



Alumni Profile

Alicia Farr

BSW '11, MSW '12, BA Hons '14 Thanatology

Current Career

Organization: Sarnia-Lambton Children's Aid

Title: Child Protection Worker for Walpole Island First Nation

Organization: Private practice

Title: Children's Counsellor

Career Overview

As a child protection worker, I work with families with children that are going through a difficult time. Our goal is always to keep families together. My work intersects with issues of grief and loss —loss of health, loss of family, addictions and issues like that. In my private practice, I work with children who experienced some kind of traumatic event.

How has King's helped prepare you for your current work?

Going to King's and having that smaller classroom environment allowed me to ask a lot more questions. This helped me broaden the scope of what I was interested in. I don't know that I was particularly interested in child protection work, but some of the courses and experiences I had here took me down that path.

I feel that my Thanatology and Social Work degrees are extremely closely related and beneficial. Both programs do a really good job of immersing you in the real-life experience of the work field. In Thanatology, some courses are taught online by people working in the field. Their experiences bring a lot to the table. I found this very beneficial to have professors talk about actual experiences. It gave me a foot on the ground when I entered the workforce.

What made you decide to come to King's?

The Thanatology program was the reason I was interested in King's. When I was here, Thanatology was not offered as a degree. I fell in love with my first-year Social Work class and decided to apply. I got in and loved it. When Thanatology became a degree at King's, I was happy that I could expand my experience that way.

What advice do you have for current students?

Keep your mind open and explore your options. A lot of people who talk to me about my Thanatology degree ask 'so you work in a funeral home, or a hospice?' There is so much more out there than that. Grief, trauma and death intersect so many aspects of people's lives. I feel that a Thanatology degree is so beneficial for so many fields outside of loss and bereavement.

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