This year, Cal State Fullerton is celebrating its 50th anniversary. On Saturday, September 15th, people were invited for a fun-filled day on campus. Every department was represented at informational booths or carnival games. For this event, CASSA created an obstacle course for children. It turned out to be a great success! CASSA board members ran the obstacle course and found that the children who participated had a great time jumping over hurdles and using hula hoops. The obstacle course was not just a way for Child Development Majors to introduce the importance of physical activity, but the group also incorporated a developmentally appropriate mental component to it by having the children use their brains to solve an age-appropriate math problem. Once children completed the obstacle course and math problem, they received bubbles!
Guest Speaker Events

This semester, CASSA members had the opportunity to attend five guest speaker events.

- **On September 26th**, Patrick Johnston, a K-5 music teacher for LAUSD, spoke about his experiences and the importance of music education for elementary school children.

- **On October 10th**, Deserie Gallegos, a junior high school counselor for Rowland Unified School District, spoke about the day in the life of a counselor. She told us about how she promotes student growth.

- **On October 24th**, Chris Schnieders, a director of teacher training at the Frostig Center, spoke about her career and path. The center’s mission is to help children with learning disabilities and promote success in the lives of their students.

- **On November 14th**, Catherine Van Riette, an adult reentry counselor, spoke about stress management and gave us helpful techniques to help manage our stress. It was especially helpful to students entering this stressful time filled with projects and finals!

- **On December 5th**, Dr. Janna Kim and Ruth La Riviere spoke about graduate school. They talked about their experiences and provided tips about how to get into and succeed in a graduate program.

All of our guest speaker events were very informative. We are thankful that these speakers came and shared their knowledge with us. By sharing their experiences, they have opened our eyes to various aspects of child development and gave us tips that will help us in our future endeavors.

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All of the children enjoyed walking around the 50th celebration event with their bubbles, reminding them of CASSA’s obstacle course. It turned out to be very fun for us to run, and the rewards for all of us who participated were the smiles we saw on children’s faces while they were enjoying our activity.

*Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.*

- Marian Wright Edelman
Most Embarrassing Adolescent Moments

As Child and Adolescent Development majors, we all know that adolescence is quite a fascinating time in one's life. It is a time of many physical and cognitive changes. It is also a time of exploration and self identification. It is a time of transitioning from being a child to an adult. Most of all, adolescence is infamous for being a time of embarrassing moments!

Come on, you know you've had them. Tripping and falling in front of your peers, scoring a goal for the other team, forgetting your lines in the school play... yes, even that really bad haircut. Even if they don't want to admit it, everyone has an embarrassing moment to share. In this issue, some of our brave CASSA board members were willing to share some of their embarrassing moments during adolescence for your amusement and pleasure.

As a guy, I tend to play with the children in a manner such as wrestling and tackling and such. When there are a couple of kids too many, they tend to latch on to my legs to try and get a hold of me and stop me. Well, many a time I have been "pants'd" in front of children and adults alike. The first couple of times it was really embarrassing, but now I have gotten used to it.

Growing up, I did not get very embarrassed easily, but this situation has happened a couple of times in my work with children. As a guy, I tend to play with the children in a manner such as wrestling and tackling and such. When there are a couple of kids too many, they tend to latch on to my legs to try and get a hold of me and stop me. Well, many a time I have been "pants'd" in front of children and adults alike. The first couple of times it was really embarrassing, but now I have gotten used to it.

Cameron Heath

My first interview took place when I was in high school. My interviewer was an older, stodgy-looking man in a suit, and when I arrived, we introduced ourselves to each other and shook hands. He then motioned me to a chair as if asking me to have a seat. However, in my state of extreme nervousness, I misread his cue, grasped his hand (which was pointed at the chair), and shook it vigorously... again. It was mid-shake, and only after I saw his confused reaction, that I realized my mistake.

Dr. Kim
I was in art class with my two best friends. I think it might have been fifth or sixth grade. I had acted for years in musicals, theater production, independent films and such, so my friends were commenting on how cool that was. They were asking me questions like, "What does it take to do those things?" and, "How do you make it?" Now, I was a pretty smart kid, but for some reason, I must have mistaken the words in my head. I answered them, "Well, it takes a lot of perspiration." Immediately my friends turned into two cackling hyenas and I turned into a mouse! "What is so funny?" I thought. I just said it took a lot of perspiration? OOOHHH, I MEANT perseverance! As they continued to laugh, I continued to turn red, but eventually the laughter died down. I was so embarrassed!!

Kelly Anderson

During my senior year of high school I was talking on the microphone at a Pep Rally. Well, someone thought it would be funny, as a joke, to cream me in the face with a pie. So when the other emcee and I had our backs turned the other way, two students came from behind us and creamed us in the face. The most embarrassing part was it was in front of the whole school!! Even though it was all in good fun, it's nice to look back on high school memories and laugh at the good times I had!

Pamela Gutierrez
On my 17th birthday, my best friend surprised me by bringing an Oreo birthday cake to school for me. Once I walked into the choir room, everyone in our class began to sing “Happy Birthday” to me. As I leaned forward to blow out my birthday candles, my hair fell forward and caught on fire! Luckily, I was able to put it out just by grabbing on to those strands of hair, but I still smelled burnt for the rest of the day! Of course, I’m always reminded of that wonderful moment at every birthday I celebrate.

Noreen Cortez

When I was in middle school, my best friends and I used to love to go T.P.ing. Since everyone that went to our school basically lived in the same area, our targets were always easily accessible. One night we decided to "get" my friend Jennifer's crush. After going to the school play, we went to his house armed with 2 rolls each. We were doing so well when we heard something we never wanted to hear while "doing our thing." The words, "Oh no! we've been T.P.ed!!" were coming from our victims. My friends darted up the middle of the street, and I started hopping over bushes and running through front yards and driveways. When we finally got to my friend's mom's car I realized that given the "horrifying" circumstance, I had wet my pants!! Let's just say that my friends never let me forget it!!

Stephanie Peterson
On the morning of October 21, 2007 at 6:30 A.M., CASSA participated in the 17th Annual CHOC/Disneyland Resort Walk in the Park. This was CASSA’s second year to be part of the thousands of people making a difference. We were one of the many teams that filled Main St. and joined others walking for the same cause with the same reasons and feelings. The 54 CASSA walkers raised an outstanding $2,835, which was donated to the services that CHOC provides for the children. As walkers headed down Main St. towards Sleeping Beauty’s Castle, the emcee announced the team names, and CASSA screamed and cheered loudly for everyone to hear.

While chanting their way through the Disneyland Resort, the members held a CASSA banner high and proud. On this day, it was inspiring to see what happens when you combine the compassion of the human heart, the innocence of a child, and the magic of Disneyland. CASSA members truly saw first-hand why there are “a million reasons to walk.”
So far this semester, we have visited Orangewood Children's Home, worked with a branch of the Anaheim YMCA, coordinated a fun craft day with Jumpstart, and have had a few other fun events. At each event, the children have been delighted to have CASSA members join them, and they have thanked us over and over again. CASSA also participated in a school supply drive for a program called Step Ahead, and members donated pencils, glue sticks, and other school supplies to help students be as successful as possible! Thank you so much for everyone's time and participation, and we look forward to seeing you all at other events!

Community Service Opportunities

- Kelly Anderson

"One of the community service events that I attended was at the Orangewood children's home in Orange. It was the weekend before Halloween and the home was putting on a Halloween party for all the children. As I arrived, I met a few members of CASSA that I had never met before and we clicked right away. As all the volunteers entered, we were all amazed at how beautiful the place was. It was well kept up and all the buildings looked like cottages. The first thing I did was pick up a basketball and got some boys from the home to play with me and some of the girls. We all had a great time trying to make baskets and bonding. Then we all went to the gymnasium and danced. All the kids had a great time dancing with us and their friends. Some of little girls taught me some moves! Good times, good times. I would recommend this event to all CASSA members. The children and staff there were really friendly and I believe that you will have a great experience like I had."

-Krystal McGregor

"I realized that even the small things like spending some time with children would make them feel important and special. Seeing the smiles on their faces made the experience more worthwhile. After Orangewood, I learned to appreciate and be grateful for the things in my life."

-Katrina Castro

"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile"

-Albert Einstein
C A S S A M i s s i o n S t a t e m e n t

C A S S A is the Child and Adolescent Studies Student Association for Child and Adolescent Development majors. C A S S A is an organization in which student, faculty, and community members interact to help students develop their leadership skills, professional skills, and knowledge of children. C A S S A also provides opportunities to interact with fellow students and faculty in an atmosphere that fosters social networking. In addition to hosting regular monthly meetings, semi-annual career development days, and a variety of other social events, C A S S A sponsors community service activities and public awareness activities.

Any suggestions about what you’d like to see in our next newsletter? Send your responses to us via e-mail: noreencortez@gmail.com (Noreen Cortez, Information Manager)

H a l l o w e e n M i x e r
- C a m e r o n H e a t h

On Thursday, October 25th C A S S A had a mixer with another organization on campus, H S S A (Human Services Student Association). Everyone dressed up in creative Halloween costumes. Along with snacks and refreshments, the night was filled with music and fun activities such as “Scare Pictionary,” a mummy wrap using toilet paper, and Halloween-themed Bingo. C A S S A members had the opportunity to meet members from H S S A as well as get to know their fellow C A S S A members. It was a fun night, and we look forward to having more opportunities to socialize with other clubs at C S U F.