support for a range of issues including: crisis intervention, stress management, child and youth behavioral issues, grief, and other individual and family issues. This fellowship will enable Smith to continue her scholarly efforts in advocating for and educating mental health professionals on strengths-based initiatives when working within the BED and military populations. Further, it will afford Smith the opportunity to continue presenting at professional conferences on the needs of the aforementioned vulnerable populations. This fellowship will also assist Smith with funding to start a private practice in a rural area in Eastern North Carolina that will provide services that transcend all ethnicities as well as offer clinical mental health counseling to underserved individuals. Finally, this fellowship will assist Smith to receive further training to competently provide services to underserved minority populations.

Writers' Club Welcomes New Members

The Anson County Writers' Club meets on the fourth Sunday of each month, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce office, except in July and December. All meetings are open to the public. New members of all ages are welcome. For more information call Sandy Bruney at 704-694-5211 or email sandybruney@gmail.com.



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