CSUN SOCIAL WORK SOCIETY (SWS)

The CSUN Social Work Society (SWS) is a student lead organization. This year, their focus is to create opportunities for members to participate in advocacy, community engagement, and self-care/networking. SWS has held events such as “Dodgers Night,” “Day at the park,” “Lunch & Movie,” and an “International Potluck” with a community guest speaker talking about “Life after the MSW program.” Members have also had the opportunity to attend “Let’s talk about it,” where students provided support to other students and answered questions about their experiences as first year MSW students.

SWS looks forward to future events, such as a fundraiser at Hamburger Mary’s on March 17, 2019 and the upcoming Lobby Days event, which is SWS’s biggest event of the year and will take place April 6 – 8, 2019, in Sacramento, California. Lobby Days is a wonderful policy and advocacy experience that provides students with the opportunity to go to the state capital and advocate for legislation that affects the communities in which we work. The Social Work Society board invites all MSW students to apply for Lobby Days 2019.

If you have not met your Social Work Society board please do not hesitate to attend one of their events, stop them and say hello or email them with any questions you might have at sws.csun@gmail.com.

DEPARTMENT GOODBYES AND HELLOS

With sadness, the Department has bid farewell to several staff members this academic year. Our Online and Offsite MSW Program Coordinator, Rachel Navarro, said goodbye to us last April, as she returned to her hometown of Seattle with her husband and their new baby. Rachel now works as a Student Success Specialist at South Seattle College. Our previous Office Manager and Administrative Support Coordinator for the Field program, Janice Ollis, retired in August. She plans to spend her retirement enjoying life with her wonderful family and friends. In early December, Jennifer Henningfield, our Director of Online and Offsite Field Education, also retired after thirteen years with the department. Jennifer’s presence on the Field team will be greatly missed, but she plans to return to the MSW Department to teach in the coming semesters. While it is sad to see beloved colleagues leave, their contributions will remain. The Department has also had the opportunity to welcome new staff members as well. Taking on the role of Office Manager is Jennifer Torres. Our new Administrative Support Assistant for the CalSWEC and DCFS stipends is Shanell Moreno. We also welcome Roscio Ponce, who is filling in for Camille Gaudreau as Administrative Support Coordinator for the Field Program, while Camille is on maternity leave. Please take time to welcome them!
I just finished reading “Benefits of Getting a Master’s Degree in Social Work.” The article is geared toward people who are weighing the benefits vs. the drawbacks of pursuing a social work graduate degree. I think about the decision I made to pursue an MSW in 1991. I had a BSW. I had 15 years of practice experience. I finished my MSW in 1993. I went on to obtain a PhD and started teaching social work undergraduate courses. I remember reading in an introduction to social work text that social work is an eclectic profession that borrows from other professions. I asked the class to name the professions from which we borrow: psychology, sociology, religious studies, urban studies, medicine, law, and the list goes on. So, how do we know where to focus one’s efforts in social work? One might look at our professional organizations for an answer.

Some of you connect professionally and network with other social workers by joining professional organizations. Most of you, in the United States at least, know about NASW or the National Association of Social Workers and CSWE or the Council on Social Work Education. But do you know about additional organizations that you can join? There is NABSW or the National Association of Black Social Workers, LASW or the Latino Association of Social Workers, IASSW or the International Association of Schools of Social Work, IFSW or the International Federation of Social Work, and last, but certainly, not least, ACOSA or the Association for Community Organization and Social Administration.

I only learned about ACOSA in the last decade or so when I was preparing to teach an introduction to policy practice course. I learned about the Rothman Report that indicates that less than 9% of social work graduate students report a macro focus in their graduate education. Through ACOSA, I learned about the Special Commission to Advance Macro Practice in Social Work. I became a member of ACOSA and joined the Special Commission. I am learning more and more about social work as a profession. And somehow being part of the Special Commission has made me appreciate the micro and mezzo aspects of social work even more. We are an eclectic discipline and profession.

So, what is the benefit of a social work graduate degree? Choices, my friends, choices. And don’t forget the social justice, cultural humility, and art vs. science aspects of social work practice.
The Student Success Allies Program’s mission is to serve undergraduate students within the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. In addition to offering special events, the program exists to support a successful college transition and to empower students in reaching their academic and personal goals by offering services such as one-on-one mentorship, personalized SMART goals, referrals to university programs, self-care planning, and social support. On September 20th and 27th, the MSW Student Success Allies program, along with Africana Studies and Center for Achievement in Psychological Sciences (CAPS) students, engaged in an interactive and informative workshop to identify common challenges as well as tips and resources for transfer and first generation students. The workshop focused on campus and community support to first generation students in the Africana Studies department and the CAPS program.

Please congratulate Dr. Allen Lipscomb, the recipient of the 2019 Jerome Richfield Scholar. The award goes to one CSUN faculty member engaged in high quality, high-impact research. The recipient is named as the Richfield Memorial Fellow. The Award often goes to a full-professor so we are doubly glad to have it go to Dr. Lipscomb in his 2nd year as a tenure-track professor. The Fellow presents a lecture at the Provost’s Colloquium Series, which is designed to highlight and celebrate the scholarly achievements of our faculty, and to provide an opportunity for socialization among faculty, administrators, students, and staff. Look for an email inviting you to the lecture by Dr. Lipscomb in April of 2019. He will lecture on his research titled, “I Know Why the Black Male Grieves”. Dr. Lipscomb will take you on an in-depth research journey in understanding Racialized Black Male Grief Reactions to Loss and Trauma. In addition, he will be having a special guest moderator, Dr. Shirley Better—emeritus professor of social work from Cal State LA.

The Department has renewed and revised one of our most important assets: the CSUN Social Work Department Advisory Board. The Board, composed of practitioners, social work educators, and alumni, met on September 15, 2018 to redefine its focus and to welcome new and returning members. The original CSUN MSW Advisory Board formed in 2003, guiding our Department as we shaped its mission and curriculum and welcomed our first cohort of 25 students. Today, our Department has grown to nearly 400 students and several cohorts.

As a Department, we decided it was time to revisit the focus of our Advisory Board, focusing on fundraising, mentorship, and ongoing recruitment of new members. The Board reviewed our revised mission statement and reviewed our revised course descriptions.

We have 4 alums on the Board: (1) Michele Bartlett, LCSW, Class of 2011. Michele’s experience includes working for DCFS, teaching for CSUN’s MSW Program, and working in the grief and loss field serving underserved members in the community. (2) Michelle Lewis, Class of 2013, is now a CSUN MSW Field Instructor and Placement Coordinator and a Children’s Social Worker III with the Los Angeles Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS). (3) Patrick Muro, Class of 2013, is a Human Services Administrator with the LA Department of Public Social Services. (4) Leo Clark, Class of 2013, is a returning member of the Advisory Board and a current Residential Placement Consultant for Ventura County Office of Education.

We’re happy to have four returning members, who are Peggy Polinsky, MSW, PhD; Joni Diamond, LCSW and former NASW President of Region G; and Lyn Munro, LCSW, Retired Hathaway Children & Family Services CEO.

We are proud to have 4 new members on our Board: (1) Jolene Hui is our NASW-CA representative and the Director of Membership for NASW-CA. (2) Martha Waite, LCSW, is our GSWEC representative, practicing at the VA GLAHS Sepulveda Ambulatory Care and Community Living Center. (3) Julie Gould, LCSW is our CSUN MSW CalSWEC Title IV-E Project Coordinator, Mental Health Program Coordinator and MSW instructor. (4) Yan Searcy, PhD, is our new Dean of the CSUN College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. You can find his welcome message to our College here. We are glad to have our new members on board.

Many thanks to Julie Gould and Jose Ramos, a long-term instructor for our program, for their help in recruiting new and returning members for the Board. Please contact Dr. Bartle for questions or ideas that the Board might consider at our next meeting in January.
Peer-Reviewed Publications:


Other Publications/Technical Reports:


DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Department of Social Work is introducing two new scholarships, the Donovan E. Lipscomb Award, initiated by Dr. Allen E. Lipscomb, and the Terriel E. Cox Resilience Scholarship. Dr. Lipscomb was himself a recipient of the Jared Morgan Award, started by CSUN MSW faculty Jolene Swain in 2006, when he was an MSW student at USC. Professor Swain saw a need to invest in the well-being of African American men who demonstrated devotion and commitment to the wellness of other African American men. Similarly, the Donovan E. Lipscomb award will be nominated by faculty, staff, or a field instructor who can attest to graduating MSW students’ commitment in either practice, scholarship and/or advocacy for the well-being of African American men in the United States. A committee will then review the nominations and the award will be named in the Spring of 2019.

The Terriel E. Cox Resilience Scholarship is open to CSUN graduate students in the Master of Social Work program or incoming students admitted to the Master of Social Work program. Terriel, a CSUN undergraduate and MSW alumna, was a fierce advocate for foster youth. Eligible students will have been part of the foster care system in their youth or impacted by the foster care system. Preference will be given to students who have an expressed desire to become an agent of change for foster youth. These new scholarships join existing department scholarships, including the Jean E. Daniels Award and the Anita S. Devore Scholarship. The Jean E. Daniels award is given to students who have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.885 or above, demonstrate excellence in social work leadership, are active in community or professional activities, such as the Social Work Society, NASW, Lobby Days, extra services to urban families, etc., and are actively engaged in pre-doctoral research projects that may lead to a future Ph.D.

The Anita S. Devore Scholarship in Social Work is given to students who have overcome significant challenges to pursue an MSW degree, demonstrate great motivation and resilience to overcome stressors to enter a rigorous MSW program, and are the first in their family to attend graduate school.

To donate, please visit the CSUN Foundation website at givenow.csun.edu. In the designation section, choose “Other” and specify the scholarship to which you’d like to contribute.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: CKLARA MORADIAN

Cklara Moradian’s passion for social work is apparent when you meet her. She is open about the work she wants to do in her community and making it a better place. An active member in the San Fernando Valley Unit of Region G, and a MSW candidate at California State University, Northridge (CSUN), Moradian recently started her second year in the program and is well on her way to becoming a great leader. Although she’s only been in the field of social services since 2016 (when she began working at an Adult Day Health Care Center (ADHC/ CBAS), she already had years of experience in the social justice realm. Prior to entering this world, she studied legal studies, worked in the nonprofit world, and spent time as a community activist/organizer.

Moradian was recently accepted into the Children’s Hospital Los Angeles Leadership Education in Adolescent Health (LEAH) program as a long-term trainee (https://www.chla.org/adolescent-and-young-adult-medicine). She will be completing this training alongside her second-year placement with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (and while remaining employed at the Adult Day Health Care Center).

Click here to read the entire article, written by NASW-CA Membership director S. Jolene Hui.