Top health consultant thanks School “for ticket” to success

A s a teenager, Denise Chaney worked summers, in stead of flipping burgers at a fast food restaurant or ring-uping purchases at a shoe store, she typed, filed and kept patient records at a medical diagnostic clinic. Her aunt was an employee at DukeHealth and had urged her to give the health care field a try. Chaney did—and liked it so much she has remained in health care for 35 years.

“It’s a constantly evolving field. You’re constantly learning, and there are always new challenges,” she says. “Over time, it becomes a way of life. You know more about it than you do about anything else.”

Chaney now has a master’s in health policy and administration, after completing her education at the UNC School of Public Health, highly regarded expertise in medical imaging, and an executive position at Accenture LLC in the Health and Life Sciences practice. She has come a long way from her clerical summer job. Now, she wants to give someone the chance to step out of the box and expand their horizons.

“Anybody who has lived through what I’ve lived through, who has experienced a certain success, who has some knowledge about it than you do about anything else.”

For three years in the late 1980s, Chaney balanced the demands of graduate school with a full-time job. Employed by the UNC School of Medicine at the time, she worked at MacNider Chaney, who serves on the School’s Public Health Foundation Board of Directors.

“Over time, it becomes a way of life. You know more about it than you do about anything else.”

“Anybody who has lived through what I’ve lived through, who has experienced a certain success, who has some knowledge about it than you do about anything else.”