



In This Issue

[Class of 2013](#)

[Student Awards & News](#)

[Faculty Updates](#)

[Diversity Day](#)

[Pride & Veterans Resources](#)

[Department Events](#)

Quick Links

[Department Website](#)

[Our Mission](#)

[Department Calendar](#)

[Programs](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Program Brochure](#)

Social Work Society

The Social Work Society has played an integral role in the CSUN Social Work department. They provide new graduate students with mentorship and promote students to partake in action programs that encourage change.

They put together extracurricular functions that further develop an understanding and passion for social work.

We encourage you to become a member of the Social Work Society.

Greetings from the Department

What a year this has been for the CSUN MSW program! We have successfully launched three new off-site cohorts, including our first MSW online group. Faculty and students alike are very excited to be finishing up the first year of collaborating online. Our CSUN MSW students are involved in promoting social justice, lobbying and creating a legislative bill to be brought before the senate. In May we will graduate our largest class to date, and our first cohort of 18 MSW's from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services.



Dr. Amy Levin

Students Advocate to Limit Solitary Confinement for Juveniles (SB 61)

Graduating MSW Students Helping Create Legislative Bills

For information, contact SWS
at sws.csun@gmail.com.

Mailing List

Want to receive future
editions of the newsletter?

Send us an email
at tiffany.newton@csun.edu.



Photo credit: Charlie Kaijo / Senior Photographer

MSW students, Amy Plaster, Katie Cianci, Jamie Biggs, Sandra Sharma, and Keven Trout were inspired by one member's personal struggle, and introduced legislative bill SB 61 to help mend the issue of juvenile solitary confinement.

The students were driven to expand on Senator Leland Yee's 2012 bill, SB 1363, which did not pass, to lower the hours allowed for juvenile solitary confinement. "(Confinement) is not the only option", Cianci said. Through extensive literary research, this group of students were ready to pursue the local senators to reintroduce the bill.

The students remained persistent, and eventually received an email from Senator Yee's office in San Francisco stating that he decided to introduce the bill as SB 61. "If anyone in the community wants to

submit a bill, they can," Paez said. "Research is really important and helps the senators utilize information in their argument, since they don't (always) have time to do that."

Numerous committees in both the Senate and House of Representatives must now vote upon the bill, but they conquered the first obstacle.

If you would like to read more about this incredible accomplishment click on the following link: <http://sundial.csun.edu/2013/02/csun-students-on-path-to-legislative-bill/>

Student Research, Awards & Scholarships

17th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium

Congratulations to the presenters of the 17th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium. These women did a phenomenal job representing our program!

The following students gave oral presentations:

Tamarla Hardeman
Michelle Lewis (2nd Place Winner)
Karen McLeod

The following students gave poster presentations:

Noor Almaoui
Daniela Alvarado
Asma Asif
Shoshana Helfler (1st Place Winner)
Ana Urena

Published Research

Congratulations to Elizabeth Rose-Marini (Class of 2012), that had her research published by the Huntington Partnership for Aging Education in their student and alumni journal

'Generativity': <http://www.nyam.org/social-work-leadership-institute/our-work/hppae/for-students/generativity-fall-2012.html>

Graduate Fellowship for Research and Creative Activity

Congratulations to Christina Marin (Class of 2014), recipient of the distinguished Graduate Fellowship for Research and Creative Activity from the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. She will be receiving \$5,000 to support her research.

Faculty Awards, Accomplishments & Activities

Judith DeBonis, Ph.D.

Dr. DeBonis has received both federal and University sponsored research grants:

- Co-Investigator (25% effort), Bruce S. Jansson (Principle Investigator), "Improving Healthcare Outcomes through Advocacy," PCORI (Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute) (PI-12-001 PCORI Pilot Projects); One of fifty chosen for funding out of 850 submitted; Amount: \$664,852. This project is a collaborative between USC, UCLA and CSUN.
- Curriculum Development Team Member, Practice Group, "Social Work and Integrated Behavioral Health Curriculum Project," SAMHSA and HRSA-funded Center for Integrated Health Solutions (CIHS) housed in the National Council for Community Behavioral Health. Amount: \$5,000 stipend and reimbursement for travel costs. Members will be cited as authors on the curriculum materials.
- Faculty Technology Center Redesign Institute (\$1200) This project allowed us to participate in the 1st redesign institute on campus and to begin to learn how technology can be used to enhance our curriculum and opportunities for student learning. The project is ongoing; I am now involved with a subgroup from the original institute focused on enhancing assessment of student learning in an online environment.



Dr. DeBonis

4th Annual Diversity Day

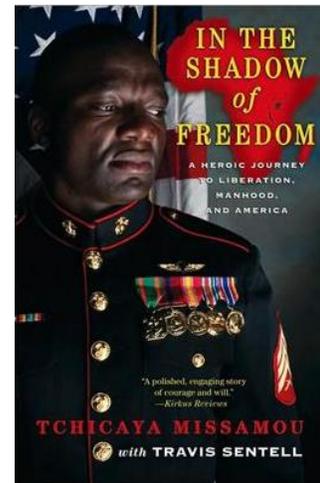
Trauma: A Survivor's Story

We are looking forward to having you attend our 4th Annual Diversity Day, Saturday, February 23, 2013, 8:30am - 3:30pm, at the Northridge Center.

Our topic this year is "Trauma: A Survivor's Story". Our keynote will be given by Tchicaya Missamou and we will have nearly 20 break out session speakers. We will also have a film on the survival of trauma and several experts to demonstrate mindfulness and self-care strategies.

To find out more about the guest speaker, visit the CSUN Diversity Day Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/CSUNDiversityDay?fref=ts>



**Tchicaya Missamou,
Keynote Speaker**

Pride & Veterans Resource Centers



Pride Center

The Pride Center opened on the CSUN campus August 2012. It is an LGBTQ resources center that provides students with information on sex health information, it provides mentors for students to talk to during their coming out period, as well as a place to hang out with peers and get to know others within the community. To learn more, visit: <http://pride.csun.edu/>

Veterans Resource Center

This resource center opened on the CSUN campus September 2012. This Peer Mentor Programs helps transition veterans back into the role as citizens, and they provide them with career development for graduating veterans acclimating in the workplace. To learn more, visit: <http://vrc.csun.edu/>



Both centers are open Monday- Thursday from 10am - 7pm, and Fridays from 10am - 3pm.

Department Events

Our 4th Annual Diversity Day

The event will be held on campus from 8:30am - 3:30pm on Saturday, February 23, 2013. The topic for this year's event will be "Trauma: A Survivor's Story".



Lunch and Learn

These events allow students the opportunity to learn about various topics of interest in the Social Work field:

- **"Strategies for Reducing Anxiety: Your Client's and Your Own"**

February 26, 2013 in Whitsett (SH 451) from 12:15-1:45pm

Additional dates to be determined.

Docs and Talks

Students and faculty members meet to watch documentaries on topics of interest and then have a lively discussion afterwards. Past films have included: The Black Power Mixtape, The One Percent, For the Bible Tells Me So, and Which Way Home. Upcoming dates will be posted on the event's

Facebook page:<http://www.facebook.com/pages/CSUNs-MSW-Docs-Talks/248259871863536>

- **Monday, April 22, 2013 from 7:30-9:30pm in Sierra Hall 272, 2nd Floor**

Lobby Days: Advocacy and Policy in Practice

Legislative Lobby Days is a two-day event that educates students and professionals about important legislation affecting clients and the social work profession. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the legislative process and get a "hands-on" lobbying experience of talking with state legislators about important policy issues.

Capstone Presentations & Field Instructor Luncheon

This event will be held on Wednesday, May 15th in the Northridge Center (USU).

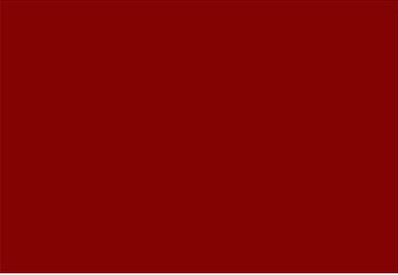
Department Graduation

This event will be held on Monday, May 20th, 2013. Grads will need to be at the check-in spot by 9:00am and the ceremony will start at 10am on Manzanita lawn here at CSUN.

College of Social & Behavioral Science Commencement Ceremony

This event will be held on Wednesday, May 22, 2013. The ceremony will take place at 8:00am on Oviatt Library Lawn here at CSUN. More info is available at: <http://www.csun.edu/commencement/>

Please look for future Department of Social Work Newsletters for more information about what is happening in the program. We



appreciate your support and please feel free to forward this on to anyone who might be interested. Hope you have a great semester!

Sincerely,

The Faculty and Staff of the Department of Social Work at California State University, Northridge