

**Department
Of Social Work**

SPRING 2017

CSUN

COLLEGE OF
SOCIAL AND
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

MSW

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Lobby Days 2017



Legislative Lobby Days is a two-day event that educates students and professionals about important legislation affecting clients and the social work profession. The NASWCA-sponsored event provides a great opportunity to learn more about the legislative

process and get hands-on lobbying experience, talking with state legislators and their staff about important issues. This year, our students advocated for three bills dealing specifically with mental health diversion from incarceration, LGBTQ elder care, and

California's commitments to not support or use funds related to federal immigration enforcement. Fifty-five of our students attended what was the largest Lobby Days ever in the state!

8th Annual Diversity Day: Disability Justice



CSUN MSW Diversity Day Committee

CSUN MSW students and faculty hosted the 8th Annual Diversity Day on February 18. This was the second year that we opened our event to include our students as well as alumni, friends,

family and university and community members. The theme of this conference was Disability Justice: Striving for Equity and Accessibility

through Awareness and Action. Through panels, visual & performing art, a community resource fair, and group discussions, we explored the topics of ableism, accessibility, and equity. Space was created to challenge the way

society functions around disabilities. Our panel topics were Microaggressions: Shit People Say and Do, Navigating Systems, and Sex & Intimacy. Personal anecdotes and experiences shared provided an avenue for attendees to work in small groups towards collaborative action in demanding a world where accessibility options are not just for the privileged but are available to all.

Message from the Chair



"Social work, at its best, sees people other people don't see." This statement by Dr. John Jackson, Dean of the School of Social Policy & Practice, University of Pennsylvania, was made during a recent conversation with our CSUN students, faculty, and staff.

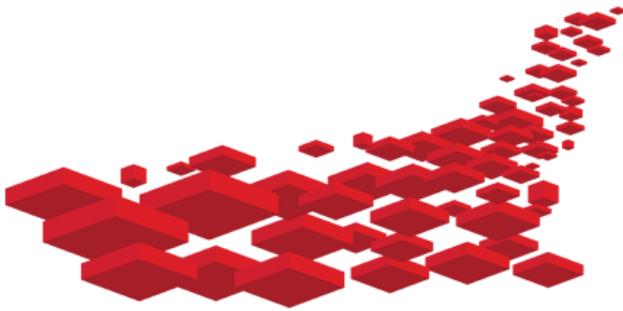
Dr. Jackson's words keep rolling around in my mind as I introduce myself to you. How does his statement relate to my introduction to you as the new Chairperson of the Social Work Department?

Our department will be reviewing our curriculum, both inside and outside the classroom, over the next three years as we prepare and write the necessary documentation for reaccreditation in 2020. We will revisit our mission statement, look at our assessment data, and put our curriculum and other activities in writing. Our goal is to articulate how we teach future social workers to work with people and communities not seen by other people.

I look forward to working with everyone. I bring my background as a founder of our department, a member of the CSUN academic community since 1998 and my last 6 years of work as Program Review Coordinator in the CSUN Office of Academic Assessment and Program Review. Please to feel free to contact me with questions, concerns, and contributions.

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**You are cordially invited to the
Master of Social Work
Capstone Poster Presentation**

**Wednesday, May 17, 2017
10:00 am to 12:30 pm**

**University Student Union
Northridge Center
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA**

**For more information:
818-677-7630**

32nd Annual Joint Field Symposium



Left to right: Wendy Ashley, Luis Curiel, Allen Lipscomb

CSUN MSW Professors Wendy Ashley, Psy.D., LCSW and Allen Lipscomb, LCSW presented at the 32nd

Annual Social Work Joint Symposium. This year's theme was Colorful Disclosures: Enhancing Transformative Supervision. The event organization was led by another CSUN MSW professor, Luis Curiel, MSW. Professors Ashley and Lipscomb highlighted current research on supervision, the evolving roles of supervisors and the impact of power and privilege on the triple process, in an effort to raise critical consciousness, accountability and empowerment in the supervisory relationship. Themes included clinicians of

color entering micro, mezzo, and macro practice settings and the growing need for clinical supervisors to develop cultural competence in their supervision approach and style. Participants were encouraged to reflect upon how axes of identity including race, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, citizenship, age, ability, power and privilege inform their lenses as practitioners and impact their vulnerability in supervision.

Dr. Levin moves on to Grad Studies

It is a bittersweet moment for our Department as we announce Dr. Amy Levin has accepted a position as Assistant Vice-President of CSUN's Office of Graduate Studies. We will miss seeing her daily in our Department as the Chairperson, but we're thrilled by her promotion into a pivotal role supporting graduate education in the larger university community.

Dr. Levin is one of the founding members of the CSUN Social Work Graduate Program and helped to build our Social Work Department for many years, including serving as the Department Chairperson for the last 8 years. We are grateful for her years of service and wish her the best of luck in her new role!



New CSUN Food Pantry Opens at the MIC

The food pantry opened September 21st and is available to CSUN students, staff and faculty. The facility, located on Lindley behind the Matador Bookstore complex, is currently open Wednesdays 3pm - 7pm and Thursdays 11am - 3pm. CSUN individuals looking to receive food must fill out a very brief intake form.

Depending on their need, they are allowed to pick up food from the pantry once a week. In addition to the food pantry, CSUN CalFresh will assist students with the DPSS (Department of Public Social Services) CalFresh application so they can receive food stamp benefits. These are food benefits that they can use

markets and certain restaurants/food chains off campus. The CalFresh office will be located inside of the food pantry.



Left to right: Jess Cardiel, Toni Mangum, Maria Elizondo

1st Annual Indigenous People's Day



From left to right: Berali Carillo, Rocio Rincon, Anahi Gonzalez, Kimberlee Marsh, Lindsey Gaudio, Alyssa Gaudio

Members of CSUN's Social Work Society, along with other MSW students and alumni, represented our program at the 1st Annual Indigenous People's Day in San Fernando last October. Our volunteers started at 8:00 a.m., helping organizers set up, and continued providing support throughout the day. Our students demonstrated their

leadership and community-building skills and helped our program develop and strengthen its relationship with the Tataviam and other indigenous communities. The event was a tremendous success with great music, dancing and celebrating.

21st Annual CSUNPosium

The CSUNposium, also known as the "21st Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium" is a student conference featuring oral and poster presentations. The purpose is to showcase excellence in scholarly research and creative activity conducted by CSUN students across all academic disciplines. This year, our students

took first place in the ten-minute competition and first and second place in the three-minute competition. Marisela Romero Alvarez & Kristal-Rose Ramos took first place in the three-minute competition with "Perspectives of Los Angeles County Child Welfare Professionals Towards the Protection of the Social Work Profession," while second

place went to Sandra Sanchez Conde & Placido Saldivar for "The Emotional Journey Behind the Decision; Stories from Conservators of Aging Adults with Intellectual Disabilities." Taking first place in the 10-minute competition was Lyndsey Weiss with "Sexual Violence Prevention Education Among Young Adults."

Friday Morning Matadors

The Friday Morning Matadors (FFM) program is a free fitness program open to all CSUN students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Meeting every Friday at 6:30 a.m. in front of the Oviatt Library, rain or shine, the group engages in various activities tailored to individual fitness levels. The program was began as part of the Kinesiology department

as a way to develop camaraderie and school spirit among students, faculty, and staff through fitness and wellness training, with the goal of improving health across the campus. In addition to the Friday morning sessions, FMM participants are encouraged to continue health goals at the CSUN Student Recreation Center.



MSW Department staff (holding sign) Jessica Rubalcava, Gretchen Serrano, and Camille Pili-Jose join fellow Matadors for some early-morning exercise!

Flynn Cup Tournament 2017



On February 28, the CSUN MSW Matadors made their seventh appearance in the Annual Flynn Cup Softball tournament, an annual event that aims to bring together social workers across the Southland for a day of fun, competition, teamwork and

networking, sponsored by USC School of Social Work. Despite obstacles for our team's practice schedule this year, CSUN players did everything they could to get ready to compete with the other schools entered in the tournament. Our team included nine alumni and one active student, Brandi Segovia, who was elected to be the team's Most Valuable Player for the tournament. The 2017 team got off to a slow start, but got stronger with each game, and by the time the playoffs began, CSUN was playing their best. In the first round of the playoffs, the Matadors faced the #1 seed, CSU Dominguez Hills, who were playing amazingly well.

By CSUN MSW Alumnus, Frank Costello

CSUN hung tough and played a strong game, both offensively and defensively, eventually winning the game by two points in extra innings! Our tournament ended as we lost a very close game to UCLA in the semi-finals. Again, CSUN MSWs represented our school extremely well, and maintain a high regard with other SoCal MSW programs. As usual, it was a pleasure being part of another fantastic team, and I'm grateful to have built some new friendships, while strengthening existing ones. I can't wait for next year!

Minority Male Mentoring Program

The Minority Male Mentoring Program (M3) launched in fall 2016 by a multi-disciplinary faculty team, including Jolene Swain & Alex Acuña from the MSW department, faculty from the Psychology and Political Science departments, and five passionate CSUN graduate students. The M3 program, which seeks to help male students of color graduate and succeed, was created in response to a new strategic plan from

CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White, aiming to close the academic achievement gap for students of color by 2025. M3 will address this goal through methods shown to increase retention and graduation rates among minority male college students at CSUN. Components of the program include building strong bonds through networks of friends, advocates, coaches, mentors, and role models, as well as addressing

"holistic wellness" through goal setting, coaching and skill-building sessions, and developing resilience and coping skills. CUSN MSW candidate and M3 Mentor Charles Jr Ohaeri describes the mentoring experience as a "delicate balance of becoming someone [whom] someone can look up to, not to clone yourself, but to give of yourself so someone can create themselves."

"There is delicate balance of becoming someone [whom] someone can look up to, not to clone yourself but to give of yourself so someone can create themselves."

Lancaster DCFS Footprint Project



From left to right: Rocio Rincon, Marisela Romero Alvarez, Verence Salazar, Krystal-Rose Ramos, Hector Ortiz

The MSW department has three UCCF (University Consortium for Children and

Families) students and one CalSWEC student placed at the Lancaster DCFS office. As part of their footprint project, the students made an effort to gauge unmet needs within the department. The Interns noticed that the family interaction rooms, where parents have monitored visits with their children, did not provide a welcoming environment for families. This observation sparked the idea to design the rooms to make them more colorful and kid-friendly. The five interns picked up this project to leave

an impressionable and meaningful footprint by creating a space that will help better serve our families. The goal was to make these spaces more inviting and stimulating for children visiting with their family. The interns planned, designed, fundraised, and decorated five rooms. Each room had a theme that included: under the sea, nature, outer space, ABC's, and safari. Since the completion of this project, there has been an immense amount of gratitude from the families, caregivers, and DCFS staff.