Welcome to the School of Social Work (SSW) fall 2009 newsletter! This is a particularly challenging time for SJSU and the SSW. State revenue shortfalls have created a budget crisis for the CSU. SJSU is currently experiencing a 41 million dollar cut this year and will face an additional 12% cut next year. As a result, faculty, staff, and administrators are furloughed 2 days a month—meaning they will be working two days a month less and will be paid two days less each month. Our budget this year is 20% less than last year. This means we have fewer instructors and fewer classes. With the same number of students, the result is larger classes for both undergrad and graduate students. We regret all of this and while we cannot change the current budget situation, we are strongly committed to doing everything we can to maintain the high quality of our programs.

Budget crises are not new in California, but the current one is particularly severe and affects every aspect of life for all. Times like these, more than ever require a workforce of highly skilled and knowledgeable social workers who can truly make a difference in our communities. Our students are the future of the social work profession and we are committed to providing them with a positive educational experience, in spite of the current fiscal challenges. We are extremely proud of our students and graduates for the work they do to create a better society for all.

In this issue of our newsletter you will read about some of the exciting things that are happening in the SSW. The new Center on Healthy Aging for Multicultural Populations (CHAMP) was founded by faculty in the SSW and has become a campus-wide center that will be the hub for research, curriculum development, and community collaboration for the region. We have also launched a partnership with Vietnam National University in Hanoi. SSW faculty members have traveled to Hanoi to present our curriculum and to teach social work courses to social workers and professionals from all parts of the country. We are now featuring an alumni spotlight in our issue, and are pleased to begin with Barbara Watkins, SSW Outstanding Alumna for 2009!

GREETINGS FROM DR. ALICE HINES, SSW DIRECTOR

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to Barbara Watkins SSW Outstanding Alumna for 2009-10! Ms. Watkins received her BASW in 1982 and her MSW in 1984 from the SSW. She has been employed at Santa Clara Social Services since 1985 and is currently a Social Work Supervisor in the agency’s Department of Children and Family Services (DFCS). Since 1989, she has been coordinating the Student Internship Program at DFCS, and has the opportunity to directly supervise over 100 MSW student interns from the SSW. In 1997, the SSW awarded her with the Dorothy Miller Outstanding Field Instructor of the Year. From 1995 to 1999, she was part-time faculty for the SSW as a classroom instructor in the undergraduate social work program, and from 1999 to the present as a Faculty Field Liaison in the MSW program. In 1994, she presented at a national conference...
VIETNAM

During the past two years the SSW has been engaged in developing a partnership with Vietnamese National University (VNU) Hanoi, University of Social Sciences and Humanities (USSH). The goals of this collaboration are threefold: to provide training and education for social work professionals and academics in Vietnam; to assist in developing the first masters level social work program in Vietnam; and to develop a cross-cultural exchange program with faculty and students to expand our own curriculum and to encourage faculty development and research.

In June 2008, a delegation consisting of four SSW faculty members was invited to VNU where we presented our curriculum and information about SJSU and the SSW and also attended a conference held in our honor to learn about social work in Vietnam, as well as pressing social problems. We met with the rector and faculty of USSH to discuss the development of a master in social work program. In January 2009, and again in the summer 2009, SSW faculty were invited to teach intensive courses in social work practice and theory to new social work professionals and educators. In spring 2009, Dr. Alice Hines, Professor Tuan Tran and Charles Bullock, Dean of the College of Applied Sciences and Arts (CASA) visited Hanoi to sign a formal MOU between CASA and VNU to solidify our partnership and further our collaboration. At that time, we also worked with faculty in the USSH to develop a concept paper for a grant submission to USAID that we hope will fund the development of the master’s program over a five-year period.

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CHAMP

Dr. Sadhna Diwan has been appointed Director of the newly established Center on Healthy Aging in Multicultural Populations (CHAMP) which is housed in the College of Applied Sciences & Arts.

Background & Mission:
Older adults in the San Francisco Bay area are extremely diverse in terms of needs and resources available to promote and maintain physical and psychological wellbeing. Differences in socioeconomic status, English language proficiency, and access to health care and community services call for research to understand the unique needs of a multicultural population and the development of community-based interventions to promote healthy aging. The mission of the Center is to promote healthy aging among multicultural populations living in the San Francisco Bay area. With faculty affiliates from all academic disciplines at SJSU, the Center facilitates interdisciplinary applied research, education and training, and strategic partnerships with community-based organizations working with older adults.

Center Activities:
The Center hosted two research colloquia in the past year with faculty presentations from a variety of disciplines including Communicative Disorders; Hospitality, Recreation, & Tourism Management; Nursing; Nutrition; Social Work; and Sociology.

CHAMP affiliated faculty, Sang Lee and Sadhna Diwan (School of Social Work) and Daryl Canham (School of Nursing) received a CASA Incentive Grant to launch a pilot study titled

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RYFI

Dr. Emily Bruce, Associate Professor is the founding Director of the San José State University Research Institute for Foster Youth Initiatives (RIFYI). The institute is pleased to offer a new perspective regarding the issues facing children and youth living in out-of-home care. The RIFYI is taking a unique approach to exploring the concerns of those who have grown up in care by providing a multi-disciplinary approach to exploring the issues of children and youth in care. Launched in 2009, San José State University’s Research Institute for Foster Youth Initiatives grew out of a critical need for research that increases the understanding of the relationship between child welfare practices and the educational and life outcomes for children and youth living in out of home care (which includes foster care, group care, and kin care). The Research Institute directly explores child welfare systems and practices and informs public policy makers and service providers in order to effect positive systems change. What makes the Research Institute a unique effort is our multi-disciplinary focus in answering questions and our direct attempt to address the concerns of those who have

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**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**

**HEARST SCHOLAR**

SJSU student Veronica Luna has received a 2008-2009 William Randolph Hearst/California State University Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement. She plans to receive a master’s in social work and become a prison chaplain. Luna volunteers for the prison system, where she educates and ministers to high-profile gang members. She is also a proud first-generation college graduate. Each year, the CSU Board of Trustees provides scholarships to high achieving students who have demonstrated financial need and overcome profound personal hardships to attain an education from the CSU. These students have superior academic records and are also providing extraordinary service to their communities. All of this year’s Hearst Scholars, one from each CSU campus, were recognized Tuesday, September 16, at the CSU board meeting in Long Beach.

**NASW AFFILIATES**

School of Social Work 2008 graduate Jennifer Tan attended her first Board of Directors meeting / leadership retreat with NASW CA, in June 2009. Jennifer is the newly elected Secretary of the Board.

Current student Luisa Villagomez, a 2nd year MSW at SJSU, has been elected to be Student Director, North.

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK: MEXICO**

SJSU and the College of Applied Sciences and Arts has placed emphasis on developing relationships internationally. Both undergraduate and graduate SW students have expressed interests in study abroad opportunities. Last summer the SSW sponsored Field Education Director Katie Galvin’s travel to Mexico to explore potential opportunities for social work students there. Katie met with representatives from two institutions of learning: CETLALIC (Spanish Language School in Cuernavaca) and the Escuela Nacional de Trabajo Social at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) in Mexico City. A variety of options exist for developing learning experiences specific to SW students.

As a pilot project this year, the School of Social Work is working closely with CETLALIC to develop summer programs in which students will have the opportunity to develop Spanish language skills, learn about social work and social service operations in Mexico, and become familiar with potential volunteering in community organizations. Students will learn about cultures and traditions specific to Mexico. To learn more, Katie will be hosting a Brown Bag Seminar later this semester.

**FACULTY SPOTLIGHT**

Congratulations to Dr. Sadhna Diwan, CASA Outstanding Scholar 2009-10! Dr. Diwan joined the faculty in fall 2005 as Assistant Professor. She was given early tenure and promotion in 2006. Prior to coming to SJSU, she had been a tenured faculty member in the SSW at Georgia State University and a Senior Research Associate and Lecturer, School of Social Services Administration at the University of Chicago. Dr. Diwan’s research contributes to the further understanding of physical, social and mental health needs of the frail elderly, particularly in Asian immigrant communities. Her work has critical relevance for policy, practice and education in the areas of gerontology, geriatrics, and social welfare. Dr. Diwan has published 34 scholarly articles, many of which appear in top tier journals in the fields of gerontology and geriatrics. She has given presentations at over 30 professional conferences and has given 24 invited presentations. Dr. Diwan has had 16 funded research projects amounting to over $900,000. She has written numerous research reports, book chapters, and online publications for the Gero Ed Center at the Council on Social Work Education. She is currently Principal Investigator of a $1,500,000 four-year grant (2007-2010) titled Increasing Gerontological Competencies in MSW Advanced Curriculum Areas, (MAC Project) awarded by the John A. Hartford Foundation to the Council on Social Work Education. She is a council member of the Stanford Geriatric Education Center, School of Medicine, Stanford University and serves on the editorial board of a scholarly journal titled the Clinical Gerontologist. She was recently elected as a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and is founding Director of the new SJSU Center on Healthy Aging in Multicultural Populations (CHAMP).
Social work is an underdeveloped field in Vietnam. As the country moves further away from an agricultural society towards a more industrial one, the need for a social welfare infrastructure is growing. The SSW with its thirty-five years of experience in providing education and training for social workers and its unique transcultural mission is in an excellent position to provide the faculty of USSH in Vietnam with information critical to developing a strong program and social work curriculum. San Jose is home to the largest Vietnamese community outside of Vietnam, thus first-hand experience is extremely valuable for faculty development and classroom instruction. We hope to develop student and faculty exchanges with USSH which will enable the transfer of information and the development of a deep sense of cross-cultural competence.

“Exploring the interface of culture, social factors, health literacy and health promotion among older Chinese, Vietnamese, and Asian Indian immigrants with limited English proficiency.”

CHAMP affiliated faculty from various disciplines (Sadhna Diwan & Sang Lee – Social Work; Toby Adelman – Nursing; Tamar Semerjian – Kinesiology) are completing a needs assessment and health promotion intervention project to maintain wellbeing of residents of a low-income independent living facility. Results of this project will be presented in Spring 2010.

In the coming academic year, CHAMP will be hosting additional research colloquia, seeking opportunities for research funding, making presentations to the community at large, and establishing partnerships with key agencies in the community that serve older adults to further its mission of promoting healthy aging in multicultural populations.

Look for CHAMP activities and news on our website www.sjsu.edu/CHAMP. If you would like to receive information via email about activities related to healthy aging on the SJSU campus email us at: Champ@casa.sjsu.edu

(CSWE) on University-Agency Partnerships. She has participated on numerous committees on behalf of the SSW (e.g., Title IV-E Stipend committee, Title IV-E Advisory Board, Field Advisory Committee, and Alumni Committee for re-accreditation). She has been a member of the SJSU Alumni Association since graduating with her MSW. She has also participated in the SJSU Faculty Mentor Program. She is always willing and happy to help support and guide the educational development of San Jose State students.

Thank you, Barbara!
The SSW continues to do great things that have an impact on our community. This is due in large part to our alumni and faculty who have contributed to the outstanding reputation of the school. As we look to sustain our programs and plan for the future, we are reaching out to our alumni and friends like we have never done before. Your involvement and support will create a legacy of excellence for the SSW. We have just celebrated the university’s 150th anniversary, and are now positioning ourselves for the next 150 years.

We are looking to enhance research opportunities both locally and nationally, support further faculty development, and increase student support. You can make a difference in the lives of students by supporting faculty and programs financially.

Your financial investment ensures that students and faculty continue to have the opportunities to make significant contributions to the field and the community. We would like to encourage you to contact us to learn more about ways in which you could have an impact on the future of our programs.

Should you wish to discuss ways of giving or to discuss a planned gift to the SSW, please contact our development director, Janikke Klem.

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SSW Students At Work
Our Mission

The mission of the School of Social Work at San Jose State University is to prepare social workers for effective, ethical social work practice from a transcultural perspective with Latinos, Asians and Pacific Islanders, African Americans and those individuals, families, groups and communities who are disenfranchised, oppressed, or marginalized. In the service of this mission, we are active in scholarship and professional leadership endeavors that advance a transcultural perspective in social work and promote social justice.