A Recap of the 2009-2010 Academic Year

Student Research Day

The 5th Annual California State University, Dominguez Hills Student Research Day was held on February 18, 2010. This event provides an opportunity for graduate and undergraduate scholars to share their research or creative projects with faculty, their peers and community members. Many of our graduate students presented their work in paper and poster sessions.

Congratulations to Julie Felt (mentor, Dr. Mark Carrier), Laurenne Lewis and Brittney Parish (mentors, Dr. Silvia Santos & Dr. Maria Hurtado-Ortiz) for winning First Place in the Behavioral and Social Sciences sessions at CSUDH Student Research Day 2010.

Eric Bonilla (mentor, Dr. Keisha Paxton) and Alex Lim (mentor, Dr. Larry Rosen) won 2nd-place awards. Congratulations also to Scarlett Aufmann and Brandilynn Villarreal (mentor, Dr. Karen Mason) for winning First Place in the Poster Session. Kiyomi Yamada (mentor, Dr. Tara Victor) was the recipient of the 2nd place award. Congrats to all!

Graduate Student Accomplishments

Theses

Congratulations to Ricardo Alvarado Pacheco who successfully defended his thesis, "Religious Coping among Hispanics." Dr. Silvia Santos was the chair of his committee; Drs. Karen Mason and Jose Lopez Morin were committee members.

Marjorie Bryant also successfully defended her thesis, "The Relationship between Racial Identity and Psychological Well-Being: A Comparative Study between Black and White University Students." Her chair was Dr. Keisha Paxton; Drs. Karen Mason and Carl Sneed were members of her committee.

We also congratulate Erin Cooper who successfully defended her thesis, "Depression among African American Female College Students: Exploratory Factor Analysis of the Beck Depression Inventory-II." Dr. Keisha Paxton was her chair; Drs. Silvia Santos and Karen Mason were members of her thesis committee.
**Doctoral Programs**

Brandilynn Villarreal, (MA Psychology, 2009) was admitted into a Ph.D. program in the Department of Psychology and Social Behavior at the University of California, Irvine. She was also accepted into the Ph.D. program in Social Psychology at Pennsylvania State University.

Lynne Masson Erwin was admitted into the Health Psychology Ph.D. program at the University of California, Irvine. Her minor will be in Social Psychology/Personality.

**Outstanding Students in Psychology**

The following graduate students were recently selected as “Outstanding Psychology Students” by faculty in the Department of Psychology.

- Chaka Dodson
- Lynne Erwin
- Kiyomi Yamada

**Faculty Accomplishments**

The California HIV/AIDS Research Program recently awarded Dr. Carl Sneed with funding for his 2-year project entitled, “Parents and Children Talking: A Text-Message Intervention. Dr. Diane Henschel was awarded a Technology Advancement Program grant, which will provide funding for new computers in the Psychology laboratory. Congrats to both of them!

Dr. Karen Mason also received funding from the National Institutes of Health - National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to conduct her study entitled, "Ethnic disparities in the psychosocial and neurocognitive predictors of health outcome of HIV-infected adults;” she received $426,000 to conduct this three-year project.

Our esteemed faculty have also been busy writing books. Drs. Larry Rosen and L. Mark Carrier published, “Rewired: Understanding the iGeneration and the Way They Learn.” Dr. Silvia Santos and her colleague, Dr. Anna Ortiz, recently published, “Ethnicity in college: advancing theory and improving diversity practices on campus.”

**Psychology Brown Bag Colloquium Series**

The Master of Arts in Psychology program and The Psychology Club continue to sponsor this important series. This year, we have had some dynamic speakers!


March 12, 2010: Lekeisha Sumner, Ph.D., a psychologist from the UCLA Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences (Center for Culture, Trauma and Mental Health Disparities), presented on, “Trauma, Culture and Health: What Do We Know? And Where Should We Go? A Focus on African American and US and Foreign Born Latinas.”
May 7, 2010: Skylar Jackson, Associate Director at ENCOMPASS will be speaking on, “The Psychology of Opening Hearts and Minds: A Conversation on Contemporary Efforts to Reduce Prejudice and Spark Compassion” in Loker Student Union @ noon.

**MA Psychology Alumni News**

Katie Moulton (MA Psychology, 2005) is currently completing her Ph.D. at the Rossier School of Education, University of Southern California. Her concentration area is Educational Psychology, with a focus on Statistics and Methodology.

Tekesia Sturgis (MA Psychology, 2005) was awarded a stipend from the California Psychology Internship Council-Mental Health Services Act (CAPIC-mhsa). The stipend program supports students who are dedicated to serving clients of the publicly funded mental health system in California, and who reflect the racial, ethnic, cultural, language, and other sorts of diversity that our state proudly includes.

Nakeisha Robinson (MA Psychology, 2006) is an MFT Intern at the South Bay Center for Counseling. She is the Partnerships for Families Program Manager.

Since graduating, Kere Blair (MA Psychology 2007), travelled to Africa with the Sankofa Center and taught HIV prevention through cultural dance. She also lived in a village in Ghana, where she assisted in HIV testing and counseled individuals in the village. She is currently working as an MFT intern for Starview Community Services, where she counsels foster children between the ages of three and eighteen.

Nikki Mehdiyoun (MA Psychology, 2008) is currently employed as the Research Coordinator in a Psychotic Disorders Clinic at Indiana University.

Robert Bermudez (MA Psychology, 2008), is currently working at the Drew Child Development Corporation as a Clinical Therapist. He is also the School Based Services Supervisor.

**CURRENT EVENTS**

**BBS News**

Senate Bill (SB) 788 was signed by the Governor in October 2009, which establishes a new license category – **Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCC)**. BBS staff is working hard to establish the framework for this program. You can track the progress the Board is making to implement the LPCC program, as well as gain a basic understanding about the program by signing up for the Board’s email subscriber's list for LPCC-related information. Alternatively, you can go to www.bbs.ca.gov, and select “Subscriber List” under the Quick Hits menu. This will provide you with information on the latest developments.

**End-of-Year Social**

Dr. Mason will host an end-of-year get-together for faculty and graduate students on Saturday May 22 from 2-6pm.

Check out the link for current students in the MA Psychology Program- www.nbs.csudh.edu/psychology/students.htm

Keep up with department news on our website- www.nbs.csudh.edu/psychology/news.htm