Andrea Zetlin Named Cal State L.A. Distinguished Professor

Plsadesian Andrea Zetlin, a professor of special education and counseling, was named as Cal State L.A. President’s Distinguished Professor.

The award is presented to a previous Outstanding Professor award recipient and recognizes superlative teaching and exceptional commitment to students, as well as professional accomplishments and services.

Zetlin, who has been a member of the Cal State staff since 1989, has conducted extensive research in the education of children and youth in foster care, an area that had not been well researched in California.

Her research has changed the ways foster care students are supported in schools. Zetlin helped establish an educational liaison to serve between the school and foster youth, ensuring each child is provided with academic, emotional and behavioral support.

Zetlin’s research also contributed to the establishment and implementation of state and federal legislation to support foster youth.

Additionally, she has co-authored several books on the subject, including Placed at Risk by the System: The Educational Vulnerability of Children and Youth in Foster Care.

In addition to her work in the foster system, Zetlin launched the Murchison Street Elementary School Integrated Services Center (near the college), which features family resources and a pediatric health clinic.

Using a U.S. Department of Education grant, the program pays for a nurse practitioner at the school and provides clinical health services to children from the nearby Ramona Gardens Housing Project, including those from undocumented families. This service cuts down on children’s absences due to untreated minor health-related issues.

Zetlin also created the C. Lamar Mayer Learning Center, a Saturday literacy development program at Cal State for local children. That center serves as a fieldwork site for Cal State candidates in special education credential and school-based family counseling programs. It also provides parenting and English language development workshops for families while children are in learning sessions.

Professor Zetlin has worked with the Los Angeles Unified School District, the California Department of Education, and the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing in order to develop teachers who can successfully support K-12 students, with and without disabilities, to achieve college and career-ready standards.

She received her bachelor’s degree from Queens College, CUNY, her master’s degree from New York University, and an Ed.D. from Columbia University. She completed her postdoctoral work at UCLA’s Department of Psychiatry as a research fellow in the Socio-Behavioral Research Unit (1979-1981).

Zetlin has lived in the Palisades since 1986 with her husband Barry and son Josh.

Wishnick to Speak At ‘Food for Thought’

Palisades Presbyterian Church will continue its “Food for Thought” speaker series on October 22, at 11:30 a.m. in James Hall, off El Medio at Sunset.

The speaker will be Arnie Wishnick who has been the Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce Executive Director for 22 years. Before working at the Chamber, Wishnick was vice president of two banks in the Palisades (Southern California Savings and Gibraltar Savings).

Wishnick has served as president of the Palisades Parade Association (twice), and now looks for celebrities to ride as grand marshal in the parade. “I’ve been told no by all of the stars,” he said.

He has co-produced three musicals at Theatre Palisades, including Damn Yankees, The Pajama Game and The Marvelous Wonderettes. For 12 years, Wishnick reviewed movies for the Palisadian-Post.

Optimist president, honorary fire chief, Community Council Sparkplug winner, P.R.I.D.E. treasurer, vice-president of the Village Green Committee, Wishnick has done it all.

Atria Senior Living will once again serve a complimentary lunch (donations welcomed). The event is free, but please RSVP to (310) 454-0386 to ensure there is enough food.