



Ask SSG

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January - February 2010

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



**Kasey Phillips Brown,
LCSW**

Featured Social Worker on NASW website

Congratulations to Kasey Phillips Brown, LCSW who was a featured Social Worker on the *National Association of Social Workers (NASW)* website celebrating Black History Month. Ms. Brown has been with SSG/OTTP since August

2000 and is currently a Clinical Supervisor.

In her own words, here is her story:

I am Kasey Phillips Brown, LCSW and "day by day in every way, I'm getting better and better." This phrase was told to me by a professor while I was in my second year as a social work student. I continue to use it as a foundation as I assist others in planting seeds of change in their lives. I have been providing mental health services for over 15 years.

I earned both my BA in Mass Communication and Masters of Social Work from Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, GA. While interning in school I provided services in two homeless shelters and oversaw a grant for homeless children. Upon returning to my home town of Los Angeles, CA, I have worked in the foster care system, in group home settings and have provided individual, group and family psychotherapy to at-risk-youth and their families. I am now a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who is certified to provide Continuing Education Units to other mental health professionals through the Board of Behavioral Sciences.

I have been a parenting class instructor and have been certified as a sexual assault crisis volunteer through the YWCA. I have experience as an examination coach and as a consultant to other licensed clinicians. I am currently a clinical supervisor at the Special Service for Groups/Occupational Therapy Training Program who provides individual and group clinical supervision to Associate Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapist Interns, and clinical students. I am also currently a part-time lecturer for the School of Social Work at Cal State Long Beach and I have a private practice, New Perspectives in Lakewood, CA.

Q. Why did you choose social work as your profession?

I LOVE being a social worker and I am eternally grateful for my grandpa's response when I got my BA in Mass Commun-

cation - Radio/T.V/Film. He said, "You know you need something to fall back on." I quickly opened the CAU course catalog and picked what I thought was the easiest thing to get into; the Master of Social Work program and I have never looked back. Now my grandma had a totally different response. She said, "Why would you want to be a social worker? You already had your SAD little life. Now you want to sit and listen to these SAD people, tell you their SAD stories? Why would you want to do that? You've had enough sadness." Well this is the first time my grandma was wrong. I go to work everyday with a smile on my face whether I'm off to supervise clinicians and offer them assistance as they work with their clients or I'm teaching 1st year social work students how to do this difficult work. I smile when I'm working with my beautiful group home boys who have had life kick them in the teeth yet they are still grinning from ear to ear. I wouldn't trade this career for anything else. If I won the lottery I would remain in this field (I would not work full-time and my office would be located on some tropical island somewhere but I would still do this work.)

Q. If you were able to make one lasting impact on the world, what would it be and what would be your strategy for achieving it?

If I were able to make one lasting impact on the world it would be to inform as many people as possible of how precious and important the lives of our children are. There are so many economic and social decisions that are made that negatively affect our children each day. Our children are faced with poverty, a lack of resources, poor education, high unemployment, parental abandonment resulting from substance abuse, incarceration and mental illness and often these children act out their depression through oppositional behavior and criminal activity. These children are then viewed by society as "bad kids". I want the world to know that children are not just "born bad". I believe that if you sat that "bad kid" down in an office and had he or she tell you about their life, you would most likely find that it is a wounded child that is just trying to survive. Our children are beautiful and resilient and I challenge those that disagree to walk a mile in their shoes.

The way I attempt to inform the world is by actively working in a field that advocates for children. I am constantly educating others about the plight of our children and I am active in community service organizations that attempt to meet the needs of children in low income areas.

SSG NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS



Chair/Organizer Debbie Winters, LCSW, of USC School of Social Work with Herbert Hatanaka

Executive Director - Featured Speaker at the 25th Annual Social Work Joint Symposium

Executive Director Herbert Hatanaka was a featured panelist and speaker at the *25th Annual Social Work Symposium* held on February 10, 2010 at TheCalifornia Endowment in Los Angeles.

The Annual Joint Symposium is a collaboration of the various Schools of Social Work - USC, UCLA, Cal State Northridge, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Fullerton, Azusa Pacific University and Cal State Long Beach. Over 200 field education faculty, instructors, students and professionals from public/private sectors were in attendance.

The 2010 event also marked the 25th Anniversary of the Joint Symposium. The distinguished line-up included a videotaped presentation by the National President of NASW Elizabeth Clark. Dr. Hatanaka's topic was "Maintaining the Essence of Field Education in Hard Economic Times: Challenges and Opportunities".

HOPICS AVALON FAMILY CENTER



On December 23, 2009, HOPICS Family Center held its annual **Holiday Party** for all families and clients. Their hard working staff was able to find many resources that included donated toys, decorations, food, and entertainment. L.A. County Firefighters were also gracious enough to donate and deliver many toys. Families were

entertained with music and a comical magician. Younger children received a toy of their choice and adolescents received gift cards.

On Wednesday January 28, 2010 marked the HOPICS Family Center's 1st **Recognition Ceremony** for our S.O.A.R. Program. Clients from various programs were recognized for their effort and dedication.



One of the client's fathers was wonderful enough to fully cater the event. A staff member representing each program introduced and acknowledged each individual. Many of the clients shared their personal success stories.

BENEFITS ASSISTANCE CLIENTS URBAN PROJECT & LIFE CENTER

On January 16th BACUP celebrated at its' Life Center the 3rd annual **Bringin' in the Year Get-together!** This year brought 75 people together for "ethnic foods from around the world". From the music to the menu all who joined in seemed to have a wonderful time; friendships were made, and we know that many who attended will return to the Center. This year was extra special because the event was held on Martin Luther King Jr.'s. birthday! We have already begun planning next year's Bringin' in the Year Get together!!



Merle Goodman, Hospitality Host and guests

BACUP's 1st **Super Bowl Party** brought a lot of joy to visitors to the LIFE CENTER. From avid football fans to those who simply wanted to enjoy a good place to be, this was a day to remember. Forty five people watched as the Saints defeated the Colts in Super Bowl 44! Most importantly friends were made and new participants will enjoy the Center daily!



SSG NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

ASIAN PACIFIC COUNSELING AND TREATMENT CENTERS

Research Article Published in
American Humane

Congratulations to APCTC on the publication of *'Culturally Competent Practice with Cambodian and Korean Families in Los Angeles: Results From a 5-Year Replication Project of Family Connections'*. The research article of preliminary findings was published in *Protecting Children* (Volume 24, Number 3, 2009) a quarterly, peer-reviewed journal dedicated to a broad range of child welfare topics. All are submitted by professionals from across the country and around the world. This special issue of *Protecting Children* was to profile lessons learned from the national replication of Family Connections (FC), a multifaceted community-based service program aimed at preventing child maltreatment. The authors included Sheila Tsai Wu PhD, Akiko Mimura-Lazare MSW LCSW, Carrie J. Petrucci MSW PhD, Naomi Kageyama MS and Chong Suh PhD.

In federal fiscal year 2003, the Children's Bureau issued a funding announcement, 'Replications of Demonstrated Effective Programs in the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect'. APCTC was among eight (8) successful applicants nationwide and the only agency targeting at-risk Asian populations.

During the course of the 5-year project, valuable information was analyzed by EMT Associates, the research and evaluation partner to APCTC. The study provided valuable evidence that sub-populations within the broader "Asian" category are distinct and unique requiring careful review and assessment of outreach strategies, service delivery protocols, and cultural adaptations of the underlying philosophy and theories guiding practice. More published articles on outcomes are currently in progress.

The *Protecting Children* article will be posted on the SSG and APCTC websites soon (www.ssgmain.org and www.apctc.org).

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY TRAINING PROGRAM - LA

Dr. Sarah Bream State-Wide Expert

Congratulations to Sarah Bream, OTD, Division Director of OTTP for her tremendous leadership both locally and statewide. Dr. Bream is an accomplished speaker and advocate on issues relating to mental health, occupational therapy and the overall betterment of a diverse public mental health workforce.

Dr. Bream was nominated to participate on a state-wide expert panel focusing on a *Statewide Job Analysis of Occupational Therapists*. The panel was a core component of the 2 day conference by the California Mental Health Planning Council and California Institute for Mental Health held January 28-29 in Sacramento, California. The mission of the CMHPC and CIMH collaboration is to document and analyze the functions, duties, tasks, and associated skills and abilities of critical occupations throughout the public mental health system. Occupational Therapists are one of the occupations selected for analysis and identified in a 1999 critical occupations survey conducted by the CMHPC. The process used was DACUM or Developing Curriculum Process. Core components include a list of Duties and Tasks; identification of general knowledge and skills; identification of tools, equipment, supplies, and materials used; and future trends and concerns. Upon completion the Occupational Therapist DACUM will be shared statewide and distributed to every local mental health program and provider in the state and also nationally.

In addition to being an expert panel presenter, Dr. Bream has also been functioning as the primary liaison between the Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) and the California Coalition for Mental Health.



Occupational Therapy DACUM Panel Participants -
Dr. Sarah Bream, center

Dates to Remember for March & April

- 3/14 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day
- 3/20 Spring Begins
- 3/29 Passover Begins
- 4/1 April Fools Day
- 4/4 Easter
- 4/7 World Health Day
- 4/21 Administrative Professionals Day
- 4/22 Earth Day



SSG HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT. & PERSONAL UPDATES

Employee Safety

Driving Tip

Hydroplaning

Hydroplaning occurs when your tires begin to “water-ski” on a thin film of water. It can happen at speeds as low as 30 m.p.h. If it happens to you - steer straight ahead and take your foot off the accelerator.



虎 tiger
2010
2022
2034
2046

Happy Lunar New Year Year of the Tiger

The Lunar New Year is a holiday that celebrates the beginning of a new year as dictated by the lunar calendar which is based on the phases of the moon (rather than the

sun). This year, Lunar New Year falls on February 14 the same as Valentine’s Day. The Lunar New Year is celebrated by many people throughout Asia including the Chinese, Koreans, Tibetans, Bhutanese, Mongolians and Vietnamese. Outside of Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, the Lunar New Year is also celebrated in countries with significant Chinese populations such as Singapore, Indonesia, Laos and Malaysia.

The Chinese name their years using 12 different animals (the Chinese Zodiac) to stand for each year. They are in the order of the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat (sheep), monkey, rooster, dog and pig. After 12 years, the cycle of animals begins again. 2010 is the year of the Tiger. Occupying the 3rd position on the Chinese Zodiac, the Tiger symbolizes such character traits as bravery, competitiveness and unpredictability. Tigers love to be challenged and will accept any challenge if it means protecting a loved one or protecting their honor. They don’t worry about the outcome because they know they’ll always land on their feet. Don’t let their calm appearance fool you though; Tigers will pounce when they feel it’s necessary.

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS**

**Staff & Board
Appreciation Luncheon
July 30, 2010**