Interview with Michelle Manley, M.S.

Michelle Manley enrolled in the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences in the fall of 2004 as a Masters student in the Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution. At that time, SHSS was housed on NSU’s East Campus, and Michelle recalls the large raccoons that roamed the lot. She says of the East Campus location, “We had our own space, had a lounge, and felt at home there. The move to main campus was difficult at first, but I was really excited about moving over here. Being on main campus allows us to interact with people from other programs, to get different perspectives, and it gave us the opportunity as students to feel more a part of the university.” Michelle notes that even though graduate students are busy with work and family responsibilities, they can still enjoy the college experience that you have on the main campus. “Just because you’re grad students doesn’t mean you can’t participate in campus activities!”

After earning her Masters degree in Conflict Analysis and Resolution, Michelle entered the doctoral program in Marriage and Family Therapy. She sees a real benefit to doing coursework in both programs. The challenging course requirements and “intense” theoretical work in DCAR provided her with a solid foundation for the clinical focus of the DFT program. Anticipating her work in the future, Michelle stated, “I’ll use a lot of conflict skills in marriage and family therapy; and I’ll use therapy skills in conflict situations!”

In addition to her coursework, Michelle has been committed to engaging in student life at SHSS. She served as the DCAR representative to the SHSS Student Association (now the Student Government Association), and then moved into the role of President. Michelle and the rest of the student government team built on efforts started by previous student leaders and implemented an endowed scholarship. Michelle says of this effort, “We thought it was important that the endowment be based on community engagement; it was important that students give back, walk the talk.”

Looking back on her eight years at SHSS, Michelle feels that the school has come a long way. She observed that students are more involved, more active. She also feels it’s important that the faculty “keep putting out their hands and say, join me” in their scholarly activities.