Message from The Dean
Claudia G. Peyton Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA

Welcome to the Spring '18 issue of our newsletter. The spring semester has been exciting and filled with so many great accomplishments. The accomplishments of our graduate and undergraduate student researchers are supported by the dedications of their faculty mentors who spend many hours helping students develop their talents. Mentors are so important to the development of students in preparation for research and for progress toward a career. As Oprah Winfrey stated, "A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself." During this very critical time in your development I cannot overemphasize the value of cultivating a relationship with a mentor.

"Show me a successful individual and I'll show you someone who has a real positive influence in his or her life. I don't care what you do for a living - if you do it well I'm sure there was someone cheering you on and showing you the way. A mentor." - Denzel Washington

The stories in our newsletter for this semester are a demonstration of the critical roles that mentors play in our lives and career development. I invite you to interview your favorite faculty member and ask them who helped them to achieve success and I don't doubt they will have a story of a significant mentor in their development. We all stand on the shoulders of giants that have come before us and those giants are our mentors. My mentor was a senior faculty member who was one of my course instructors before I started my teaching career in the Department of Occupational Therapy at Loma Linda University. Her name was Lynn and she helped me in so many ways.

My mentor helped me learn the culture of the professional world and encouraged me to try new and challenging opportunities. She supported me when I doubted my ability and encouraged me to continue my education towards a doctoral degree. Lynn made a difference in my life and helped me learn how to help others in the same way. We are all mentors and mentees.

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Deadlines & Important Dates

CURRENT STUDENTS

Summer 2019 Registration
March 18 - July 12

Fall 2019 Registration
April 22 - August 17

EVENTS

Commencement
Friday, May 17, 2019

New Graduate Student Orientation
August 25, 2018

GRADUATING STUDENTS

Graduate Studies Intent to Submit a Thesis/Project Form Deadlines:

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Graduate Studies Thesis Submission Deadlines:
(On-campus Students)

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Graduate Studies Office Thesis Submission Deadline:
(Distant Learning Students)

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Note: If a deadline date falls on a weekend or campus holiday (including Spring Break), the deadline shall be the first workday following the deadline. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THE DEADLINE.

APPLICATION FOR GRADUATION

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<td>Fall Semester</td>
<td>July 1</td>
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<td>Spring Semester</td>
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<td>Last Day of Fall Semester</td>
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<td>Summer Session</td>
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I received my undergraduate degree in Business Marketing from California State University, Long Beach and earned my MBA from California State University, Dominguez Hills.

How did you decide on your doctoral program?
The area of study I entered was management/organizational behavior and the schools I applied to offered the program. More importantly, the schools had a specific faculty member that was already doing researching in the area of interest and was able to mentor an incoming graduate student. When applying to programs, make sure there is one faculty member who has the same research interests as you. This will help you when writing your application, and will make your committee chair selection much easier when it's time to form your program committee.

If you could trade places with any person for one day, who would it be and why?
Last year when I interned in the Diversity and Inclusion department at NBC Universal, I had an incredible boss who fought for more diverse screenwriters, directors, and producers within the television industry. She was personable, eloquent, and very emotionally cognizant. She was the only female manager in the department, but that didn't stop her from expressing her point-of-view and working towards what she believed. I would trade places with her for one day to see how a manager in her role can make a difference in the corporate world.

How did you decide on university selection for your doctoral program?
I decided on Washington State University because there were two faculty members who were currently conducting research in the areas of interpersonal workplace aggression and restorative justice (two areas of research that I am extremely interested in). Both faculty members are now on my program committee!
Additionally, when I interviewed at WSU, I really felt like I would work well within the department and with other PhD students.

What was your experience with Student Research Day?
Student Research Day was a terrific opportunity to present my research and a great platform to practice my presentation skills. Student Research Day 2016 was the first time I presented research in front of an audience, and I was extremely nervous! However, I won first place in my session! After Student Research Day, I had the confidence I needed to present my research at multiple conferences. In 2017, I won second place in my course.
Institutional Review Board News
Implementation of Revised Common Rule is Delayed

What’s happening?

The Office of Human Research Protections announced that proposed revisions to the "Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects" (also known as the Common Rule), which were originally scheduled to become effective on January 21, 2019, have been delayed. The majority of provisions in the Revised Common Rule are now set to take effect on July 21, 2019.

Why has the implementation date been delayed?

The delay will give IRB offices across the country more time to prepare their implementation tools and processes. It will also allow federal departments and agencies more time to review public comments regarding a proposal for delaying the compliance date even further.

How should CSUDH researchers prepare for the Revised Common Rule?

Keep an eye out for communications from the IRB office. As we ramp up our preparations to implement the provisions in the Revised Common Rule, the IRB office will send updates about upcoming changes to policies, procedures, and materials to help our campus.
Thesis Submission and Procedure

In its effort to enhance access to knowledge and information, CSUDH has transitioned to ScholarWorks.

What is ScholarWorks?

CSUDH ScholarWorks is part of a broader CSU initiative. ScholarWorks is a digital archive designed to capture, preserve, and make available research, creative works, and the administrative output of CSUDH.

Why ScholarWorks?

CSUDH ScholarWorks permanently preserves student work in a central location. ScholarWorks allows collections to be “harvested” by other databases and included in multi-institutional searches, which means that work submitted is available for discovery on any major search engine. Not only does ScholarWorks allow CSUDH to decrease its carbon footprint by eliminating a paper trail, but also allows students to open-access publish their work for FREE.

Note: The transition to digital publication has taken some time to insure accessibility for all. Thesis publication, as a result, is behind schedule, but the Library and the Office of Graduate Studies and Research are working to make previously submitted theses available.
Thesis Submission and Procedure

CSUDH has transitioned to a completely digital, online thesis/project submission and review process. Below you can find a step-by-step guide for submitting your thesis/project for approval and publication.

Review

**STEP 1:** Register your intent to submit a thesis or project with the Office of Graduate Studies and Research by completing and turning in the Intent to Submit Thesis/Project Form:

https://www.csudh.edu/gsr/graduate-studies/thesis/

This form can be hand-delivered to the Office of Graduate Studies and Research (WH-445) or emailed to thesis@csudh.edu.

Graduate Studies Intent to Submit a Thesis/Project Form Deadlines:

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**STEP 2:** Make sure that all committee members of your thesis/project have sent their approvals to thesis@csudh.edu a week before the thesis/project submission deadline.

**STEP 3:** Once your Intent to Submit Thesis/Project Form and all three committee approvals have been received, you will be notified via email to upload your manuscript for review.

**STEP 4:** The Thesis Reviewer will read and annotate your thesis/project for necessary revisions. You can revise as many times as necessary before the university publication deadline. Once all required changes to grammar/format have been made, the Thesis Reviewer will send you a final approval email.
In other Grant news...

Introducing Brigette Brown our newly appointed, Thesis & Grant Review Coordinator “As Thesis & Grant Review Coordinator, my role is to serve as faculty support through the grant submission process by providing proposal editing, proofreading, and writing when needed. My expertise lies in and around the arts. I’ve had experience grant writing and editing for several nonprofit arts, design, and architecture organizations with successful funding solicitations from foundations, corporations and government agencies.

I hold a Master of Fine Arts degree in Design Criticism from the School of Visual Arts in New York City and a Bachelor of Art degree in Studio Art-Graphic Design from California State University, Long Beach.” -Brigette Brown

McNair Scholars

McNair Conference

During the fall semester, Gabriela Galvez (Sociology, mentored by Dr. Joanna Perez), McNair Alum and CSUDH Grad Student, Ivett Gabriela (Clinical Psychology), Natalya Cardona (Biology, mentored by Dr. Begona De Velasco) and Esmeralda Rubacalva-Medina (Sociology, mentored by Dr. Gretel Vera-Rosas) presented at the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) conference. In April 2018, scholars attended Western Psychological Association Annual Conference in Portland, Oregon.

Jacqueline Hernandez (Psychology), and Stephany Ortiz-Chavez (Health Science) co-presented their study, mentored by Dr. Erin Merz, What is the Relationship Between Ethnic Identity, Diabetic Family History, and Knowledge about Diabetes? Amaranta Ramirez (Psychology), mentored by Dr. L. Mark Carrier, presented her study Examining Social Herding Behavior on Social Media in College Students.

From left: Scholars Gabriela Galvez, CSUDH, Ivett Gabriella (McNair Alum), Esmeralda Rubacalva-Medina, Natalya Cardona at SACNAS 2017

Pictured left to right: Dr. Michelle Waiters Martinez, Director-CSUDH McNair Scholars Program; Nancy Hernandez, Political Science; Bryan Cantero, Chicano Studies; Stephanie Ortiz – Chavez, Health Science; Giselle Salinas, '18 CSUDH Psychology Graduate/ UC Riverside PhD student, Special Education; Dr. Thomas Parham, incoming CSUDH President; Ajay Stephens, English; Tiana Gripper, Psychology/Africana studies; Robert Head, Africana Studies/Psychology; Thao Nguyen, History

CSUDH McNair scholars meet with incoming CSUDH president, Dr. Thomas Parham on a campus visit to UC Irvine’s Graduate Division.
Summer 2018 Research Program Acceptance  
(as of March 2018, more to come)

Scholar: Natalya Cardona  
Major: Biology  
McNair Faculty Mentor: Dr. Begona De Velasco  
Summer Research Program: Pennsylvania State University, Research Opportunities Program

Scholar: Gabriela Galvez  
Major: Human Services  
McNair Faculty Mentor: Dr. Joanna Perez  
Graduate School: University of Michigan  
Graduate Program: M.A. in Social Work

Scholar: Gustavo Garcia  
Major: Philosophy  
McNair Faculty Mentor: Dr. Brian Gregor  
Graduate School: University of California, Riverside  
Graduate Program: Ph.D. in Philosophy

Scholar: Janet Ibarra  
Major: Chicana/o Studies  
McNair Faculty Mentor: Dr. Corina Benavides Lopez  
Graduate School: University of California, Los Angeles  
Graduate Program: M.A. in Education, Teacher Preparation

Scholar: Magaly Ordonez  
Major: Chicana/o Studies & Sociology  
McNair Faculty Mentor: Dr. Corina Benavides Lopez  
Graduate School: University of Minnesota  
Graduate Program: Ph.D. in Feminist Studies

Scholar: Giselle Salinas  
Major: Psychology  
McNair Faculty Mentor: Dr. Phu Phan  
Graduate School: University of California, Riverside  
Graduate Program: Ph.D. in Sociocultural Anthropology

Scholar: Alejandro Regla Vargas  
Major: Chicana/o Studies  
McNair Faculty Mentor: Dr. Corina Benavides Lopez  
Graduate School: University of Pennsylvania  
Graduate Program: Ph.D. in Sociology

Scholar: Jesus E. Gonzalez  
Major: Spanish Linguistics  
McNair Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Galant  
Summer Research Program: University of Arizona-Undergraduate Research Opportunities Consortium Summer Research Institute

Fall 2018 Graduate School Acceptance  
(as of March 2018, more to come)

Scholar: Gabriela Galvez  
Major: Human Services  
McNair Faculty Mentor: Dr. Joanna Perez  
Graduate School: University of Michigan  
Graduate Program: M.A. in Social Work

Scholar: Janet Ibarra  
Major: Chicana/o Studies  
McNair Faculty Mentor: Dr. Corina Benavides Lopez  
Graduate School: University of California, Los Angeles  
Graduate Program: M.A. in Education, Teacher Preparation

Scholar: Magaly Ordonez  
Major: Chicana/o Studies & Sociology  
McNair Faculty Mentor: Dr. Corina Benavides Lopez  
Graduate School: University of Minnesota  
Graduate Program: Ph.D. in Feminist Studies

Scholar: Giselle Salinas  
Major: Psychology  
McNair Faculty Mentor: Dr. Phu Phan  
Graduate School: University of California, Riverside  
Graduate Program: Ph.D. in Sociocultural Anthropology

Scholar: Alejandro Regla Vargas  
Major: Chicana/o Studies  
McNair Faculty Mentor: Dr. Corina Benavides Lopez  
Graduate School: University of Pennsylvania  
Graduate Program: Ph.D. in Sociology

Scholar: Jesus E. Gonzalez  
Major: Spanish Linguistics  
McNair Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Galant  
Summer Research Program: University of Arizona-Undergraduate Research Opportunities Consortium Summer Research Institute
GRANTS SUBMITTED
June 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Congratulations to our Principal Investigators!

Berkowitz, Shari
National Science Foundation/Michigan State University
Collaborative Research: The Effects of Sleep Deprivation on Racial Bias in Legal Decision Making

Franklin, William and Smith, William
College Futures Foundation
CSU Young Men of Color Forum

Hall, Jenney
CSU Chancellor's Office
Dominguez Hills Organic Food Garden

Kalayjian, Pat
National Endowment for the Humanities
Catharine Maria Sedgwick Online Letters Project

Kram, Karin
NASA
Microbial metabolic strategies, physiology and adaptive evolution at the low-energy limit to life

Kulkarni, Saili
Spencer Foundation
Teaching and Learning

McKnight, Cheryl and Pineda, Sergio
College Compact
Building Engagement and Defining Courage

Needham, Susan
College Compact
Understanding the impact of discourse systems on civil engagement

Norman, Thomas
CSU Chancellor’s Office
Campus Utility Visualization and Awareness Campaign

Peralta, Terry
Allergan Foundation, Community HELP
Community-based Health Enhancement Lifestyle Program

Price, Vivian
College Compact
Climate Crisis and the Future of Work

Sinha, Ashish
National Science Foundation
Characterizing the Indian Monsoon Multidecadal Variability Under Different Climate Boundary Conditions over the last 150,000 Years

Smith, Matthew
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Male Success Alliance

Spagna, Michael and Avila, Mitch
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship

Spagna, Michael, O'Donnell, Ken and Hill, Jim
CSU Chancellor’s Office
Advancing Faculty Diversity

Still, Patrick
San Diego State University/National Science Foundation I-Corps Site: A Biological Sciences Site for the California State University

Tang, Bin
National Science Foundation
CAREER: A Framework for Policy-Driven Data Clouds

Thangavel, Arumugam
American Chemical Society
Redox Activity of Phenalenyl Derivatives and their Host-Guest Complexes with Cucurbituril

Thangavel, Arumugam
National Science Foundation
RUI: Redox Active Host-Guest Complexes of Cucurbit[n]uril
Introducing Valencia Teems our newly appointed Senior Sponsored Research & Programs Analyst, Sponsored Research and Programs. Valencia graduated from CSU Dominguez Hills in 2000 with a BA in Liberal Studies. She began her career in 2001 at the University of Southern California in the Contracts and Grants department. Continuing with USC until 2014 in the Viterbi School of Engineering.

In 2014, she worked for CSU Long Beach in the Research and Foundation department as a Contracts & Grants Administrator. Valencia has done a full circle and has returned to the CSUDH family in the Office of Graduate and Research Department.

As an appointed Analyst her role is working with contracts and grants, managing data for external proposals and awards, and internal awards in the pre- and post-award units. Valencia Teems works collaboratively with pre- and post-award staff, as well as other campus units such as Financial Services, Human Resources, Information Systems & Technology, Office of the Provost and Compliance Office.
Student Research Day 2018

Toro research continues its upward swing, as evidenced by the 13th annual CSUDH Student Research Day. This event is the largest research event held on campus each year. This year, 367 students participated in 227 presentations from departments across the campus. As always, there was tremendous participation by the faculty and staff; 83 faculty acted as research mentors to the students, while over 120 faculty and staff served as judges, roundtable moderators, and session chairs.

The keynote address was given during the luncheon on Thursday by Dr. Xhercis Méndez, Assistant Professor in Philosophy, African American Studies and African Studies at Michigan State University. Dr. Méndez, a CSUDH alum, former McNair scholar, and Clark Fellow, gave an inspirational talk on her path from CSUDH to Michigan, and how working in research has shaped her life and career.

This year’s event was supported by the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost, the Office of Graduate Studies and Research, the Office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity, as well as by Shell and BoxedWater.

Xhercis Méndez received her doctorate in Philosophy, Interpretation and Culture Program at Binghamton University, Michigan along with certificates in Feminist Theory and Latin American and Caribbean Area Studies.
The following students were selected to represent CSUDH at the 32nd Annual CSU Student Research Competition on May 4-5, 2018 at CSU Sacramento

Behavioral and Social Sciences

Ray Jaquez, Psychology
"Design Your Life: Evaluating a Course to Help Students Transition from College into their First Career"
Faculty Mentor: Heather Butler, Psychology

Ian Klinger, Sociology
"Age Matters: Differences in predictors of self-reported adherence between older and young Black men who have sex with men"
Faculty Mentor: Matthew Mutchler, Sociology

Andrew Luu, Psychology
"Life History Theory on Gratification, Education, and Socioeconomic Status"
Faculty Mentor: Kevin Dooley, Psychology

Computer Science and Engineering

Alexander Wittmond, Computer Science
"The Design and Implementation of a Function Reactive Game Engine"
Faculty Mentor: Serban Raianu, Mathematics

Creative Arts

Catrina Mendoza, Art and Design
"A Visual Insight into a 'Deadly Weapon'"
Faculty Mentor: Devon Tsuno, Art and Design

Education

Juan Lugo, Teacher Education
"Troubling Masculinities: Implications for Engaging Male Students of Color"
Faculty Mentor: Edward Curammeng, Teacher Education

Health, Nutrition, and Clinical Sciences

Katherine Simon and Thao Thai, Occupational Therapy
"A Photovoice Study Exploring Falls Among Older Adults"
Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

Kevin Yang, Sara Paik, Callie Woods, Occupational Therapy
"Immigrant Parents Perception of Care: A Phenomenological Study"
Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

Parker Zak, Nicole Mosser, Christine Quach, Occupational Therapy
"I am a Quilter': An Ethnographic Study"
Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

Humanities and Letters

Cambria Rodriguez, History
"Bringing Wealth and Water to the City of Angels: Transforming Los Angeles' Physical Landscape into an Anglo Vision"
Faculty Mentor: Doris Namala, History
Forgotten your dress shoes, borrowing shoes in your size from another presenter...PRICELESS!

Cambria Rodriguez won 1st place - Bringing Wealth and Water to the City of Angels: Transforming Los Angeles’ Physical Landscape into an Anglo Vision 1885-1930
CSU 34th Annual Student Research Competition at Sacramento State
May 4-5, 2018
It has been over a decade since Alex Wittmond and Ian Klinger had seen each other. Little did they know that both are attending CSUDH. This year, Ian and Alex were two of the ten presentators from Student Research Day 2018 that were selected to compete at the 32nd Annual CSU Student Research Competition. Each student was assigned a roommate randomly, and Ian and Alex were paired together. Ian recognized Alex's name and was able to figure out through a Christmas card from several months earlier and pictures on the CSUDH Student Research Day website, that his roommate was his father’s coworkers' son whom he hadn't seen in many years.

Ian and Alex enjoyed the trip and the chance to reacquaint themselves with each other in Sacramento.

It was over 35 years ago that Alex's father and Ian's father were hired by the same company. Alex's mother joined the company soon after. When Alex's parents were married, Ian's parents attended their wedding. They, and a few other coworkers; became good friends, and would have gatherings where they would all bring their young children along (including Alex and Ian). As the children became teenagers, the gatherings became less frequent. The fathers continued to work together at different stages throughout their careers.
Mentorship in the CSUDH Occupational Therapy Department

When I entered the occupational therapy department at CSUDH, I was thrilled because I was aware of our excellent reputation for preparing students to serve a wide variety of clients. I was not aware, however, of the unique design of this program for developing students as researchers. I cannot overstate how much this has enriched my education.

Before being a student, I had minimal knowledge conducting research. During the first few weeks of the program, I read and evaluated articles in science journals. At such an early stage in my professional development, I was shocked to find out I would be conducting original research during the second semester. I thought this would surely be impossible. How would we figure out an idea? How would we recruit participants?

Mentorship is what steered me forward. The mentorship program at CSUDH is designed to support students throughout the research process. Faculty mentor Dr. Claudia Peyton has a framed image in her office of a tranquil European canal, which is a reminder to select the most straightforward course. A good research mentor understands that it is easy for students to moor themselves to a halt with all the small details. Dr. Peyton familiarized me with the IRB process, advised on methodology, and patiently combed through multiple drafts of the research paper, my research partner Thao Thai, and I worked on, which steadily swelled to 40 pages in length.

For a topic, my research partner Thao and I decided to ask older adults to describe their falls experience through photography. Falls among older adults is a crucial health topic, addressed by occupational therapists because it is commonplace, under-discussed, and can lead to dire consequences. Thao and I were both art majors as undergraduates, so employing a creative medium such as photography with our recruits was familiar territory for us. We were surprised by our success in recruiting eight participants. These generous and knowledgeable older adults became another set of mentors for us; capturing so much nuance surrounding our topic through their photographs. We watched the magic of a project like this transforming from a faint idea to a vivid actuality.

After six months, it was time to present at CSUDH 13th Annual Student Research Day. An excellent culmination of efforts was on display, with all of us in the occupational therapy department and many students from other departments presenting their work. Some of us had the privilege to go on to the next level at the 32nd Annual CSU Student Research Competition in Sacramento, where we were able to witness the best of student research in our CSU system. It was hard to believe how far we had come. Research no longer seemed an impossibility, but instead, now a source of limitless possibilities.

Do you know about occupational therapy?
- Occupational therapists use the everyday meaningful activities (occupations) of their clients to help them function in all of their environments.
- For example, an occupational therapist might help a CSUDH student with a health condition or other barrier to acquire funding for tuition, to enroll in classes, and to arrange housing nearby with a routine for basic needs like meal preparation and laundry. The occupational therapist can also assist the student with transportation issues, to adopt technology for the classroom and at home, and even to connect with social supports.
Emily San Diego received the “Thesis of the Year” award for her study “Type 2 Diabetes Knowledge, Fatalism, and Type 2 Diabetes-Related Health Behaviors in College Students.” Emily’s thesis focused on type 2 diabetes prevention – a topic that she has heartfelt devotion to. Along with a dedicated team of undergraduate research assistants (many thanks to Jacqueline Hernandez, Bridget Hidalgo, Stephany Ortiz Chavez, and Carlos Villalobos), Emily collected data on over 300 college students and evaluated whether knowledge about diabetes and an individual’s sense of personal control over their health were linked with risky health behaviors.

Emily found that individuals with high diabetes knowledge consumed a healthy diet only when they felt they had more control over their health. That is, even very knowledgeable people reported having a poorer diet if they felt that their health outcomes were out of their control. Emily’s findings suggest that health educators should consider people’s beliefs about their health and disease risk, rather than the traditional model, which focuses on providing information about the link between health behaviors and disease.

Emily San Diego received her undergraduate degree in Psychology at CSUDH, and continued to work on her graduate degree, a Master’s degree in Clinical Psychology. She developed as a student and a scholar, and an ideal graduate student in the lab – she is bright, motivated, hardworking, and takes every opportunity to learn something new. During her time in the master’s program Emily also went on to make three presentations at the Society of Behavioral Medicine conference, in addition to several CSUDH Student Research Day presentations. Emily is now moving on to pursue her Ph.D. in Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Memphis in Fall 2018. There is no doubt she will continue on a trajectory of excellence and I look forward to her future successes in the years to come.

Erin L. Merz, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology
Project of the Year

Juliana Soto’s project, “The Healthy Living Project: Dealing with ‘The Gay Dilemma’, Gay Men Living with HIV in Los Angeles” represents the heart of our mission at CSUDH and within the department of Sociology as it is a community collaborative project with social service agencies designed to improve the lives of people living with HIV in Los Angeles County. Her project was conducted in collaboration with many students at CSUDH as part of active hands-on research taking place within the Urban Community Research Center (UCRC), with faculty mentorship. The recommendations from this work will be utilized by AIDS service organizations and the City Office of AIDS to help plan and provide services to the South Bay and other regions of Los Angeles County.

Juliana Soto earned her undergraduate degree in sociology at CSUDH and continued on to work on her graduate degree, a Master’s degree in Sociology. She comes from a background with significant economic and social challenges. In fact, Juliana had to seek work outside of her academic coursework, as an undergraduate and a graduate student, but yet she still excelled in our programs. Juliana is extremely motivated to learn about research methods and has worked on several productive research studies with different faculty members, expanding her skills and interests in areas of research methods. She worked as a lab assistant in the Urban Community Research Center at CSUDH, where she helped other students with their scholarly work. She has also presented her work several times at Student Research Day.

Since current general social services for older adults in Los Angeles do not address the needs of older gay men living with HIV (OGMLWH), it is crucial to understand the specific needs of OGMLWH in major metropolitan region like Los Angeles, where high-risk groups like men who have sex with men (MSM) continue to be disproportionately high. Significant changes in HIV treatment options over the last decade have helped OGMLWH to live longer and healthier lives, shifting concerns from short-life expectancies and numerous physical health problems to understanding challenges with co-morbidities and mental health. In addition, OGMLWH experience added social and psychological challenges related to the aging process, such as isolation, HIV/AIDS-related stigma, age-related stigma, and lack of social support. As a result, her project is significant because the findings may be used to develop and inform culturally tailored HIV prevention and testing/treatment programs for OGMLWH in Los Angeles. As the primary author of this project, Juliana Soto focused on the OGMLWH in the study (focus groups were conducted with other populations) and took the lead in writing this project narrative for her culminating project in the Master’s program at CSUDH, Sociology.

Dr. Matthew G Mutchler
Professor, Sociology
Director, Urban Community Research Center
Have a Great Summer!

CSUDH GRADUATE STUDIES & RESEARCH