



CSUN MSW

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Community IMPACT

165,000

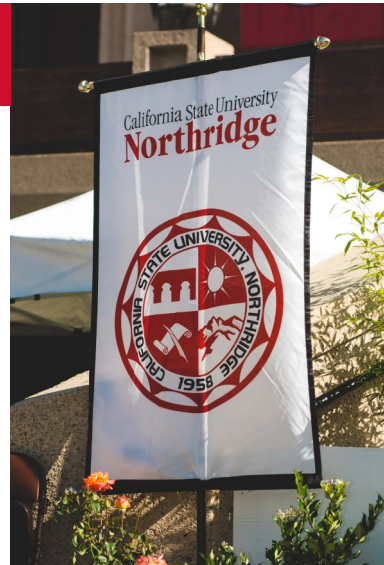
Hours of service for the 2014-2015 academic school year throughout the nation.

160

Community partnerships throughout the nation.

167

CSUN MSW graduates from the Class of 2015.



Contents



Message from the Chair.....	2
Alumni in Action.....	3
Diversity Day.....	4
Student Research, Awards, and Advocacy.....	5
New Faculty Profiles.....	7
A gift from Anita Devore.....	9
Social Work Society.....	9
Liberation Based Healing Conference.....	10
Upcoming Events.....	11

Message from the *Chair*

Amy Levin, MSW, Ph.D



Our MSW program started the 2014-15 academic year with our largest cohort of students to date. We had 397 students in 11 cohorts on campus, in the Santa Clarita Valley, in Ventura County and online.

Faculty have begun an immersion program (ACT2-Action Curriculum Think Tank) where we learn from each other and share our research passions to help infuse more diverse content into our curriculum. We have begun to include more content on LGBTQ issues, aging and integrated health and continue to look forward to learning from each other. Our students and alumni impact our surrounding communities in a variety of positive ways. We can be found in schools, hospitals, community mental health agencies, counseling centers, public child welfare, probation and corrections, substance abuse and recovery centers, hospice, adult day health care centers and more!

Our students completed another year of innovative Footprint Projects in their field internships. The projects exemplify the integration of classroom and fieldwork experience by asking students to assess the mutual impact of their field placements on them as future social workers and their impact, as students, on the placement. Students are encouraged to identify or develop ideas, assessments, procedures, strategies or other contributions to leave behind a useful and positive footprint, when exiting the community agency. Examples of footprint projects from this year include developing and implementing new exercises and social simulation programs for long term dementia patients, creating online media kits to assist with agency funding, developing peer-to-peer mentoring programs for the homeless, and creating and implementing school wellness policies.

Our online program has now graduated our second cohort and continues to exceed all of our expectations. We are honored to extend our warmest congratulations to all of our 2015 graduates from our Ventura cohort, our College of the Canyons cohort and our two and three year stateside program cohorts, in addition to our online students. I would particularly like to acknowledge the graduates who received our Jean E. Daniels Award. These students not only thrive in the classroom setting, but have also been acknowledged for their scholarly work in the field and make significant contributions to our surrounding communities through their research, field work and service. Several of our students received funding to conduct original research and data collection for their capstone projects that spanned topics from groups for intimate partner violence victims to photo voice projects for marginalized groups, to conducting needs assessments for various interventions in low income, at-risk communities.

We are delighted to welcome two new full-time faculty to our CSUN MSW family in August 2015. Dr. Maria Alejandra Acuña joins us from UCLA where she has focused her research on the relationship between family communication, traumatic events, and adolescent PTSD, particularly among urban populations. Dr. David McCarty-Caplan joins us from University of Illinois, Chicago where he investigates the cultural competence of master's-level social work education related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues.

We are saddened by the loss of a member of our founding advisory board, Anita Devore, who has generously donated \$25,000 to student scholarships for first generation graduate students who demonstrate great motivation and resilience and who have overcome significant challenges in order to pursue an MSW.

It has been a wonderful and full year! The CSUN MSW family is looking forward to welcoming a new cohort of students who are eager to learn and be future change agents.

Best Regards,
Amy Levin

PROFILE: Israel Frank Kingmansu, Jr.

Department Chair, Amy Levin, sits down with Class of 2008 graduate, Frank Kingmansu, to discuss life after the CSUN MSW program.

Q: *Tell us about your trajectory as a social worker. When did you realize that social work would be your path?*

When it comes to the actual position as a Social Worker, everything started to come together through my internship at Mission Community Hospital where I was the intern to Heidi Lenartz, LCSW, who was also the CEO. My internship consisted of her teaching me how to run a hospital while giving me projects in between. From there I was hired on as a Psychiatric Social Worker on their 60-bed inpatient psychiatric unit., I was then promoted to Social Services Supervisor and now I am the Social Services Manager and responsible for managing the Social Services Department for all inpatient services in the hospital, which include the Behavioral Health Unit, Medical Detox Unit, Emergency Department, ICU, Med-Surg and we are now working on a Palliative Care Program.

I am not a religious man but I am a Child of God. Social Work became the only profession that made sense when I realized I could do his work and get paid for it. No-brainer.

Q: *How has your role as a field instructor for current social work students impacted your view of what social work is?*

I know that it consistently reiterates the importance of being able to identify and ultimately deal with whatever personal issues and problems that a professional in this field has. It is so important for us to know how to actually practice how to "start where the client is at". How to understand that our feelings should not be reflected in our clients and it is never a place where we should work from as professionals. Day in and day out we are responsible for different aspects of people's lives. Our job is to help them with them, not who we think they are supposed to be. The more I work on myself the easier it is for me to see where I end and the client begins. I could never imagine nor would I want to be treated by a heart surgeon that worked on me based on how he felt.

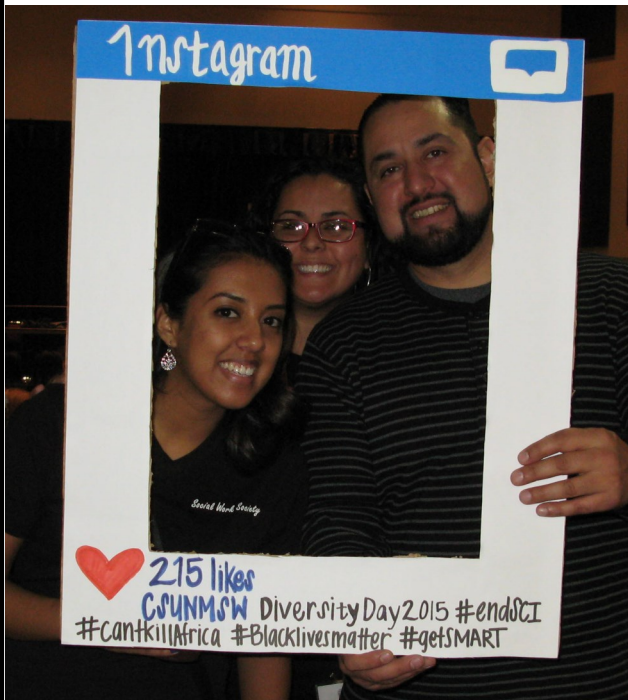


Alumni News and Notes

The CSUN Department of Social Work welcomes news and photos, high-resolution digital photos preferred, from alumni about employment, activities, or publications. Alumni news and notes will be published in the following edition of the newsletter. Send all news and notes to: msw@csun.edu.

Empowerment and Wellness:

A Critical Dialogue of Resiliency through Creativity, Activism, and the Power of the Collective



The sixth annual Diversity Day proved to be an empowering gathering of all five CSUN MSW cohorts. Kaiya Bailey, Diversity Day committee member and class of 2015 student, introduced the keynote speaker, Victor Lee Lewis. Lewis is a nationally recognized social justice educator, trainer, and activist best known for his powerful and inspiring role in the documentary “Color of Fear”. He is also the founder and director of the Radical Resilience Institute, where he works to support transformative change agents to improve and maximize emotional resilience, mental flexibility, personal performance, and effectiveness. On Diversity Day, Lewis presented on emerging research and theory in trauma neuroscience and interpersonal neurobiology.

The second keynote speaker, Bamby Salcedo, founder and president of the Trans Latin@ Coalition shed light on issues that transgender people, especially people of color, face in society. Bamby introduced a panel of other trans people of color, and had a Q&A where they each shared powerful personal stories and experiences. Following the guest speakers, the cohorts attended one of thirteen different breakout sessions and activities all related to Empowerment and Wellness. The eventful day ended with a performance from the Street Poets. A peace-making collective dedicated to the creative process as a form of individual and community transformation.

Jean E. Daniels Award



Engaging, social justice driven, and passionate, the four recipients of the Jean E. Daniels Scholarship demonstrated an outstanding commitment to excel in the MSW program. On the upper left, Professor Jose Paez selected Kaiya Bailey, on-campus two year cohort, for her excellence in the classroom, and involvement in the student planning committees for Diversity Day and the Liberation-Based Healing Conference. On the bottom left Dr. Wendy Ashley selected Keegan Hornbeck, on-campus three year cohort, for his involvement in student/ community social justice activities and his research partnership with Dr. Jodi

Brown. On the Upper right, Professor Katie Mortimer selected Christian George Torres, COC three year cohort, for his excellent participation in his internship placement, and involvement developing a program for a local community agency. He is also a youth advocate and volunteers at the CSUN Helpline. Lastly, Dr. Sarah Mountz selected Alex Adame, on-campus two year cohort, for her active work with LGBTQ and People of Color communities. Adame is deeply involved in community organizing at the intersection of racial and social justice movements. Congratulations to the four recipients of the Jean E. Daniels Award.

Field Education Award



El Centro de Amistad honored Petra Vergara, Diana Richardson, and Wendy Velasquez for their work throughout the academic year. Professor Katie Mortimer worked with the agency, located in the city of San Fernando, to create field placements and appropriate supervision for our MSW students.

GSWEC Graduates



Congratulations to GSWEC stipend graduates who had the opportunity to intern this past semester in agencies dedicated to provide prominent health and social services for the aging.

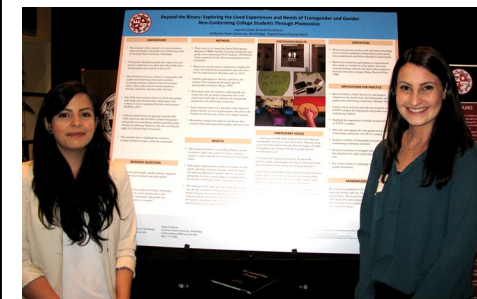
Emerging Scholars in Social Justice Conference



Professor José Paez along with students, Lucia Holguian, Michelle Thomas, and Alex Adame (pictured left to right) at this years Emerging Scholars in Social

Justice Conference on April 11th, 15 in Long Beach, CA. Professor Paez presented on heteropatriarchy and settler colonialism, while the students led an activity challenging gender roles.

Capstone Presentation



This year's capstone poster presentations took place on May 13, 2015 in the Northridge Center at the USU. Graduating students showcased their re-

search projects to the CSUN community. The poster presentations combined students research interest with their cumulating experience in the program and engagement in the community. As always, the capstone presentations highlighted the quality of students and faculty that make up our department.

Annual Student Scholarships Academic Scholarship:

Daniela Levin, On-Campus Two Year '16

Jessica Mather's Scholarship:

Katherine Rhodes, Online '16

Field Education:

Digna Yopez, COC '16

Graduate Equity Fellowship:

Francisco Javier Blas, On-Campus Two Year '16

CSUN Student Research Competition

Congratulations to our students who participated and represented the MSW department in the CSUN Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium. In the picture below students Caitlin Eubanks (right) and Monica Aquino (left) stand next to Dr. Brown. Aquino received second place on her oral presentation "Exploring Knowledge and Behavior: Financial Therapy Group, while Caitlin Eubanks was awarded first place on, "The effects of Yoga on Quality of Life, Anxiety, and PTSD for Low- Income Mentally Ill Adults. Thank you for proudly representing our department.



Critical Ethnic Studies Conference



Jose Romero, Professor José Paez, Alex Adame, and Kaiya Bailey (from left to right) co-presented along with other CSUN professors and students from American Indian studies in this year's Critical Ethnic Studies Conference at

York University in Toronto. The presentation was titled "Un-disciplined and Un-civilized Articulating, Confronting, and Resisting Settler Colonialism, Heteropatriarchy, White Supremacy, and Capitalism at California State University, Northridge."

The conference honors indigenous sovereignty struggles for land, culture, food, water, education, and health- and centers indigenous, black, and people of color activism and scholarship, especially work coming from feminist, trans, two-spirit, queer, and disability struggles and perspectives.

New Faculty Profiles



David McCarty Caplan

David McCarty-Caplan, Assistant Professor, joined the CSUN faculty in the Fall of 2015. Dr. McCarty-Caplan received his Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Illinois, Chicago and his M.A. in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago. Dr. McCarty-Caplan specializes in research and teaching related to intersections of macro and micro-level social work education and practice, with a special focus on the health of at-risk youth, support of LGBT populations, social policy, and HIV/AIDS prevention. His clinical experience includes training youth activists to be sexual health educators, counseling HIV+ incarcerated adults and their families, and mentoring emotionally disturbed adolescents. Dr. McCarty-Caplan has also recently presented at local and national conferences, and published refereed journal articles on drug use and sexual risk among men who have sex with men, and the impact of school-based sex education on LGBT families.



Alejandra Acuña

Alejandra Acuña, Assistant Professor, joins the CSUN faculty in Fall of 2015. Dr. Acuña earned her PhD in Social Welfare from UCLA and her MSW from UC Berkeley. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and has over 20 years experience in health and human services. Dr. Acuña has experience in macro- to micro-level social work practice in various settings – non-profit community based organizations, child protective services, and public school districts. Dr. Acuña has taught social work courses at CSULA, UCLA and CSUN and won local and national awards for field instruction.

Her research interests include urban youth and families, PTSD and resilience, and cultural/traditional approaches to mental health treatment.



Faculty Publications and Presentations

Recent Presentations:

Constantine Brown, J.L. (April 2015). Meeting Carnegie Units in an Online Environment. Social Work Distance Education Conference. Bloomington, Indiana.

Constantine Brown, J.L. & Park, H.S. (April 2015). Longitudinal Research Competency by Learning Platform. Social Work Distance Education Conference. Bloomington, Indiana.

Constantine Brown, J.L., Eubanks, C.* & Keating, A. (April 2015). The Effects of Yoga on Quality of Life, Anxiety, and PTSD for Low-Income Mentally Ill Adults. 57th Annual Western Social Science Conference. Portland, Oregon.

Constantine Brown, J.L. & Ong, J.* (April 2015). Mindfulness and Compassion Fatigue: Comparing Mental Health Workers and MSW Students. 57th Annual Western Social Science Conference. Portland, Oregon.

Lipscomb, A.E. (2015) "Treating Adolescent Trauma: Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy." Abstract accepted for presentation at the 19th Annual Child & Adolescent Mental Health Conference. Duluth, Minnesota. April 28, 2015.

José Miguel Paez, LCSW, MSW Students: Alex Adame, Lucia Holguin, and Michelle Thomas. "Then God Made Man: Challenging and Resisting Heteropatriarchy" 2nd Annual Emerging Scholars Conference, Ca.St.Univ., Long Beach. April 11th, 2015

Park, H. (2015, March). Older adults' quality of life: Physical, psychological, social, and environmental dimensions. Presented at the Annual Conference of Aging in America, Chicago, IL.

Recent Publications:

Decker, J.T., Constantine Brown, J.L., Stiney-Ziskind, C.A.*, & Ong, J.* (2015). Mindfulness, compassion fatigue, and compassion satisfaction among social work interns. *Social Work & Christianity*, 42(1) 28-42. ISSN: 0737-5778.

Constantine Brown, J.L. & Park, H.S. (2015). Comparing student research competencies in online and traditional face-to-face learning environments. *The Online Journal of Distance Education and e-Learning*, 3(1), 14-20. DOI: <http://www.tojdel.net/pdf/v03i01/v03i01-02.pdf>

A gift from Anita Devore

Anita Devore, a long-time supporter of the Social Work program and founding department board member, passed away on February 18th, 2015. Anita was an active member in the community and organizations such as, member of the California Chapter of National Association of Social Workers, president of the Ethical Culture Society of Los Angeles, and vice chair of the San Fernando Valley Sierra Club Group. She was also a tutor in English as a Second Language for the Los Angeles Public Library, and at Columbus middle School in Canoga Park. Anita's dedication and love for supporting developing social workers will continue in the form of a scholarship she generously left behind for resilient students motivated and committed to overcome significant challenges to pursue a MSW degree. Anita will be loved and missed, but her spirit will live on in our department.

Social Work Society (SWS)



(2014-2015 SWS Board) Top row left to right: Michelle Thomas, Cynthia Fajardo, Joanna Garcia, Abigail Franco, and Edy Ortiz.

(2015-2016 SWS Board) Bottom row Left to right: Maxine Amondo, Lucia Holguin, Marisol Solano, Felicita Penas, Antonio Rodriguez with Professor Jose Ramos, advisor to SWS.

Congratulations to the new SWS board members for the 2015-2016 Academic Year. The board members representing the MSW department this year will be:

Lucia Holguin- President

Maxine Amondo- Vice president

Antonio Rodriguez- External Vice President

Felicita Penas- Secretary

Marisol Solano- Treasurer

Jose Ramos — Faculty Advisor

Become a member of SWS, the only club that represents the MSW department at CSUN. SWS plans to have an eventful school year full of advocacy and community outreach. Become a member, and connect with other students committed to making a difference.



[Facebook.com/CSUNSocialWorkSociety](https://www.facebook.com/CSUNSocialWorkSociety)

The 10th Annual Liberation Based Healing Conference

Founded by The Institute for Family Services (IFS)

"Challenging Inequities: Decolonizing Practices and Social Action"

Hosted by the MSW Department at California State University, Northridge



Dates: Friday– Saturday, November 13-14, 2015, 9:00am– 5:00pm

Location: California State University, Northridge

Fees: Full Conference (Friday & Saturday)

Before 9/30/15- \$150

\$40 for students

\$120 for CSUN Faculty

Saturday – Community Dialogue

WHY THIS CONFERENCE IS IMPORTANT:

Whether you are a social worker, educator, student, administrator, clinician, or activist these challenging times call for unity and clarity around supporting families and communities. The Liberation-Based Healing Conference offers strategies that promote healing by interrupting oppressive societal structures with just practices.

We will examine systems of criminal justice, community and domestic violence, education, immigration, health and mental health, religious and spiritual practices, social services, homelessness, and youth incarceration.



[Facebook.com.LiberationBasedHealingConference](https://www.facebook.com/LiberationBasedHealingConference)

Register: <http://tinyurl.com/myxjesq>

Additional information contact: jose.paez@csun.edu

Be part of their success today.

Make a gift to CSUN MSW to support scholarships for current students.
Help us train the next generation of social workers.

<https://givenow.csun.edu>

Upcoming Events

Coffee with the Chair

Tuesday, September 8th from 4:45pm-5:45pm

Please RSVP with marlene.cardozo@csun.edu

Social Justice Dialogues

Saturday, August 22nd at 10:00am

Please RSVP with jose.paez.84@csun.edu

5th Annual Suicide Prevention Summit

Tuesday, October 27th

More details to follow via <http://csunrayofhope.org/get-give-help>

