

THE COSS HERALD

New hires for departments

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The Departments of Africana Studies, Chicano and Latin American Studies, Criminology, and Women's Studies added new faces to their ranks this fall, and the Dean's office gained a communications specialist.

Takkara Brunson (AFRS)



Takkara Brunson joins Africana Studies after having served as an assistant professor of history and women's and

gender studies at Morgan State University. Brunson received her PhD from the University of Texas at Austin in Latin American and Caribbean History. She has received research support from

the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, Ford Foundation, and the University of Rochester Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African American Studies.

Currently, Brunson is completing a manuscript, titled "Constructing Afro-Cuban Womanhood: Race, Gender, and Citizenship in Cuba, 1886-1958," which examines gender and racial politics from the standpoint of women of African descent.

Luis Fernando Macía (CLAS)



Luis Fernando Macía comes to Fresno State with his doctorate from Ohio State University's Department of

Teaching and Learning's Multicultural and Equity Studies in Education. He received his BA in Spanish and Translation from the University of Texas at El Paso and MA in Cross Cultural and International Education from Bowling Green State University. He was also a Peace Corps Volunteer in Kazakhstan and a Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) Accredited Representative for an immigration non-profit organization in El Paso, Texas.

His research interests include issues of immigration such as immigrant youth's access to post secondary education as well as investigating and theorizing Latinidad in the contemporary midwestern United States.

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President's medalist

By Tom Uribes
Fresno State News

Alexandra Gallo



Alexandra Gallo, of Hollister, was awarded the top University honor for undergraduates at

Fresno State's 106th Commencement May 20, 2017, at the Save Mart Center. She was chosen as the President's Medalist from a group of nine Deans' Undergraduate Medalists. Gallo completed a B.A. in Political Science and a B.A. in Communication, with a GPA of 3.81. Difficult family circumstances inspired this first generation student to obtain a degree and help others. Gallo seized opportunities to serve and engage during her time at Fresno State. She studied abroad, was elected to student government, served as an ambassador for the Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning, was as a Maddy

intern with Congressman Jim Costa and worked with the League of Women Voters. She's a three time winner of the President's Volunteer Service Award for completing 200 hours of service each year at organizations like the Every Neighborhood Partnership and the Ronald McDonald House. She also planned a camp for children with parents battling cancer. "The College of Social Science has taught me how to be a critical thinker, and how to apply leadership and theories to governmental agencies, jobs and community service work," she says. After graduation, Gallo will intern in Washington D.C. with Congressman Costa before applying to law school.

Research Roundup

Numerous faculty received release time and mini grants to conduct research for the upcoming academic year:

Mark Arvanigian is studying kingship, the Constitution and the exercise of political power in Late Medieval England.

Jenny Banh is examining barriers and bridges for Southeast Asian four year graduation rates.

Lisa Bryant is researching how parenthood shapes the legislative agenda.

Amber Crowell received funding for a National Science Foundation CAREER Grant proposal development.

Mohan Dangi is performing a life cycle analysis of green waste in Fresno, California. Hongwei Dong is doing an

empirical analysis of the effect of neighborhood environments on mental health in 500 American cities.

Romeo Guzman received funding for developing East of East: A New Suburban History / Straight Outta Fresno: A Public History Project / Valley Public History Initiative: NEH Grant.

Debbie Helsel is conducting research on the Hmong community and end-of-life care.

Andrew Jones is conducting an econometric analysis of data for the ULTRA-FACES study, and is doing research on authoritarian regimes and species conservation.

Ethan Kytle is working on his study, Fact, Fancy and Nat Fuller's Feast in 1865 and 2015.

Victoria Malko is developing the Holodomor Education Program.

Maria Lopes is working on a manuscript titled, "Meat in the Marketplace: Brazil in the Global Livestock Academy."

Ali Masood is doing a cross national analysis of hierarchical relationships in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, to examine improving substantive inferences with court outcomes.

Larissa Mercado-López is examining Chicana mother testimonies of higher education.

Jordan Pickering is examining the influence of high profile citizen encounters and police community relations from the perspective of law enforcement officials.

Melanie Ram is looking at overlapping institutions, mutual dependency and international organization efficiency.

Jennifer Randles is studying how to address diaper needs

in the United States.

DeAnna Reese is writing about reflections on FLOTUS: Michelle Obama in a Non-Post Racial World.

Blain Roberts is researching the Demonstration Clothing Program of the Cooperative Extension Service in the rural South.

William Skuban is working on an article, "In Dubious Battle: Modernity, Secularism, and the "Social Question" in Chile 1890-1925."

Chris Sullivan is researching the changing logic of ethnic classification in China.

Tinneke VanCamp is constructing a game theory model to help predict the significance of restorative justice.

Chih Hao Wang is working on an article, "Seismic Resistant Cities: Does Urban Spatial Structure Matter?"

The COSS Herald

The COSS Herald is a semi-annual publication by the faculty of the College of Social Sciences, highlighting the activities of the faculty, staff, & students, and providing a venue for social bonding among members of nine departments spread over five buildings on campus. *The COSS Herald* is not an official university publication. The COSS Herald Staff:

Cristina Herrera, Co-editor

Andrew Jones, Co-editor

Submissions for the next edition of *The COSS Herald* should be sent via email to either cherrera@csufresno.edu or anjones@csufresno.edu. Images should be submitted in 'jpeg' format, while text materials should be in rich text format (rtf). The editors retain the right of refusal to publish any materials they deem to be obscene, pornographic, threatening, or boring.

Dean's Corner



I cannot believe that I am beginning my third year as Interim Dean for College of Social

Sciences. One of the best parts about serving as dean is the need to continue to learn new things. Everyday is an adventure and everyday I realize that I need to keep building my skills. As a result of COSS events such as the Los Danzantes Holiday show, Latino Commencement, and various community connections created by COSS faculty, I was invited as a delegate to be part of the California Central valley Delegation to Tijuana, Rosarito, Valley of Guadalupe and Ensenada, Mexico, sponsored by the Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation and the Consulate of Mexi-

co, Fresno. Together with other valley leaders I spent three days learning more about the region and developing connections for our university. In addition, I will begin studying Spanish in the fall, something I had been thinking about for awhile but which I became serious about after commencement last spring when I realized I wanted to be able to communicate at least a little bit with some of our students' non-English speaking parents. Don't look for me to be fluent in Spanish anytime soon, but at least I'll feel that I can welcome parents and friends when they are at our events.

I am thrilled to be welcoming another outstanding group of new faculty to our college. This year I'll be meeting with them regularly to try and help them through our bureaucra-

cy, learn about their interests and help to foster a culture of collaboration. I am beyond excited that we have a new development director who comes to us with experience working for the Clovis Police Department and in development at Fresno State. In addition she has a degree in history and is currently working on her M.A. in history and writing a thesis tentatively titled, "Reaching Rural Women: World War I, War Relief Knitting and Needlecraft Magazine." She and Lucero Benitez, our communications specialist, are a dream team, working hard to promote all things COSS.

On September 15th, Criminology will hold a ribbon cutting for the new Forensic and Behavioral Sciences lab, which is the culmination of years of plan- (continued on page 12)

Paparazzi



(Left) ASI COSS Senator Ishaq Ali cuts the ceremonial ribbon at the dedication of the new Social Science Quad, along with Dean Michelle DenBeste, President Joseph Castro and Victor E. Bulldog III, February 14, 2017.

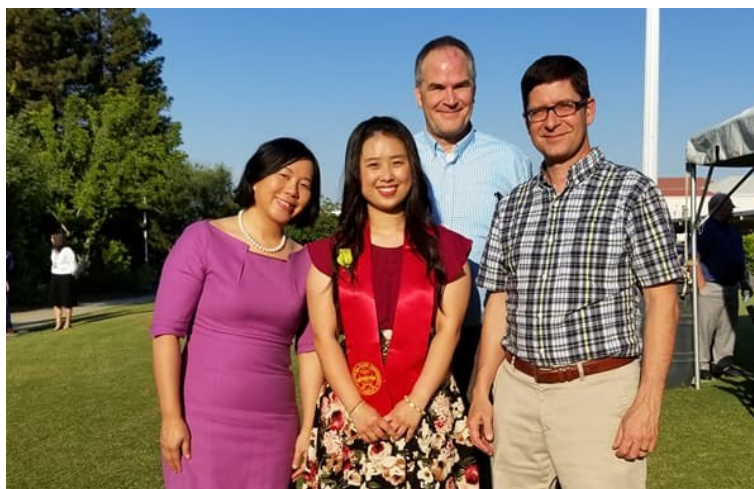
(Below) Larissa Mercado-López poses with authors Carribean Fragoza and Randa Jarrar after doing a reading of her children's book at LitHop, April 29, 2017.



(Left) Thomas Holyoke and Lori Clune pose in front of their recent publications and those of fellow COSS authors being showcased at the Henry Madden Library, March 3, 2017.



(Right) Chi Chang (center) poses with Anthropology faculty Jenny Banh, James Mullooly and Henry Delcore after being honored as the department's outstanding graduate, May 11, 2017. Chi was accepted into the JET (Japanese Exchange and Teaching) program and moved to Japan over the summer to begin teaching.



New Hires continued

(continued from page 1)

Monica Summers (CRIM)

Monica Summers comes to Fresno State from Southern Illinois University's Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. She received dual bachelors' degrees in criminal justice and legal studies from the University of Illinois Springfield.



She graduated Magna Cum Laude and was the secretary of the Criminal Justice Honor Society (Alpha Phi Sigma division). Following her studies at UIS, she went on to receive a master's degree in criminology & criminal justice from the University of Missouri St. Louis. She focuses on gender studies, particularly as they relate to corrections and victimization.

Marcus Shaw (CRIM)

Marcus Shaw hails from University of California, Merced's Sociology doctoral program, and taught at CSU Stanislaus and UC Merced prior to accepting the position in Criminology. His primary research interests are the intergenerational consequences of mass incarceration, race and parental incarceration, immigration and mass deportations, and critical criminology. He has recently published an article in *Sociology Compass* outlining the effects of parental incarceration on educational mobility. His current research highlights the adverse effects of strain and stigma placed on individuals and family members who come into contact with the criminal justice system.



James Pitts (CRIM)



James Pitts received his Ph.D. in Criminal Justice in August 2017 from the University of Southern Mississippi. He also earned a M.A. and B.A. in political science with emphasis on constitutional law from the University of Southern Mississippi. His primary research interests are focused on incarceration trends, executive level corruption, and African American prison gangs. More recently, he has studied the role of interest groups and their use of litigation to influence prison reforms. His article entitled *Contemporary Prison Overcrowding: Short-term Fixes to a Perpetual Problem* received notable recognition as it was one of the most downloaded articles in 2014 by that journal's publisher.

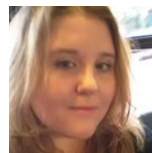
Leece Lee Oliver (COSS/AIS/WS)



Leece Lee Oliver's areas of interest are the advent of race and gender normativities in the West and the implications of colonialism on contemporary social thought, institutional practices, white supremacy and anti-"Indian" and anti-"black" violence. Leece received her Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies, Native American Studies at the University of California Berkeley. She is currently working on her first book, which examines the early formations of western race ideology and gender normativities, with particular focus on the gendered racialization of Native Americans. The project traces the relationships between gendered

racialization, the rhetoric of genocidal campaigns during western expansion, and the epidemic rates of violence against Native American women today. Leece's work extends this analysis to a transnational framework that compares the anti-colonial critiques of indigenous and women of color in the U.S., Caribbean and Australia to consider how anti-colonialism shapes Native American, Indigenous, women of color and Queer activism today.

Katherine Fobear (WS)



Katherine Fobear is a Liu Scholar alumna and holds a Ph.D at the Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice, University of British Columbia.

Katherine is a queer scholar and activist whose work revolves around LGBTQ refugee settlement in North America. Katherine uses participatory photography, oral history, and community-based art projects to explore LGBTQ refugees' stories of settlement. Through storytelling and art Katherine works with LGBTQ refugees and newcomers to share their story and fight for social justice.

Lucero Benitez (staff)



Lucero Benitez joins the staff in the Dean's office as Communications Specialist for COSS. Benitez worked previously as a reporter and anchor for Central Coast News, and is a Fresno State alumna, with a BA in Mass Communications and Journalism.

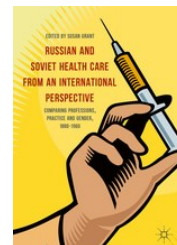
Pub Crawl

Accepted Works



Journal article. "Interest Group and Lobbying Research in a Higher Level Context: Two Tests of Integrating Multiple Levels of Analysis," in *American Politics Research*, Thomas Holyoke.

Journal article. "Teaching and Eating to Transgress: Food as a Pedagogical Agent in the Anthropology Classroom" in *Radical Pedagogy*, Dvera Saxton with Micah Trapp.



Book chapter. "Gender and Russian Health Care, 1880-1905: Professionalism and Practice," in Susan Grant, ed. *Russian and Soviet Health Care from an International Perspective*, Michelle DenBeste.

Book. *Esteban de Luna, Baby Rescuer!* Larissa Mercado-López.

Journal article. "Assessment of environmental policy implementation in solid waste management in Kathmandu, Nepal," in *Waste Management & Research*, Mohan B. Dangi, with Erica Schoenberger and John J. Boland.

Review essay. "A Republic of Fear," in *Reviews in American History*, Ethan Kytle.

Editorial. "Make No Mistake: Donald Trump is Dylann Roof's President," in the *Fresno Bee*, Ethan Kytle and Blain Roberts.

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Student news



(Above) Melissa Quesada and Cintia Quesada, flanked by Don Simmons and Matthew Jendian, received the Humanics Exemplar Award at the Fresno State Spirit of Service Reception, May 3, 2017.

Dean's Medalists

By Kathleen Schock
Fresno State News

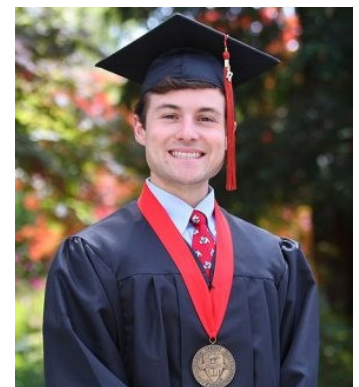
Katy Lee Hogue



Katy Hogue, of Fresno, completed her M.A. in History with a GPA of 4.0. In her second

semester of graduate school, Hogue began a life-changing internship with the Fresno Historical Society. "I found my passion doing the important work of collecting, preserving and interpreting central San Joaquin Valley history." That experience, along with research into the Great Diamond Hoax of 1872, which was presented at multiple symposiums, helped prepare her for a career in public history and archive work. She created an exhibit for Fresno City Hall about an unusual paddlewheel voyage on the San Joaquin River. The research from that project was the basis for an article in the Fresno Historical Society's journal. Her internship with that organization ultimately led to full-time employment. In her current role as collections manager, Hogue wants to continue to partner with Fresno State, working with faculty on public history projects and mentoring graduate interns from the Department of History.

Timothy M. Ryan



Timothy Ryan, of Fresno, completed a B.A. in Political Science with a 3.93 GPA. Ryan is a President's Scholar in the Smittcamp Family Honors College and is finishing his term as the ASI

Local organizations funded by Humanics

By Eddie Hughes
Fresno State News

Fresno State students in the Humanics Students4Giving Philanthropy Project awarded \$15,000 in grants to the Art of Life Cancer Foundation, Focus Forward and the Poverello House.

The grants were presented by students at a reception Monday, May 15, at Arte Americas in Fresno.

The three recipients were selected after reviewing proposals, conducting site visits and holding in-person interviews with more than 20 community benefit organizations.

Art of Life Cancer Foundation was selected to support development of their board and staff. The foundation was created to inspire people impacted by cancer to connect and heal through creative expression. Its

ultimate goal is for people affected by cancer to discover the art of life through creative expression.

Focus Forward was selected to support its work with public policy and advocacy. Its mission is to create pathways to success for youth in the juvenile and child welfare systems through effective programs and services. The objective of Focus Forward is to equip youth with tools for success, to reduce recidivism, decrease the social and monetary costs of incarceration, build healthier communities and provide a fresh start for participants.

Poverello House was selected to support its volunteer management efforts. The organization serves to enrich the lives of all who pass by stewarding the resources made available through community support. Poverello House is located on F Street in down-

town Fresno and provide meals, clothing and shelter for individuals in need.

Each organization received a check for \$5,000. Grant funds are provided by the Central Valley Community Foundation and the fundraising efforts of students and faculty.

The Fresno State Humanics Program showcases a partnership between the region's largest educational institution and the local philanthropy sector for which it aims to supply future leaders.

The program is offered in the Department of Sociology at Fresno State and allows students to earn a minor in philanthropic and community-based leadership and a certificate in administration and leadership for community benefit organizations.

Through this project, students learn how to request and evaluate funding proposals and how the sector is governed, operated and funded.

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Student news continued

(continued from page 5)
 President for the 2016-17 academic year. During his time as a campus leader, Ryan established a student club dedicated to spreading awareness and education about the Syrian refugee crisis. While serving as the ASI Senator for the College of Social Sciences, Ryan created the Social Science Student Leadership Council. Additionally, Ryan participated in a service-learning trip in Fiji, studied abroad in London, and interned in the California State Senate through the Maddy Institute. Ryan says these experiences made a lasting impact on the way he sees the world. "My experience at Fresno State has helped to solidify my personal values, develop new convictions, and instill within me the value of service. I have had many amazing opportunities to get involved, and I thank Fresno State for providing me with these avenues for growth."

McNair scholar attends workshop

Polet Campos-Melchor was selected to participate in University of Pennsylvania's Minority Serving Institutions Graduate Student Weekend. The program funds underrepresented students to travel to Philadelphia, meet new peers and mentors, and to get them prepared to apply to PhD programs in their fields. Polet is a McNair Scholar working under the mentorship of Larissa Mercado-López and Dvera Saxton.

New student club

This year, COSS students Yenedit Valencia, Elio Santos and other students start-

ed the MOLE Club (Movimiento de Oaxaqueñes Leaders in Education). They helped start a multicultural education program within the Huggins Center, which was featured at the President's Showcase of Excellence. The goal of the club is to increase the visibility of indigenous Oaxaqueñes students on campus and to create a network of advocacy and peer-to-peer support.

Students discuss reproductive health justice

Students in Dvera Saxton's ANTH 118 Women Biology and Culture had the opportunity to interact with Dr. Anjani Kolahi a family practice physician and a professor with UCSF-Fresno's Medical Residency program. The class discussed the current landscape of reproductive justice in the Central Valley, learned about different kinds of birth control, discussed the challenges of providing and accessing care, and learned about policies that are in the works or under consideration that could impact reproductive health care.

Fourth annual Geography Bee

By Sean Boyd

The 2017 California State Geographic Bee was held for the fourth consecutive year at Fresno State on the morning of Friday, March 31. Of the 100 students who qualified, and who were invited by NG to compete in this year's California State Geographic Bee, 95 participated. The competitors came from as far away as Scotia, to the north;

and, San Diego to the south. Fresno State President Joseph Castro, Department of Geography and City and Regional Planning Chair Michelle Calvarese, and California Geographic Alliance Coordinator Thomas Herman gave opening remarks to the crowd of participants assembled in NG 118. Approximately 350 people were in attendance. Faculty from the Department of Geography and City and Regional Planning; Media, Communication, and Journalism; and the Kremen School of Education and Human Development functioned as Moderators and Judges for the event. Moderators and Judges from

outside the Fresno State community included Hon. Superior Court Judge Glenda Allen-Hill, Fresno City College Geography Instructor Peter Meserve, and community facilitator Jackie Ryle. Student volunteers, primarily from the Geography Club, functioned as scorekeepers and timekeepers. Department Administrative Assistant Mai Vang was indispensable with her assistance in the three weeks leading up to the Geographic Bee, and on the day of the event.

Competitors were split up into five groups of roughly 20 students each in nearby class
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Michael Eissinger poses with his son, Nikolas, after being hooded at UC Merced's commencement ceremony, May 14, 2017. Michael attained bachelors degrees in history and anthropology, and a master's in history from Fresno State and now holds a doctorate in World Cultures and History.

Pub Crawl continued

(continued from page 4)

Journal article. "Supreme Court Precedent in a Judicial Hierarchy," in *American Politics Research*. Ali S. Masood, with Benjamin J. Kassow, and Donald R. Songer.

Forthcoming

Journal article. "The Diaper Dilemma," in *Contexts*. Jennifer Randles.

Special issue. *Anthropology of Work Review*. The issue will focus on injuries amongst immigrant workers in North America. Edited by Dvera Saxton and Angela Steuss.

Journal article. "Learning to Labor, Love, and Live: Shaping the 'Good Neoliberal Citizen' in State Work and Marriage Programs," in *Sociological Perspectives*. Jennifer Randles, with Kerry Woodward.

Journal article. "Consuming Latinidad? The Politics of Food, Consumption, and Troubling Latina Identity in Alisa Valdés-Rodríguez's *The Dirty Girls Social Club*," in *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction*, Cristina Herrera.

"Soy Brown y Nerdy: The Chica Nerd in Chicana Young Adult (YA) Literature," in *The Lion and the Unicorn: A Critical Journal of Children's Literature*, Cristina Herrera.

Book chapter. "The U.S. Courts of Appeals," in Robert M. Howard and Kirk A. Randazzo, eds. *Routledge Handbook of Judicial Behavior*. Ali S. Masood, Susan Haire, and Reginald S. Sheehan.

Student news continued

(continued from page 6)

rooms for the preliminary rounds, and then reconvened in NG 118 for the tiebreaker, final, and championship rounds. Stuart McFeeters moderated an excruciating 29-way tie-breaker round, as well as the final and championship rounds! It turned out to be a Bay Area sweep, with first, second, and third-place winners coming from Danville, San Ramon, and Milpitas, respectively. California's first place winner, Ahilan Eraniyan, a 6th grader from Danville, placed 7th in the nation, in this year's National Geo Bee.

President Castro offered a \$5,000 scholarship to any State Geographic Bee winner who, in the future, qualifies to attend Fresno State, and chooses to do so, as long as the event remains at Fresno State.

The Department of Geography & City and Regional Planning is extremely grateful to the COSS for the \$2,000 mini grant to defray

the costs of staging the Geo Bee at Fresno State. These funds are used for bagels, fruit, and beverages for the competitors, their families, and guests on the morning of the Geo Bee. We also thank the Fresno State Office of the President for underwriting the appearance of the Bulldog Beat, which played during morning registration, as guests arrived on campus. We also extend thanks to Kathleen Harrison of the Downing Planetarium, who proved planetarium shows for guests who wished to remain after the Geo Bee.

For the second year in a row, thanks to Meteorologist Steve Johnson, of Atmospherics Group LLC (Dep't of Geography graduate, 1975), generous cash donations were given by local agribusiness companies, which enabled the CA State Geo Bee to award \$1,000 for first place, \$750 for second place, and \$500 for third place, which is TEN TIMES the nominal amount of prize money that National Geographic provides at the state level. The

California Geographic Alliance also contributed to the total prize money at the state level in California.

The CA State Geographic Bee also extends many thanks to Prof. Betsy Hays, of the MCJ Department, and her MCJ 190 students for coordinating media relations and social media coverage for this event.

Casanova recipient



Polet Campos-Melchor, a McNair Scholar in Anthropology, has been awarded the Sally Casanova

Pre-Doctoral Scholarship for the 2017-18 academic year. She was one of 76 California State University students who were chosen from 228 applications.



Students and faculty pose at the steps of a Nepalese temple during their study abroad course, GEOG 177T, *Cultural landscape and environmental change in the Himalayas*, May 26, 2017. The objective of the course was to experience and observe different aspects of environment, people's livelihood, indigenous practices, and cultural landscape in a high mountain setting.

Faculty and Staff News

Teaching Abroad

Melanie Ram and Thomas Holyoke spent this summer teaching at Chiang Mai University for the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC) program. They team taught a course called "People Power and Global Change."

Academic Senate Chair

Thomas Holyoke was elected Chair of the Academic Senate, representing the first time in decades, the Chair has been from the College of Social Sciences.



Provost's Awards

By Tom Uribes
Fresno State News

Provost Lynette Zelezny named several College of Social Sciences faculty for the annual Provost Awards last spring. The honorees were celebrated at an awards reception Thursday, May 11, 2017. Among the honorees were:

FACULTY SERVICE AWARD



Victor Torres (Chicano and Latin American studies) joined the Fresno

State faculty in 1996. Coming from humble beginnings, he is committed to service and

mentoring. Torres has demonstrated his leadership and commitment to service and engagement through his work with the Latino/a Faculty and Staff Association and the Chicano/Latino Commencement Celebration. He has been involved in most mentoring programs on campus, including the Faculty Mentoring Program. Under his direction, the highly acclaimed Mexican dance troupe, Los Danzantes de Aztlán, has earned top awards and has been designated with CSU Ambassador status. His time investment in the University includes service in the Academic Senate and service as chair of the Chicano and Latin American Studies Department.

RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP OR CREATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARD



Cristina Herrera (Chicano and Latin American studies) has been at Fresno State since 2006. While serving under-

represented students in the classroom, she has also published prodigiously in reputable journals and books in the fields of Latina/o studies, literature and women's studies. Herrera's book, "Contemporary Chicana Literature: (Re) Writing the Maternal Script," broke ground on motherhood in Chicana/Latina literary studies. She has nearly completed her second manuscript, "Sisters and Sisterhood in Contemporary Chicana Writing."

PROMISING NEW FACULTY AWARD



Jennifer Randles (Sociology) joined the Fresno State faculty in 2013 and has become recog-

nized as one of the most versatile instructors in her department. In that time, she has published three sole-authored and two co-authored peer-reviewed articles, one sole-authored chapter, a policy brief and a book, "Prospering Prosperity: Marriage Education Policy and Inequality in America." Randles has worked with numerous local community service groups and committees. Her service has generated a significant increase in community-based research and activity.

Promotions

Tenure and Promotion:

Annabella España-Nájera (CLAS)

Jennifer Randles (SOC)

Larissa Mercado-López (WS)

Promotion to Full:

Blain Roberts (HIST)

Emma Hughes (CRIM)

Ethan Kytle (HIST)

Melanie Ram (PLSI)

Emeriti:

Jan Slagter (WS)

Mark Somma (PLSI)

Sabbaticals

Mark Arvanigian (HIST-Spring)

(continued on page 6)

New COSS Director of Development

The College of Social Sciences has a new Director of Development, Micheline



Golden, who began the position July 1st. Golden replaces Diane Chrisman, who left the position at the end of 2016.

Golden previously served as Chief Information Officer for Fresno Unified School District, Public Relations Manager for Children's Hospital of Central California, and has served as Director of Development at Fresno State for Smittcamp, CGE, and the Richter Center. She has nearly three decades of experience in the private, public, and non-profit sectors as a communications professional.

Fresno State Call Center Available

If you or someone you know needs to use a call center for survey research or other academic purposes, please contact Tim Kubal at the Social Research Institute. The College of Social Science's Social Research Institute has an excellent call center that can meet all your call center needs. We also offer expert research consulting and custom software solutions for Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing, and can provide support both in using the call center, and in survey, interview, and other social research projects. For more information, contact Professor Tim Kubal, Department of Sociology, tku-bal@csufresno.edu.

Mercado-López appointed book review editor



Larissa Mercado-López has had a productive year. She has been appointed recently Book Review Editor for *Chicana/Latina Studies Journal*.

She presented with Women's Studies majors Polet Campos-Melchor and Selena Carbajal at the Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social Conference at Sonoma State on July 22, 2017. Titled "Geographies of Higher Education: Mapping the Invisibility of Chicana Student Bodies and Lives," the panel featured their research on experiences of students of color and student parents at Fresno State.

She also recently published two articles for GirlsGoneStrong.com on fitness and intersectionality and harassment on the street and in the gym (<https://www.girlsgonestrong.com/blog/author/drlarissamercaadolopez/>).

Mercado-López has been invited to speak on Latinx writing at various colleges and universities this fall, including Sonoma State, the University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley, and Northwest Vista College.

Clement serves on taskforce



Keith Clement is serving currently as Chair of the Workforce Development/Education Subcommittee, California Cybersecurity Taskforce, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES).

Faculty and Staff News continued

(continued from page 4)

Annabella España-Nájera (CLAS)

John Farrell (HIST)

Melissa Knight (WS)

Sam Omolayo (GEOG)

Third annual Food Justice event

Dvera Saxton received an IRA to host the third annual Food Justice @ Fresno State Series. This included five different events on campus, including visits from Chicana community scholars Teresa Gaytan Flores and Carissa Garcia who presented their work on documenting the murals of Fresno County Food Scholar and Black Vegan Activist A. Breeze Harper who authored *Sistah Vegan*, and UC Merced Professor of History Mario Sifuentez who authored *Of Forests and Fields: Mexican Labor in the Pacific Northwest*.

Community engagement work continues

Dvera Saxton continues to do community engagement work, applying anthropological approaches and methods to addressing contemporary issues. She helped found a new grassroots organization La Mochila Colectiva (The Backpack Collective) which is creating plays and educational materials to prepare immigrant communities to know their rights, create family action plans, and to cope with the stress of immigration related violations and hostilities in the Trump era and beyond. She will be presenting about this work at the 2017 American Anthropological Association meetings in Washington,

DC in November. This has also included collaborations with the group Lideres Campesinas, who also hosted a workshop for students at Fresno State.

Saxton has also been active applying anthropology with the grassroots community group "Fresno Resistance" which is doing canvassing in immigrant communities around Know Your Rights, and is working to enact systemic change with respect to how Fresno County treats immigrants.

Paper presentation in Peru



William Skuban travelled to Lima, Peru in April 2017 to attend the 35th International Congress of

the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), the largest professional association in the world for individuals and institutions engaged in the study of Latin America. Skuban presented a paper entitled "Imaginary Lines," a study of the bitter conflict between the Catholic Church and a secularizing Chilean state during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Teach-In series to continue

Lori Clune is planning another series of Teach-Ins, given the success of those from this past spring.

"As a result of the tumultuous election of 2016, in Spring 2017 I reached out to dean and COSS colleagues to organize a series of Teach-Ins. I was overwhelmed by the incredible response and we offered a series of events.

We plan to continue holding Teach-Ins in 2017-2018. If there is a particular issue/topic you would like to see explored in this informal setting, or one you would like to conduct yourself, please drop me an email: iclune@csufresno.edu."

Commemoration of Charleston Shooting

On June 16, Blain Roberts and Ethan Kytly were the featured speakers at the Charleston Forum, a public program commemorating the two year anniversary of the shooting at Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston, S.C.

Transitions

The end of the spring semester witnessed the departure of some of the more recent additions to the College of Social Sciences.

Diane Chrisman



Diane Chrisman, who replaced Kent Karsevar as Director of Development last year, left the position to return to the

private sector at the end of fall 2016. The College has hired a new Director, Micheline Golden, who began working in July.

Stacy Fahrenthold



Stacy Fahrenthold, who served in the History Department as lecturer of Islamic World History, accepted a tenure-track

position in the History Department at CSU Stanislaus.

Search Committee for Dean of the COSS Selected

By William Skuban

On April 7, 2017 Provost Lynette Zelezny convened the first meeting of the search committee charged with leading the efforts to recruit and recommend candidates for the position of Dean of the College of Social Sciences. The committee consists of the following members: Xuanning Fu (Provost Appointee, Dean); DeAnna Reese (Provost Appointee, Department Chair); Cristina Herrera (Provost Appointee); Emma Hughes (Provost Appointee); Kathryn

Forbes (Faculty Appointee); Matthew Jendian, (Faculty Appointee); William Skuban (Faculty Appointee); Lisa Wilson (Staff Appointee); Edgar Bolanos (Student Appointee); Christine Paredes (Human Resources); Carlos Calderón (EEO); and Fabiola Alvarez (Staff Support). The members of the search committee then selected William Skuban to serve as chair.

After receiving its charge, the committee held its first meeting on April 19 and began work on preparing the

position's vacancy announcement. The committee met again, on April 21, to complete the vacancy announcement and to develop its recruitment plan. The vacancy announcement may be viewed on eRecruit.

The committee made a strong effort to include in the "Responsibilities" and "Minimum/Preferred Qualifications" sections all of the desired characteristics for the next Dean of the College of Social Sciences collected at the last Col-

lege Assembly. The recruitment plan is also comprehensive. In addition to posting the vacancy announcement on the usual sites, for example The Chronicle of Higher Education and Inside Higher Education, the committee requested to have the position advertised in the key discipline-specific journals and publications of each of nine departments/programs in the College. The chair of the committee will provide an update on the progress of the search at the next College Assembly.

COSS's new Institute for Leadership and Public Policy

By Annabella España-Nájera

The College of Social Science's new Institute for Leadership and Public Policy's mission is to conduct policy-relevant research and train future leaders for public service in the San Joaquin Valley. In the 2016-17 academic year, the Institute supported five interns and three research fellows from the College. Interns worked in various community offices around the Fresno area, including Stone Soup Fresno and the City's Attorney Office.

Research fellows worked with COSS faculty on projects. Dr. Fahrenthold worked with a research fellow on comparing Hmong and Syrian refugees, while Dr. Clement worked with a fellow on the criminal justice system in California. One of the Institute's fellows, Shelby Elia, was awarded three prizes for her excellent research with Dr. Kieckhaefer on the perceptions of wrongfully convicted individuals. Interns and fellows all participate in workshops with the Career Development Center. As well, they participate in a Leadership Workshop, when they interacted with alumni leaders from local government, the public sector, and community organizations, including Councilmember Luis Chavez. In the fall semester, the Institute will support four



Jeff Cummins (center, back row) poses with the 2016-17 cohort of the College of Social Sciences' Institute for Leadership and Public Policy.

interns and three research fellows. We expect great work from our second cohort.

The Institute also conducted the first San Joaquin Valley Regional Survey. The survey was developed by the Institute's Co-Directors, Drs. Cummins and España, and the Institute Survey Director, Dr. Bryant. We polled adults living in the valley about important political and social issues, such as government, water, and high-speed rail. Fresno State students from across campus learned about polling as they conducted the telephone interviews with over 500 Spanish and Eng-

lish-speaking adults. We learned from this survey that while Valley residents mirror some national and California trends on some issues, such as immigration and water, Valley residents have different opinions and priorities. Various media outlets from the Valley and beyond picked up stories from the survey results, giving a greater voice to San Joaquin Valley residents. The Institute will conduct a second survey in spring 2018.

We are looking forward to fall 2017 when the Institute will host speakers nationally syndicated columnist Ruben Navarrete and political strategist

Patti Solis Doyle. Also, we will partner up with the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) and the Latino Community Foundation to host a forum on campus on immigration.



Protect scholars against attacks from the Right

As right-wing groups scale up their attacks on higher education, colleges and universities need to take bold steps to support scholars who are being targeted, argue Jessie Daniels and Arlene Stein.

By Jessie Daniels and Arlene Stein

June 26, 2017 *Inside Higher Ed*

Threats to scholars are growing. John Eric Williams, an associate professor of sociology at Trinity College in Connecticut and Dana Cloud, a professor of communications and rhetorical studies at Syracuse University, are among the latest professors to face “physical threats or harassment, or both, for their political speech.” They both received unwanted attention, and their college and university received threats, for statements they made online that ran counter to right-wing orthodoxy. At Trinity College, the president blasted Williams for “poor judgment” and sent the matter to the dean of faculty to review whether “any college policies or procedures were violated.”

When Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, an assistant professor of African-American studies at Princeton, gave an impassioned commencement address at Hampshire College recently, she included a reference to President Trump as a “racist, sexist megalomaniac.” The speech was picked up by Fox News and then circulated throughout the conservative social media ecosystem. Within days, Taylor had received more than 50 “threatening emails” -- some of which contained obscenities and promises of violence. Fearing that those were more than idle threats, she canceled her upcoming speaking engagements.

To its credit, Hampshire College issued a statement in support of Taylor, saying, “We are appalled by the vicious and explicitly racist, misogynistic and homophobic threats being directed against Professor Taylor in response to her remarks. And we condemn the actions of those who are inciting violence by willfully taking information out of context and fanning the flames of prejudice

and hate.” That is just the kind of statement that college and university leaders should be issuing when faculty come under attack. Unfortunately, it is relatively rare. As right-wing groups scale up their attacks on higher education, higher education institutions need to take bold steps to protect scholars who are being targeted.

Yet at a time of declining funding for higher education, administrators often become less courageous and more beholden to deep-pocketed donors. In 2014, when the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign rescinded a job offer to literature professor Steven G. Salaita after he posted a series of tweets that were critical of Israel’s bombing of Gaza that killed children, the legal battle that followed revealed emails that circulated between the university’s chancellor, Phyllis M. Wise, and donors, including one that read, “Having been a multiple six-figure donor to Illinois over the years I know our support is ending as we vehemently disagree with the approach this individual [Salaita] espouses.”

While there is no evidence that Wise’s decision to rescind Salaita’s job offer was a direct response to donor pressure, such considerations play important, often unacknowledged roles. Giving in to that pressure poses a challenge to faculty members and academic freedom -- and can result in expensive lawsuits. The University of Illinois eventually settled the dispute with Salaita for a reported \$2 million in settlement and legal fees, a decision Salaita called, “a vindication” for himself and a “victory for academic freedom and the First Amendment.”

At times, administrators curtail academic freedom more subtly. Lee Bebout’s Arizona State University course U.S. Race Theory and the Problem of Whiteness was singled out for

ridicule by Fox News commentators, including Elisabeth Haselbeck, who called it “quite unfair, and wrong and pointed.” After a group called Campus Reform, which is behind many of these attacks, began to organize online, Bebout received more than 70 hostile emails, including one that said, “I look forward to your suicide.”

The response offered by leadership at Arizona State University was, at best, tepid. When the course was offered for a second semester, it carried the modified, less overtly critical name Whiteness and U.S. Race Theory. Anita Levy, of the American Association of University Professors, said, “Whether or not [Bebout] gets tenure, [he] is going to think twice and thrice about what he teaches next time.” This is the kind of slow, chilling effect that a less than robust response from universities can have on academic freedom and political dissent.

Colleges and universities hire scholars to teach and to produce knowledge. For many years, being a professor was a job where you got paid to read and think, insulated to some extent from the rough and tumble of the rest of society. While there have always been a handful of scholars, usually from elite institutions, who could parlay the life of the mind into a more public career, and universities were happy to bask in the reflected media attention, this was the exception that proved the rule of academic isolation.

Now, “we can no longer hold a position of splendid isolation,” University of California, Berkeley, sociologist Michael Burawoy has said. As the cloistered ivory tower goes the way of the card catalog, we have to rethink what it means to be a professor. Angelique Haugerud, a professor at Rutgers University, recently called upon her fellow anthropologists to participate more vocally in “our era’s economic dilemmas”

and reject the economic “oversimplifications that pervade public discourse.” This seems particularly urgent in the era of Trump.

The expanding use of social media by academics at a time of growing national political polarization means that activist scholars face new, unforeseen risks. A 2013 survey found 70 percent of faculty use social media for personal reasons at least monthly, while 55 percent use it specifically for professional use at least monthly. People who take stands on controversial issues, particularly if they’re members of marginalized groups, are more likely to be subjected to scrutiny and even, at times, intimidation. By and large, college and university administrators are not prepared for these new challenges.

While social media enables scholarly work to travel into unknown spaces, it does so in ways that its authors cannot always anticipate. The ease and speed with which ideas move can make us more vulnerable to attack. Those who produce research that calls dominant groups to account and challenges deeply felt assumptions about how the world works are especially vulnerable; if they are members of less privileged groups, that’s even more likely. Social media has introduced a whole new set of potential interlocutors, trolls, who deliberately attack others online without engaging in reasonable debate. When college and university administrators join in and attack their own faculty, they are very effectively being trolled.

“A lot of people have said things like, ‘I hope you get raped,’” says sociologist Lisa Wade, author of *American Hookup*. Readers occasionally go to the trouble of googling her name to find out where she teaches, and then send diatribes. Usually, says Wade,

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Protect scholars against attacks from the Right (continued)

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“they seem perfectly satisfied having had their say. ‘Oh, good, I called her a cunt 16 times, and now I feel better,’” and she rarely hears from them again.

A newly emboldened cadre of people on the far right has weaponized the use of social media. In 2015, Boston University professor Saida Grundy’s comments on Twitter about white men, race and slavery led to a series of coordinated attacks against her. Grundy had called white college men the “problem population” in America and asked, “Can we just call St. Patrick’s Day the white people’s Kwanzaa that it is?” In response, a right-wing group culled several of her more provocative tweets and began a campaign to fire the newly appointed assistant professor -- although she posted the tweets before she was even employed at her university.

For her part, Grundy admits that she was “completely naïve” about Twitter. “What I did not calculate was that there are people who hunt” for Twitter comments in order to stage coordinated attacks, she said. That is precisely what groups like Campus Reform do. They hunt for remarks that they can take out of context, whether on Twitter or in a commencement address, and then attack. Her experience suggests that while it’s impossible to fully guard against being attacked, publicly minded scholars must be wary of the political landscape in which they operate.

That a junior scholar might be unprepared for the specter of coordinated, right-wing attacks on faculty members is understandable. For college and university administrators, it is unacceptable. When faculty members are attacked, college administrators should speak out early and loudly to support them -- as Hampshire College did in the wake of attacks on Taylor. In order to guard against attacks on academic freedom, faculty members and

administrators need to be better prepared. Until they are, faculty members can take some steps.

Knowing your rights as a public scholar is important. As of this writing, faculty unions, professional associations and colleges and universities are woefully behind in adopting policies that protect scholars who come under attack for their engagement in the public sphere. While your institution may have some resources, you’re going to have to search for them.

Public scholar Tressie McMullan Cottom suggests: ask whether your college or university has a media office. Find out if your institution has a plan in place for threats against their faculty. Also look into

faculty governance, such as the faculty senate, and find out if they have a clear policy in place about social media and public scholarship, and contact your professional association to see if they have any resources for besieged members.

In addition, if you’re in a faculty union, make sure it protects academic freedom. On the day after the election, Orange Coast College professor Olga Perez Stable Cox was secretly videotaped by a student as she was criticizing Trump in class. The student then leaked the video to several conservative outlets. Predictably, a backlash against Cox on right-wing blogs gained strength -- until her union stepped in. The Coast Federation of Educators,

which represents Cox, noted that it violates college policy to record a class without the explicit permission of the instructor. Ultimately, the student in this case was suspended, and the professor kept her job.

The cases of Williams, Cloud, Taylor and others suggest that colleges and universities need to do a much better job of protecting academic freedom in a digitally networked age. It’s time for faculty unions, professional academic associations and institutional administrators to develop protocols to guard professors and graduate students against harassment, and support them if they come under attack. If it hasn’t happened to someone on your campus yet, chances are it will.

Dean’s Corner continued

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ning. The new lab will provide space for faculty and student collaboration and research. The Forensic and Behavioral Sciences program is the fastest growing option within Criminology and currently has more than 400 students. The lab will help in efforts to train students for admission to behavioral sciences graduate programs and will allow students and faculty to expand their research on a variety of important topics.

COSS will host its first ever fall convocation on September 6th at 2:00 in the new quad. The convocation will feature a gospel choir sing-along, a performance of our award winning Los Danzantes dance group, information from our COSS advising team, as well as time for students and faculty to connect. We will be raffling off prizes, including parking in the Dean’s parking spot for a week. Please encourage your students to attend.

COSS is co-hosting a number of events this semester. Lucero is working hard to keep our web page and social media

up to date with all of our activities. Two events which are happening very soon are the “Trumping of American Politics: What Now?” organized for the Institute for Leadership and Public Policy on September 14th from 6:00-8:00 in the Satellite Student Union. Ruben Navarette and Patti Solis-Doyle will be speaking and Joe Moore, host of VPR’s Valley Edition will be moderating. On September 18th at 1:00 in the North Gym, we will be hosting a number of valley judges for Constitution Day. The judges will talk about the role of the courts at different levels and will stay after the formal portion of the event in order to talk with students. The judges are keenly interested in talking with students about careers in the judiciary and hope to encourage more young lawyers to stay in the valley and support local needs. We expect to host Justices Herbert Levy and Rosenda Pena from the Fifth District Court of Appeal, Judge Kimberly Gaab, Presiding Judge for the Superior Court of California, County of Fresno and Magistrate Judge Erica Grosjean of the US District Court for the Eastern District of

California.

The university’s first Day of Giving campaign will take place on November 2nd. You’ll be hearing more about this in the months leading up to it but COSS has chosen as its three focus areas, Student Engagement, Students4Giving, and Jewish Studies. Day of Giving is a social media driven campaign, which will serve to raise money for our programs and get the word out about all of the great work COSS does everyday. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions about Day of Giving, please talk with either Micheline or me. We want this to be a successful event, which will support all of the work that you all do every day.

I’m excited for the semester ahead. I suspect it’s going to be a challenging year in many ways but I believe that the College of Social Sciences is filled with people who have the expertise and the passion to respond to the challenges and to educate all of us about ways to move forward despite the challenges. Happy fall semester!