SIRO Announces Two New Research Projects on The Seven Challenges®

Dr. Josephine Korchmaros will lead two projects on The Seven Challenges®, a substance abuse treatment program. The first is a two-year project in partnership with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Medicine’s Beacon Addiction Treatment Center, titled “The Seven Challenges®-Adult Treatment Effectiveness Study.” This experimental study will examine the effectiveness of The Seven Challenges® adapted for adults to build evidence for the model, measuring whether adult clients of The Seven Challenges® improve their mental and behavioral health outcomes, and whether the improvements are greater than those in a job readiness ‘no treatment’ control group.

The second is a six-month project, “Multi-site Examination of the Effectiveness of The Seven Challenges® for Adolescents.” This evaluation will analyze existing data to build evidence on the effectiveness of The Seven Challenges® for adolescents, and to determine whether the improvements experienced by adolescent clients are greater than those who receive other treatment.

Findings from these studies will be used to inform the provision of treatment at the Beacon Addiction Center at UAB, and also to inform the field of substance abuse treatment regarding the effectiveness of The Seven Challenges® within the broader population of adolescents and adults across the nation suffering from substance abuse.

SIRO Central Staff Members Win Lunafest Local Film Contest

SIRO Central staff were honored to win the Lunafest local film contest with their film, “Scuff,” about women’s experiences with facial hair. The SIRO filmmakers include Monica Davis, Tamara Sargus, and Dr. Josephine Korchmaros. In its 16th year, Lunafest is a short film festival featuring films by, for, and about women. Lunafest was presented by WOSAC, the Women’s Studies Advisory Council, and the UA Department of Gender and Women’s Studies, with proceeds benefiting WOSAC and Breast Cancer Prevention Partners.
**Goals**

- Engage in collaborative feminist research focusing on topics pertinent to the lives of women and families.
- Develop and conduct outreach, research, and training on issues such as mental and physical health, sexuality, legal matters, education, employment, equity, and diversity.
- Examine and support women’s contribution to literature, the arts, and Southwest heritage.
- Advocate for women and families by linking researchers with community organizations and policy makers.
- Identify, illuminate, and disseminate research on women, families, and gender differences.

**GWS/SIROW New Collaborative Publication**

Dr. Eithne Luibhéid of Gender and Women's Studies, in collaboration with Dr. Sally Stevens and Dr. Rosi Andrade of SIROW, published an article titled “Intimate Attachments and Migrant Deportability: Lessons from Undocumented Mothers Seeking Benefits for Citizen Children.” This article is included in the *Journal of Ethnic and Racial Studies* Special Issue, “Migrant Mothers' Creative Interventions into Racialized Citizenship,” and was published February 10, 2017. This article may be found at: [http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/RhDVjhX5R9erCDrnFXSF/full](http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/RhDVjhX5R9erCDrnFXSF/full).

**ANCHOR Project Updates**

The ANCHOR Project is designed to provide culturally responsive and affirming services to young adults who identify with the spectrum of LGBTQ&A (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and straight ally) communities. ANCHOR stands for Accessible Network for Coordinated Housing, Opportunities, and Resilience.

In January, six ANCHOR participants went on a field trip to the Land with No Name Sanctuary for Homeless Sculpture. Participants toured the museum situated in the open desert and created their own art projects. Expressive arts activities have been incorporated into much of ANCHOR’s programming due to the contributions of Graduate Intern Gigi Cestaro.

The ANCHOR Project also sent three staff and one outstanding participant to attend the 2017 Creating Change conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Creating Change is hosted by the National LGBTQ Task Force and focuses on leadership and skills-building for activists in the LGBTQ social justice movement.

If you have updates for the next newsletter, please send them to Nikole Justvig at njjustvig@email.arizona.edu.