On behalf of the CASSA Executive Board, we thank you for all of your hard work, service, and dedication to CASSA. It has been such a successful and fun year! Congratulations to those of you who have graduated and, many of you who have earned your cords; we wish you all the best on your future endeavors! And to those of you who are not graduating just yet, we hope you continue your involvement in CASSA and see you next academic year!

- Danielle Eden, Executive President
Pediatric Cancer Walk - Natalie Flores

The pediatric cancer 5K walk was a brand new experience for me. I had never participated in a charity walk before and had no idea what to expect. Luckily, I was able to find the CASSA members easily and they helped me with the process. As a group, we explored the surroundings and the booths the event provided. The event was peaceful and friendly. During the walk, I was able to connect with new people and make new friends. I would love to take part in this environment again in the future!

Child Guidance Center - Alex Ramirez

At the Child Guidance Center event, we facilitated physical activities that we did with the children and their families. We played soccer, ‘swat the fly’, with beach balls, with pool noodles, popped bubbles, played hand toss and we danced with the children in order to get them moving. Some of the other girls made sure to register the kids, while they measured the kid’s height, weight, and gave them information about the center. I was part of the physical activities; we had children running, jumping, dancing, hopping, laughing and screaming! It was a really fun day with all the children and their families which created a special bond between them. We stopped the activities for a moment in order to do a raffle for the children and for them to drink water. I had an amazing time and I would definitely love to part take in this involvement again without hesitation. I thought it was fun to see how the children and their parents were interacting with each other, the adults were enjoying themselves too and being a part of the activities made it extra special for their kids and us. One event was when this little kid was playing with his grandma and translating everything to her in Spanish. Just to see their interaction with one another and how they were laughing and playing made my experience much more meaningful.
Autism Career Panel - Danielle Viveros

The Child and Adolescent Studies Department did such an amazing job hosting the Autism Career Panel, honoring HHD week. It was well organized and gave me an opportunity to learn more about the autism spectrum and have any questions that I had were answered by professionals. This event presented multiple companies discussing their passion for youth facing autism, as well as their personal experiences, which were very heart felt and touching. After the panel concluded, students were given the opportunity to enjoy delicious refreshments and talk one on one with each representative to discuss potential career/ intern openings. I came across a company, Autism Spectrum Interventions (ASI). They provide a free workshop at their location to get more insight about their company while also providing certificates of completion. This is an exciting opportunity and I am glad to have received it by attending the career panel offered by the department. I will gladly attend others that are provided and I also highly recommend all other students to take advantage of such events.

Alumni Mixer - Jenna Henson

As we all know, one of the main reasons to join CASSA is to network with some awesome and important people from the Child Development field, and the Alumni Mixer was the perfect way to do just that! It was such a pleasure being able to connect with some of my favorite faculty on another, more personal level through this event. We also had the privilege of hearing several of Cal State Fullerton's Child and Adolescent Studies alumni speak about their experiences here at CSUF and how CSUF has prepared them for their life beyond college. The alumni showed us just how much Cal State Fullerton has helped them through their careers, and how we can continue to stay involved with the CAS department even after graduation. Although this was the first CAS Alumni Mixer, I sincerely hope that there are many more to come!
Orangewood, April - Anahi Partida

The Orangewood visit in April was one of the few events I was able to attend this semester and I’m glad that I was selected for it! Going in, I was nervous because I had only been there once about a year ago and the participation wasn’t very high with the group we were with. We had adolescent girls again, but the girls in attendance were very willing to participate in the activities we brought! We started off with an icebreaker game to introduce the volunteers and the girls, which served its purpose wonderfully. Then we split off into different activity groups, and there were some fun things! One group worked on origami (I tried, but clearly I lack the artistic ability that some of these girls had) while another colored pages with outlines of different animals. My group played Jenga, which we found in the classroom that we were in. There was one girl who was a master at the game and eventually it devolved to her and one other girl while the rest of us watched in wonder. I loved knowing that we were bringing something new in for the girls and we may have provided a break in the routine. Overall it was a great experience, and one that I will always recommend attending at least once during your time as a member of CASSA.

Second Harvest, April - Chelsea Noble

I had the pleasure of being a Board Member on duty for this wonderful event at the Second Harvest Food Bank in Irvine. At this event, myself and the wonderful members of CASSA worked long and hard packaging food, drinks, and other items to be sent out to families in need in Orange County. What was so wonderful about this event, that I think made it extra special, was that the lead coordinator of the event took the time out of the day to talk to us about what exactly Second Harvest Food Bank is and where all the food goes. This made the experience that much more meaningful for everyone because they knew that the hard work that they put into this event not only benefitted themselves, but thousands of other families and individuals as well. We learned so much, worked so hard, and also had a ton of fun!
Girls Inc., April - Lizette Chavez

CASSA got the awesome opportunity to volunteer at the Girls Inc. Youth Center and we brought in an Earth Day themed activity. We went in with Human Services Student Administration (HSSA) to do a collaboration event. At first glance, it seemed like we had it all planned out and ready. We had to cut out all of the pieces for the girls to use in the activity, and that freaked us out. Once we were done with that we felt a sense of relief and were ready to enjoy HSSA's Zumba part. We felt out of the ordinary while participating in the Zumba part because most of us had never done Zumba, but it was such a fun learning experience. Once we moved on to our arts and crafts portion, we started off hesitant. That all changed once the activity began because the girls really got creative with their earth day creations. Although we ended earlier than anticipated, everyone (CASSA, HSSA, and Girls Inc.) all loved the activity. You can really tell we pulled through and gave the situation our best efforts. Like many other events, I loved its outcome!

Millers Children’s Hospital, April - Cathy Nguyen

It was a bright and shining morning on Saturday and it had been my first time at the Miller's Children's Hospital. Walking into the building, my first impression was it looked like a children's playroom. I was amazed at how colorful the rooms were and it didn't seem scary like the typical hospital settings. We, the CASSA members, were all in a colorfully painted room themed of the amazon with many birds and palm trees. The children we interacted with were around 6-8 years old and even though it was a slow morning, many kids started coming in and we had all different crafts for them such as making masks, painting, and coloring pages. One boy in particular had so much fun making the superhero mask of his choice. It made me feel happy that even though he was in a hospital, he still was very happy and his enthusiasm showed throughout the activity. We also played air hockey that was available in the playroom and boy, he is very competitive! I had so much fun with the kids and hopefully I get to come back again next time.
Bubble Run - Judy Trinh

The Bubble Run was the first run I'd ever attended and I am so glad that I attended it with CASSA! It was so much fun, running through the multicolored swamps of bubbles, taking selfies, and bonding with other CASSA members! I met so many wonderful people and got to spend quality time with them. It was a great way to get in some much-needed exercise and bond with like-minded individuals. I would do it all over again if I had the chance! The memories I made that day will be memories I will carry with me for the rest of my life! It was an amazing experience and opportunity and I would recommend it to anyone and everyone!

CASSA Movie Night - Elizabeth Esqueda

As a new member to CASSA, I really enjoyed attending movie night. The movie we saw was Zoolander 2 and it was absolutely hilarious! The movie is a sequel to Zoolander with the return of Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson. There were also celebrity cameos such as Justin Bieber, Marc Jacobs, Ariana Grande, Neil deGrasse Tyson, there were so many that it was hard to keep track of them all. I had never been to the Titan Theater before and since CASSA was offering a movie night, so this was the perfect opportunity to finally go! I highly recommend going to watch a movie at the Titan Theater, I know I am definitely going again!

Angels Game - Perla Calderon

“Take me out to the ball game, take me out to the crowd,” this is the part of the game that I enjoyed the most. I enjoyed singing and watching everyone at the stadium come together to sing this song. It was a wonderful feeling to be at the game with my family and members of CASSA. It had been many years since I had attended an Angel's game at the Stadium, and this game was one of the ones I enjoyed the most. The highlight of the game for me was laughing, eating snacks and enjoying the game with everyone around me. I have no doubt that in the future I will attend this CASSA event. It is awesome to be able to invite my friends and family to a baseball game.
Family Fun Day - Ashley Allen

I had the wonderful opportunity of attending Child Guidance Center’s Family Fun Day for a second time! This event focused on the importance of physical activity in young children’s lives with the hopes of maintaining a healthier weight. Obesity among children is an increasing epidemic and can be easily managed with the appropriate food choices and amount of physical activity and exercise incorporated into children's’ lifestyles. It was amazing to see the children learn about how fun being physically active can be and how it's benefiting their body as well as seeing parents becoming more actively involved with their children. If the parents participate and show their children that they are having fun and are making healthy food choices, then their children are more likely to do the same. A lady who was leading the activities, Arlene, was engaged with the children the whole time and eventually, let CASSA members (what she called “The Orange Team”) take the lead – giving members opportunities to actually explain, demonstrate and lead exercises for the kids! This event was definitely the workout and the children never seemed to stop! I felt that this event was beneficial not only for the children and families, but for the CASSA members to get more experience playing individually or in a group with young children, leading activities, interacting with a diverse population, meeting new CASSA members and most importantly, staying active and having fun on a nice Saturday in the park!

March for Babies - Danie Eden

March for Babies was such a fun event that supported a great cause. 1 in 10 babies is born too soon and 8% of all newborn babies are underweight in the United States, which comes with many developmental risks. Being a low birth weight baby myself, it was so fulfilling to walk along side my parents and fellow CASSA members on a beautiful day in Newport Beach for a cause close to my heart. The CASSA walks for a cause are always a blast and they help the community at the same time!
Guest Speaker: JudelMay Enriquez - Sandra Patino

Getting to hear JudelMay talk about her experiences as a current graduate student was very insightful. She spoke about the time when she questioned her competence and felt as if she did not belong in the graduate program. I was astonished and simultaneously relieved to hear that I am not the only individual questioning their competency for graduate school and that there are ways to surpass that feeling. As she mentioned, having confidence in one's abilities and self care are essentials when completing any level of education. I am anxious and excited for all of the graduate school experiences I have yet to encounter.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Rodriguez - Danie Eden

Dr. Tiffany Rodriquez is an experienced special educator and established faculty member in the Special Education department at Cal State Fullerton. I have seen her present several times at conferences, so I was excited that she was coming to speak to us CASSA members. She provided a multitude of information about becoming a special educator, mainstreaming in schools, and working with youth with intellectual disabilities. She was informative and expressed her passion for special education. In any profession working with youth, we will work with children with intellectual disabilities so having Dr. Rodriguez come speak to us was highly beneficial!
THANK YOU CASSA!

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