

# The COSS Herald

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## New faculty and staff join COSS

The College of Social Sciences has an influx of new people, adding to its ranks for faculty, staff, and advising. The Sociology Department hired two new tenure track faculty prior to the beginning of 2016.

### New Faculty

#### Amber Crowell



Dr. Amber Crowell completed her PhD in Sociology from Texas A&M University in 2014, where her dissertation "Latino Residential Segregation in the United States: Applying New Methods to Gain New Understandings," used new methods and restricted-use census data to analyze the quantitative link between micro-level individual locational attainments and macro-level segregation patterns for Latinos in major metropolitan areas. In addition to completing the doctoral program at Texas A&M University, she also earned her M.S. in Sociology from Texas A&M University in

2010 and her B.A. in Sociology with a minor in Mathematics from Texas A&M University – Commerce in 2008.

Her research and teaching interests include social inequality, demography, quantitative methodology and Latina/o sociology with a particular research focus on residential segregation and inequalities. She is currently working on a forthcoming co-authored book under a contract with Springer that focuses on substantive trends and patterns in racial and ethnic segregation in the United States using new methods of measurement and analysis. She has also conducted research on Latinos in rural areas as part of the "new destination" demographic phenomenon that is characterized by Latinos migrating to predominately rural areas in the Midwestern and Southern United States over the past two decades. At Texas A&M University she was involved with the NSF-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates program, a summer institute with the goal of training predominately first-generation undergraduate students in academic research and encouraging them to pursue graduate school and an academic career. She first participated in this program as a first-generation undergraduate herself and later as a mentor after completing her doctorate.

Dr. Crowell and her husband are native Texans hailing from the Dallas-Ft. Worth metroplex. The majority of her immediate and extended family continue to reside in the metroplex since the settlement of her grandparents in the region, who emigrated from Mexico. She and her husband have two cats and are dedicated supporters of the football clubs FC Dallas and Everton FC. Dr. Crowell's other personal interests include books of many genres, running, hiking and baking.

#### Timothy Cupery



Dr. Timothy Cupery received his Sociology doctorate in 2013 from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he studied cross-national patterns in government policies toward religion. In addition to religion-state relations, he is also interested in group identity & political conflict, religion and mental health, and socio-genetics.

After spending the past year (continued on page 3)

## CFA reminder

CFA is encouraging all CSU faculty to wear red during the first week of classes as a show of solidarity in the Fight for Five campaign and to promote an educated discussion between CFA and the CSU administration regarding the on-going salary dispute. Fact-finding ends today (January 13th). CFA is fighting for a 5% General Salary Increase (GSI) for all faculty and a 2.65% Service Salary Increase (SSI) for those eligible.



## 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 [cherre-ra@csufresno.edu](mailto:cherre-ra@csufresno.edu) or [anjones@csufresno.edu](mailto: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.

## Pub Crawl

### Accepted Works

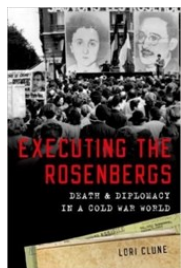
Article, "Environmental health and justice and the right to research: institutional review board denials of community-based chemical biomonitoring of breast milk," *Environmental Health*. Dvera Saxton, et al.

Article, "Ethnographic movement methods: anthropology takes on the pesticide industry." *Journal of Political Ecology*, Vol.22, 2015, Dvera Saxton.

Article, "Learnable Skills, or Unteachable Instinct? What Can and Cannot be Taught in the Lobbying Profession." *Interest Groups & Advocacy* 4(March): 7-24, Thomas Ho-

lyoke with Timothy LaPira and Heath Brown.

### Forthcoming



Article, "Cinco Hermanitas: Myth and Sisterhood in Guadalupe García McCall's

Summer of the Mariposas," (Forthcoming) Cristina Herrera.

Book, *Executing the Rosenbergs: Death and Diplomacy in a Cold War World*, Oxford

University Press, April 2016, Lori Clune.

Book chapter, "More Than 'Just a Waitress': The Waitress as Artist and Activist in Contemporary Chicana Literature." In *Latin@s' Presence in the Food Industry: Changing How We Think About Food*. Eds. Meredith Abarca and Consuelo Salas. (Forthcoming) Cristina Herrera.

Co-edited volume, *(Re) Mapping the Latina/o Literary Landscape: New Works and New Directions* (Cristina Herrera, co-editor with Larissa M. Mercado-López, under contract with Palgrave Macmillan).

## Food Justice @ Fresno State Spring 2016 Speaker/Workshop Series



"When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist."

--Dom Helder Camara

**FRESNO STATE**  
Discovery. Diversity. Distinction.

#BlackScholars Food Justice Speaker  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 11:00 am-1:00 pm, Vintage Room**  
Dr. Mi'jan Tho-Biaz  
"Designing + Collaboratively Building Farm Documentary Stories"

*Food Insecurity in the San Joaquin Valley*  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 11:00am-12:30pm, Peters Auditorium**  
Andy Souza, Community Food Bank  
"Addressing Hunger in the Central Valley"  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 11:00 am-12:30pm, Peters Auditorium**  
Dr. Sarah Ramirez, FoodLink for Tulare County  
"Food Equity and Food System Sustainability"

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Farmworker Appreciation Day  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6 11:00 am-1:00 pm, USU 312**  
Dr. Erica Kohl-Arenas, Book Talk  
"The Self-Help Myth"

**FREE COFFEE & TEA!!! JOIN THE CONVERSATION!**

SPONSORED BY: Departments of Anthropology and Sociology, Instructionally Related Activities Grant, Fresno State Anthropology Club, Fresno State Food Recovery Network, CONTACT: Dvera I. Saxton, Anthropology Department  
Email: [dsaxton@csufresno.edu](mailto:dsaxton@csufresno.edu) Phone: 559-278-0887

# New faculty and staff (continued)

(continued from page 1)

and a half working as a data scientist, Timothy is excited to return to the classroom, and plans to teach about Sociology of Religion, Sociology of Sport, Quantitative Research Methods, and hopes to develop a course on Religion and Politics.

An avid cyclist and hiker, Dr. Cupery looks forward to accessing the Sierra Nevada mountains.

## New Staff

Departments within COSS introduced several new staff, including advisors for the College Advising Center.

### Britni Wissler



This fall, Britni joined the staff serving Geography, Africana Studies, and Anthropology.

### Serena Perry



Serena joined the staff in the Political Science/Women's Studies Office as a new administrative assistant in September, 2015. Serena graduated from San Jose State University in 2015.

### Mai Nhia Vang



Mai recently received her B.S in Public Health option in Health Administration in Spring 2015 with the College of Health and Human Services.

"As an undergraduate, I was a student assistant for Fresno State Blackboard and is now working in the College of Social Sciences with the Dean. I am the Administrative assistant II under Dean Denbeste. Here I work on website design, PAF, event flyers and many other tasks that are assigned to me."

## Advising Center Staff

Academic Counselors for the College of Social Sciences provide counseling and advising services to help students achieve their educational and personal goals at California State University, Fresno. The College Advising Center was implemented in the fall of 2015 and is located in 208 McKee-Fisk.

### Jenny Saechao



Meuy Saechao (Jenny) joined the College of Social Sciences family on September 4, 2015 as one of the Academic Counselors for our College's Advising Center. Jenny graduated with her B.S. in 2001 in Business Administration-Management from the Sid Craig School of Business. She received the Sid Craig School of Business 2001 Inspiration Award for achieving academic excellence despite the struggles she had to overcome during her college years. Jenny received her M.S. in Organizational Leadership from National University with an emphasis in Higher Education Counseling from the Kremen Education School. Jenny has over 16 years of professional experience in postsecondary academic positions providing leadership, mentoring and support to students, staff, and faculty. She started her first academic position at CSU, Fresno Learning Center in 1998 as a student assistant where she assisted students in obtaining the academic support and resources they need to succeed. Her time at the Learning Center was a pivotal moment in her career where she found her passion with higher education.

Jenny has first-hand experiences of the challenges that many of our students face.

Growing up in poverty and in a household where English is the second language, she knows how difficult it can be for students to achieve their academic goals when they are faced with financial hardships or difficult cultural expectations. She is committed to student success and providing students with the support they need to obtain their academic goals. Jenny shared, "It is rewarding when a student leaves my office feeling more encouraged, confident, and deciding to not give up on their education; this is one of the sole reasons why I do what I do."

### Ross Witton



"I attended Fresno State for my undergraduate and graduate degree. My undergraduate degree was in History and my Master's Degree is in Counseling-Counseling and Student Services. I graduated with my undergraduate degree in 2009 and finished my Master's Degree in 2013. I worked many student jobs as an undergraduate, campus tours through Outreach Services and multiple summers as an Orientation Leader with DOG DAYS: New Student Orientation." From working with DOG DAYS Ross found a passion for working with college students and fell in love with academic advising. "I was a Peer Academic Advisor in what is now the University Advising Center for two years. During my Master's program I (continued on page 7)

## The Dean's Corner



It has been a whirlwind for semester for me. Lots to learn! I am continuously learning new things about all of the exciting work COSS faculty, staff, and students are involved in. I love getting notes from students, faculty and community members telling me about some event or another that the college has helped with, participated in or sponsored and I'm very much enjoying learning more about your departments as we prepare to hire a dozen new faculty for the 2016-2017 academic year. Keep up the good work and please do keep sharing your success stories with me.

This semester I'll have an article coming out in *Aspasia: The International Yearbook of Central, Eastern and Southeastern European Women's and Gender History* entitled "NOT Finding Women in the Archives: The Case of Evgeniia Serebrennikova, Pioneering Women Physicians in Late Nineteenth Century Russia." I attended the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies which was held in Philadelphia where I presented a paper on my research on women physicians and I also chaired a panel on LGBTQ issues in the region. I'm currently working on a chapter in a new book coming out this spring with Palgrave/Macmillan entitled *Soviet Healthcare from an International Perspective: Comparing Perspectives, Practice and Gender*. I've also been attending a three part Institute at Wellesley College which focuses on Women in Higher Education Leadership (HERS). I applied for and was (continued on page 7)

# Student News

## Mock Trial Team off to a good start

This 2015-2016 Intercollegiate Mock Trial season was to be a rebuilding year for Fresno State since the team lost over half its seasoned competitors to graduation leaving only 17 returning members. The growth and popularity of the program on campus was reflected in this fall's recruitment when over 26 new members joined the team, of which 18 were freshmen! For the first time, the veterans were divided up and combined with newcomers to form four teams for fall competition. The plan was to get everyone trial experience by participating in various fall tournaments, without any expectation of doing well, but knowing that the trial experience in fall would prepare the teams well for the spring tournaments. Incredibly, this year's fall teams, stacked with younger members, have all started strong and won a place among the top teams at every tournament Fresno State has entered this fall.

The 2015 Season began with Fresno State hosting its "Dog Pound Challenge Tournament" on campus in late-October 2015. (Many thanks to all the local attorneys and judges who volunteered to judge and score at the tournament!) Teams from Stanford, Cal, UC Santa Barbara, Davis, Cal Poly SLO, Scripps and several other universities competed by representing the prosecution and defense sides of a criminal bribery case involving a casino owner who allegedly bribed the State's Gaming Commissioner to receive a coveted and very lucrative license to operate a new casino. Fresno State's teams won 1st, 3rd and 6th places and took home several individual

awards, including three won by freshmen!

This excellent showing was followed by Fresno State's youngest team with seven newcomers going undefeated and winning 1st place at the University of Arizona's Invitational tournament.

The junior captain of that team won a unanimous selection as an Outstanding Defense Attorney and she also won an award as an Outstanding Prosecution witness given to only 12 out of 180 witnesses competing at the tournament. One of the team's freshmen won an Outstanding Witness award as well.

Teams also competed well at November tournaments hosted by Cal Berkeley and Middle Tennessee State. Then in early December, Fresno State was invited to send a team to compete at the prestigious Yale University Tournament along with 51 other Nationally ranked programs.

Taking a young team into that level of competition, coach Gordon Park said: "It was anticipated to be a character building experience for this younger travel team and we just hoped to avoid being shut out." Instead, the team finished in the top 10 by winning ballots from four elite Ivy League teams.

The four Fresno State teams, reconfigured into A, B, C and D teams, are now preparing for several tournaments in January, culminating in two Regional Qualifying Tournaments in February (Fresno will be hosting one, and the other will be hosted by ASU in Tempe Arizona). The goal is to qualify at least one team to compete in the National Finals.

## College Mock Trial team to host regional tournament - judges sought

Fresno State will host the College Mock Trial Regional Qualifying Tournament on campus Feb.13-14, 2016 to determine which teams will compete at the National Finals. The university's nationally-ranked College Mock Trial program, which will coordinate the event, now seeks attorneys, judges and law students to volunteer as competition judges for any of the four rounds of trials scheduled. Each round requires approximately three to four hours of total time commitment, said team head coach Gordon Park. An orientation on judging and scoring will be held prior to each round. The criminal case this year alleges that a casino owner tried to bribe a state gaming commission official to gain influence with the commission's vote to approve a license for a new casino. For the trial, each side's three attorneys call three witnesses and present various documentary and physical evidence. INFO (and to volunteer): Chris Irwin, Fresno County deputy district attorney who is the tournament judge coordinator, at [cirwin@gmail.com](mailto:cirwin@gmail.com) or 650.996.7610; or Park at [Gordon.park@mccormickbarstow.com](mailto:Gordon.park@mccormickbarstow.com) or 559.289.3040.

## McNair Scholars engage in research

The end of fall semester provided McNair Scholars within the College to present their research proposals. Among those presenting were:

Alejandro Aguirre, working with Andrew Jones, is re- (continued on page 6)

# Paparazzi



(Above) Staff from the College of Social Sciences attended the Central California Women's Conference in September. Attendees included Susan Sandoval, Linda Ragus, Angelica Miremontes, Melissa Perez, Toni Amezcua, and Angelica Lopez.

(Upper left) Angelica Lopez, Jenny Saechao, Linda Ragus, and Toni Amezcua pose in front of the Christmas tree in the Smitt-camp Honors Alumni House for the annual university holiday party.

(Lower left) Dvera Saxton takes the ultimate class selfie with her Anthropology students to start off the fall semester.

(Below) Faculty from Fresno State and other CSU campuses attended the CFA 'Fight for Five' rally in Long Beach on November 17th, including Cristina Herrera, Matthew Jendian, and Andrew Jones.



## Student news (continued)

(continued from page 4) searching video game playing from a phenomenological approach, interviewing gamers about how gaming makes them feel.

Janelle Gaxiola is examining the racialization of animal and artifact characters in contemporary Disney animated films, doing a content analysis under the guidance of Andrew Jones.

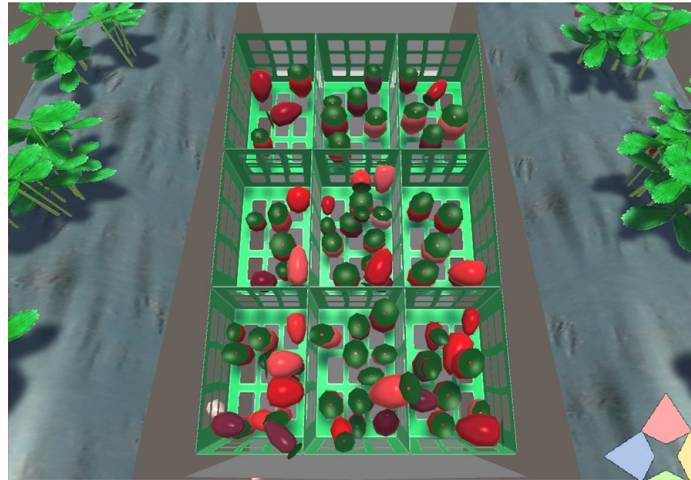
Cesar Gonzalez, working with Sarah Whitley, is examining faculty perceptions of the impacts a lack of support staff (e.g., psychologists, social workers, and counselors) has on high school education in terms of teaching and student educational attainment.

Jose Leanos is working with Henry Delcore looking at the conflict and possible integration of religious and sexual identities amongst LGBTQ students at Fresno State.

Phil Unruh seeks to connect Marx's theory of alienation with Habermas' analysis of ideology, examining expressions of this synthesis through television shows with the assistance of Andrew Jones.



## Faculty and staff news



### Saxton develops farmworker-themed video game

Dvera Saxton led a Wenner Gren-funded workshop in the summer of 2015 with eight high school students and two game design interns from UC Santa Cruz, where they collaboratively brainstormed and designed a farmworker-themed video game. Though still in development, the launch date will be by the end of 2016.

Based on Saxton's dissertation research, the game (see screen shot above) will be a digital storytelling of the strawberry picker experience.

### Saxton examines water issues in disadvantaged communities

Dvera Saxton and Department of Public Health colleague Samendra Sherchan received a course release award from a CSU-wide initiative to address water quality issues in disadvantaged communities. They will be writing

grants and collecting pilot data this Spring.

### Mullooly inducted into ballet company

This year, following the 2016 Nutcracker Ballet Season, James Mullooly was formally inducted into the Central California Ballet Company, the only semi-professional ballet company in the Central Valley. Widely respected Professor of Dance and Artistic Di-

rector of the Fresno Dance Collective (NOCO), Amy Karen described Mullooly's performance with the following: "The Lively Arts Foundation has the best Mother Ginger and for so many years! Way to go James Mullooly."

### Mercado-López to give keynote

Larissa Mercado-López has been invited to give the keynote at the annual University of Texas Women's and Gender Studies Conference on March 23, 2016. "I have also been invited to speak about the intersections of Latina identity and fitness at the University of Texas at San Antonio as part of their Women's History Month program."

Additionally, the Rad Fresno State Women campus art display that Larissa co-coordinated with Jennifer Crow from the Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature and Teresa Flores from the Department of Art and Design (continued on page 8)



James Mullooly as Mother Ginger in "The Nutcracker."

# New faculty and staff (continued)

(continued from page 3)

also interned in the Craig School of Business Advising Center for one year. From my background in research as a History major it was an easy decision to complete a project in my Master's program." The title for his master's thesis is, "What are the ideal characteristics of an academic counselor and how can they be used with advising technology tools?"

"I have a strong passion for integrating technology into advising to be able to better reach our students."

"I am very excited to be coming back to the College of Social Sciences where I grew up and working with all of the faculty. So far the faculty I have had direct contact with have been very welcoming and helpful. The students I have met with are excited for the new advising center and I hope to continue to provide advising services to our students that will keep them on track for graduation."

## Isamar Alvarez



Isamar joined the College of Social Sciences Advising Center as the new administrative support assistant at the end of Fall 2015. She received her BA in Liberal Studies and served as a student in the Division of Student Affairs from 2013 - 2015. Her experi-

ence working as part of the Admissions and Records Department and the University Advising Center furthered her

interest and passion for helping students. She recently got accepted into the Master in Counseling program with the

option in Student Affairs and College Counseling at Fresno State.

## The Dean's Corner (continued)

(continued from page 4)

accepted for this program before knowing that I would be applying for the Interim Dean position. As it turns out, this group of women at various stages of their academic lives has been very helpful to me as I learn more about my new position.

COSS Talks got underway with a get together in October. Dr. Larissa Mercado-Lopez and Dr. Blain Roberts gave interesting, engaging talks which led to lots of discussion afterwards. COSS talks part 2 will take place February 3<sup>rd</sup> with Dr. Hank Delcore and Dr. Jennifer Randles presenting. Please mark your calendars and plan to come. These talks are a great opportunity to get out of our disciplinary silos and find out about the great work your colleagues in other departments are doing.

The Jewish Studies Certificate Program received a \$100,000 bequest from the estate of Anne du Pontavice, M.D. in December. Born in France in 1930, Dr. Du Pontavice moved to Fresno in the 1980s to work with HIV/AIDS patients. She later became a Fresno State alumna, earning a Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy that she utilized working as a peer counselor at the Westside Family Preservation Services Network in Huron, California. Although she was not born a Jew, Dr. Du Pontavice had long planned to donate her estate to a Jewish Studies program, having come of age during World War II and been deeply shocked by French complicity in the Holocaust. She was delighted when she discovered several years ago that Professor of History Jill Fields was creating a program at Fresno State. Dr. Du Pontavice passed away last May; a celebration of her life and her

extraordinary gift to Jewish Studies at Fresno State is planned in April.

Our COSS Mock Trial Teams continue to compete well against prestigious universities. At the Yale "Nationally Ranked Teams Only" Invitational in November they finished in the top 1/4 of 42 teams, defeating Harvard University's A Team. They have a rigorous competition schedule for spring 2016. If you'd like to see them in action, you can volunteer to judge or serve as a scorer for their Mock Trial Regional Qualifying Tournament here on the Fresno State campus February 13-14, 2016. Contact Mr. Gordon Park for more information (Gordon.park@mccormickbarstow.com).

I want to wish Mr. Kent Karsevar the best of luck in his new position as Director of Development at Ronald McDonald House. Kent has worked for COSS since

2007 has successfully worked to raise the development profile of the college. He has been very successful this semester in raising funds for a number of important COSS projects. He will be missed! The search for a new development director will be announced in the next couple of weeks.

The spring semester will be busy with meetings with new faculty prospects, continued work on development, and planning for the following year. As always, please do feel free to stop by and/or make an appointment if you have any questions or concerns about the college or if you just want to chat with me about new opportunities. I am filled with awe by the work that all of you do. Please do share your successes with me!

Hoping for a prosperous and joy filled spring semester.

Michelle

MISSING AN ISSUE? GO TO:  
<http://www.fresnostate.edu/socialsciences/sociology/news/cossherald.html>

## Faculty and staff news (continued)

(continued from page 6)

will be displayed from January to April at the Fresno Art Museum, alongside the Frida Kahlo photograph exhibit.

### Sabbaticals

Henry Delcore (ANTH)

Mark Somma (PLSI)

### Transitions

#### Amber Hornberger

Amber Hornberger joined the



staff of the Department of Criminology in Spring of 2014. Prior to the beginning of Fall 2015, she and her husband moved to Oklahoma.

#### Kent Karsevar



Kent Karsevar became Director of Institutional Development for the College in 2007. He leaves the College for a new position as Director of Development at Ronald McDonald House.

# This Semester Faculty Are Seeing Red



  
California Faculty Association