

## Communication Studies goes abroad

**F**or the first time, the Communication Studies Department is offering a course far from Sacramento.

Dr. **Jacqueline A. Irwin**, professor of rhetoric, led a group of 10 students to La Muse Artists and Writers Retreat in Southern France, this summer. The retreat is located in Labastide-Esparbairrenque, France and was founded in 2003. Dr. Irwin has visited the retreat previously.

The students participating receive academic credit for COMS 168—Approaches to Rhetorical Criticism.

Among the 10 students were two graduate Communication Studies students, **Carly Carpenter** and **Rachel Marthaler**, and eight undergraduate

Communication Studies majors: **Analise Aguilar**, **Shelby Chaney**, **Raymond Contreras**, **Isaiah Ford**, **Alexa Griminstein**, **Katue Guest**, **Meg LaRiviere** and **Lesya Ramanovich**.

Dr. Irwin planned the course with the College of Continuing Education and its Faculty-Led Study Abroad program. The program offers short-term, international experiences designed for students who would like to study abroad, yet stay on track for graduation. The courses allow students to infuse international, intercultural and global dimensions into their program at Sac State.

### STUDENT NEWS



*“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of (people) and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one’s lifetime.”*

— Mark Twain (1835-1910)

**VIVE LE FRANCE** — COMS 168 students on their first day in Southern France.



# 653 Communication Studies grads

**A** total of 653 Communication Studies graduates are completing degrees in 2019, more than 500 of whom participated in commencement exercises conducted by California State University, Sacramento in May.

The Department of Communication Studies remains the largest department in the College of Arts & Letters, and thousands of family and friends of the graduates loaded the Golden 1 Center to offer their congratulations.

Commencement was conducted by President **Robert S. Nelsen**, which included recognition for outstanding academic achievement by students with the Dean's Award, presented by College of Arts & Letters Dean **Sheree Meyer**. Students graduating with magna, summa and cum laude honors based on their overall grade point average were also recognized during the event.

This year, the university awarded an honorary doctorate to Dr. **Marlene Marie von Friederichs-Fitzwater**, a former professor in the Department of Communication Studies. *[See related story on next page]*

The 653 Communication Studies graduates were a part of a record number of 9,320 students (including winter and spring graduates, pending summer graduates and credential candidates) to receive degrees from Sac State in 2019.

The College of Arts & Letters produced the second-largest number of graduates with 1,410 students, or 15 percent of the total undergraduate degrees in this year.



**The most wonderful time of the year —**

A big crowd of 506 Communication Studies graduates participated in the 2019 Commencement Exercises at the Golden 1 Center in May. A total of 653 Communication Studies students completed degrees this year: 178 Fall 2018 graduates, 431 Spring 2019 graduates, and 44 Summer 2019 graduates.

*Photos courtesy Sacramento State Public Affairs*



# Honors for former Communication Studies professor

**M**arlene Marie von Friederichs-Fitzwater has dedicated her life to helping people who too often are left behind by the health care system.

A professor emerita from the Department of Communication Studies, she has worked to reduce disparities based on age, ethnicity and income in cancer diagnosis and treatment. She founded Joshua's House, devoted to caring for terminally ill homeless men and women. Her work has affected countless people and likely will continue to do so for generations.

For her contributions to the health of her community, von Friederichs-Fitzwater was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Sacramento State and California State University.

Before retiring from Sac State, von Friederichs-Fitzwater served as both a professor and later as chair of the Department of Communication Studies. She was later a full-time professor in the UC Davis School of Medicine, where, among other things, she developed support programs for newly diagnosed cancer patients.

In 1989, she founded the nonprofit Health Communication Research Institute (HCRI) to help better understand social issues that contribute to disease and develop strategies to make the health care

system more accessible to all. She began by bringing together expert researchers and community groups to achieve the organization's goals.

Among other accomplishments, HCRI partnered with the Sierra Health Foundation to redesign the state's Medi-Cal application. The nonprofit helped develop a statewide educational program in 10 languages about a new managed care program for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. It has collaborated with UC Davis and six tribal medical clinics to increase mammography screening among Native American women.

In recent years, HCRI has focused on issues affecting homeless people in the Sacramento area. That led to Joshua's House, named after von Friederichs-Fitzwater's grandson **Joshua Lee**, who died on the streets in 2014 at age 34.

Joshua's House, one of the first hospice facilities of its kind in the nation, is scheduled to open in late fall 2019.

Von Friederichs-Fitzwater "puts her heart into everything she does," said Sac State President **Robert S. Nelsen**. "That is especially evident in her work to open Joshua's House in honor of her late grandson."

— Cynthia Hubert



*"Creating a safe and loving place for the homeless to spend their final days with dignity and peace is an achievement that will positively impact this region for generations to come."*

— President Robert S. Nelsen



**HIGH HONORS** — Dr. **Marlene Marie von Friederichs-Fitzwater** speaks at a special ceremony recognizing her honorary doctorate degree.

# Memorable year for Sac State debate

**D**ebate team members from Sacramento State have just wrapped up an incredible year of activity — including taking a contingent of 13 students to the National Forensics Association championship tournament.

“This has been an amazing season for Hornet debate,” said Instructor **Kristen Tudor**, director of debate. “We have won championships, closed out tournaments, and brought our largest group ever to NFA.”

## STUDENT NEWS

By the numbers, the Debate Team competed in 12 tournaments and 58 total elimination rounds (including close-outs and walkovers). From those events, team members pulled in seven tournament championships, four octofinalist awards, four quarterfinal awards, 13 semifinalist awards, two second-place awards, 21 speaker awards in the top 10, and five top speaker awards.

The National Forensics Association Championship Tournament took place in Santa Ana, Calif., in April. Hornet debaters who participated were **Ayyah Al-jibouri**, **Joey Barrows**, **Maria Burke**, **Adam DeCamp**, **Daylong Hawn**, **Miranda Konoplisky**, **Zia Landis**, **Sumneet**

**Nirankari**, **Kevin Ozomaro**, **Jasmine Putman**, **Brandon Scott**, **Raj Singh**, and **Aveet Uppal**.

Once again this year, Sac State hosted the Nicholas F. Burnett Classic Debate Tournament where Hornet debaters took first-place trophies in both the novice and open divisions. In the novice division, **Daylon Hawn** took first place. In the open division, **Kevin Ozomaro** defeated the University of the Pacific to take first place. Ozomaro was also the first-place speaker.

Hosted by the Department of Communication Studies, this year's tournament took place March 2-3. The tournament is named for Dr. **Nick Burnett**, who retired in 2017 but served as Director of Forensics from 1986-1997.

Teams from across the nation competed in the event, including teams from Hillsdale College of Michigan, Clark College of Oregon, and California universities, including Concordia University of Irvine, Modesto Junior College, and Chico State University.

As part of the Debate Team's “public debate project,” a special debate on water rights in



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**BURNETT TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANTS** — From left, **Justin Perkins**, volunteer coach; **Adam De Camp**; **Erika Jauregui**, graduate assistant coach; **Avneet Uppal**; **Sumneet Nirankari**; **Bria Jones**, alumni and volunteer coach; **Andrew Cauchi**; Instructor **Kristen Tudor**, Director of Debate; **Daylon Hawn**; **Jasmine Putman**; **Brandon Scott**; **Ayyah Al-jibouri**; **Raj Singh**; **Kevin Ozomaro**; Instructor **Jared Anderson**, debate coach; and **Justin Flick**, volunteer coach.



# Sac State students win four Press Club scholarships

**F**our of the seven 2019 scholarships awarded by the Sacramento Press Club went to Sac State Communication Studies students.

The scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis between undergraduate and graduate students from universities from across the state. Winning scholarship prizes start at \$4,000.

**Adria Watson** won the Nerela Skelton Scholarship; **Nick Pecoraro** won the Virginia Ellis Scholarship; **Barbara Harvey** won the Lisa Ling Scholarship; and **Steph Rodriguez** was also honored.

The Sacramento Press Club is a non profit educational organization dedicated to supporting the next generation of journalists through college scholarships. The Press Club hosts monthly educational meetings and luncheons featuring newsmakers from across the nation.

Professor **Molly Dugan** accompanied the Sac State students at the awards ceremony conducted in early May.



**AWARD WINNERS** — Sac State Communication Studies students who won Sacramento Press Club scholarships are pictured, left to right, **Steph Rodriguez**, **Adria Watson**, **Barbara Harvey** (now a graduate student at UC Berkeley), and **Nick Pecoraro**.

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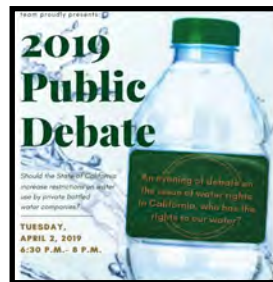
prompt asked: “Should the State of California increase restrictions on water use by private bottled water companies?”

“Our students take pride in Sacramento State’s commitment to sustainability, energy conservation, and environmentalism,” Tudor said. “The 2019 Public Debate represented this unique commitment to environmental consciousness that Sacramento State is devoted to and allowed us to recognize and honor Earth Month.”

The project is part of the Public Debate Association, which annually covers a variety of topics from voting rights, prison reform, and rent control.

The goal of the Public Debate Association at Sacramento State is “to advance the values of debate in the public sphere through sponsorship of one or more public debate activities and through general promotion of public discourse to promote critical examination of public issues for diverse and general audiences.”

The Debate Team at Sac State is supported by the university’s Instructionally Related Activities Fund. The team is open to all Sac State students enrolled in COMS 111 (Debate Research Practicum).



*“Should the State of California increase restrictions on water use by private bottled water companies?”*

— 2019 Public Debate Prompt



**SAC STATE TEAM AT NFA** — Debate Team members who attended the NFA at Santa Ana in April are, left to right, **Justin Perkins**, volunteer coach; **Raj Singh**; **Erika Jauregui**, graduate assistant coach; **Adam DeCamp**; **Kevin Ozomaro**; Instructor **Jared Anderson**, debate coach; **Jasmine Putman**; **Joey Barrows**; **Avneet Uppal**; **Justin Flick**, volunteer coach; and **Ayyah Al-jibouri**.



# Student involvement and engagement valued

**P**rofessors often suggest to their students additional out-of-classroom opportunities to get involved and truly engage their major.

Three of our Communication Studies students took the advice of their instructor, **Sigrid Bathen**, to heart and quickly volunteered to work the registration table at a high-profile Sacramento Press Club luncheon.

Bathen said she was thrilled the students took her invitation to help so seriously and noted the

importance of the luncheon that annually raises \$34,000 to fund journalism scholarships for students. For helping at the registration table, the students got a free lunch, interacted with the speakers, and met with area journalists, public relations professionals, and political leaders.

Departing California Gov. **Jerry Brown** sat for an “exit interview” at the luncheon conducted by *Los Angeles Times* political reporter **George Skelton** and **Miriam Pawel**, author of *The Browns of California*.

The luncheon was preceded by a silent auction of Brown-related memorabilia, including signed photographs going back to Brown’s first term as governor between 1975-1983. Proceeds from the auction benefited the Press Club’s scholarship fund.

## STUDENT NEWS



Sac State Communication Studies students who volunteered to run the registration table at a Sacramento Press Club luncheon were, from left, **Alyssa Guerrero**, **Daniel Wilson** and **Casey Camacho**.



# PRSSA chapter wraps up another successful year

**A**nother big year is in the books for the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) chapter at Sac State.

In March, Sac State hosted the regional conference of PRSSA attracting PR students from across the state.

Two Sac State PRSSA members were elected to national and

Meanwhile, PRSSA member (and 2019 graduate) **Jana Reyes** was the first student to acquire a Certificate of Public Relations while still an undergraduate.

## STUDENT NEWS

regional offices this year: **Jacqueline Barraza** as National Vice President of Career Services, and **Milan Williams** as a Regional PRSSA Ambassador.



**OLD AND NEW** — PRSSA’s newly elected 2019-20 officers are shown, front row left to right, **Herminio Espinoza**, **Tanya Kaur**, **Jannah Khalil**, **Christabel Manangan**, **Emily Webber**, **Jasmine Fonseca**, **May Mendoza**, and **Justin Phung**. The outgoing 2018-19 officers, standing left to right, are **Brittany Burke**, **Jacqueline Barraza**, **Elizabeth Arias Portillo**, **Jennie-Marie Britton**, **Johnny Chao**, **Chanté Boliard**, **Dayana Flores**, and **Ramy Ghosbashy**.



# Communication Studies faculty news

**T**he faculty of the Communication Studies Department is the center of an important amount of research and scholarly activity. Here are some highlights of our faculty's recent activities:

■ **Sigrid Bathen**, instructor, was the guest speaker for the California Writers Club recently, speaking on the topic, *"Magazine Writing: Then and Now, Print to Digital."* She spoke about her multi-decade career that has spanned local and regional publications in California, and national publications as well.

Bathen also recently completed an oral history project that included a 90-minute interview with legendary California lobbyist **Clay Jackson**—once the highest-paid, most prominent lobbyist in the state, who also served time in federal prison on political corruption charges.

■ Film Studies Professor **Steve Buss** recently discussed with Sacramento media his interactions with one of his once little-known film studies students, **Ryan Coogler**. Coogler has since directed more than a half-dozen films,

including the award-winning 2018 feature, *"Black Panther."* The film has since become one of the highest-grossing films of all time, and Coogler was named runner-up to *Time* magazine's "2018 Person of the Year."

Buss recalls Coogler came to Sac State to play football and majored in business administration, but took many film studies class in the Communication Studies Department. "He had a very hard work ethic," Buss recalled of Coogler, also noting that he often ran over the eight-minute limit for films in his classes. "I'd be like, 'Nah, this is good, and I'm not going to take it away from him,'" and let Coogler bust the time limit. Buss thinks Coogler's success via Sac State can be repeated by future students — "We need more Ryans," he said.

■ Journalism Professor **Molly Dugan** recently contributed to the ongoing discussion of the impact of "fake news" in contemporary journalism and communication. "Fake news refers to articles, videos, memes, and photographs that are factually inaccurate and designed to deceive," Dugan told *Comstocks Magazine's* online blog, "The Buzz." Dugan added, "Fake news" goes beyond honest mistakes and are meant to further opinion and bias. "Bias is actually factually inaccurate, it's only telling one part of the story, so it lacks context and can lead people to a faulty conclusion. Fake news is something that is factually inaccurate with the intent to deceive without any basis in any kind of fact."

■ Professor **Michele Foss-Snowden** has been named faculty liaison for a new degree completion program launched by the College of Arts & Letters and the College of Continuing Education. The program is aimed at students who were majoring in arts and letters disciplines but "stopped out" or left the university short of graduation. Up to 1,500 students "stop out" each year, and this program is designed to assist them in returning to finish their baccalaureate degree program. "This degree completion program targets those employable and desirable skills (in students) and highlights them in a way that can be fully delivered online," Foss-Snowden said.

■ Professor **Tim Howard** discussed the value and meaning of a mascot—most especially Sac State's very



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# More Mendocino Mentions —

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own “Herky”— for the Sac State alumni magazine. Howard, a public relations professor, described “Herky” as “a hallmark to our campus and community. When he’s out there (in the community), he is exemplifying Sacramento State’s excellence.” Howard said mascots can help further an organization’s messaging, and, “If you look at a return on investment, a mascot can be a tremendous complement to your organization’s reputation and brand.”

■ **Jacqueline A. Irwin**, professor, presented a paper and participated on two panels at the Central States Communication Association Convention in Omaha, Neb., in April. Dr. Irwin’s paper was titled, “*Kaethe Kollwitz and the Art of the Subversive Protest Poster.*” The panels on which she participated were, “*Watching Scott Myers Watching House Hunters: Laughter, Dialogue and Critical Examination of a Television Phenomenon,*” and “*Now What? Mid-Career, Tenured Faculty Engaging About the Future.*”

■ **Kathy Kasic**, assistant professor, joined Professors **Steve Buss** and **Jenny Stark** for a special panel during the annual Festival of the Arts in Sacramento. The three film professors participated in a panel, “*A Conversation with Sac State Film Directors,*” moderated by Professor **Molly Dugan**.

■ **Kikuko Omori**, assistant professor, was awarded a Research and Creative Activity grant from the Chancellor’s Office and the Office of Academic Affairs, Office of Research, Innovation and Economic Development.

■ **Phillip Reese**, assistant professor, continues his professional journalism relationship with *The Sacramento Bee*. In those duties, he won two first-place awards in the California News Publishers Association’s 2018 Journalism Awards. He was honored for stories created with other *Bee* writers on high rates of teen murders in Sacramento County; and for a series on data showing Sacramento police disproportionately pull over African American drivers. For 2019, Reese and two other *Sac Bee* reporters won a third-place honor for an enterprise news series on the dangerous consequences of understaffing rural law enforcement agencies.

Reese was also voted “Best Professor” on the Sac State campus during *The State Hornet*’s third annual “Best of Sac State” poll.

■ Professor **Jenny Stark** screened her film, “*Negative 25,*” at the Chicago Underground Film Festival in June. The Chicago film festival is the longest-running such festival in the world promoting films and videos that experiment in form, technique or content.

■ **Mark Stoner**, professor emeritus, recently published an essay, “*Making Sense of Social Justice: Reclaiming the Subject*” in the *National Teaching & Learning Forum*. Stoner’s essay was the first of a series on the topic of social justice in higher education.

■ Professor **Mark A.E. Williams** was a special speaker at the UC Davis College of Letters and Science on the topic, “*Fake News, Tribal Facts, Real Tweets: How Relevant is Aristotle’s Rhetoric Today.*” Williams, author of the forthcoming book, *Just Words: Rhetoric, Religion and Education in Greece* (2020: Integratio Books), said, “Aristotle contextualizes discourse within a robust system that requires powerful questions, but he knows how to dismiss both fanatical certainties and cynical skepticism. What remains is a confident, uniquely Aristotelean, way to judge the moment.”

■ Instructor **Cynthia Zeiden** has completed her MFA degree in television and screenwriting from Stephens College.

■ Professor **S. David Zuckerman** contributed a chapter to a new book, the *Routledge Companion to Migration, Communication and Politics*. His chapter was titled “Gebserian Theory and Methods.”

Dr. Zuckerman also presented a paper, “*The Blindness of the Cure: The Deficient Mental-Rational (Mis)Guidance of Everyday Life*” published by the International Gebser Society of Boulder, Colo. He also had a keynote paper accepted at the Consciousness in Science Conference titled, “*Interconnections and Disconnects: Gebser/ Aurobindo/Prabhupada, Consciousness, and Bringing the East to the West.*”

KFBK Radio in Sacramento recently interviewed Zuckerman about the online components of terrorism as a result of his Communication Studies class on terrorism and communication.



# Graduate and undergraduate student research excels

**I**n Communication Studies at Sac State, research includes the meaningful contributions of undergraduate and graduate students.

Three examples of undergraduate research were recently highlighted, demonstrating how even while in pursuit of a baccalaureate degree, determined and driven students can add to the body of knowledge in communication studies.

Two Sac State undergrads, **Tony Humphreys** and **Jamison Warren**, presented papers at the annual Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference presented by the Western States Communication Association. The conference took place in February in Seattle, Wash.

Humphreys' paper was titled, "*Clash of Public Images: Understanding the United States' Image from the Ideologies of ISIS*," while Warren's paper was titled, "*Neoliberalism and New Identities in RuPaul's Drag Race*."

**Aleah Fisher**, a recent communication studies graduate, presented her poster, "*Critical Analysis of Black Mirror*" at the Undergraduate Research Conference for the Central States Communication Association. CSCA met in April in Omaha, Neb.

Acceptance of papers written by undergraduates at the conference level is significant, noted Department Chair **Gerri Smith**, as the selection process is highly competitive.

Three undergraduate Communication Studies students were included in the nine essays selected for inclusion in *Writing the University*, an annual journal published by the Faculty Senate Subcommittee for Reading

and Writing. The journal features articles from students from across the university.

**Katrina Aleksic** had her essay, "*Exploring **Hillary Clinton's** Historic Concession Speech of 2016 Using Feminist, Genre and Generative Criticism*," accepted.

Also accepted was a paper titled "*The Repair of Pablo: An Image Repair Analysis of **Kanye West***," by **Austin Segovia**. Warren's previously mentioned paper regarding neoliberalism and identity was also included.

Several students in the master's program had papers accepted at the National Communication Association annual meeting:

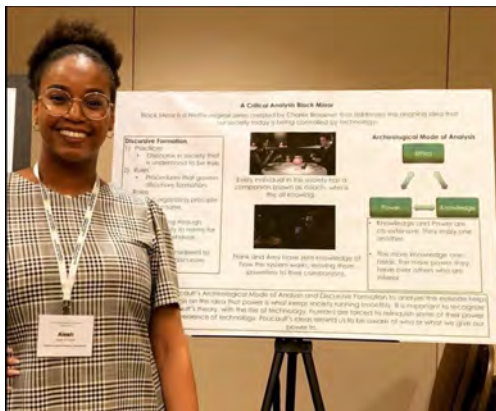
**Aryana P. Gooley** presented "*Playing with Epidemic Narratives: Repositioning Collective Cultural Consciousness with Black Identity as Praiseworthy Entities*."

**Erik Ramirez** for "*The DREAMer Experience: A Qualitative Study of Undocumented College Students' Identity and Communication*."

**Michael Rangoonwala** with "*Communicating Multicultural Identity in Marriages: An Exploration of Adult Third Culture Kids*." In addition, Rangoonwala was this year's recipient of the Leah Vande Berge Scholarship.

**Haley Schaff's** research asked the question, "*Is This the Part of Town Where Flies are Made?: Analyzing the Social Values in*

*Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*." Schaff's paper was selected as one of the Top Papers in the Master's Education Section.



**Aleah Fisher**



**Austin Segovia and Jamison Warren**



**Dr. David Zuckerman and Michael Rangoonwala**

**Have news to share?**

**Send story ideas to Professor Andrew Stoner at [andrew.stoner@csus.edu](mailto:andrew.stoner@csus.edu)**

# Making an entrepreneurial impact

**B**udding entrepreneur **Adrian Pinon**, a communication studies major, is no stranger to “pitching.”

He once attended a *Shark Tank* casting call, hoping to pitch his business idea to potential investors in prime time.

Pinon didn't land a spot on the ABC reality show, but after going through pitch boot camp at Sacramento State's Dale and Katy Carlsen Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, he was primed to succeed. His events-discovery app was presented to the Spark Pitch Competition during Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) this year at Sac State.

It was worth the effort: Pinon won the GEW's top prize of \$2,000.

Pinon, who describes himself as “an entrepreneur obsessed with breakthrough software and innovative hardware,” is founder and CEO at TownToday of Sacramento.

Events scheduled for GEW all support the notion that entrepreneurship is more than simply starting a business. It's also a way to solve problems, effect change, and improve people's lives, organizers say.

Pinon and his fellow student competitors each had three minutes to make their pitches, “selling” a panel of equity investors on their ideas.

As part of the GEW event, Pinon and all other participants received an hour of expert mentoring, and cash prizes of \$2,000 and \$1,000 were awarded to the top two finishers.

“That's a small amount in a pitch competition,” says **Katherine Cota**, the Carlsen Center's former executive director.

“Small amounts of money awarded at this level keep them just hungry enough so that they work hard to grow their business and use that money to launch them to the next level.”

Among the judges was **Dale Carlsen**, a 1984 Sac State Business Administration graduate, who was the founder of the former Sleep Train Mattress Centers. During GEW event two years ago, Carlsen and his wife, **Katy Carlsen**, announced a \$6 million gift to Sac State to establish the center that bears their name.



GLOBAL  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
WEEK NOV.  
13-17



**TOP PRIZE** — **Dale Carlsen** (left) awards the 2018-19 top prize to **Adrian Pinon** (center). Also shown is **Robert S. Nelsen**, president of Sacramento State University.



# J Street Film Fest highlights student work

**S**even student filmmakers debuted their films at the annual J Street Film Festival at the close of the spring semester.

According to **Dan Janos**, assistant professor, who mentors the films while under production, the film festival serves as a collective sigh of relief for students who have worked hard.

"For the filmmakers showing their work, the 16-week semester may have indeed felt like a lifetime," Janos said. "But, no, life is long and we live for the passion and projects that light the path along the way."

Janos said the J Street Film Festival provides an opportunity to "take in the light student work throws our way. We sit for the stories they want us to hear. Maybe we like some films better than others, but we come together to celebrate everyone and the hard work to create this unique program."

The films shown at the festival (which included talk-back sessions with the filmmakers after the screenings), were:

■ **"Ticket to Ride,"** which tells the story of a young woman forced into a criminal situation while trying to help a friend. It was directed by **Ashley Briglia**, along with **Kasey Durham**, producer; **Aerick Neal**, director of photography; and **Angel Hernandez**, editor.

■ **"Welcome to Hell,"** telling the story of a man who dies and accidentally goes to hell where he is confronted by his past and learns that the accident may be anything but. **Dakota Fitzsimmons** was the director; along with **Briley Haskins**, producer; **Matt Huffman**, director of photography; **Aaron Cortez**, production designer; and **Brittini Capozzi**, editor.

■ **"How to Make It in America,"** which shows a young man trying to balance

school and work as he strives toward a career that can change his life. **Tyler Coe** was the director, along with **Ryan Tschetter**, producer; **Cody Chan**, director of photography; and **Evan Ishihara**, editor.

■ **"Syn,"** which depicts grieving over the loss of a mother by a misguided teen who then summons help from a roughish demon to fulfill her darkest wish. **Anna Pongratz** was the director, along with **Cindy Rodriguez**, producer; **David Martinez**, director of photography; and **E. Ortiz Rivera**, editor.

■ **"Blood Child"** tells the story of a baby that was never meant to be. **Tevon Andrews**, director; **Wilson Yu**, producer; **Marco Covarrubias**, director of photography; and **Kevin Maranello**, editor.

■ **"Big Fax,"** chronicling an aspiring, yet beleaguered comedian who must prepare for a gig while battling his biggest critic. It was directed and produced by **Nathaniel McInnes**; **Paul Sundermeyer**, director of photography; **Alix Pinedo**, production designer; **Timothy Woodcock**, editor; and **Carlos Duarte**, casting.

■ **"I'm Fine"** shows the battles of an unemployed college grad who deals with depression, sending him down a dark path. **Alexander Lubinsky** was the director; **Michael Stephenson**, producer; **Matt Johnson**, director of photography; **Elizabeth Li**, production designer; and **Daniel Vaccaro**, editor.

Each of the student productions were from film classes taught in the Department of Communication Studies featuring faculty members Janos; Professors **Steve Buss**, **Jenny Stark** and **Michele Foss-Snowden**, Assistant Professor **Kathy Kasic**; and Instructors **Andrew Anker**, **George Craft**, **Jason Geiger**, **Mark Herzig**, **Edward Ortiz**, **Roberto D. Pomo**, and **Doug Rice**.

## J STREET FILM FEST

Thursday, May 16, 2019 · 7:00pm  
Pre-show Mixer 6:00pm  
University Theater in Shasta Hall · Sac State



**CURTAIN CALL** — Student film makers take the stage at the end of the J Street Film Festival screenings.

# Mueller wins Distinguished Service Award

**B**ill Mueller, a 1990 communication studies-government double major, was awarded the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Service Award.

Mueller is committed to helping the Sacramento region prosper and thrive. As chief executive officer of Valley Vision, Mueller spearheads development of strategies that improve life and increase access to health care, education, workforce and technology.

Mueller's career in public policy and strategy spans 25 years, including positions with Intel Corp., Sacramento Metro Chamber, and as a policy adviser in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

While at Sacramento State, Mueller was selected as a Sacramento Semester Program student, working with members of the Legislature and benefiting from the university's proximity to the Capitol.

Mueller is a graduate of several leadership programs and holds statewide volunteer positions with the California Asian Chamber of Commerce, California Stewardship Network, and California Economic Summit.

He also serves on the board of Breathe California of Sacramento-Emigrant Trails, and was honored with the 2011 Unity Award, the top recognition from the Sacramento Urban League.

## ALUMNI NEWS



*"I am an incredible proponent of Sac State as well as education in general. It is the great democratizer and what helps us be successful in life and career."*

# Sac State alum Chief Ed Tubbs remembered

**C**ommunity members in both Piedmont and Albany, California, recently paused to honor Fire Chief **Ed Tubbs**, who passed away in April 2019.

Tubbs, 60, was a communication studies graduate of Sac State and served the two Alameda County communities as fire chief from 2011 until his

retirement in 2013.

"He was a consummate professional who took his duties seriously," said former Piedmont Police Chief **Rick Goede**. "Splitting duties between two

cities is difficult as a leader .... However, Ed stepped up to the challenge when the two cities experimented with the concept and did a very good job."

After he retired with nearly 30 years of service, he moved to Idaho, where he volunteered for a small local fire department.

Tubbs was preceded in death by his wife in 2018, and is survived by a brother and a sister, and several nieces and nephews.

At the time of his death, flags in Piedmont and Albany were lowered to half-staff.

## ALUMNI NEWS



Sac State alum **Ed Tubbs** greets citizens during his tenure as Fire Chief. (Photo by Piedmont Pilot)



# Another Pulitzer Prize for a Sac State alum

**S**acramento State alumnus and former *State Hornet* editor **Russ Buettner** received a Pulitzer Prize in April.

This is the second time in a year Communication Studies alumni from Sacramento State have been awarded journalism's highest honor. Alumni **Derek Moore**, **Jim Sweeney** and **Martin Espinoza** were honored last year with a Pulitzer for their reporting.

Buettner's award was shared with fellow *New York Times* reporters **David Barstow** and **Susanne Craig** for their in-depth reporting on President **Donald Trump's** financial history. Buettner wrote for *The Hornet* in 1989-90 and graduated from Sac State before attending the University of Missouri Graduate School of Journalism.

An investigative reporter for *The Times'* metro desk, Buettner has worked for *The New York Times* since 2006. He previously worked for *The New York Daily News* and *New York Newsday*.

## ALUMNI NEWS

The report on Trump's financial history was conducted over an 18-month period and debunked previous claims by the President of self-made worth, and revealed a business empire that skirted tax laws and was built on inherited (rather than earned) money.

*The Times'* articles cited for the Pulitzer Prize were titled, "Trump Engaged in Suspect Tax Schemes as He Reaped Riches from His Father," "Four Ways Fred Trump Made Donald Trump and His Siblings Rich," "New York Regulators Examine the Trump Family's Tax Schemes," and "As the Trumps Dodged Taxes, Their Tenants Paid a Price."

After Buettner was awarded, he spoke with *The State Hornet* and recalled his work there inspired his love of investigative reporting. "I got my first published piece at *The State Hornet*," Buettner said. "My experience at *The State Hornet* was great, I discovered that I liked things that were very research intensive."

Buettner noted that his graduate work at the University of Missouri assisted him greatly in landing at major New York publications. He worked at various jobs while an undergraduate and just after graduation, both in and out of journalism.

Regarding his Pulitzer Prize, Buettner noted "You get nominated for it by your news organization, but it's never something I've set out to achieve. There are some people who work just to win that prize, but that thought process doesn't work for me. I think if you just care about current events, it reaffirms how much more amazing journalism is done every year."

Asked why he was interested in focusing on President Trump's claims about his personal financial wealth, Buettner noted that while covering the 2016 Presidential campaign he and other *Times* reporters noted Trump's tendency to openly gloat about his personal wealth. Later Trump broke precedent and refused to release any of his tax returns (a tradition dating back to the 1972 election).

Later, Buettner and other *Times* reporters gained copies of Trump's closely-held 1995 and 2005 tax returns. From there, "We started looking at how much money (Trump's) father gave him, what were the ways he got it, and it led to new avenues that we stuck to every time .... It started with digging up public records, and going back historically to property



*"In journalism, you're never gonna stop learning, you are never going to feel like you know enough, that's part of the lifelong pursuit of journalism. Just figure out what motivates you ... you are never going to stop trying to get better."*

— Russ Buettner

records. Each one of those turns yielded new results, new documents, (and) the evidence and detail of this web of financial instruments ... became more and more precise."

— Ashton Byers



*The New York Times'* Pulitzer Prize winning stories on President Trump's personal finances is shown below.



# Putting communication at the center of it all

**C**ommunication is at the center of almost everything **Austin Schlocker** does.

At 28, Schlocker is putting his communication studies degree to work in both his vocation – with Mass Mutual Financial Services, and his avocation – the newly formed Greater Arcadia Chamber of Commerce in Sacramento.

“I think communication is the rock of business – it’s the root of everything,” Schlocker recently told *Greater Good* magazine. Without communication, “you can’t build a relationship, you can’t do anything.”

Schlocker believes he has the communication skills, energy and drive to lead the Greater Arden Chamber.

## ALUMNI NEWS

“We’re in our infancy,” Schlocker said of GACOC, which is about 2 years old with more than 100 business and community-partner members. “Our first year was getting going. The second year was about growth.”

A “younger feel” is what Schlocker believes some chambers are missing – many people believing in stodgy stereotypes of old business leaders that don’t reflect the diversity and dynamics of contemporary local business.

As part of that, the GACOC is “going digital” – Schlocker convinced, “You cannot compete in a digital world with non-digital tactics.”

Schlocker, a native of Carmichael, Calif., began a career in finance in 2015 after he graduated from Sacramento State. He is now with MassMutual Beneficial Group, and the Arden-Arcade resident maintains his office in the heart of the neighborhood.



*“I think communication is the rock of business — it’s the root of everything. (Without communication) you can’t build a relationship, you can’t do anything”*

— Austin Schlocker

“I want to use the chamber as a vehicle to promote positive workspaces and other developments in Arden-Arcade,” he said.

## At age 70, time of transition for *The State Hornet*

**A**s it turns 70 in 2019, the student newspaper of Sacramento State, *The State Hornet*, is undergoing a variety of transitions.

In April, *The Hornet* not only debuted its updated newsroom in Del Norte Hall, but also published its last print edition. From here forward, *The Hornet* will be an online publication with multi-media and other features.

First published on Jan. 14, 1949, *The Hornet* has played an important role on campus, serving as a voice for students, documenting the school’s history, and training future journalists and communication professionals.

Sac State President **Robert S. Nelsen** calls journalism “the heart of democracy” and lauds *The Hornet*’s legacy. “I am proud of the work of *The State Hornet* reporters over the past 70 years,” he said. “Their efforts to bring a student voice



issues facing our campus and community are to be commended.”

In addition to the anniversary and online transition of the newspaper, a \$25,000 grant has been awarded to digitize issues of *The Hornet* from 1949 to 2018. The grant comes from the California

Revealed Project coordinated with the Donald and Beverly Gerth Special Collections and University Archives.

Once completed, the digitized files of every *Hornet* issue ever published will be posted online and will be searchable. The work is expected to be completed in 2020. California Revealed is a state library-funded historical documents initiative.



# ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

**Aubrie Adams MA '14** is an assistant professor at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo teaching courses in media effects, research methods, communication theory, and technology.

**Brenden J. Begley '92** was recognized as part of the annual Best of the Bar lineup by *The Sacramento Business Journal*, showcasing top lawyers in the region.

**Sarah Billingsley MA '13** is the marketing communications Director for the College of Continuing Education at Sacramento State.

**Daisy Castellon '15** has been promoted to account executive at Lucas Public Affairs.

**Brittany Chambers MA '10** is vice president and director of marketing and communication at Infinex Financial Group in San Francisco.

**Suzy Craig MA '10** is a mathematics training specialist for the Sacramento City Unified School District.

**Ryan DeAngelis '99** has been recognized by *The Sacramento Business Journal* as a 2018 Real Estate Heavy Hitter for his work as first vice president of CB Richard Ellis Inc.

**Cheryl Dell '82** has been honored by Inland Press Association with The Casey Award, the association's highest honor. The Inland Press Association includes more than 1,000 daily and weekly newspapers in all 50 states.

**Andy Domek MA '09** is a senior creative content producer at the Office of Communications and Outreach for the Democratic Caucus of the California Assembly.

**Rachel S. Doyle '06** was recently hired as director of advancement for Sacramento County Day School.

**Stephanie Duncan MA '11** is an analyst for the State of California.

**Greg Fishman '85** has been selected to serve as board president of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD). Fishman currently serves as communications coordinator for the California State Association.

**Lavinia Lo MA '10** is a digital marketing manager for Starbucks in Taipei, Taiwan.

**Gabriella Lundqvist '03** and her husband, **Daniel Poppers '03**, have joined Golden State Wealth Management as their newest managers under Lundqvist Wealth Strategies.

**Savannah Marbles MA '15** is the content marketing manager for Chewse in San Francisco.

**Michael McCarron '82** was named executive director of the USS Hornet Sea, Air and Space Museum in Alameda, Calif.

**Cristina Mendonsa '96** has joined NewsRadio KFBK as the new co-anchor/host of "The KFBK Morning News." She previously worked 21 years as a news anchor at KXTV, ABC 10 in Sacramento.

**Joseph Montes '90** has joined Expert Network, an invitation-only service for distinguished professionals.

**Tamara Moyer-Petty MA '12** is a senior case manager for the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan.

**Andy G. Navarrete MA '15** is a project manager for a non profit technology organization in Oakland, Calif.

**Bobby Rich '01** was recognized by *The Sacramento Business Journal* as a 2018 Real Estate Heavy Hitter for his work as vice president of investments for Marcus & Millichap.

**Rich Roehrich MA '10** is a freelance writer for technical companies writing on issues from poverty reduction to economic development for the state of North Dakota.

**Chema Salinas MA '09** is a content specialist for the Foundation for California Community Colleges.

**Kearsten Shepherd MA '12** is the director of development and external relations for the California Primary Care Association.

**Jordan Stout '16** was recently promoted to account executive at Lucas Public Affairs.

**Tom Sumner '83** has named president of Yamaha Corporation of America. He is the first American ever named to head Yamaha's U.S. operations.

**Travis Taylor '04** was recently appointed as senior vice president for Lucas Public Affairs.



**Alumni news to share? Let us know!**

**Email to: [Andrew.Stoner@csus.edu](mailto:Andrew.Stoner@csus.edu)**

# Graduate program awards eight master's degrees

**E**ight masters degree candidates were hooded during a special ceremony in May just prior to the College of Arts & Letters commencement exercises.

Dr. **Shawna Malvini Redden**, graduate program coordinator, and Dr. **Gerri Smith**, department chair, participated in the program led by the graduate students themselves. Faculty graduate committee members present were **Kimberly Aguilar**, assistant professor; **Michele Foss Snowden**, professor; **Kikuko Omori**, assistant professor; and **S. David Zuckerman**, professor

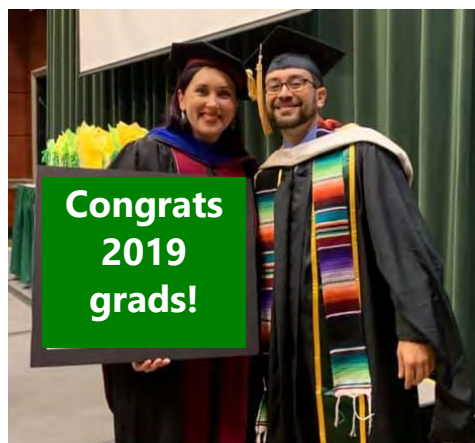
Family and friends of each student were present for the ceremony, which included the participation of faculty who served on graduate thesis and project committees. The program also allowed the students to offer a few words of "thanks" to commemorate their outstanding achievement.

## GRADUATE NEWS

This year's master's graduates are **Aryana Gooley**, **Alexander Maier**, **Ryan Pritchard**, **Erick Ramirez**, **Michael Rangoonwala**, **Anaida Stepanyan**, **Akie Fukushima Wenk**, and **Tyler Wyckoff**.

The graduate program in Communication Studies is a 30-unit program that students customize to meet their interests and career goals. It is designed to fit the needs of working professionals and offers unique, methods-based coursework designed to increase theoretical and applied understanding of human communication.

Graduates of the program typically pursue doctoral studies, accept community college teaching positions, or enter a variety of careers in communication consulting, politics and government, social services, and health care.



**GRADUATE PROGRAM HOODING CEREMONY —**  
At left, the Graduate Class of 2019. Above, Dr. **Shawna Malvini Redden**, graduate program coordinator, and master's graduate **Erik Ramirez**.

# The State Hornet snags three ACP awards

**T**he *State Hornet* took home three separate honors at the Associated Collegiate Press Midwinter Journalism Convention.

The awards included two second-place awards for both a multi media report on sexual assault, and a printed insert issue on the same issue. A third-place award came for *Hornet* for coverage of campus construction.

Editor-in-Chief **Claire Morgan** attended the ACP convention in La Jolla, Calif., to accept the 2018 National Newspaper Pacemaker Finalist award granted to *The State Hornet* in November.



Ten Sac State students attended the conference. *Hornet* staff writer **Jordyn Dollarhide** also moderated a panel at ACP on the topic of "Why Newsletters are *The New Print*."



# Women & Politics panels inspire students



**WOMEN & POLITICS** — Lecturer **Rebecca LaVally** (left) moderated one of the “Women & Politics” panels on campus this spring, this one featuring State Assemblywoman **Susan Talamantes Eggman** and State Controller **Betty Yee**. LaVally is the co-author of a new book, *Paving the Way: Women’s Struggle for Political Equality in California*.

A series of panels examining the role of women in politics — particularly in California and nationally— heavily featured the contributions of the Communication Studies Department.

**Rebecca LaVally**, lecturer, moderated a central panel including State Assemblywoman Susan **Talamantes Eggman** and State Controller **Betty Yee**. These leaders discussed the topic, “Year of the Woman — Was 2018 a Springboard to Political Gender Equality or a Onetime Phenomenon?”

Another panel, featuring **Kristen Tudor**, director of debate in the Communication Studies Department, discussed “Women & Politics: Making a Policy Difference.” Joining Tudor on the panel were **Rebecca Kluchin**, professor of history, and **Sara Kirby-Gonzalez**, a “Made at Sac State” board member.

A third panel, titled “Achievements and Challenges: Rooted in the Past, Grounded in the Present,” featured **Steve Swatt**, lead author of *Paving the Way: Women’s Struggle for Political Equality in California*; **Kimberly Nalder**, professor of political science and executive director of CalSpeaks; **Bobbie Singh-Allen**, a “Made at Sac State” board member; **Boatamo Mosupyo**, chair of the

Department of Ethnic Studies; and **Rachel Michelin**, CEO of California Women Lead. **Sujatha Moni**, chair of the Department of Women’s Studies, served as moderator.

The event was sponsored by the Departments of Communication Studies and Women’s Studies at Sac State, the Project for an Informed Electorate, and the Sac State Office of Public Affairs and Advocacy.

## 2019 by the numbers

**127** women in Congress in 2019 — 25 in the U.S. Senate and 102 in the U.S. House.

**86** women holding statewide office, including nine governors, 15 lieutenant governors, 11 secretaries of state, and seven attorneys general.

**2,127** women holding state legislative seats in the 50 states (or 29 percent of the 7,383 available seats). Women state senators total 509, and lower house members are 1,618.

**27** of the nation’s 100 largest cities are led by women mayors including Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Fort Worth, Las Vegas, New Orleans, Oakland, Omaha, Phoenix, Raleigh, San Francisco, Seattle, Tampa, and Washington, D.C.

— Center for American Women & Politics