Congratulations on finishing such a successful semester, CASSA! We certainly had a busy and fun semester with 19 community service events, 12 meetings with 6 guest speakers, 3 walks for a cause, 6 donation drives, one conference, 2 fundraisers, and 6 social events…. WOW! On behalf of the CASSA Executive Board, we thank you for your involvement and dedication to CASSA and the community. We are looking forward to a wonderful Spring 2016 semester with all of you!

- Danielle Eden, Executive President

Hello CASSA Members! My name is Dr. Kate Bono and I am the department chair for Child and Adolescent Studies and the current faculty advisor for CASSA. On behalf of the entire department, we want you to know how proud we are of all that you do through CASSA. Whether it is community service, social events, or professional development, we know that these activities help you to feel better connected to CSUF and help you to be more successful as a student and eventually in your careers. And, the community receives tremendous benefit from you too! What could be better?!? Best of luck for a great spring semester!

- Dr. Kate Bono, Advisor
OC Zoo-Tacular - Cierra Henry

OC Zoo-Tacular was an amazing event. This was my first time attending this event and I was so happy I was able to be a part of it. I worked in the craft area at the photo booth. This was a very fun station to work because the children and their families had the chance to take pictures and make memories. It was so great to see all of the children so happy in their costumes enjoying the event and all of the different zoo animals that were out and available to see. The zoo staff was very involved and the cages were decorated for Halloween and it was very family friendly. I would definitely attend this event again next year and spread the word about this great event.

Pumpkin Carving - Amber Malik

I was very excited to go to the OC Zoo Pumpkin Carving because it was my first time that I was going to carve a pumpkin. When I picked up the pumpkin and knife I had no idea where to start. I was looking around trying to get ideas on how I should start cutting this pumpkin. When I figured out how to start, I had a blast carving. I carved four pumpkins and decorated two pumpkins. The experience was a lot of fun because there were so many people and we were all using our own imaginations when carving. The staff was very friendly and offered us snacks while we were carving. Towards the end of our pumpkin carving, we got free tickets, pens and were allowed to take 2-3 pumpkins home. I had a fun time carving pumpkins and seeing how creative everyone was. I would definitely like to attend this event next year and carve more pumpkins.
Haunted House Social - Saira Jaffry

I get spooked pretty easily so when I first walked in, I made sure to avoid eye contact with anyone in a scary costume! The first thing we did was head over to the photo booth to take some pictures. The six of us crammed in as much as we could and made it work. Next was the fortuneteller, we all had a laugh about the things she had said because some of it was pretty accurate. I braved all the mazes by heading in first and am proud to say, I didn't scream once. Everything could have been done within an hour and it wasn't quite what I expected.

Trunk or Treat - Lourdes Lopez

On October 30th, I attended the Ronald McDonald House Trunk or Treat event along with nine other CASSA members. I had never heard of this event before I attended, and did not realize the impact it had in the community. For this event we had the task of decorating the trunk of a car to provide candy for the kids that would be attending. Those who attended were families who lived at the Ronald McDonald house currently and previously with their child at a CHOC hospital. Along with the trunk treats, I provided an activity for the kids to make their own lollipop ghost as they walked through our trunk. Providing these kids with treats and all the fun activities, filled my heart with joy as I experienced the happiness that it brought to them from their continuous smiles and laughter. I felt great pride in attending this event and for distracting these kids from their constant health battle for their health. It was nice giving the children one night filled with fun and happiness. Now that I am aware of this organization I would definitely attend this event next year, as well as getting involved with other events that they host throughout the year.
Diabetes Walk - Martha Perez
I attended the STEP OUT Walk. It was for raising money and awareness to fight diabetes. We walked around Knott’s Berry Farm as a group and all the girls were cheerful. The atmosphere was very inspiring because you could see that all the people involved were committed to one thing, which was to support each other and the cause. Some people were wearing red, which meant that they have diabetes, including children. It was eye opening to see how many of them were children and how young they were. It made me realize how important it is to be involved in the community because thanks to that walk we supported the organization to help stop diabetes.

Bonfire Social - Sydnie Guzman
This was the first time I attended a social event with CASSA and I am so glad that I did. Being new to CASSA, I felt it was a great way to spend time with other members while getting to know the people who share similar interests. It was also a great way to get to know some of the board members better. They were very open and welcoming to a newer member. I loved that they planned an event that allowed for people to come and just hang out and get to spend more time getting to know each other. The bonfire was a great way to take a break from the busy semester and all the other events and such going on.
Miller’s Children Hospital - Ashley Allen

I first heard about the Child Life profession through CASSA, which immediately struck my interest in the field. This semester, I am enrolled in a Child Life course and have heard how difficult it is to volunteer at a children's hospital in the Child Life Department! Luckily, CASSA is able to provide such wonderful opportunities for members such as exposure to Child Life. This event was truly inspiring and has made me want to apply for an internship at Miller’s. When all members arrived, we went to check-in and had our own photo identification name tags (that I've still kept) - it felt as if we were a part of the actual staff. Then we proceeded to two different playrooms in different areas of the hospital. We entered the playroom led by Wendy, the Certified Child Life Specialist, where there were only a few children who were engaged in a painting craft. Fellow members brought crafts including Thanksgiving themed coloring sheets, construction paper, markers, crayons and cards. The children were a bit timid at first but warmed up to all of us over time. Eventually, more children entered the room and we were all either doing crafts with them, playing video games, cheering them on for air hockey or using the other toys to engage with them - which made each and every member smile. Despite being in a hospital setting, these young children and adolescents are still provided with opportunities to still feel and act youthful and that's what truly warms my heart. I would definitely volunteer with CASSA at Miller’s again and recommend this event to anyone interested in the Child Life Profession!

Breakfast Fundraiser - Samantha Steele

It was a cold Monday morning spent out in the Titan Student Union. My fellow CASSA members were wide awake despite the earliness of the event; their chipper mood was rather contagious, even the Titans supporting us were giving high fives all around and laughing with us. Watching us enjoy the fundraiser, you would have no idea it was a Monday. As a new CASSA member, this was the first event that I was able to work, and I had a blast! As I worked the booth, I was able to talk to and get to know the board members of CASSA. We talked about our passion for education and future opportunities to give back to, not just our school, but our community as well. I look forward to working with this student association in the future and hope to see you Titans out there supporting our cause to help the generation of tomorrow!
Illumination Foundation - Lizette Chavez

To say this event was great is a complete understatement! It was more, how to word it, phenomenal than anything else! I had so much fun putting all the activities together and being able to bring them to the children. We had our own booth of two activities and we brought “make your own turkey” materials and a “thanksgiving memory card” game. Truly, it was a blessing to be able to see the look at the children and their families’ faces. Nothing could top how honored I felt bringing happiness to them during Thanksgiving season. To me, it was a reminder to be thankful for this life and the opportunities I have been granted. Ultimately, I will forever vividly cherish this event and further expand my interest in working with this amazing organization.

Road to Teaching - Ashley Evans

Reflecting on my experience at the 19th Annual Road to Teaching Conference held at Santa Ana College, I took away a plethora of strategies and information that I can use in my future career as an elementary school teacher. Networking with other individuals interested in pursuing a profession in the educational field, attending various workshops, and listening to the teacher of the year speak at the opening key note were just a few of the countless beneficial aspects of the conference. One of my favorite workshops included the explanation of the implementation of classroom management and discipline procedures in the classroom. The speaker was full of energy, and her passion for being a teacher was truly evident as she spoke. I had an amazing time engaging with others as lunch was served, and I even exchanged information with some new faces! Because I learned so much as a result of my attendance to this conference, I have made it a goal to go each year from now on!
Kathy Ireland - Micaela Kinnier

The Kathy Ireland event was a ton of fun! From the moment we got there we were greeted with a shirt, complimentary breakfast, and smiles from all the other CASSA members and other volunteers. I was a group leader for this event, so I was guiding a group of children from each activity. The children loved the activities! They were able to paint, make ginger bread houses, personalized Santa hats, and so much more. At the end of the event, we all went inside for a sing along. We read christmas books and all the children to received a present from Santa and Mrs. Claus. It was amazing to see the children smiling at how much fun they were having. I had a lot of fun at this event, but what was even better was the happiness it gave me to be able to help give these children such a special day. I will definitely be going again next year!

Autism Walk - Cristy Martinez

Autism Speaks Walk was as always an exceptional experience to be a part of. Along with the outgoing members of CASSA, we helped raise awareness for Autism. Not only did CASSA help raise money for a note-worthy cause, but everyone got to be part of the amazing community who is attempting to help people with Autism. On a marvelous sunny day at the Angel's Stadium, CASSA helped accomplish this with the help of its excited members. It feels great knowing you helped out with a cause that many people may be unaware of simply because it does not affect them. That is the thing with CASSA it makes you feel like you are part of something bigger and actually making a change in your community...because you are. In addition to the inner satisfaction, all members had fun with the after activities and booths that were provided for participants of the event such as face painting and a photo booth. The people who participated in the walk were from all over the country but ultimately all had one goal: help those with Autism; which the CASSA team accomplished that day without a doubt.
Guest Speaker: Children’s Center - Erin Githens

When Sonia Nunez’s presentation began, I instantly liked her. I liked how personal she made it. She told us how she started as a student trying to be an elementary school teacher, but then realized she wanted to work with the younger kids. She said that if we were to apply there, she would do her best to accommodate our school schedule because she knows what it's like to be a student. I was impressed by this presentation and am thinking about applying myself. I can tell this is an ideal work environment!

Guest Speaker: Child Development Inc. - Erin Githens

The Child Development Inc speaker was a truly wonderful experience. The speaker was welcoming and told everyone that there is always a place for people who work as hard we do for CASSA. She had tons of jobs in her company from infants to school-age. The jobs would try to accommodate our schedule as best they can. There is more than one site, so location is not an issue. There is space for those who want it!

Guest Speaker: Dr. Bono - Danielle Eden

It was a wonderful way to end our Fall 2015 general meetings to have the chair of the Child and Adolescent Studies department, Dr. Bono, as a guest speaker. Her journey of pursuing her Ph.D and becoming chair of the CAS department was inspiring, especially to the members that are interested in pursuing research and higher education. Dr. Bono also discussed updates and opportunities within the CAS department. It was beneficial to us students to have a Q and A at the end of her presentation about CAS courses and opportunities such as research and internships. I am thrilled that Dr. Bono will be Faculty Advisor for CASSA in the spring semester!

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