Dr. Steve Wilson
Social Work

Dr. Steve Wilson began his career as a social work clinician in healthcare and hospice. His ability to incorporate his professional experience, coupled with his use of evidence-based research and strong communication skills, have established him as among the best educators in the School of Social Work.

Dr. Wilson joined the university as a part-time lecturer in 1993 and became an associate professor in 2004. Since then, he has taken the lead on redesigning four graduate level research classes, as well as the Social Work Administration course.

He also created one of the most sought after classes in the school – Social Work Practice with Death, Dying and Loss – drawing from his experience as a hospice social worker, his academic research and relevant literature. Offered for the first time in Spring 2009, the course prepares students for work with the terminally ill, their families and those who are bereaved. CSULB is one of the few schools in the nation to offer such a course and it is so popular that students have signed petitions to ensure it is offered each semester.

Dr. Wilson’s Social Work Administration class has been deemed highly innovative; he has made conference presentations on its design and published an article on its effects on graduates. His statistics classes are among the first to fill because of his reputation for excellence in teaching. Professors often seek his mentorship to improve their own teaching skills.

Dr. Wilson also serves as a thesis adviser as well as a faculty adviser to the Association of Social Work Students. His research interests and areas of specialization are in medical and geriatric social work with older adults including death, dying and bereavement, hospice care and family caregiver issues.

Dr. Wilson received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Development in 1990 and his Master of Social Work in 1993 from CSULB. He earned his doctorate in Social Work from USC in 2004.

Dr. Michael Chelian
Computer Engineering and Computer Science

Dr. Michael Chelian supports students from the moment they step onto campus for Student Orientation, Advising and Registration (SOAR) to the day they walk across the platform to shake President Alexander’s hand at graduation.

The undergraduate adviser for the Computer Engineering and Computer Science department for the past five years, Dr. Chelian introduces the program to prospective freshmen at the College of Engineering’s Open House and meets with students during SOAR. He has also served as faculty marshal in more than 20 commencement ceremonies.

His advising philosophy can be summed up in two words – concern and care. Encouraging, understanding and accommodating, Dr. Chelian has all of the qualities that make an adviser successful.

He often adjusts his advising hours to fit students’ schedules – even staying after hours on Friday evenings. He greets every student with a smile and a simple question, “How are things with you?”

Dr. Chelian is regarded by students and colleagues from throughout the College as extremely knowledgeable about current academic policies and procedures. Many of the students he has advised credit him with expediting their graduation and maximizing their academic experience.

“When some students go through unfortunate and extenuating circumstances,” he said. “Our role as advisers is to help those students as much as we can. It is a joy to see the students who went through hardships or who neglected their studies for a time return, complete their program and stand in line for the commencement ceremony.”

A faculty member at CSULB for 23 years, Dr. Chelian is the chair of the department’s undergraduate curriculum committee and represents the department on the College-wide curriculum committee. He served as a member of the University Graduate Council for a term and was the graduate program adviser for Electrical Engineering for nine years. He is also a member of the College’s ABET Accreditation Committee and is preparing the Self Study Report that will be submitted to the accreditation board.