Save the Date for SIRC 10th Annual Conference
ASU School of Social Work, College of Public Programs

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Greetings From Our Director

I am very happy to have the opportunity to be in touch with you through this new issue of InFocus.

SIRC continues to expand its portfolio and geographic outreach in Arizona and the world. During the Spring semester the SIRC team will finalize the implementation phase of two randomized control trials of school-based prevention studies in metro Phoenix for Latino families and American Indian youth. In addition, we will conduct a new study with urban American Indian families across the state of Arizona in partnership with the Urban Indian Coalition of Arizona and its affiliated Indian centers in Phoenix, Tucson and Flagstaff.

SIRC’s global health program continues to grow and is currently focusing efforts in Jalisco, Mexico where a binational team of researchers are conducting the final phases of a cultural adaptation of the keepin’ REAL substance abuse prevention intervention.

No matter where SIRC research is conducted in the world, all of our projects share an ultimate goal: to design, test, and disseminate efficacious interventions that prevent, reduce, and eliminate health disparities in our communities. These efforts are being carried out by talented research teams formed by community partners, faculty, staff, and students in the United States and abroad. You will have an excellent opportunity to learn more about these studies and implications for policy and practice in our upcoming annual conference.

The SIRC 10th Annual Conference will take place on Friday, April 20, 2012 at the downtown Phoenix Hyatt Hotel. We envision this milestone conference as a celebration of our accomplishments over the past 10 years and a forum to further solidify our use-inspired mission through Community Based Participatory Research. We are delighted to announce that Dr. Margaretta Alegria, Ph.D. from Harvard University, will be the keynote speaker at the event. In addition, distinguished colleagues from universities across the US and Mexico will present along with members of our local research teams.

Enjoy this issue of InFocus and please visit our webpage: http://sirc.asu.edu, often as new information becomes available weekly. I hope to be able to greet you in person on April 20th and learn more about your ideas and suggestions as we plan for the next 10 years.

Good health,
Flavio F. Marsiglia, Ph.D., SIRC Director
Distinguished Foundation Professor of Cultural Diversity and Health School of Social Work, College of Public Programs

SIRC Activities

The Data Analysis Clinic (DAC) provides on-going methodological and statistical support and training to investigators, students and community members every Wednesday from 1:15-2:00 PM

The Advanced Statistical Analysis Work Group (ASAAGW) is a user’s group for advanced students, faculty, and community partners addressing more complex methodological and statistical analysis. This group meets every Wednesday from 2:00 – 3:30 PM.

The SIRC Lecture Series invites local, national and international experts in health disparities to present their prevention and intervention research work during the academic school year. Everyone is welcome to attend. Typically these lectures are scheduled on Wednesdays at noon.

Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center
**SIRC Hosts National Experts on Health Disparities**

On September 22 & 23, 2011, SIRC hosted thirty experts from the National Association of Deans and Directors (NADD) in the Schools of Social Work and in the Office of Minority Health. Those national experts met as a National Advisory Panel to provide feedback on the Behavioral Health Disparities Curriculum Infusion Project.

The project aims to educate future social workers to engage in culturally competent practice with individuals, families and communities affected by behavioral health disparities. The National Advisory Panel consisted of an equal number of practitioners and academic experts providing knowledge and experience to guide curriculum development on a national scale. The two-day event was led by Project Director, Lorraine Moya Salas, Ph.D.


**SIRC Spotlight: Joshua Kellison**

Joshua G. Kellison, a former graduate research associate at SIRC, received national recognition as a student leader in psychology education with his recent election to the board of the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students in Washington D.C.

While at SIRC, Kellison delved into minority health disparities, family dynamics, and gender studies. He helped to develop the parent component for SIRC’s “keepin’ it REAL” youth drug prevention program. Currently, Kellison is investigating how gay and lesbian parents cope with and educate their children about anti-gay discrimination. “Although there are a plethora of family interventions, there are no interventions that include the experiences of lesbian and gay-headed families,” says Kellison. “This research can provide LGBT and other minority families with parenting strategies that can protect and strengthen their families in the face of discrimination.”

**SIRC Congratulations: Jaime Booth**

Jaime Booth, a second year Ph.D. student in the School of Social Work and graduate research assistant at SIRC since 2009, is examining if psychological distress can be addressed at the community level. Booth’s work is unique because most research has traditionally studied and treated mental health and psychological distress at the individual level. However Booth is examining how the neighborhood environment can also impact mental health outcomes. Specifically, her research examines how perceptions of neighborhood safety are associated with psychological distress.

Booth presented her research at the ASU College of Pub lic Programs Doctoral Student Research Conference and received the ‘Best Conference Paper Award.’ Booth will be traveling to Orlando, FL in August to present her research at the American Psychological Association Convention. Recent ly, Booth’s paper was accepted, subject to revisions, for publication in the Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare.

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**National Congress of American Indians Award Recipient**

Dr. Eddie F. Brown will be honored by the National Congress of American Indians at their 41st Annual Leadership Awards Banquet on the evening of March 6, 2012 at the El Farall Plaza Hotel in Washington, D.C. This prestigious award honors those who distinguish themselves as champions for tribal sovereignty in challenging times. The latter informing Dr. Brown of this honor reads: “Your leadership, voice of reason and compassion on issues affecting American Indian and Alaska Native people and tribal governments has helped build the foundation for a successful nation-to-nation relationship for generations to come. You are truly to be commended for your tireless efforts and dedication.”

Dr. Brown has worked at the highest administrative levels with federal, state, and tribal governments. His past affiliations include: Former Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, United States Department of Interior, Washington, DC; Associate Dean and Director of the Center for American Indian Studies, Washington University; Executive Director of the Department of Human Services, Tohono O’odham Nation; Director of Arizona Department of Economic Security; and Chief of the Division of Social Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC. Currently Dr. Brown is Director of American Indian Studies and Co-Executive Director of the American Indian Policy Institute at Arizona State University and serves as a member of the U.S. President’s Board of Advisors on Tribal Colleges and Universities.

Dr. Brown is an esteemed member of SIRC’s Executive Council and Principal Investigator for SIRC’s “Living in Two Worlds,” a culturally specific substance abuse prevention intervention for urban American Indian youth. Additionally, Dr. Brown serves as co-PI on a research project titled “Global Partnership Risk and Treatment Adherence” in Tanzania. The bi-national research team has conducted a three-wave pilot study to test the feasibility of implementing the Spanish-translated version of keepin’ it REAL in Mexico and to determine if this school-based curriculum meets the need adaptation to the Mexican population. Delivered to 457 adolescents aged 12-15 years, the immediate short-term results are promising, although slight adaptations may be needed to ensure a cultural fit.

**Research Behind the Scenes: Understanding the Needs of the Community through Interactive Health Kiosks**

Olga I. Davis, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication at Arizona State University. She also serves as the principal investigator of the Community Engagement and Outreach Curriculum Infusion Project.

From February 2009 to December 2011, Dr. Davis and SIRC collaborated with community partners Valle de Sol and John F. Long Family Services to place interactive health kiosks in their clinics. The kiosks provided health information and allowed for data collection through a bilingual Needs Assessment Survey. This survey sought to understand the community’s health needs and perceptions of healthcare.

A total of 165 adults participated in the Needs Assessment Survey. Most of the respondents were Hispanic/Latino (38.9%), followed by White (30.8%), Black/African American (21.5%), and other ethnicities (9.2%). Below are some results captured by the collection of data.

**International Research: Adaptation of keepin’ it REAL in Jalisco, Mexico**

In collaboration with the Instituto Mexicano de Seguro Social in Jalisco, Mexico, SIRC conducted a three-wave pilot study to test the feasibility of implementing the Spanish-translated version of keepin’ it REAL in Mexico and to determine if this school-based curriculum meets the need adaptation to the Mexican population. Delivered to 457 adolescents aged 12-15 years, the immediate short-term results are promising, although slight adaptations may be needed to ensure a cultural fit.

**Substance Abuse and Treatment**

SIRC has partnered with Soochow University based in Taipei, Taiwan on a research project headed by An-Pyng Sun, PhD, LCSW from the University of Nevada Las Vegas. The project is designed to highlight the patterns of drug use and treatment strategies in Taiwan through one-on-one interviews with patients at Baiti Psychiatric Center’s Tu-Cheng clinic branch in Taiwan.

**Tanzania: HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Adherence**

This project, “Global Partnership Risk and Resilience Ecological Approaches to HIV/AIDS Prevention Interventions in Rural Tanzania,” studied social and behavioral research questions related to the spread, prevention and care of HIV/AIDS in the rural and semi-rural areas of the Arusha region in Tanzania. The bi-national research team has interviewed health care providers in Tanzania to understand how health care is delivered to HIV/AIDS patients and barriers to that care in Tanzania.

**Mexican Youth Study in Guanajuato, Mexico**

SIRC and the Sistema Avanzado de Bachillerato y Educación Superior del Gobierno del Estado de Guanajuato collaborated on the research project titled ‘Guanajuato Youth and Family Health’ which collected primary data from students enrolled in the Videobachillerato program (VIBA). This project examines and characterizes protective and risk factors associated with the physical and mental health of students and assesses how factors such as education, work, migration and community can impact the health of these students.