April showers bring May flowers, and May flowers bring graduation! Congratulations to all of our BSW and MSW graduates. This time of year is always very exciting as we say goodbye to our graduates and welcome our newly admitted MSW cohort. We know that our agency partners and field instructors put forth tremendous effort to guide the learning experiences that contributed to the professional growth and development of our students. I want to acknowledge all of your efforts. And we know that without skipping a beat many of you will be interviewing new students for placements that will begin next fall. Your continued commitment to our program and to the profession does not go unnoticed. We have many agencies that take our students year after year, and field instructors that offer to provide supervision with little or no compensation for the time they will spend orienting and training students. Many factors influence development of a professional identity; however, a student’s field practicum and supervisory experience certainly serve as a significant introduction to the profession. It is exciting to be part of a large effort to professionalize our workforce. It requires individuals who understand the importance of instilling confidence that will allow social workers to embrace uncertainty and difference, understanding that uncertainty is often necessary and difference is to be valued. I hope the summer will bring you opportunities to refresh, relax, and recognize what each of you have contributed to the education of our future social workers and our profession.

News From the Field Director

Annual Field Fair

A big thank you to all the agencies that participated in our Annual Field Fair in March. This year we had 45 agencies attend the event, our largest turnout to date!

This event provides students an opportunity to discuss field placement opportunities with various agencies and is a great way for students to become familiar with their options.
Tania Wood's bill update

Effective Jan. 1, 2014, all MSWs applying for a clinical license are required to have completed training or coursework in California law and professional ethics. This coursework may be embedded within more than one course and must cover certain topic areas. All California Schools of Social Work have integrated this coursework within their MSW programs, and consequently, MSW students graduating from California Schools of Social Work have met this requirement.

Additionally the California Board of Behavioral Sciences exam process has been restructured as a result of Senate Bill 821. As of Jan. 1, 2016, the two current LCSW exams will be replaced with the California Law and Ethics Exam and Association of Social Work Board (ASWB) Clinical Level Exam. ASW applicants will be required to take the Law and Ethics Exam within the first year of receiving their ASW intern number. If the applicant passes the exam, they will then continue completion of the required 3,200 hours of supervised experience and then apply for the ASWB Clinical Level Exam. If an ASW applicant does not pass the Law and Ethics Exam they will be required to complete a law and ethics course and take the Law and Ethics Exam again. The Law and Ethics Exam must be passed prior to testing for the ASWB Clinical Level Exam. The ASWB examination contains 170 multiple-choice questions; 20 of these questions are non-scored items that are being pretested for possible inclusion in future exams. Performance on the pretest items will not affect scores only the 150 remaining items are scored. More information and resources to help prepare for the new exam can be found at www.aswb.org.

Alumni: Where Are They Now?

Jacke Humphrey-Straub graduated from CSU, Chico with her BSW in 2009 and her MSW in 2012. Currently, she is working as the program manager at the Gender Health Center (GHC) in Sacramento.

GHC’s mission is to provide education, advocacy, mental health, and other health services to underserved and marginalized populations as an act of social justice with a specialization in gender identity and sexual orientation. GHC’s primary direct service is mental health counseling on a sliding scale, serving 250 people per week. GHC never turns anyone away for inability to pay and serves anyone and everyone who wants counseling services.

Jacke’s favorite part of her job is the new health advocacy program she developed and implemented as a response to the new health care policies in California, which now require that health insurance plans cover medically necessary medications and procedures for transgender individuals. Through partnerships with UC Davis School of Medicine, UC Davis Family Practice, and Legal Services of Northern California, the GHC health advocacy program is currently supporting nearly 100 transgender individuals in gaining access to medically necessary and culturally competent care, and advocating to get the care covered under private and public health insurance plans. Jacke enjoys working with a team of social workers, doctors, and attorneys to create systematic change in the health care system for transgender individuals. She believes the greatest impact is achieved when passionate and dedicated individuals come together with a shared vision.

California Licensing Updates

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Annual Employment Seminar

Preparing Students for the Job Market

Since 2005, each January has brought with it opportunities to jump start the spring semester. The Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program, in collaboration with the Mental Health Stipend Program and Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education (HPPAE), hosts an all-day employment seminar to prepare graduating social work stipend program students to successfully navigate the complex hiring process—and ultimately land that first big job post-graduation.

It’s a day full of invaluable information, as tips for applying and interviewing come straight from the source. An esteemed panel, including human resources professionals, program managers, and department directors, shares insight into the world of hiring. The panelists cover anything from first impressions, to screening applicants, to general expectations.

Next, breakout sessions specifically hone in on material related to child welfare and mental health and gerontology students. Child welfare students meet with a Merit System Services (MSS) representative, who answers questions and concerns about applying through MSS, while mental health and gerontology students learn more about an array of topics such as behavioral interviewing and preparing for licensure.

By the end of the day, faculty from the School of Social Work and community partners pair up to conduct mock interviews. Students practice their skills and demonstrate their knowledge, and for some, burn off a few nerves before a someday “real” interview.

This year was extra special because the event was held at Chico State’s Career Center, whose staff added another level of expertise to the mix. For example, while students had down time waiting for their mock interview appointments, career advisor Ken Naas met with individuals to provide personalized feedback on resumes and cover letters. Of course, the Career Center is open for drop-ins and appointments five days a week if students and graduates want to come back for more advising.

The Employment Seminar is one of many ways we provide support to our stipend recipients in fulfilling employment search and payback requirements, and this year was a success all around. Our goal is to encourage our students, build their confidence, and help bridge the gap between getting an education and getting a job!
Faculty Features

Donna Jensen Receives Her PhD!

This past February, Donna Jensen graduated from Fielding Graduate University with her PhD in human and organizational development. Her dissertation evaluated the CSU, Chico School of Social Work Distributed Learning Mentoring Program and her course work focused on research on older adults and the California Public Mental Health system.

Donna Jensen is a 1991 graduate of the CSU, Chico School of Social Work’s BSW program and received her MSW degree from Sacramento State in 1996. She currently serves as the program coordinator for the School of Social Work’s Distributed Learning Program. The driving force behind Donna’s work and school is to make higher education more accessible to our rural and geographically isolated students, which she has accomplished through the Distributed Learning Program.

“It is important to reduce the disparity between those who live close to campus and those who can’t attend campus classes on a regular basis” says Donna.

She feels that the most fulfilling part of her job is the utilization of the social justice part of social work, being able to give higher education to those that never saw it being a possibility. Many of our Distributed Learning students are not only first generation college students, but also first to attend college in their community. This program has the power to not only change people, but to change their community as well, and that is something Donna is very proud of. Donna is excited to continue her work and service in higher education.

Jean Schuldberg
Outstanding Faculty Service Award

Dr. Jean Schuldberg received the Outstanding Faculty Service Award for 2013—2014. The Outstanding Faculty Service Award is awarded annually to faculty who make significant contributions to the University, community, and their chosen profession. Schuldberg has been with the School of Social Work for over 20 years and serves as director of the Master of Social Work program and co-director for the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education.

Agency Field Instructor Words of Wisdom

Featuring Michael Courter, ASW

Michael Courter received his master’s degree from CSU, Chico in 2006. He works as a therapist at Therapeutic Solutions, a behavioral health agency in Chico.

1. **What have you learned from your student intern this year?**
   I always learn a ton from my interns. This year I learned a lot about coping with major loss of physical abilities and how a positive spirit eventually shines through life’s circumstance. I learned about how superman pose can increase your confidence and how to reclaim your territory when dealing with social anxiety. I could keep going.

2. **What might you incorporate or do differently next year?**
   I’ve been asking my coworkers what types of tasks would be good for interns. I’ve been telling them to compile a list of things they wish they could implement or do for clients but they just don’t have the time to do so that I have a lot of tasks ready to go for the intern(s) next year. We are planning to increase clinical training in specific therapeutic modalities and group co-facilitation and we want out intern(s) to help collect and analyze outcome data and do some program development work along with all the usual case management and clinical roles.

3. **Any words of wisdom for new agency field instructors?**
   I think this is a hard question because every field site has its own climate. I tend to encourage my interns to jump in with two feet right from the start, rely on their training and instincts and not be too afraid of making mistakes and getting good critical feedback. I’ve also been blessed with fantastic interns and strong support from my agency so I know not every situation can be like that. I would say that most of the interns already have a lot of experiences, abilities, and strengths and it is up to us to put them in a position where they can use those experiences and hone them along the way.
Originally from Marysville, Amanda Harris moved to Chico eight years ago to pursue her education. After overcoming many trials and tribulations in her personal life, her eyes were opened to the field of social work. Once Amanda discovered that social work could fulfill her life in ways she could never have imagined, she decided to apply for the BSW Professional Sequence at Chico State. Throughout Amanda’s undergraduate experience she was able to be the president of the social work club and volunteer with several amazing agencies such as Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention. Amanda’s senior placement was with Catalyst Domestic Violence Services in Chico. This placement was very eye opening, and instrumental to her learning. After graduating with her bachelor’s, she was accepted into the one-year Master of Social Work program at CSU, Chico. Amanda will focus on Family, Children, and Youth as she believes that working with youth and families can greatly impact the lives of many. She is truly honored to have been selected as the Social Work Outstanding Student for 2014 (BSW) and is thrilled to have the opportunity to continue her education at Chico State.

When Ellen Prose was accepted to Chico State for the MSW program, she knew it was going to be a life changing experience, but she didn’t know just how much. Ellen has had the opportunity to grow personally and professionally over the past two years. Her focus is mental health, and for her field practicum placement last year she had the opportunity to work with Glenn County Health Service as part of its Integrated Health Care Team. Ellen was able to apply her passion for working with clients holistically to address their mental and physical health problems. Growing up with a mother who was diagnosed bipolar, she learned very quickly the need for the different disciplines to be working together to provide the best health care for loved ones. Receiving Social Work Outstanding Student (MSW) is an honor for Ellen. She was unprepared as there are MANY outstanding students that she was able to share her education with. Now that Ellen has completed a lifelong goal of completing graduate school, she is going to work toward her hours to become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW).
Title IV-E Student Day

In April, seven Title IV-E Child Welfare Training students from Chico State attended the California Social Work Education Center’s (CalSWEC) annual statewide Title IV-E Student Day. Held in Riverside, California, attendees and speakers gathered together from all over the state to engage in workshops and other learning opportunities surrounding the theme “Progressive Social Work Practice: Emerging Issues in Our Communities”. Students wrestled with such topics as demystifying transgender youth, human trafficking, immigration, trauma informed practice, and teen pregnancy within foster youth.

“These emerging issues are changing and shaping the way we practice child welfare….We can assist in facilitating change in an agency,” says MSW student Cynthia Freeman, who attended Student Day and is passionate about advocating for individuals who are not heard, such as foster youth and also the growing population of children with undocumented parents, especially when child welfare intervenes.

Cynthia has a desire to work in the macro side of social work and has been gaining a deeper understanding of how policies affect individuals. Cynthia is a member of California Youth Connect (CYC), a nonprofit group of current and former foster youth, where she has been involved in bringing forth changes through policy, namely advocating for AB 12. She is eager to begin her career in child welfare and see the implementation of this legislation.

MSW student Daniella Galaviz also attended Student Day and was curious to learn more about human trafficking and foster youth. She says, “Our culture has the notion that human trafficking only occurs in third world countries, that it could not happen here [in the United States] because we have laws. But human trafficking exists in our own backyard.”

She is passionate about this population because she wants to help intervene for foster youth who are likely to become runaways and become commercially sexualized and exploited.

As Daniella begins her career in child welfare, she also looks forward to working with teen mothers in foster youth. In the workshop that focused on this population, she learned about the intergenerational cycle of entry into the child welfare system, and resources and legislative knowledge to better advocate for this at-risk population.

Cynthia and Daniella, both graduating in May with their MSW degrees, were this year’s student representatives from Chico State for the all-day conference and were involved in planning the Title IV-E Student Day. Specifically, Cynthia was tasked with obtaining vendors for the event and collecting donations to be used for door prizes and thank-you gifts for panelists, while Daniella aided in securing media coverage for the event and finding Title IV-E alumni to participate on the panel.
Thank you for a wonderful year!

Resources:

www.socialworkpulse.org
www.bbs.ca.gov
www.aswb.org