



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Southwest Institute for Research on Women

Summer Community News

SIROW Welcomes New Directors

The torch has been passed! Dr. Sally Stevens, who began her career at SIROW in 1994 and served as SIROW's Executive Director for the past 13 years, passed on the leadership torch on July 1, 2017. Dr. Stevens will continue her research at SIROW in the position of Research Professor, while also contributing to the Department of Gender and Women's Studies as a Distinguished Outreach Professor. Over the past 23 years, Dr. Stevens has led numerous intervention research projects that have illuminated client needs, identified gaps in research and service provision, and disseminated important findings to the fields of health and education disparities. Dr. Stevens has built a strong and collaborative research team founded on feminist principals of management, and she is thrilled to have two SIROW researchers, Dr. Josephine (Jo) Korchmaros and Ms. Claudia Powell, take over the directorship of SIROW.

Dr. Jo Korchmaros is SIROW's new Director. She has worked at SIROW since 2006, and is currently an Associate Research Professor and the Director of Research Methods and Statistics at SIROW. Jo holds a PhD in Social Psychology from the University of Connecticut. For more than 11 years, Dr. Korchmaros has developed, implemented, evaluated, and provided training and technical assistance for multiple grant-funded research projects of importance to underserved populations. Her research has focused on treatment models; reduction of risk behaviors; addressing group-based (e.g., culture and gender identification) health disparities; and system and policy improvement in areas such as sexual health, substance use, and justice involvement. Dr. Korchmaros takes a research-to-practice focus and has extensive experience conducting and assisting others to conduct cultural and gender-informed interventions and research. She is dedicated to working to reduce barriers and improve the quality of lives of underserved and disadvantaged populations locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.



Claudia Powell, M.Ed. is SIROW's new Associate Director. She has worked at SIROW since 2002, and is currently a Research Social Scientist and the Director of Evaluation Services at SIROW. Claudia holds a M.ED in Educational Administration from Northern Arizona University. For more than 15 years, Ms. Powell has conducted program evaluation and provided services for people experiencing homelessness (primarily for LGBTQ+ identified people), people at-risk for or enrolled in substance abuse treatment, and others. Her work also includes research and services related to HIV prevention, health promotion, and domestic violence. As a researcher, Ms. Powell is committed to engaging in culturally-competent, community-based participatory action research conducted in conjunction with communities, with a true spirit of collaboration that aims to improve systems that serve marginalized communities. She serves as the Chair of the Pima County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, the Vice-Chair for the Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness Executive Board, and as a member of SIROW's Community Advisory Board.

From left to right: Sally Stevens,
Claudia Powell, Jo Korchmaros

From Jo Korchmaros:

I consider myself very fortunate to be a part of SIROW. Every day, I work on projects I am passionate about—projects that fit SIROW's mission to develop, conduct, and disseminate collaborative outreach, education, intervention, and research projects of importance to diverse groups. Furthermore, I work on these projects with an extraordinary group of passionate experts who are devoted to achieving SIROW's mission and improving the quality of life of women, families, and communities. I am honored with the opportunity to direct SIROW. I look forward to continuing the work of Dr. Stevens in leading SIROW and in supporting the meaningful, informative, and creative work of the SIROW researchers, staff, affiliates, interns, and volunteers who are the heart and substance of SIROW. My focus as Director of SIROW will be in creating opportunities for SIROW researchers, staff, affiliates, interns, and volunteers to continue their important work and valuable contributions to the local, regional, national, and international communities. Thank you for your continued support of SIROW!

From Claudia Powell:

As a SIROW researcher, I have often expressed that I have the best job in the world and how much I love the work I do. Daily, I have the exciting opportunity to learn from and be challenged by the brilliant people I work with in academia, all while being able to conduct community-based research and implement programs that make our community more inviting, equitable and inclusive for ALL of us. It is with this same enthusiasm and passion that I welcome the opportunity to serve as SIROW's Associate Director. I am excited to work together with Dr. Korchmaros to continue the legacy of Dr. Stevens by conducting research that has high-community impact and centers on those who are most marginalized. Together with a stellar team of researchers, I aim to continue along the path of the SIROW mission and work together to support the growth of SIROW's vast and varied portfolio of remarkable work.

Please help us welcome Jo and Claudia to their new leadership positions!

SIROW Teams Up to Adapt Mujer Saludable Curriculum for U.S.-Mexico Border

U.S.-Mexico border communities face unique health disparities in the areas of reproductive health and access to reproductive health care, including high rates of teen pregnancy. In response to the critical need for evidence-based sexual education programs in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, researchers from El COLEF (El Colegio de la Frontera Norte), researchers from SIROW, and *promotoras* (community health workers) in Nogales, Sonora are partnering to address the issue of teen pregnancy. These partners have met with the mayor of Nogales, Sonora, local politicians, and Mexican federal maternal and child health agencies to work together to address the issue of teen pregnancy. The University of California, Berkeley's Programa de Investigación sobre Migración y Salud funds this project, titled "Mujer Saludable en la Frontera."

Using community-based participatory research (CBPR) and Community Health Worker (CHW) models, this project aims to 1) collect qualitative data to assess reproductive health needs and access to reproductive health care among women living in low-resource communities in Nogales; and 2) utilize the data collected and a promotora model of the SIROW-designed, pre-existing evidence-based *Mujer Saludable* curriculum to emphasize the mother-daughter relationship in improving women's reproductive health outcomes in the community.

One of the major goals of this project is to adapt and expand SIROW-designed *Mujer Saludable* curriculum into *Mujer Saludable-Promotora* to reflect the needs of the community. The project partners formed a Community Advisory Board (CAB) consisting of academic partners, state-employed *promotoras*, and local women to provide oversight and directly contribute to the adaptation and expansion of the curriculum. COLEF also interviewed 11 individuals, including teen mothers, *promotoras*, and reproductive health care providers to explore the reproductive health care needs of the community. These interviews will be critical to the adaption of the curriculum. In the next phase of the project, the CAB will be directly involved in the delivery of the adapted intervention to the local community, and the dissemination of the manualized *Mujer Saludable-Promotora* to local stakeholders. For more information, contact Rosi Andrade at rosia@email.arizona.edu.



A *Mujer Saludable en la Frontera* participant illustrates during a session activity about the reproductive system and women's health risks.

Pima County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Examines and Confronts the Complexities of Domestic Violence-Related Fatalities in Pima County

The Pima County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board (PCDVFRB) was established in accordance with A.R.S. §41-198 by Resolution 2010-233 and adopted by the Pima County Board of Supervisors on October 5, 2010. PCDVFRB includes Law Enforcement, the criminal justice system (the Judiciary, Prosecution, Probation, and Victim Services), behavioral and physical health services, social science research, Veterans Affairs, Tribal Justice and survivors of domestic violence. SIROW researchers have served on PCDVFRB since its inception, and SIROW researcher Claudia Powell currently serves as chairperson of PCDVFRB. The primary goal of this diverse team is to analyze incidents of domestic violence-related fatalities in Pima County in an effort to better understand the dynamics of such deaths and develop recommendations for associated agencies to help prevent domestic violence and domestic violence-related fatalities in the future.

PCDVFRB prioritizes cultivating and maintaining a membership of multidisciplinary experts who think critically about the ways that systems and agencies impact victims of domestic violence and even impede victim safety. The PCDVFRB continues to recognize its responsibility to make changes and understands that a critical review of domestic violence homicide cases will reveal areas where our community response is insufficient and in need of improvement. The team is committed to implement agency changes where there are deficiencies. Three critical recommendations emerging from past reviews include:

1. Adopting and implementing a uniform Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) statewide. An LAP is a specific method of assessing how lethal a situation may be and then responding appropriately. Adopting a uniform LAP is already underway. However, there has been no funding directed towards the implementation or the administration of the protocol. Directed funding is needed to support this implementation effort.
2. Domestic violence community education must be expanded to include people without direct ties to the domestic violence service community. Because outside individuals are often aware when there is violence within a relationship, it is critical that community members, employers and service professionals are educated about domestic violence, intervention and support strategies, and its community impact.
3. The State of Arizona must prioritize funding for:
 - A. Domestic violence and substance abuse treatment programs in prison and jail. By statute, offenders are mandated to attend and complete treatment programs as a condition of their probation. If an offender fails to complete the treatment program, they violate the conditions of their probation and are subsequently incarcerated. However, because there is no service provision in jail or prison, these offenders are never required to attend treatment.
 - B. Family reintegration domestic violence services. When a domestic violence offender returns home from jail or prison, there are no services that support the offender and his/her family with reintegration. While judicial systems may mandate that some offenders stay away from their victims, services to support reintegration for couples who either choose to be together or are forced to co-parent are non-existent.

Through enhanced education and improved coordinated response, the PCCVFRB aims to create a more unified community that is safer for victims and, most importantly, to reduce the number of domestic violence fatalities in Pima County.

For more information about the PCCVFRB, please contact Claudia Powell at claudiap@email.arizona.edu.

SIROW Documentary *SCRUFF* Wins LUNAFEST Best Local Film Award

Scruff is a SIROW-funded documentary about women's experiences with facial hair, and is the proud winner in the 2017 Tucson, Arizona local LUNAFEST film contest. LUNAFEST is a traveling international film festival of award-winning short films by, for and about women. LUNAFEST is sponsored by Luna Bar and functions as a fundraising opportunity for local organizations, as well as for their national charitable partner, Breast Cancer Prevention Partners (BCPP). This year, Tucson LUNAFEST proceeds went to BCPP and the University of Arizona's Department of Gender and Women's Studies: Women's Studies Advisory Council (WOSAC). Every year in Tucson, the international LUNAFEST film festival is paired with a LUNAFEST best local short film contest, the winner of which has the honor of being shown at the Tucson LUNAFEST film festival held at The Loft Cinema. This year, *Scruff* had that honor.

SIROW filmmakers Monica Davis, Josephine Korchmaros, and Tamara Sargus created *Scruff* in hopes of prompting conversation about facial hair in women. *Scruff* was born out of the need to end the secrecy and shame that many women with facial hair experience. While many hair removal and hair management options are available, for some, these options can be too costly, painful, or time consuming to be sustainable. In *Scruff*, thirteen women discuss how other people have reacted to their facial hair using derogatory and shameful names. These women also discuss how they learned about facial hair and society's negative views of women's facial hair. They share their experiences with facial hair management and removal, shedding light on the side effects of the various methods they have tried such as electrolysis, laser, plucking, hair removal cream, and threading. One woman points out, "they have not made advancements in making (hair removal) less painful."



Pictured from left to right: Josephine Korchmaros, Monica Davis, Mila Sargus, and Tamara Sargus at The Loft Cinema.

Scruff sheds light on the mental and emotional burden that women with facial hair carry, and highlights women who have come to terms with their facial hair. The filmmakers hope to start a dialogue about facial hair, in order to help people realize that women growing facial hair is a common, natural experience, and to normalize and increase the acceptance of facial hair in women. SIROW researchers wrote and recorded an original song that plays during the credits and summarizes the views expressed in the film. The lyrics include the following:

SCRUFF.....A million tiny hairs giving me nightmares
SCRUFF.....All along my face growing in the wrong place
SCRUFF.....Nothing I can do - women grow them too
SCRUFF.....Money down the drain, is it worth the pain?
SCRUFF.....Why do people care? They whisper tease and stare
SCRUFF.....Their reaction, a big deal, it affects the way I feel
SCRUFF.....It's been many years of suffering and tears
SCRUFF.....They really shouldn't care - after all it's only hair
SCRUFF.....But I've had enough, so I'll grow this scruff!

SIROW would like to thank all of the women who participated in this film project for their openness and bravery! *Scruff* can be viewed on the SIROW website at <https://sirow.arizona.edu/film-projects>. For more information, contact Monica Davis at midavis@email.arizona.edu.

Arizona State Youth Treatment (SYT) Project Provides Statewide Responsive Training to Youth-serving Professionals

SIROW is excited to be a part of the Arizona State Youth Treatment (SYT) project funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. SYT is a statewide effort to expand access to evidenced-based practices (EBPs) in substance abuse treatment programs for youth ages 12-24. SYT's two-pronged approach involves (1) collaboration with two local treatment sites implementing the EBPs with youth, and (2) development and improvement of the state infrastructure to build a solid foundation for sustaining an effective integrated treatment and recovery support services system for youth.



Example of sand tray used in the “Alternative Therapies for SUD” training. Sand tray therapy is a form of expressive therapy that is especially effective treating individuals with SUDs, with trauma backgrounds, and/or who do not respond well to talk therapy. Sand tray therapy can also enhance talk therapy and blends well with multiple therapeutic approaches.

An important component of SYT is aimed at the development and improvement of the state infrastructure, and focuses on expanding workforce capacity by providing EBP-related trainings for professionals serving youth. The development and implementation of these trainings was a collaborative effort between SIROW, the University of Arizona Campus Health Services, and the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. In preparation, CHS developed and conducted a needs assessment, which involved professionals from agencies spanning 10 towns and cities across the state of Arizona. The purpose of the assessment was to capture information about needed/desired training topics as well as perceived training and service gaps. Based on the feedback received, various EBP-related training topics were identified and implemented. For example, these topics included motivational interviewing, trauma-informed care, and the incorporation of alternative therapies for substance use disorders (SUDs), such as sand tray therapy.

Implementation of the trainings was designed to be easily accessible for professionals throughout the state of Arizona. The trainings were offered annually over the course of three years and were held at different locations each year (Tucson, Phoenix, and Flagstaff) in an effort to maximize accessibility for participants.

These trainings were unique as they offered trainees the opportunity to attend the initial training, as well as a follow-up practicum session approximately one month later. All presenters encouraged trainees to practice the skills taught between the initial training and the practicum session. Therefore, trainees had the opportunity to share and discuss during the practicum the skills they practiced after the initial training. The SYT workforce development trainings have been very well received by trainees. Trainees were highly satisfied with the quality of the trainings, instruction, training materials, and the training experience as a whole.

SIROW is pleased to be part of this important project, and hopes it will help to inform service providers throughout the state. For more information about the SYT project, contact Alison Greene at greene@email.arizona.edu.

Women in Science and Engineering Prepares for Program-Packed Year

The Women in Science and Engineering Program (WISE) is looking forward to another exciting year of programming. During the 2017-2018 academic year, WISE will be directing a number of programs aimed at increasing interest and diversity in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields and fostering the success of young women in these fields at the University of Arizona and in southern Arizona more broadly.

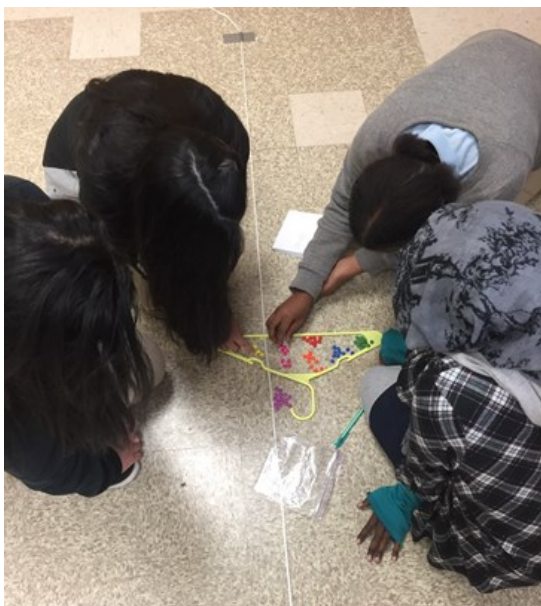
(Continued from Page 5). WISE will continue its successful STEM Pipeline Mentorship Program, a collaboration with the College of Engineering and the Women in Engineering Programming Board. The University of Arizona Commission on the Status of Women generously funds this mentorship program. The program provides workshops and panels to high school, undergraduate, and graduate students to expose them to successful professional strategies, as well as offering informal networking with STEM professionals.

Additionally, WISE will be hosting two Expanding Your Horizons conferences sponsored by Freeport McMoRan's Sierrita Operations. These half-day events will bring interactive STEM workshops to middle school students in the Sahuarita School District and expose them to positive female STEM role models.

Building on a successful pilot program in the spring of 2017, WISE will host a Girls Who Code (GWC) Club on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon beginning September 9th. GWC provides an opportunity for girls in middle and high school to learn the basics of computer coding, to learn how women are using technology to positively impact the world, and to get to know other young women interested in computer science. Facilitated by UA undergraduate students, GWC also provides an opportunity for undergraduates to develop leadership, public speaking, and mentorship skills as they share their knowledge and expertise with younger students.

WISE continues to collaborate with the Friends of Saguaro National Park and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum with the Bio/Diversity Project. This program is generously funded by the Agnese Nelms Haury Program in Environment and Social Justice, and aims to increase the diversity of voices included in discussions of environmental problems and the development of their solutions. UA student interns will continue to work with local K-12 teachers to develop and implement environmental science lessons at local schools. This program is on target to bring innovative environmental science programming to over 500 K-12 students during 2017-2018, while also providing approximately 15 UA students with valuable training, work experience, and mentorship opportunities.

WISE thanks the UA Commission on the Status of Women, Freeport McMoRan's Sierrita Operations, The Women's Foundation's Rebecca Fund, Friends of Saguaro National Park and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, and the Agnese Nelms Haury Program for their support of future STEM leaders. For more information, contact Jill Williams at jillmwilliams@email.arizona.edu.



7th and 8th grade students at Roberts Naylor K-8 School practice different methods for measuring biodiversity. Students used an example transect line to learn about how scientists count plant, animal, and insect species in the outdoor environment. Differently colored beads represented different species.



A third grade student from JB Wright Elementary School uses the iNaturalist program to photograph and identify plant species. K-12 students who participated in the Bio/Diversity Project conducted biodiversity inventories of their schoolyards.

Weathering the Storm: The ANCHOR Project's Efforts to Support Mental Health and Wellness



The ANCHOR Project (Accessible Network for Coordinated Housing, Opportunities, and Resilience) provides supportive services for LGBTQ+ young adults experiencing homelessness and housing instability. ANCHOR is a collaboration between SIROW, CODAC Health Recovery & Wellness Inc., and Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF).

In addition to housing needs, many of ANCHOR's 149 participants face significant mental health challenges. At initial intake sessions, 81% of participants reported experiencing serious depression, and 90% reported serious anxiety or tension in the past 30 days. Among those 90%, 22% experienced depression and 32% experienced anxiety every day during the past 30 days.

ANCHOR supports mental health and wellness in several ways. One way ANCHOR offers this support is by referring participants to SIROW's partner agency CODAC, in particular to their Living Out Loud LGBTQIA Health and Wellness Center, for therapy, case management and other psychological care.



At ANCHOR, program staff are also available during drop-in "Empower Hours" three days a week to assist participants with goal setting and emotional support. Additionally, ANCHOR offers weekly support groups that address mental health from multiple angles. ANCHOR's trauma support group, Building Understanding of Yourself (BUOY), uses the Seeking Safety evidence-based curriculum to teach participants skills for coping safely with trauma, substance abuse, and life challenges.

Additionally, ANCHOR's ART Lab group offers a creative outlet for self-expression and healing using a variety of art processes and materials. Many of the pieces created during this group are displayed throughout the ANCHOR community space. These artistic endeavors continued through the summer with several writing workshops held in July, culminating in an Open Mic Night and the development of an ANCHOR zine during August and September. The ANCHOR zine will contain poetry, art, advice, and resources from participants and staff.



Artwork created by
participants during ANCHOR's
ART Lab support group.

ANCHOR participants cite these services as contributing to their well-being and stability over time. In addition, at 6 months after the initial intake assessment, the number of participants who experienced serious anxiety or tension in the past 30 days decreased by 6%. At 12 months post-intake assessment, 68% of participants reported their quality of life as good or very good, an 11% increase from intake.

Many contributing factors may have led to these positive preliminary outcomes. Participants shared that ANCHOR's strengths include the time staff invest in participants, and the genuine care and hospitality that the program offers. ANCHOR strives to empower participants to harness resources, take action, persevere, and take pride in themselves as they are.

SIROW was awarded funding for ANCHOR in 2014 by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The three-year grant concludes this September 2017. Grants such as this have enabled SIROW and community collaborators to serve the LGBTQ community for over a decade. SIROW looks forward to new projects that will continue the mission of supporting homeless LGBTQ young adults. For more information, contact Claudia Powell at claudiap@email.arizona.edu.

The Hermanas Project: A Story of Collaboration and Research for Change

The Hermanas Project joins Jean Fedigan and Penny Buckley of Sister José Women's Center (SJWC) with Franziska Frank and Rosi Andrade of SIROW.

Founded in 2009, SJWC is a nonprofit organization whose mission states:

To our sisters without shelter, we provide beds; to those without food, we give nourishment; and to those without purpose, we offer encouragement. We are women reaching out to women with dignity, respect and compassion.

The SJWC drop-in center is open Monday to Saturday and provides an array of services (e.g., breakfast, lunch/takeaway sacks, coffee and snacks, showers, clothing, hygiene kits, laundry facilities, and other resources) during the day and "Operation Deep Freeze" shelter 7 nights a week during winter months. This summer, in response to the 110° plus temperatures, SJWC initiated a Monday to Sunday summer overnight program.

SJWC's responsiveness to ameliorating the difficult living conditions of homeless women has its roots in its namesake, Sister (Sr.) José



Sister José Hobday

Hobday, 1929-2009, (pictured left), a Franciscan nun who dedicated her life to helping the poor. The care and respect that guides SJWC is reflected in practice and often iterated in women's reports that it is a safe place, away from the stressors of homelessness.

Founded in 1979, SIROW's mission is to improve the lives of women and girls through interdisciplinary and inter-institutional research and action projects. One such project is the Hermanas Project. Together, for the Hermanas Project, SJWC and SIROW are collaborating to carry out a community needs assessment to improve understanding about the lives of women who experience chronic homelessness. This collaboration will encompass developing gender-specific services and curriculum, as well as collecting crucial data to better understand the reality and needs of women experiencing chronic homelessness.

Chronic homelessness impacts women's lives in unique ways. A report of 23 cities by the U.S. Conference on Mayors in 2007 found that "domestic violence is the primary cause of homelessness for women," and that the "impact of violence is cumulative; women who have experienced or witnessed greater numbers of abusive events report higher rates of eating-related problems, greater incidence of STDs and hepatitis, overall poorer self-rated health status, earlier involvement in crime, and more arrests."

Another impetus for conducting a needs assessment stems from SIROW's investigation of current data on homelessness for the Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (AHAR). Aggregate data (Point in Time Count) that is collected nationally, along with yearly data reported by shelters and housing programs, inform the AHAR. The AHAR intends to serve as a reference tool for policymakers, journalists, as well as state and community leaders. The data, and consequently the categories by which the data are organized, are predetermined by the following: 1) subpopulations of individuals, families and veterans; 2) housing status (sheltered/unsheltered); and 3) type of shelter (domestic violence, family, transitional, etc.). The AHAR has limitations that profoundly affect its reliability, most notably that there is no gender distinction made for individuals. Knowing that women experiencing homelessness are more prone to cumulative violence, as well as a constant threat of violence or harassment, often at the hands of men, it is difficult to accept a gender neutral or one-size-fits-all approach for data collection of individuals experiencing homelessness.

In response, a needs assessment survey has been designed to provide essential information on health and social well-being indicators and other economic indicators such as public safety. In addition, based on 50 interviews of chronically homeless women, the findings will be a starting point for identifying gender-specific needs and suggestions to inform current policies and practices regarding homelessness in Tucson, Arizona. Ultimately, the findings will guide the development of gender-specific services that meet the goal of moving beyond basic survival to personal growth and skill development.

The Hermanas project is supported by funds from the UA MAP (University of Arizona Making Action Possible for Southern Arizona) Dashboard (a UA project of mapping economic data) and the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona (Unidas). The Hermanas Project will culminate in a white paper and an economic justice project titled "Establish Your Identity." For more information, contact Rosi Andrade at rosia@email.arizona.edu.



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