Hello and welcome to Field Notes! I am honored to be stepping in as interim field director following the retirement of Patty Hunter, who we were blessed to have as field director for the past 17 years. It is exciting to be more involved in student internship placements and working closely with our community partner agencies to promote positive learning experiences that help train our social work students to be skilled helpers and effective change agents in the world. The CSU, Chico social work program continues to see unprecedented popularity from students selecting social work as their major, and we are currently placing 196 MSW and BSW students in internships throughout the North State’s 19 county region.

Let me take a moment and share a bit about myself. I am a licensed clinical social worker and have 25 years experience working in social service agencies, including 23 years with youth and adult services at Butte County Department of Behavioral Health. I have been a part of the adjunct faculty with the School of Social Work since 2006 and have taught a range of courses including being a faculty field liaison. Additionally, I have been an agency field instructor (AFI) for 15 years working with students at the BSW and MSW level. In my time away from work, I enjoy hiking with my two rescue dogs, where they share their zest for life and adventure. I look forward to promoting positive collaborations with our community partner agencies and facilitating enriching learning opportunities for our dedicated social work students. Now is a pivotal time in our world, and it is a very meaningful role to be helping our students refine social work values and ethics in their practice settings by promoting diversity and inclusion, social justice, and honoring people with dignity and respect. Thank you!

Patrick Borel

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The supervisory relationship is an instrumental component to the successful learning experience for student interns. Enhancing this working relationship improves students’ ability to integrate their learning into practice which additionally benefits agencies and clients. This training is geared for agency field instructors and task supervisors who want to improve their supervisory skills/techniques and will explore: elements/goals of supervision, roles and responsibilities, methods of supervision, effective/ineffective supervision, feedback and evaluation, navigating conflict/challenges, and ways to support students and yourself. The presenter, Patrick Borel, is an adjunct faculty and licensed clinical social worker who has supervised students for many years. You are invited to come share your questions/ideas and explore ways to improve your supervision experience with students.

The newest addition to the School of Social Work’s administrative team is Sue Steiner who will be serving as the MSW Program Director. Sue has been with the School of Social Work for 10 years. Before coming to Chico State, Sue was at Arizona State University School of Social Work for 11 years and at Whittier College for two years. While at Arizona State she was the BSW program director for five years and the PhD program director for two years.

Sue’s areas of interest are social welfare policy and community organizing, with a focus on poverty, human and civil rights, and creating a more just, less oppressive society. She is also interested in how we can improve our teaching and how we can measure our success at meeting our goals in the classroom. As part of her interest in community organizing, Sue is involved with a number of community efforts, including the Northern California Counties Time Bank. Sue’s interest in the Time Bank is in finding ways to bring people together to support each other, help meet each other’s needs, create opportunities for social change, and reduce the need for more traditional social services.

Sue is excited to be entering a new role as the MSW program director and says, “I’m looking forward to getting to work with our whole range of MSW students, and to have the opportunity to work with students, faculty, staff, and the community to think about our curriculum and determine what types of changes might benefit us all.”
January graduated from Chico State with a BA in child development in 2006 and was hired at Northern Valley Catholic Social Service (NVCSS) in December of 2006, facilitating supervised visits with families who were receiving services with the children services in Tehama County. In 2008, she moved positions within the agency to Butte County where she provided home visitation case management services to expecting and parenting youth in the Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Program (TAPP). During that time, January also facilitated Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP) and other groups throughout Butte County and became a NPP trainer. In 2012, she was accepted into the MSW Distributed Learning (DL) program at Chico State. January received her MSW in 2015, which she is so grateful for. Without the DL program it would not have been possible for her to get an MSW degree. January has been with NVCSS for 11 years and is currently the program manager for TAPP, Promotores, Promotores Regional and groups NVCSS facilitates in Butte County Juvenile Hall. Additionally, she provides group consult to NVCSS, Butte Baby Steps home visitation program.

January has served as task supervisor and agency field instructor to multiple social work students throughout the years. In addition, she was a professional academic coach for social work students at Chico and Humboldt State. January wanted to become a field liaison because she was fortunate to have a field liaison during her program that helped her to become the social worker she is today, and January wants the opportunity to give that to someone else. She has a passion to support future social workers create a solid ethical foundation and encourage students to think outside the box to be at their fullest potential. January states that “it is amazing to watch students grow personally and professionally over the course of their field placement. I am honored to be in a field liaison position.” January is a field liaison for the BSW DL program.

Bríd began working in social services in 1998, providing services to children and families in Butte County. In 2004 Bríd completed a master’s degree in social work at California State University, Chico. Bríd was a part of the Title IV-E cohort and continued to enjoy an interesting career in social work, working with diverse populations and circumstances.

Post-graduation she was employed in child welfare at Glenn County and subsequently at California Department of Social Services (CDSS), Adoptions Unit in Chico. In 2009, Bríd began to explore another area of social work and entered a career as a medical social worker at Enloe Medical Center. During this period, she provided intensive support and advocacy for families, staff, and community members during and following medical crisis and or emergency care.

Bríd is trained in critical incident debriefing and is utilized to co-facilitate debriefings at the local hospital. Presently, she works in home care and hospice at Enloe Medical Center. Bríd is passionate about high quality direct service in social work and cares profoundly about access to care for marginalized populations. In 2014, Bríd completed criteria to become a licensed clinical social worker.

Bríd has a keen awareness of secondary trauma and its potential effects on social workers and clients. Over the years, she has worked with many graduate students of social work. It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that Bríd enters the practicum class to teach, explore, and share knowledge and experience with students, with the goal of empowering them on their journey to become strong professional social workers.

Bríd grew up in Ireland and emigrated to the United States in 1987. She enjoys running, swimming, music, and the natural environment of Northern California. Bríd is a field liaison for the MSW concentration year students.
Like our field program and the School of Social Work as a whole, the Title IV-E program is fortunate to work with amazing community partners. As a child welfare training program for both BSW and MSW students, Title IV-E relies on our partners to provide internships within public child welfare as required for IV-E students. We could not do this program without this partnership.

Title IV-E program coordinates with our community partners in many ways. Since Title IV-E students commit to working public or tribal child welfare after graduation we depend on our community partners to help with the screening process providing invaluable insight around expectations, fit, and first-hand experience. They also help with training activities by doing guest lectures, participating in workshops, and providing feedback through the advisory board process. One of the most amazing ways our partners collaborate with the Title IV-E program is by allowing us to come into the agencies and provide support in and around their internship programs, based on their needs and ideas. This has taken on many forms: structuring the intern and field instructor sections processes; providing trainings around supervision and other topics; facilitating in-agency groups; participating in agency orientations; and giving feedback to administration. We have been partnering in these ways for years, with a variety of different agencies. This year, we are working closely with two county public child welfare agencies: Butte County Children’s Services and Glenn County Child Welfare Services.

With both counties we are facilitating monthly in-agency process groups for interns. The groups are made up of both employee and non-employee based interns. This creates an exciting blend, where new and experienced social workers can share thoughts, ideas, and feelings around the work, being an intern, and how the education is aligning with their practice. Often our discussion focuses around the utilization and importance of supervision, as the field program requires one hour of supervision each week we provide education about the importance of supervision, how it can best be used, and how the interns can prepare for supervision.

In addition to the intern groups, the Title IV-E program is providing support to the agency field instructors. At the beginning of this year, we hosted trainings for both Butte and Glenn counties around supervision, solution-focused supervision strategies, and built upon the obligations of providing supervision to interns. We are also facilitating in-agency process groups for the field instructors each month. Again, this is a blend of new and seasoned field instructors, and the group is used as a space to grow supervisory skills, practice techniques, and brainstorm approaches.

The ability to partner this closely with our placement agencies has led to closer relationships and has also helped to streamline an internship process for the school, the agency, and the Title IV-E program. Most importantly, these partnerships have led to rich learning experiences for the interns and agency field instructors ultimately enhancing services to the families, youth, and children served by child welfare.
Every year the School of Social Work places our students in over 100 social service agencies around the North State. While we have the utmost appreciation for the community agencies that continue to partner with us year after year, we are also excited to add new options to our list. One of this year’s new placement opportunities was with the Chico State Basic Needs Project. The Basic Needs Project includes several campus based programs such as the Hungry Wildcat Food Pantry and CalFresh Outreach that provide assistance to students who are experiencing food insecurity. The project is also working to help students who are struggling with housing insecurity through the Displaced and Homeless Student Services and Emergency Grant Programs. Through these programs students can receive short-term emergency housing or apply for a one-time grant of $500 in a time of economic crisis.

School of Social Work faculty member Vincent Ornelas became involved with the Basic Needs Project in fall of 2016 by providing consultation to the main coordinators of these services Kathleen Moroney and Joe Picard. It was during one of these consultation meetings that they began to discuss the possibility of bringing on a social work student intern for the 2017—2018 academic year. It was apparent that this project could provide a rich learning experience for one of our students.

Out of the large cohort of over 90 BSW students, one in particular expressed interest and quickly scheduled an interview. Distributed Learning student Jessica Bowman was offered the internship position and wasted no time jumping right in, attending meetings with Vince and Joe to discuss the nuts and bolts of the program and what her role would be. Being a Distributed Learning student means that Jessica attends most of her classes in an online format so she is thrilled to be completing her internship on campus enabling her to directly interact and connect with the students.

In the first month of her placement, Jessica has already had the opportunity to develop an intake form for Displaced and Homeless Student Services, which she hopes will help provide a smooth transition for the students into housing. In addition, Jessica will be developing resources and campus contacts for students who are in need or support. Because this program is still in its infancy, Jessica is actively working on a training portfolio so that the next student intern will have a solid foundation to build on. Another exciting aspect of the internship is creating presentations aimed to further educate other programs, staff, faculty, and students on campus. Jessica is eager to share what they are doing with other programs such as Center for Health Communities and the Student Counseling and Wellness Center in order to further develop campus collaboration that will best serve our students.
Susan Roll Explores Co-Teaching Model

School of Social Work Associate Professor Susan Roll began working half time as the Director in the Office of Civic Engagement this past spring. In this role, Susan promotes interdisciplinary partnerships and interprofessional collaborations in the community in order to tackle local social issues. Susan is bringing this practice to the classroom by exploring a co-teaching model through collaboration with two colleagues in the College of Behavioral and Social Science. Roll’s SWRK 485 Social Welfare Policy, Programs, and Services, Mariah Kornbluh’s PSYC 401 Community Psychology and Jennifer Wilking’s POLS 331 Introduction to Research Methods will meet jointly for about 14 sessions throughout the fall semester and will focus these meeting times on the local issue of homelessness. The ultimate goal will be for the students to learn how research informs policy at the local level.

Some exciting components of this course are guest presenters from local community agencies such as Youth for Change, the Veteran’s Resource Center and Public Health as well as the Chico Chief of Police and a Housing First expert from Seattle. In addition, the class will participate in Chico Make a Difference Day. Make a Difference Day is a national day of service where volunteers commit their time to helping improve the lives of others. All students from this course will be volunteering their time at the Jesus Center, a local agency that provides housing, job training, and support of ongoing needs to individuals in our community.

Will Casey is one of the social work students enrolled in Susan Roll’s course. Will moved to Chico a year ago to pursue his undergraduate degree in Social Work and coming from a larger city to a smaller community the local issue of homelessness seemed to stand out more to him. Because Will plans to stay in the Chico area after graduation this is an issue that he would like to learn more about. This, in part, is what encouraged Will to enroll in this course. To be more involved in macro social work and research is important to him. The format of this course will give Will hands-on practical application as opposed to a traditional classroom setting which is exciting for him.

Since Susan also teaches a traditional format of SWRK 485, this provided a great opportunity to evaluate the co-taught section using both a pre/post test assessing social empathy, with the traditional section as the control. The co-taught course will also complete a series of mind maps at the beginning and end of the semester. Susan and her colleagues are excited to present on this course at the annual Center for Learning and Teaching (CELT) Conference this fall.
Fellow Wildcats, the BSW Club would like to thank everyone who came to our first open meeting and helped to make it a success! We would like to invite everyone to our upcoming meetings that will be held on October 19, November 16, and December 7. As a club, we strive to make our meetings beneficial to all who come, so therefore we will be offering guest speakers and trainings during our meetings. We hope to see you all there!

The BSW Club will be participating in Stand Down, located in Anderson on October 26, 27, and 28. We invite everyone to come and take advantage of this awesome opportunity with us. October 5 is the last day to purchase a ticket for dinner with a social work professor and a guest for the club’s fundraiser. Tickets are $10, or buy two get one free. The fundraiser is to help raise money to send a student to Lobby Day’s in Sacramento.

Don’t forget to follow us on Instagram and Facebook for more updates on upcoming meetings and events. We hope everyone’s semesters are off to a great start!

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Hello! On behalf of the MSW Student Association, we would like to welcome incoming MSW students, we are glad to have you in the program. We also want to congratulate all students entering their concentration year, we are thrilled to be the MSW class of 2018!

We are excited for the various opportunities the MSW Student Association is planning this year. The MSW Student Association is looking forward to attending Lobby Days on March 11—12, 2018. We will be doing fundraising events throughout the year to help MSW students attend. This year we plan on volunteering, taking field trips, and partaking in fun self-care activities. Our meetings take place on the first Thursday of each month and are a great place to network, discuss social justice issues, and get involved in community activities.

For more information or for meeting locations feel free to contact Tiffany Tran or Tamara Jordan, or you can see the latest updates on our Wildcat Sync profile. Please come join us at our next meeting, we would love to have you there!

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School of Social Work Accreditation Report

We are excited to announce that this past spring the School of Social Work’s BSW and MSW Programs were accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) for another 8 years. The entire accreditation process took a year and a half and included collaboration from the entire faculty to submit a Narrative of BSW/MSW Program Self-Study. In addition, CSWE conducted site visits by their Commission on Accreditation. Congratulations and thank you to the faculty for all their hard work throughout this accreditation cycle.

important dates

- Fall Field Instructor Training, Thursday, November 16, 9 a.m.—12 p.m., CSU, Chico Selvester’s Café
- BSW/MSW Field Fair, Thursday, February 22, 2 p.m.—4 p.m., BMU Auditorium

resources

- www.socialworkpulse.org
- www.bbs.ca.gov
- www.socialworker.com

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Today Decides Tomorrow!