MA Psychology UPDATE

A Recap of the 2010-2011 Academic Year

Graduate Student Accomplishments

Theses

Congratulations to Kiyomi Yamada who successfully defended her thesis, “Mindfulness in the University Classroom: The Effect of Mindful Awareness Practices (MAPs) on Student Psychological Well-being and Capacity for Learning.” Dr. Tara Victor was the chair of her committee; Drs. Karen Wilson and James Cooper (Graduate Education) were also committee members.

Teresa Maury–Darensbourg successfully defended her thesis, “Intellectual, Academic and Psychosocial Functioning in Children Diagnosed with a Learning Disorder and/or Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder.” Dr. Wilson was the chair of her committee; Drs. Santos and Hurtado-Ortiz were also members of her thesis committee.

We also congratulate Victor Tovar who successfully defended his Master’s thesis entitled, “Managerial Gender Stereotypes among Culturally Diverse College Students.” Dr. Silvia Santos was the chair of his committee; other committee members included Dr. Keisha Paxton, Dr. Karen Wilson and Dr. Elena Reigadas.

Doctoral Programs

Sandra Alfaro (MA Psychology, 2011) was admitted to the PsyD program at the University of La Verne.

Jeanne Marie McAndrews (MA Psychology, 2011) was admitted into the School of Professional Psychology’s PsyD program in Clinical Psychology at Pacific University in Oregon.

Elizabeth Romero (MA Psychology, 2011) was accepted to the Forensic Psychology program at Alliant and the PsyD program at Pepperdine University. She began her studies at Pepperdine this fall.

Alex Wike was accepted into a PhD program in Clinical Health Psychology at the University of North Texas, and she also began her studies this fall.

Ryan Hess was admitted to the Counseling Psychology PhD program at Ball State University.

Kevin Barman was admitted into the PsyD program in Forensic Psychology at Alliant University.

Ricardo Pacheco (MA Psychology, 2010) was admitted to the PhD program in Educational Psychology at Capella University.
Norma Rodriguez (MA Psychology, 2004) was admitted to the PhD program in Clinical Psychology at Saybrook University.

**Other Graduate Student Accomplishments**
Sandra Alfaro was selected as “Outstanding Graduate Student” by faculty in the Department of Psychology.

Monique Turner was awarded a $1000 PEGS Travel Scholarship to present her research at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS).

**Faculty Accomplishments/Departmental News**
CSUDH approved our proposal for the Master of Arts in Psychology program – Health Psychology Track. We plan to begin offering courses that will satisfy the requirements for this program beginning in Fall 2012.

Dr. Mark Carrier was presented with the Presidential Outstanding Professor Award at the 2011 Academic Affairs Award Reception.

**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 some dynamic speakers!

**October 7, 2011:** Tekesia Sturgis, Psy.D. presented on "Successful Parental Involvement with African American Children in Therapy."

**November 18, 2011:** A representative from Mental Health America of Los Angeles will speak about "Motivational Interviewing."

**December 2, 2011:** Dr. Dara Zafran will give a talk entitled, "When the World is Dark: Responding to Clients' Cutting and Self Harming Behaviors."

**December 9, 2011:** Alexis, Kulick, Ph.D., a clinical neuropsychologist from the Polytrauma and Pan Management Clinics of the VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System, will present on “The Role of Psychology in Pain Medicine.”

**February 3, 2012:** Azeb Bhatia, Ph.D., will be our first speaker for the Spring semester. She is the founder of the Center for Self-Transformation and an alumnus of our MA Psychology program.

**MA Psychology Alumni News**
Jennifer Olney (MA Psychology, 2007) became a licensed MFT last year. She is currently working as a DBT therapist at AACRES LLC, in Gardena; there, she works with adults with intellectual disabilities and mental health disorders (ex: schizophrenia, bipolar, BPD).

Dr. Tekesia Sturgis (MA Psychology, 2005) works at the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health as a Clinical Psychologist, Juvenile Camp Facility. Her work on Successful Parental Involvement with African American Families has been published in two newsletters.

Brandilynn Villarreal (MA Psychology, 2009) received an Honorable Mention from the Ford Foundation Fellowship Program; her application for the fellowship was deemed “sufficiently meritorious to receive special recognition.”

Maria Alfonzo (MA Psychology, 2006) became a licensed MFT last year!

Jack Beaudelaire (MA Psychology, 2004) will receive is PsyD in Marriage and Family Therapy from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in December 2011.

Check out the link for current students in the MA Psychology Program- [www.nbs.csudh.edu/psychology/students.htm](http://www.nbs.csudh.edu/psychology/students.htm)

Keep up with department news on our website- [www.nbs.csudh.edu/psychology/news.htm](http://www.nbs.csudh.edu/psychology/news.htm)