



FOCUS NEWSLETTER



News from the VP's Office  
Student Edition

By: Felicitas Morales and Shubh Kaur

2020 was a difficult year for many of us, but sprinkled in was a lot of helping one another along the way. You might expect

a message from our Vice President/CFO to open up this edition of the Spring 2021 FOCUS Newsletter, but instead, we thought it time to hear from our students and honor their perspective on what 2020 meant and what to look forward to in 2021. Student Assistants Felicitas and Shubh provide insight into how the Vice President's Office has adapted to our new normal.

Greetings from the office of the Vice President/CFO! 2020 was a difficult year. A year some may say is too easy to look at through failures and struggles. Although there were hardships, our office pulled together and turned those hardships into opportunities of perseverance. We have been able to accomplish assignments, projects, and personal goals - while helping one another along the way, as a team. One of the most exciting projects was in support of students and their progression to being #MadeatSacState. Vice President Bowman was able to support student success directly by serving as an executive sponsor for a group of engineering students' senior project. Even though the scope was impacted by COVID-19, with the assistance and support of the Vice President and office, the students were able create an app, called Hornet Vision. In their words:

"Hornet Vision is a cross-platform mobile application that is meant to inform users of available Sac State events and direct them to event locations with Augmented Reality. With only a few taps, Hornet Vision can show users available Sac State events, the event details, the event's location on the map, and Hornet Vision can even guide the user to the event with Augmented Reality."

We were proud to take part in this project because, it offered opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience and the ability to expand their educational knowledge through experience outside the classroom, an essential element of personal and professional growth. It is a true testament to being #MadeatSacState.

In the last 12 months, our office has seen large changes within each other. People have grown into new spaces while others are just starting to take root. The push to a virtual environment has encouraged our team to find ways to engage by way of games, physical activities, and to display empathy. I, along with my other student assistant colleagues, have turned in-person activities such as a scavenger hunt and a white elephant game into a virtual format, so we may continue to connect. During these conversations, our office has uncovered some gems! Margaret (class of 2006, 2010) plays the violin, Shubh (class of 2022) likes to paint, Sagan (class of 2020) has continued to develop her interest in brewing beer and kayaking, and Felicitas (class of 2022) has found comfort in the organization as well as other positive outlets to destress and promote self-care. What is the student connection here you might ask? We are all made, or in the process of being made, at Sac State.

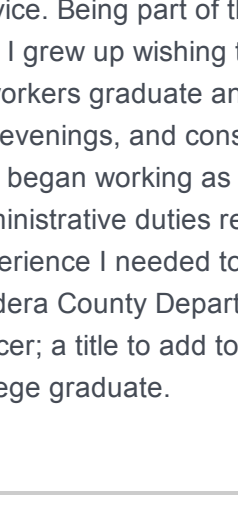
We strongly believe Sac State is uniquely positioned to prosper next year because it invites innovation, from small projects to large ones. After much time and effort, Sac State has become a founding member of the California Mobility Center, which develops and promotes electric autonomous vehicle technologies in the greater Sacramento region. Sac State is focused on collaborating with the community to bring together technology companies, automakers, utilities, and entrepreneurs to provide groundbreaking and forward thinking products. The Vice President's Office is a model in encouraging engagement in all possible avenues - from our campus, to our surrounding or extended communities. Our office is a small microcosm of that large-scale innovation. Our office has also strived to improve our efficiency by modernizing our processes; we have moved to electronic documents as appropriate and now are fluent in Adobe Sign to obtain signatures and approvals throughout the University. How many past, present, and future graduates will take part in the transformation of transportation in the Sacramento region and across the globe? Our office cannot wait to see evolution.

During 2020 we have found a strong student connection with one another not only lends itself to a strong university, but to strengthening ourselves and our community.

SAC STATE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sac State Police - a launching pad for student career development

By: Grecia Rodales Ramos



I come from a humble beginning that has shaped me into the person I am now. Growing up, we moved around a lot and often didn't have for more than the necessities; however, my parents made sure that my sister and I were always happy. I was not fully made aware of my immigration status, or lack thereof, until my senior year of high school when it was time to apply to college; that's when reality began to set in. I didn't know what it meant to be undocumented until I couldn't work or apply to college in the same way as my fellow students. Luckily enough, DACA was introduced around this time and I was able to apply, receive, and benefit from this opportunity to begin my college career.

In the fall of 2013, I began attending Sacramento City College and Cosumnes River College concurrently. I qualified for in-state tuition fees through AB540 and then had said fees covered in full through the Los Rios Board of Governors waiver for low-income students. 3 years later, I received 2 Associate's degrees one in Sociology and the other in Administration of Justice. At this point, I knew I wanted to pursue a career within law enforcement; however, I was not sure how I was going to achieve this as citizenship is a requirement for sworn positions.

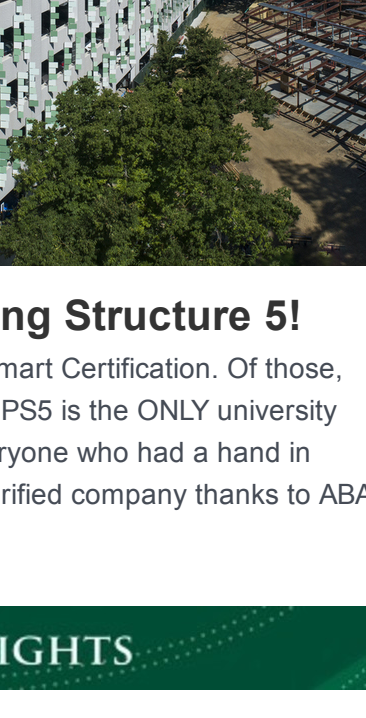
In the spring of 2017, I transferred to Sacramento State and immersed myself entirely in the Criminal Justice department. August 2017, I began my employment with the Sacramento State Police Department as a Community Service Officer. The material taught in class was brought to life through shadowing sworn officers on various calls for service. Being part of the campus police department was my opportunity into the field that I grew up wishing to be a part of. Throughout my employment here, I saw older coworkers graduate and begin their careers while I continued going to class, working in the evenings, and constantly monitoring the latest DACA news. I graduated May 2019 and began working as a Community Service Specialist where I learned more administrative duties related to campus police. My time with Sac State PD gave me the experience I needed to enhance my abilities and ultimately begin a career with the Madera County Department of Corrections. January 1, 2021, I became a Correctional Officer; a title to add to the list of DACA recipient, female minority, and first generation college graduate.

CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT

Sac State Strong

By: Gina Curry

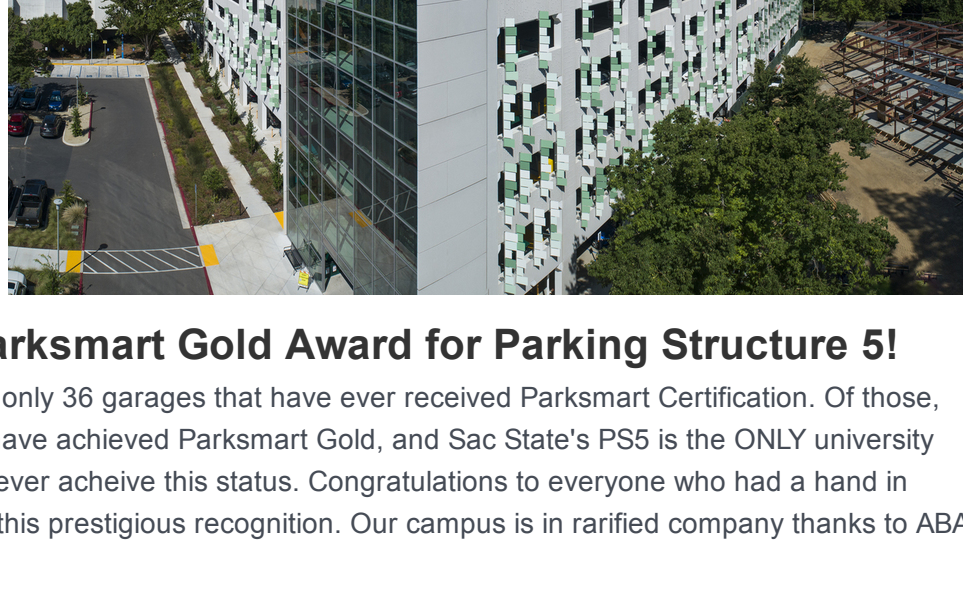
During this unprecedented time in our country, and around the world, battling this pandemic, we are seeing universities around the country suffer reduced enrollments. Unlike other universities, Sac State saw our largest fall enrollment ever. Yes, I said EVER. We had over 560 more students enrolled than the last fall term. And those numbers were reflected even after students knew we would be mostly online for the semester.



Why did this happen? Who the heck knows for sure? However, I feel it is a testament to our strong, established reputation as an Anchor University in our city. We do a great job to outreach to our local school districts. Additionally, we have several community colleges where we have fostered strong transfer agreements to help transition from the 2 year to 4 year college experience. Sac State is well positioned to keep growing and thriving, in spite of a tough situation.

I have been on campus for 30+ years and have seen this campus go from a sleepy campus to a vibrant "place to be." Gone are the days when I would say around town that I work at the University, and people would say "UC Davis"! Folks did not even realize there was a university in Sacramento. However, in the early 2000s, we found our identity, started tooting our own horn, and turned this campus into a first choice for students around the state. We continue to be well positioned as a destination campus. We have high quality academic programs, a diverse student body, an increasing graduation rate, and an amazingly beautiful physical location. Now, when I say I work at the University, folks say "Sac State? That is a great campus" or "Stingers Up!"

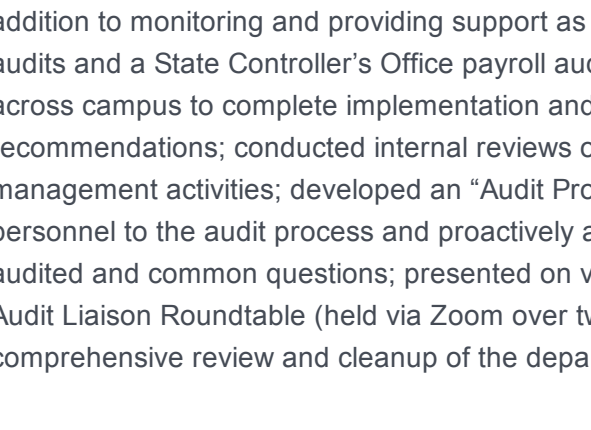
So why does strong and continued enrollment matter to the folks in ABA? Well, besides the obvious reasons of State support and student fee income, which helps keep us working, is our campus reputation. For every successful student, our brand grows. Many of us have degrees from Sac State, including me, and it makes our degrees stronger. Also, because it helps every individual move closer to realizing their potential. It is our mission, and one that is critically important to the success of our community, nation and world. Sometimes, in ABA, we lose sight of that mission, the reason we are all here, and what we contribute to the success of the campus. You are all critical to the success of Sac State, and it is because of all of you that we will continue to shine.



Parksmart Gold Award for Parking Structure 5!

There are only 36 garages that have ever received Parksmart Certification. Of those, only four have achieved Parksmart Gold, and Sac State's PSS is the ONLY university project to ever achieve this status. Congratulations to everyone who had a hand in achieving this prestigious recognition. Our campus is in rarified company thanks to ABA.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Audit & Consulting Services

As 2020 drew to a close, Auditing & Consulting Services, like all teams, had a number of quantifiable achievements to celebrate from over the course of the year.

On the auditing side, we managed Chancellor's Office advisory and credit as well as audits of health and safety, accounts payable/disbursements, and activities card data, in addition to monitoring and providing support as needed for several mandatory financial audits and a State Controller's Office payroll audit. We also worked with departments across campus to complete the implementation and obtain closure of 41 external audit recommendations; conducted internal reviews of student fees, leases, and cash management activities; developed an "Audit Process 101" presentation to orient relevant personnel to the audit process and proactively address anxiety surrounding being audited and common questions; presented on virtual audit best practices at the CSU Audit Liaison Roundtable (held via Zoom over two days in September); and completed a comprehensive review and cleanup of the department's electronic records.

On the records coordination side, we received and oversaw the processing of 132 new California Public Records Act (PRA) requests and also closed out a number of backlogged requests from prior years. Aided by a public records request management software that we implemented in November 2019, we ended 2020 with only 3 open PRA requests, a personal best! We also received and processed 51 new subpoenas and 8 new legal holds, obtained Public User Fee approval for the fees associated with records requests plus authorization to act as a cash handling department, and educated the campus on subpoena processes via the Monday Briefing, in addition to assisting the CSU Office of General Counsel in its coordination of a multi-campus records collection effort.

However, as we reflect on the year, it is apparent that these achievements do not capture the full breadth of Auditing and Consulting Services' experience. We were additionally enriched both personally and professionally through our interactions with colleagues across campus, who consistently exhibited friendliness and patience as we familiarized ourselves with entirely-new-to-us areas of operations and demonstrated grace in the face of not-always-pleasant audit and compliance processes. We took advantage of the first months of year to bond in-person as a small and relatively new team through lunches out together, scary movie nights; and in-depth discussions of our work styles, stressors, and motivators/energizers. Later, in the midst of the pandemic and the transition to remote work, we became mini-experts in Zoom, Skype, and Teams and learned how to effectively cope with the challenges posed by technology (hello, random internet outages!). We got to know each other better via glimpses of pets, significant others, and makeshift home offices during video chats; talked about which "Power Moves" resonated with us the most; took advantage of LinkedIn Learning to explore unconscious bias together with Vernā Myers; and otherwise shared good news and bad, hobbies, streaming entertainment finds, takeout recommendations, and quarantine projects (including the planting of a backyard garden, refurbishment of a patio area, rescue and rehabilitation of a stray cat, and addition of new vintage Chanel earrings and Delvaux bag to personal collections).

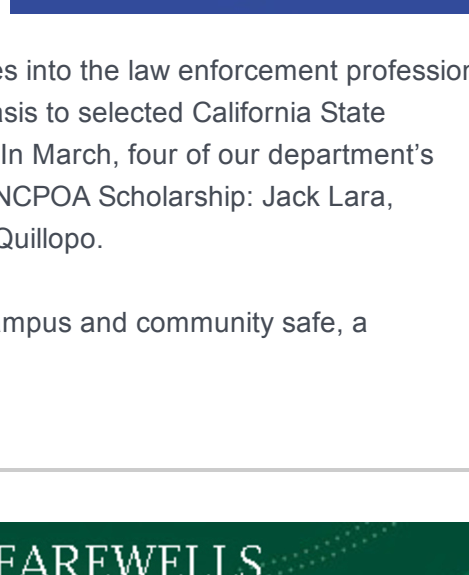
As a result, despite all the challenges the year posed, Auditing and Consulting Services emerged from 2020 stronger than we were at the start, with augmented professional skill and experience, a sturdier foundation for meeting our goals, and increased confidence in our resilience and cohesiveness as a team.

SAC STATE POLICE DEPARTMENT

ABA CSO NCPOA

That's not a typo, it's higher education acronym soup for great news - ABA's CSOs were awarded NCPOA Scholarships!

The Northern California Peace Officers Association (NCPOA) was founded in 1934 and is comprised of over 500 active and retired law enforcement members. It is dedicated to improving communication within the criminal justice system and contributes to worthy law enforcement activities in our community. In order to enhance recruitment of well-qualified candidates into the law enforcement profession, the NCPOA provides scholarships on a regular basis to selected California State University Sacramento Criminal Justice students. In March, four of our department's Community Service Officers (CSOs) received an NCPOA Scholarship: Jack Lara, Meghan O'Connell, Mariya Aslam, and Michaela Quillopo.



Way to go CSOs! Your work hard to makes our campus and community safe, a foundation of a our Anchor University Initiative.

FRESH FACES & FAREWELLS

Retirements

Facilities Management

John Van Adrighem & Timothy Kelly Bldg Trades  
Mark Leisz Customer Service Center

Joseph Kelly & Mike West Engineering Services

Dorthea Johnson Facilities Management

Resineo Caluza, Sandra Granger, Demetrio Nucal Custodial Services

Nay Saechao, Remedios Templo & Shannon McDonald

Human Resources

Diana Cook Payroll Office

Sacramento State Police Department

Suzanne Bracamonte-Iturriaga, John Linke, Joseph Lueders, & Jeffrey Solomon

Financial Services

John Guion Procurement

Business & Administrative Services

Robert Favila & Nicolae Ardelean UTAPS

Fresh Faces

Nicole Lack

Procurement

