

Double duty in the classroom and outdoors

The schedule James Avila-Ellington has taken to complete his major in Communication Studies is not one recommended for every student, but it works for him.

Working hard is something Avila-Ellington is accustomed to as every other semester he works fulltime as a firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service. In May 2020 he will complete his tour of “double duty” with a bachelors degree in hand.

Avila-Ellington is just one of the students, faculty and staff impacted by the destructive fires that have ravaged California in recent years.

He is just back from a Fall 2019 assignment in Alaska with one of six USFS Hotshots crews from “the lower 48.” Avila-Ellington assisted in helping knock down a record number of wild-fires in Alaska this season — with more than one-million acres burned in the nation’s 49th state.

“I work for the Forest Service, and I get to protect people and the land,” Avila-Ellington said. “I love the outdoors, I hike a lot, I fish a lot, and being outside is something that I enjoy. I also enjoy the physical and mental aspect of being challenged out in nature and trying to help people.”

STUDENT NEWS

The interpersonal communication aspects of firefighting also drew Avila-Ellington. “To see people’s faces and being able to say I made a difference are things that you just can’t put a price on.”

These moments described by Avila-Ellington are ones Katherine Lucier, lecturer, experienced firsthand. Lucier’s home was one of more than 8,900 structures leveled in the 2017 “Wine Country Fires” in Butte, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Solano and Sonoma counties.

“I remember the day we were finally able to return to what was once our home,” Lucier said. “We were emotionally drained, and as we stood on our lot, we saw a group of firefighters walking toward us. These guys were exhausted, they hadn’t slept in over a week and they’d finally been released to go home.”

■ CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



MAKING A DIFFERENCE — Sacramento State public relations major **James Avila-Ellington** (left) helps clear ground fuel as a U.S. Forest Service firefighter.

A student with double duty —

STUDENT NEWS



■ CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

"The firefighters told us how deeply sorry they were, and then immediately joined our son and his friends and for the next several hours they helped dig through the ash and rubble searching for the smallest little treasures," Lucier said. "I will never forget those guys."

Avila-Ellington adds, "Much of my work takes place during a crisis with people going through incredible life-changing experiences. This gives me many opportunities to craft messages to homeowners, news media and the general public."

The communication aspect of firefighting does not take place only after flames break out. "While not on fires, my crews work closely in our community educating the general public on forest fire prevention and the job the Hotshots perform in the field," he said.

Following graduation, Avila-Ellington plans to continue working for the U.S. Forest Service with hopes of one day transitioning to a firefighting position with a city or county fire department.

The massive fires that have impacted so much of California have had a personal impact on Avila-Ellington. This was particularly so during the devastating 2018 Camp Fire, the deadliest such fire in California history that left 85 people dead and caused more than \$16 billion in damage to Butte County.

"During the Camp Fire, my crew members and I worked the initial attack on the fire as it moved from Paradise to Chico," he said. "We worked for over 40 hours moving as quickly as possibly performing structure protection on homes and stopping the forward progression of the fire towards Chico. The extreme fire behavior and devastation of the Camp Fire is something I will always remember."

ON THE JOB — Sacramento State student **James Avila-Ellington** on duty with the U.S. Forest Service's Hotshots firefighting team.

More recently, in 2019, Avila-Ellington was part of crews battling the Kincaid Fire near Santa Rosa. "In the first couple shifts, my crew performed burning operations in order to stop the fires from progressing amidst 55 mph winds, and gusts of up to 92 mph. The amount of fire spread and extreme fire behavior was shocking and forced us to back out of the fire to safety zones multiple times."



DEPLOYMENT — U.S. Forest Service Hotshots deploy from Redding to fight wildfires in Alaska.

When art is a connection to something greater

Camera's lens gives Delta preservation a strong advocate

Arts and humanities. We know the context of academic construct. But consider for a moment the connect between art and our humanity. Art of all forms – photo, film, sketch, mural, music, stage performance – evokes the emotions that define us as human.

Two-thirds of California's nearly 40 million people and millions of acres of farmland depend on the



IN THE DELTA — Communication Studies Digital Media & Film Professor **Jenny Stark** is shown photographing the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

FACULTY NEWS

Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta for fresh water. It's California's ecological heart – and an enduring political hot button.

Often forgotten in the debates over proposed tunnels and water conveyance and allocation are the Delta's more than 500,000 people. Jenny Stark, professor of Digital Media and Film, uses her camera and art in an attempt to fill that void and act as an advocate on tough issues.

Despite the Delta's importance, she says, it remains little known or understood to many Southern Californians and even to people in the Bay Area, all of whom depend on its water. Stark suggests those people need to expand their perspectives.

"It's not just L.A. people and San Francisco people who matter," says Stark, whose work has gained notice.

Her narrative short film, *When You Leave*, set in the Delta in 2018, was named Outstanding NorCal All-Star at the Sacramento Film Awards and won the shorts competition at the Sacramento International Film Festival. Stark's Delta photos were featured in 2012 at the Crocker Art Museum and in 2014 at the Verge Center for the Arts, with

additional work and an accompanying documentary.

Stark says outsiders generally are unaware of the toll political and environmental pressures take on Delta residents, who, because they are dispersed across a vast area, are not as visible as many other groups in California. A Houston native, Stark became captivated by the Delta in part because of how similar its terrain and people are to those of the Gulf Coast.

"If you don't know something exists and you don't know the people who are there ... then you don't care that you're taking something away from them," Stark says.

Stark says she admires the people opposing possible construction of massive tunnels to take Delta water away, but she wonders how long they can resist powerful interests such as industrial farming intent on having a greater role in determining the Delta's fate. Her assessment is grim.

"They'll dig up all those little towns and cut a tunnel through them and turn their water into saltwater and kill their fish and kill their crops," she says, "and nobody will even know."

■ Article by Ahmed V. Ortiz, photo by Jessica Vernone

Alumna author explores female journalists behind the pseudonyms

A new chapter is about to open for alumna Maryellen Burns, BA '73, as she pursues yet another book.

Burns, who was editor of *The State Hornet* in 1972-73, has written or edited numerous books and articles on Sacramento history, with a focus on food writing including *The Lost Restaurants of Sacramento and Their Recipes*, *Pear Perfection: Heritage Recipes from Sacramento Delta Home Cooks, Extracts - Mostly True Stories*, and *Whip Up a Cookbook*.

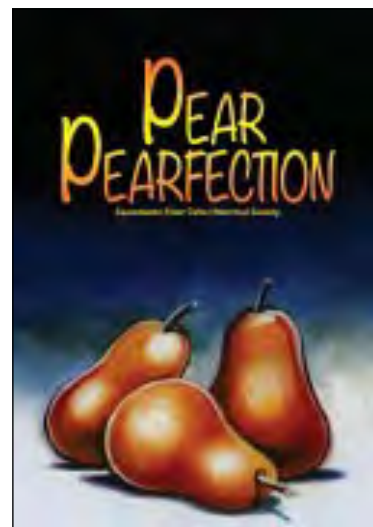
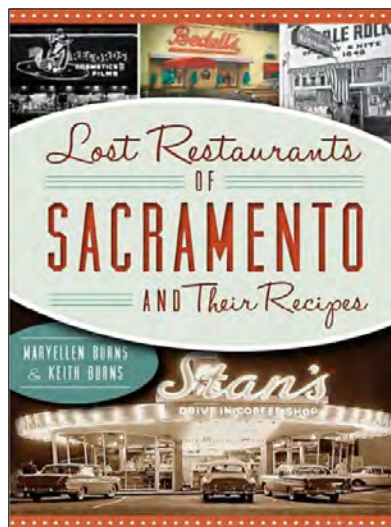
Burns is embarking on another intriguing food history, about the legions of (mostly) women journalists who labored under the pseudonyms of Katherine Kitchen in the *Sacramento Bee*, Prudence Penny in Hearst newspapers and Marian Manners the *Los Angeles Times*. Her latest project is likely to become another book.

A popular seminar leader and board member for the Renaissance Society, Friends of the Sacramento Library and the Sacramento Book Collectors Club, Burns gave a recent presentation, "Who Killed Katherine Kitchen?" at the Arden-Dimick Library (a collaborative series sponsored by Renaissance Society and Friends of the Sacramento Library). She described the strict (and blatantly discriminatory) limits placed on women journalists, who were consigned well into the 1970s to food writing or "social" news.

The *Bee's* Women's Activities section, and others like it, eventually became features sections - Scene at the *Bee*, Style at the *Washington Post* - but only after intense pressure from women writers and editors who argued *they too* could cover politics, government and other "regular" news.

Burns notes that Katherine Kitchen was actually *many* writers, usually women, laboring under the ubiquitous, and vaguely insulting, pseudonym. But the demise of Katherine Kitchen and her ilk did not occur in any significant way until the 1970s, when experienced journalists and food writers and editors (both women and men) redesigned newspaper food sections, including feature articles and food criticism, as well as recipes.

Editors, like the formidable Elaine Corn, author of six cookbooks, was awarded both the Julia Child and James Beard awards and served as the food editor of the *Bee* (1986-91) as well as the *Austin American-Statesman* and



HUNGRY FOR BOOKS — Two of the food-related books by Sacramento State alumna **Maryellen Burns** are shown above, *The Lost Restaurants of Sacramento and Their Recipes* (2013: Arcadia Publishing) and *Pear Perfection: Heritage Recipes from Sacramento Delta Home Cooks* (2017: CreateSpace).

ALUMNI NEWS



the *Louisville Courier-Journal*. Corn and other food editors took food writing (and newspaper food sections) well beyond the limits of favorite recipes and advice columns - and their work was published under actual bylines.

Burns' family has deep roots in the Sac State community. Both of her brothers are Hornet alumni: brother Scott Burns, BA '72, was editor of *The State Hornet* in 1971-72, then went to law school and worked as a lawyer for the California Department of Transportation for 27 years. Keith Burns, BA '68, worked for the campus radio station, then known as KERS, and after graduation was a longtime editor and producer for NBC News in Los Angeles, as well as a screenwriter and director.

Burns' late husband, Dr. Leo Dabaghian, was a professor of mechanical engineering at Sacramento State from 1962-2007. Lifelong book collectors, he and his wife were active members of the Sacramento Book Collectors Club. He died in 2015.

Maryellen Burns has also been a ghost writer, set up author tours and West Coast promotions for Ten Speed Press, Simon and Schuster, Chronicle and Prima Publishing, and is the author of eight books. She also teaches and produces books with I Street Press and has worked as a caterer and events planner as well as in media relations for authors, political candidates, nonprofits, libraries, museums and educational institutions.

■ Article by Sigrid BATHEN

SRO

Packed house for 2019

J Street Film Festival

A standing room only crowd greeted Film Studies seniors showcasing their work at the J Street Film Festival in December.

The student films originated from the senior production class taught by Kathryn Kasic, assistant professor, but the event also showcased work from the video art classes taught by Jenny Stark, professor.

The films presented were:

- *Disappear* by Dylan Peshek
- *Death Masks* by Matthew Benham
- *Finding the Right Words* by Parker Strehlow
- *Happy, Little* by Sara Olson
- *Simple Sunset* by Penelope Kahn
- *When We Were* by Briley Haskins

THE FILM PROGRAM PRESENTS

STREET FILM FEST FALL 2019

FINDING THE RIGHT WORDS

SIMPLE SUNSET

DISAPPEAR

DEATH MASKS

HAPPY, LITTLE

WHEN WE WERE

HOSTED IN THE UNIVERSITY UNION'S HINDE AUDITORIUM AT SAC STATE

DECEMBER 8TH

6:30PM..... Doors Open
7:00PM..... Showing Starts
AN EVENING OF FILMS



NEW VISTAS — Masters' program students and faculty get ready to visit the new planetarium inside the Ernest E. Tschannen Science Complex at Sacramento State. Shown from left are **Kat LaGrande**, a senior Communication Studies major considering the MA program; **Owen Young**, MA student and graduate assistant; **Bethany Davis**, MA student and graduate assistant; **Aleah Fisher BA '18** and Communication Studies Department staff; **Arielle Newton**, MA student and teaching assistant; and Dr. **Kikuko Omori**, assistant professor.

Graduate program update

Masters' program students and faculty have scheduled First Thursdays social opportunities each month of the school year to help navigate the grind of graduate-level work and introduce the program to prospective students.

GRADUATE NEWS

One recent visit was to the new planetarium inside the Ernest E. Tschannen Science Complex. The planetarium features a 40-foot diameter dome with a 360-degree viewing screen.

The program also recently celebrated the completion of comprehensive exams and completed degrees for Aryana Gooley and Leland Gordon.

The graduate program is accepting applications for the Fall 2020 cohort until March 1, 2020. For a link to the online site or for more information contact the Graduate Program Coordinator, Dr. Shawna Malvini Redden, assistant professor, at malviniredden@csus.edu.

Digging in their heels

100 years after winning women's battle to vote

This year's 100-year anniversary of the 19th Amendment for national women's suffrage will be celebrated with flair at Sac State – and COMS is all in.

Dr. Sally Perkins, who was an associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies at Sacramento State before she moved to Indiana in the early 2000s, will return in March for a performance of her one-woman show, *Digging in Their Heels*.

Her drama will blend fast-paced entertainment with thought-provoking learning and takes some contemporary twists.

"Imagine if Susan B. Anthony and her pals had iPads and Twitter," Perkins muses. "Maybe it wouldn't have taken 72 years to win the vote."

She says her show encourages audiences "to keep digging for justice as they marvel, laugh and learn from women who paved the way."

Perkins will perform from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, in the Hinde Auditorium in the University Union. Her appearance will be followed by a 4 p.m. reception.

Dr. Gerri Smith, chair of the Department of Communication Studies, helped facilitate Dr. Perkins' visit, which is sponsored by the

College of Arts and Letters and the Renaissance Society.

Two preceding suffrage-related performances also are planned March 25 in the Hinde Auditorium, courtesy of the Renaissance Society:

- Opening the day's celebration from 9 to 10:15 a.m., will be an illustrated presentation by Steve and Susie Swatt, co-authors with Communication Studies Lecturer Dr. Becky LaVally, of the book, *Paving the Way: Women's Struggle for Political Equality in California*. Their book tells California's own suffrage story.
- A dramatization of Susan B. Anthony's trial for the crime of voting with assistance from volunteers in the audience, from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m.
- From noon to 1 p.m., a Seattle actress will portray a young suffragist and her story.

Dr. LaVally is involved in university planning of additional suffrage events, including a kickoff of Women's History Month on Monday, March 2, also in the Hinde Auditorium. Featured will be:

- A talk by two History Department professors, Dr. Mona Siegel and Dr. Rebecca Kluchin, on *The 10 Things You Most Wanted to Know about Suffrage But Were Afraid to Ask*, from noon to 1:15 p.m.
- From 1:30 to 2:45 p.m., a panel of elected women will discuss former President Barack Obama's recent observation that "the world would be a better place if women were in charge."
- Tea and cookies will follow from 3 to 4 p.m., then a launch, lecture and reception for Dr. Siegel's new book, *Peace on Our Terms: The Global Battle for Women's Rights*.

Planning is also underway in tandem with Black History Month, for a Feb. 25 panel on suffrage and women of color from

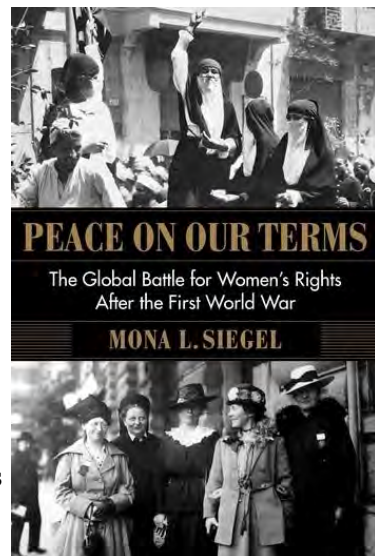


DIGGING IN — Dr. Sally Perkins, a former professor at Sacramento State University, will present *Digging in Their Heels* on campus March 25.

1:30 to 2:45 p.m. and a dramatic performance on African-Americans and the vote from 3 to 4:15 p.m., both in the Hinde.

University planning for commemorating the 19th Amendment, with a theme of "Looking Back, Moving Forward," is spearheaded by Dr. Dianne Hyson, dean of the College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies, and includes Dr. Sheree Meyer, dean of the College of Arts and Letters.

Sacramento State's observance of this historic milestone in American history will culminate with an all-day symposium on Thursday, Sept. 24. Please watch for details this semester and next in the "Sacramento State Briefing," Sac State's Monday online newsletter.



BOOK LAUNCH — Dr. Mona Siegel's new book will be launched on campus March 25.

■ *Article by Becky LaVally*

State Hornet sheds light on DACA concerns

State Hornet stories published Oct. 9 detailing the experiences of three “Dreamers” at Sacramento State earned widespread attention for the student newspaper.

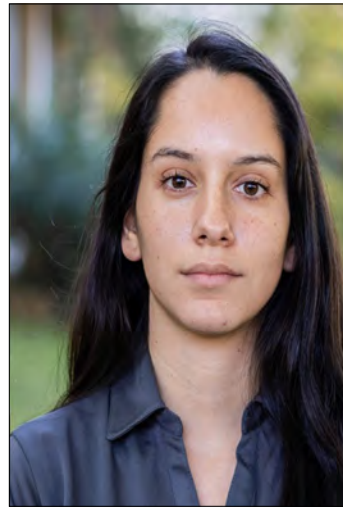
The story, written by *Hornet* reporter Kendra L. Rivera, was published under the headline, “Nothing in my life is secure,” was published just as the U.S. Supreme Court began hearing arguments on the legality of President Barack Obama’s executive order regarding Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). DACA currently protects more than 700,000 young immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally.

President Donald J. Trump attempted to rescind the Obama administration order, allowing for the deportation of DACA individuals. A challenge to the Trump administration policy has stalled action until the Supreme Court offers its ruling (not expected earlier than June 2020).

“Part of *The State Hornet’s* mission is to ensure the stories and voices of marginalized groups in our community are heard,” said Margherita Beale, editor-in-chief of *The Hornet*.

The story gained national attention from the *Los Angeles Times* and U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif. In a tweet, Harris shared *The Hornet’s* story and said, “The Trump administration is in court defending its betrayal of young people like these. It’s wrong — we must protect and lift up our Dreamers.”

In light of the Supreme Court’s recent hearing, three Dreamers featured in the article are vital voices to be heard as the court’s final decision will impact them directly. Two of the three students are from the Department of Communication Studies.



DREAMERS — Shown from left, Israel Flores, Denisse Garcia and Erik Ramirez.

STUDENT NEWS

Israel Flores, vice president of Associated Students Inc. (ASI); Denisse Garcia, ASI vice president of finance; and Erik Ramirez, Dreamer Resource Center coordinator, were featured in the story. Flores is an undergraduate student in public relations, while Ramirez completed his bachelors and masters in communication studies at Sacramento State.

DACA recipients, known as Dreamers, are undocumented individuals who came into the country under the age of 16 and were given temporary authority to live and work in the U.S. via Obama’s executive order. Trump has maintained Obama’s order is unconstitutional and that it does not bind subsequent administrations to its policies.

Student journalists honored by ACP

Student journalists from Sac State were honored this fall at the Associated College Press/College Media Association’s national convention in Washington D.C.

The State Hornet was nominated for two large awards, the National Newspaper Pacemaker Award and the Photo of the Year Award for breaking news photography. *The Hornet* was named a finalist for the Pacemaker award for a third straight time (an award it won outright in 2017), and won honorable mention in the breaking news photo category (which featured a photo of a campus protest regarding police-related shootings).

A fifth place award was also won in the ACP Broadcast News Story category for a story about “Merman Mike” who uses diving equipment to search riverbeds in the Sacramento region for lost treasures.

Two other fifth place awards were given to *The Hornet*, one for its website in a category for large universities, and the other for a multimedia package about homelessness among Sac State students.



Debate Team engages key issues

Each semester the Sacramento State Debate Team, as part of the Public Debate Association, hosts a public event.

To this end, in November members of the Debate Team and students enrolled in COMS 111 debated the issue of, "Should the State of California take control of PG&E?"

The goal of the Public Debate Association event is to advance the values of debate in the public sphere through sponsorship of one or more public debate activities. In addition, the event seeks to promote public discourse and critical examination of public issues for and from diverse and general audiences.

In addition to the public debate event, the Debate Team has been active in competitions throughout the Fall 2019 semester, including:

- Eight total tournaments attended.
- Three tournament championships – with Jasmine Putman named Novice Champion at the Golden Gate Opener at San Francisco State University and Julian Stacy named Novice Champion at the Diablo Valley College tournament.
- Ayyah Al-jibouri, Johnny Schimmelman and Julian Stacy scored an "open closeout" at the Hartnell College tournament in Salinas. This meant the three Sac State students took positions 1, 2 and 3 at the event.
- Sac State Debate Team members advanced to elimination rounds 19 times during the fall term, including three tournament wins, two second-place finishes, three semi-finalist finishes, eight quarter-finalist finishes, and one octo-finalist. In total, students advanced to elimination rounds in six out of the eight tournaments they entered.
- Two team "Sweepstakes Awards" were won – both for second place – a rare achievement for Sac State.

■ Eight different students have qualified for the National Forensic Association finals, scheduled for April 16-21 at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

"Our last tournament of the semester was our strongest finish," said Jared Anderson, lecturer and head coach of the Debate Team. "Three students (Al-jibouri, Scimmelman and Stacy) all finished with undefeated records and were the top three seeds going into the elimination rounds. They all advanced through quarterfinals without having to debate."



HORNET DEBATE TEAM — Members of the Hornet Debate Team for Fall 2019 included, front row, **Jasmine Putman**, **Sean Cox-Marcellin**, **Raychelle Aguirre**, **Bethany Davis** (graduate assistant), **Ayyah Al-jibouri**, and **Erika Jauregui** (graduate assistant). In back, from left are **Kevin Ozomaro**, **Jackie Blair**, **Joey Barrows**, **Sumneet Nirankari**, **Earl Crouchley III** and **Jared Anderson** (head coach).

STUDENT NEWS

PRSSA chapter elects new executive board



PRSSA LEADERSHIP — Outgoing and incoming members of the PRSSA executive board are pictured above. Front row, left to right **Maxwell Schnurr**, **Rachael Botti**, **Saniya Ali**, **Cristal Black**, **Luis Acevedo**, **Destiny Castillo**, **Milan Williams**, and **Excell Brown**. Standing left to right, are **Justin Phung**, **Herminio Espinoza**, **Jasmine Fonseca**, **Tanya Kaur**, **Marygrace Mendoza**, **Christabel Manangan**, **Jacqueline Barraza**, and **Jannah Khalil**. Dr. **Timothy Howard**, professor, is the PRSSA faculty sponsor.

The Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) chapter has elected and installed its new leadership for the spring semester.

Milan Williams will be the new president of PRSSA, leading the eight-member executive board for Spring 2020. Other officers elected were: Luis Acevedo, vice president; Saniya Ali, editor; Rachael Botti, secretary; Destiny Castillo, social media director; Cristal Black, event operations director; Excell Brown, external affairs director; and Maxwell Schnurr, director of finance.



Debate Team benefits from generous donors

Two new generous donations will benefit the Sacramento State University Debate Team. Hornet Debate, based in the Department of Communication Studies, was pleased to accept gifts from two donors that will support student participation in this important aspect of communication study, said Kristen Tudor, lecturer and director of debate.



Dr. Nick Burnett and his wife, Debbie, have made a new donation in support of the Nicholas F. Burnett Hornet Cup Debate Tournament. The Burnett Hornet Cup event draws participants from across the country each spring and is named for Burnett, a professor emeritus in Communication Studies.

Tudor said that upon Burnett's retirement, the tournament was named for Dr. Burnett in recognition of his leadership and support of the debate program at Sacramento State. Burnett served as the Director of Forensics (speech and debate) from 1987-96.



■ DEBBIE AND DR. NICK BURNETT

In addition to the gift from the Burnetts, alumnus Craig Jones, BA '78, has made a generous donation in support of the team. Jones said, "I made a contribution to the Sacramento State Debate Team Fund this year as I wanted to give back to a program that made such a difference to my learning curve, education and ultimately, my career."

If you are interested in making a donation to the Debate Team Fund, please email Tess Dyer at tdyer@csus.edu.

U-Nite showcases Comm Studies creativity

The Department of Communication Studies was once again well-represented at this year's U-Nite event at the Crocker Art Museum.

U-Nite is an annual celebration of art and culture and invites the Sacramento community to discover the wonder and expressive power of art via performances, talks, film screenings and collaborative presentations.

The 2019 presenters from the Communication Studies Department were:

■ Film screenings from four professors: *The Gymnast* by Steve Buss, professor emeritus; *Flora My Dear* by Dan Janos, assistant professor; *Coring for Climate* by Kathryn Kasic, assistant professor; and *Pretty Is as Pretty Does* by Jenny Stark, professor.

■ Dr. Michele Foss-Snowden, professor, hosted a live edition of her popular podcast, "The TV Doctor," from the event.

■ Dr. Gerri Smith, department chair, participated in a panel discussion titled, "Preparing Students for Careers in Arts & Letters: Entrepreneurial and Managerial Skills."

Other panelists included Dr. Samuel J. Dunn, assistant professor, Department of English; Carolyn Gibbs, chair of

the Department of Art; Jeffrey L. Hoover, lecturer, Department of Music; and Lauren Kelly, assistant professor, Department of Design.

U-Nite is hosted by Dr. Sheree Meyer, dean of the College of Arts and Letters, and this year included a total of 26 performances, presentations and film screenings. Meyer noted the event complements the Creative Edge Plan by the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission.



Latina Estrella Awards honor Comm Studies alumna

Two of the three 2019 Latina Estrella Award winners are

Communication Studies alumna.

Leslie Valdivia-Rivas, BA '14, and Maritza Davis, BA '07, were both honored with the awards given by the Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Also winning an Estrella Award was Alice Perez, a business major.

The awards, in their fifth year, honor exceptional women who are leading the way in their professions in business and in the community.

Valdivia-Rivas is co-founder of Vive Cosmetics and received the Rising Estrella award. Her area of concentration at Sacramento State was public relations.

Davis received the Inspiration Estrella Award for her work as vice president of experiences and social responsibility for the Sacramento Kings. In accepting her award, Davis said, "Sacramento is an amazing city, we are amazing people that all came together. It really does take a village every single day."



BIG NEWS — The Sacramento State electronic billboard along U.S. 50 displays the good news about three Estrella Award winners.

Valdivia-Rivas was unable to attend the awards ceremony, but the award was accepted on her behalf by her sister. Vive Cosmetics started in 2016 after Valdivia-Rivas recognized a lack of Latinx representation in the beauty industry. Since its inception, Vive has been featured in *Oprah* magazine, *Buzzfeed*, *Teen Vogue*, and *Latina* magazine.

Short, fleeting moments of beauty

As fictional '80s film icon Ferris Bueller used to say, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

Bueller's words are apt in describing the annual rite of fall made by Joanna Hedrick, a counselor in Student Services, who shares her creations with all.

Hedrick's art — leaves raked into concentric circles, a labyrinth, a yin-yang symbol and many other shapes — are enjoyable but soon passing (depending on the amount of wind and rain).



Alumni news to share?

Let us know!

Email to:

Andrew.Stoner@csus.edu


CommConnect

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Dr. **Gerri L. Smith**, Department Chair
Dr. **Andrew Stoner**, Newsletter Editor

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

■ Dr. Kimo Ah Yun, BA '90, has been named the next permanent provost and executive vice president for academic affairs of Marquette University. Ah Yun has served in the acting role since Oct. 31, 2018. Ah Yun served as chair of the Department of Communication Studies and associate dean of the College of Arts Letters during more than 20 years at Sacramento State. Ah Yun holds a master's degree from Kansas State University and a Ph.D. from Michigan State University.

■ Annie S. Amaral, BA '01, has been recognized as one of the top attorneys in Sacramento for 2019 by *Sacramento Magazine*. She earned her J.D. from the McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific in 2005.

■ DeAndre Carter, BA '15, is a wide receiver for the Houston Texans. He previously has played with five other teams since joining the NFL in 2015, including the Baltimore Ravens, Oakland Raiders, New England Patriots, San Francisco 49ers and the Philadelphia Eagles.

■ Matt Ceccato, BA '11, district director in the office of U.S. Rep. Ami Bera, D-Calif., was named one of the 40 Under 40 for 2019 by the *Sacramento Business Journal*.

■ Jessica Cruz, BA '04, chief executive officer of the National Alliance on Mental Health in California, was named one of the 40 Under 40 for 2019 by the *Sacramento Business Journal*.

■ Veronica Delgado, BA '10 was recently named to the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission. She serves as associate director of admissions for Sacramento State.



■ AH YUN



■ CRUZ

■ Nancy Eldred, BA '17, has been promoted to account executive at FSB Core Strategies, recently named the top public relations agency by the *Sacramento Business Journal*.

■ Bobby Fresques, BA '92, was named quarterback coach for the Sacramento State Hornets football program. Fresques quarterbacked the Hornets from 1990-92 and is ranked fourth in school history with 3,757 career passing yards and second with 27 career touchdown passes.



■ AMARAL



■ DELGADO

■ Bakri Fustok, BA '16, recently passed the New York state bar exam. He is an attorney with the Dickinson Law Medical Legal Partnership. He completed his J.D. at the Dickinson School of Law at Penn State University in 2019.

■ Kristi Garrett, BA '00, recently retired from her position as public affairs and communication specialist for the Doctorate in Educational Leadership program in the Sacramento State College of Education.



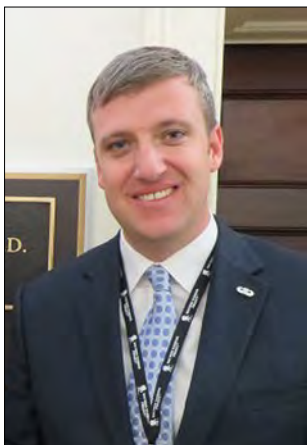
■ CARTER



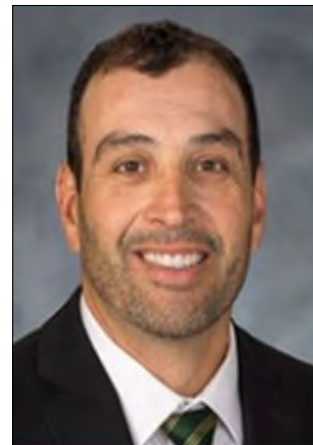
■ ELDRED

■ Erin T. Musni, BA '07, has been appointed by the San Francisco Marriott Marquis as their new senior sales executive. She will be responsible for growing group business accounts in Northern California.

■ Erick M. Ramirez, BA '17/MA '19, was awarded the Student Affairs Excellence Award in Student Services at Sacramento State. He was also named to the 2020 New Leaders Council. Ramirez serves as Director of the Dreamers Resource Center at Sacramento State.



■ CECCATO



■ FRESQUES

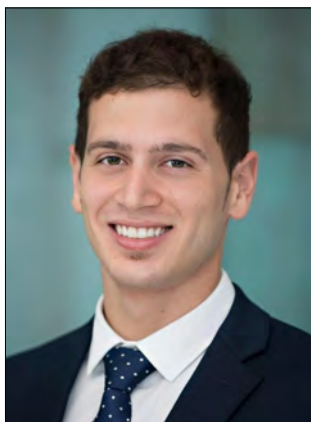
■ Amber Rosen, BA '06, founder and program director of Breakroom Fitness (a new corporate wellness program anchored in Northern California), was named one of the 40 Under 40 for 2019 by the *Sacramento Business Journal*.

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

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■ Victoria C. Suan, BA '15, has been recognized by the *Sacramento Bee* for her work in the film industry and for making an independent feature-length documentary.

■ Gia Vang, BA '08, was recently named anchor of the morning news show by KARE-TV 11 in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn. She is the first Hmong-American anchor in the Twin Cities market.



■ FUSTOK



■ GARRETT



■ MUSNI



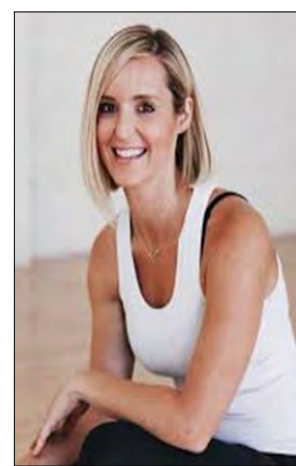
■ VANG



■ SUAN



■ RAMIREZ



■ ROSEN

IN MEMORIAM

■ Cesar Alexander BA '14, died unexpectedly in November 2019.

Since 2015 he had worked as an editorial assistant, photographer, and features writer for the *Sacramento Press*. As an undergraduate at Sacramento State, he wrote stories for *The State Hornet* during the 2013-14 school year.

"He had a passion for the arts, primarily covering local musicians, concerts, music festivals and artists," said Bethany Harris, editor of the *Sacramento Press*. "He was also an editorial perfectionist We had so many plans in the works, so many things left to do, so many more ideas and stories to generate. He is gone much too soon."

Alexander was a prolific writer for the *Sacramento Press*, registering 141 byline articles over four years and countless other online contributions with no byline.

Harris said Alexander's family thought he might become a lawyer someday, but he was committed to being a journalist. Cautioned that journalists were not paid as well as lawyers, Alexander told his family, "It's not about the money. My life is not about me. It's about helping people. It's about making a difference."

In her eulogy for Alexander, Harris said: "If Cesar were here today, his life advice to everyone would be, 'Do something amazing ... Be grateful to live another day and to be able to find the beauty in life.'"



■ CESAR ALEXANDER

Sac State well represented at NCA 2019 confab

Students, faculty and alumni from Sacramento State University were in full force at the 2019 National Communication Association convention.

The 105th annual convention, held this year in Baltimore, Md., included 18 presentations, panel discussions or respondents associated with the Department of Communication Studies.

Congratulations to all those who participated this year, listed here:

■ *A Letter to my Former Lover*, Allie Boyd, MA '17, lecturer.

■ *Reformulating High School Basketball Referee Pedagogy*, Leland Gordon, MA '19.

■ *Is That a Foul? A Qualitative Analysis of High School Basketball Referee Communication in Boys and Girls Contests*, Leland Gordon, MA '19 (awarded Top Paper from the Ethnography Division).

■ *Surviving Shortened Semesters: Best Practices for Extended Class Cancellations*, Dr. Shawna Malvini Redden, assistant professor.

■ *How Teens Talk About Gender, Race, and Class Online: An Intersectional Approach to Communication, Identity, and Social Media*, Dr. Shawna Malvini Redden, assistant professor.

■ *Surviving Misconceptions and Their Hold on Organizational Communication*, Amy K. Way, Villanova University, and Dr. Shawna Malvini Redden, assistant professor.

■ *Surviving Uncomfortable Online Sexual Harassment: An Exploration of Emotional Discomfort and Thresholds in Reporting Decisions*, Jennifer A. Scarduzio, University of Kentucky; Dr. Shawna Malvini Redden, assistant professor; and Jennifer Fletcher, University of Phoenix.



■ *Communication at the Center of Multiracial Identity Formation: Multiracial Identity Described Through the Lens of Communication Theory of Identity*, Dr. Kikuko Omori, assistant professor.

■ *Cultivating Global Mindset Through Service Learning*, Dr. Kikuko Omori, assistant professor.

■ *Intercultural Communication for Survival in Academia: Japan-U.S. Similarities and Differences Experienced by Cultural Diasporas*, Dr. Kikuko Omori, assistant professor.

■ *Gendered Social Media across Cultures: Cross-Cultural Examination of Japanese and American College Students' SNS Behavior and Narcissism*, Dr. Kikuko Omori, assistant professor.

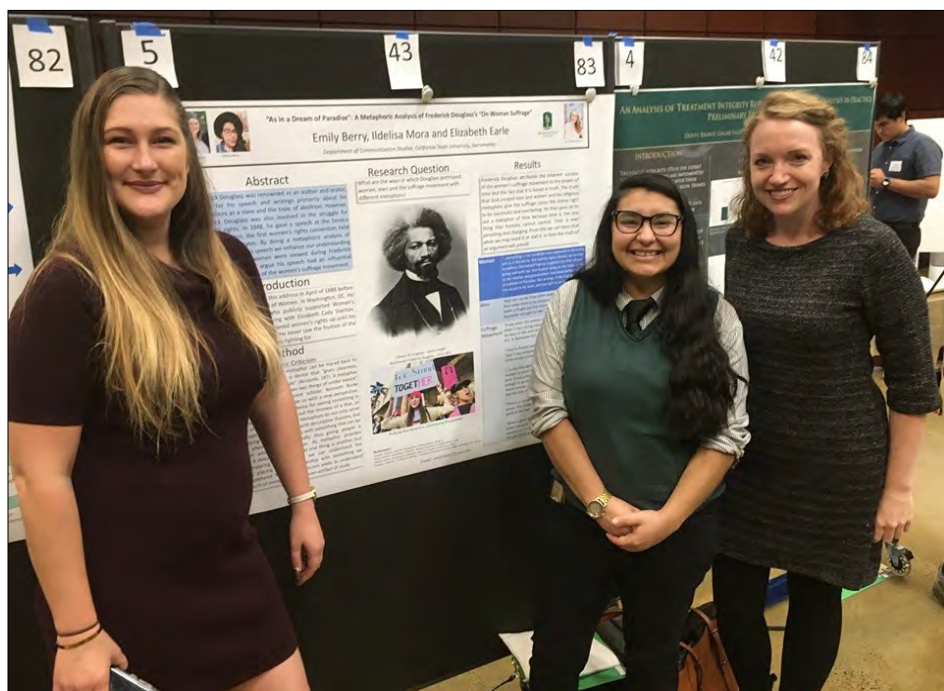
■ *Facilitating Community Dialogues to Explore Identity Formation*, Nicholas Zoffel, Edoptics, and Adelle R. Birchette, undergraduate student.

■ *Are We Still Friends? How to Manage a Promotion at Work While Still Maintaining Coworker Relationships*, Jennifer Hayes, graduate student.

■ *The Rhetoric of Fascism: Devices for the Cult of Irrationality*, Dr. Elizabeth Earle, assistant professor.

■ *Journalism of Peace and the Catholic Response to Fake News*, Dr. Elizabeth Earle, assistant professor.

■ *Surviving a New Era: Combating PowerPoint Perils*, Dr. Mark Stoner, professor emeritus (panel respondent).



◀ **IN THE SHOW** — This group of students joined Dr. **Elizabeth Earle**, assistant professor, to display a poster at the 2019 Student Research & Creative Activity Fall Forum. Shown (from left) with their poster are undergraduate students **Emily Berry** and **Ildelisa Mora** and Dr. Earle. Their poster was titled: *As in a Dream of Paradise: A Metaphoric Analysis of Frederick Douglass's 'On Women's Suffrage.'* The forum is sponsored by the Student Research Center and the Office of Research, Innovation and Economic Development at Sacramento State University.

Communication Studies faculty news

Communication Studies faculty work continuously to fulfill the research and scholarly activity portion of their duties. Here are some highlights of our faculty's recent activities:

■ Dr. Elizabeth Earle, assistant professor, published *"The consequences will be with us for decades: The politicization and polarization of the #MeToo and Time's Up movements in the United States,"* in *Interactions: Studies in Communication & Culture*, 10(3).

■ *"One Good Egg,"* a one-woman stage play by Dr. Elaine Gale, associate professor, has been picked up by an executive producer in Los Angeles who will present the show at the Pico Playhouse in Summer 2020. The show previously was presented by United Solo in New York at Theatre Row.

■ Dan Janos, assistant professor, along with James Harrar, presented a selection of films in November at TGTG, an independent, non-commercial project space in Sacramento dedicated to presenting experimental art by engaged artists. Janos screened *Generation Gap Slap*, *Be My Ball Old Man* and *Flora My Dear*.

■ Kathryn Kasic, assistant professor, was the keynote speaker at the Environmental and Climate Change Literacy Project and Summit at UCLA in December 2019. She spoke about the importance of melding art and science in order to teach climate change literacy.

She also presented an Education and Outreach poster at the American Geophysical Union conference in San Francisco in December 2019. The poster detailed her work with the National Science Foundation on the Subglacial Antarctic Lakes Scientific Access project.

Kasic also co-directed a film, *Coring for our Climate*, about the climate change research she participated in 2018 in Antarctica. The film was screened at the Explorer's Club Polar Film Festival in New York City.

■ Mike Luery, lecturer, was recently awarded the Silver Circle Award from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. The award honors his more than 25 years of work in television news, including his current work with KCRA 3 News in Sacramento.

■ Dr. Shawna Malvini Redden, assistant professor, recently published two articles: "How metaphorical framings build and undermine resilience during change: A longitudinal study of metaphors in team-driven planned organization change," in *Communication Monographs*, 86(4), and "How



Mendocino Mentions

social media discourses organize communication online: A mutli-level discursive analysis of tensions and contradictions in teens' online experiences" (with Amy K. Way, Villanova University) in *Communication Quarterly*, 67(5).

■ Alfredo Marin, lecturer, was recently named a Project Management Professional (a global credential) by the project Management Institute. The designation recognizes his expertise and experience in achieving organizational objectives through defining and overseeing projects and resources.

■ Dr. Kikuko Omori, assistant professor, and Dr. Carmen Stitt, professor, are co-authors of a new article, "Website users' perceptions of source credibility through online doctor profiles: Cultural differences based on doctors' approach to medicine," published by the *Journal of Consumer Health on the Internet*, 23(4).

Omori is also the author (with K. Kishimoto) of "The impact of language brokering on Hmong college students," published by *Hmong Studies Journal*, 20(1).

■ Philip Reese, assistant professor, recently published an article in the *Los Angeles Times* titled, "When masculinity turns 'toxic': A gender profile of mass shootings." The article, originally written for Kaiser Health News, an independent nonprofit news outlet, was also distributed to other news organizations, including the *Sacramento Bee*.

■ Dr. Andrew Stoner, associate professor, was a panelist at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication (AEJMC) 2019 Conference in Toronto, Ontario. He joined a panel on the topic, *"Queerbaiting & Rainbow Washing: Have Corporate Media Improved Representations or Co-Opted LGBTQ Communities?"*

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Mendocino Mentions —

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■ Dr. Mark Stoner, professor emeritus, has published the revised and extended edition of his book, *Making Sense of Messages: A Critical Apprenticeship in Rhetorical Criticism*, from Routledge. Stoner's book offers new theoretical models and critical examples for analyzing messages categorized as "the rhetoric of ignorance" and for analysis of multimodal mediated messages that are ubiquitous in social media.

■ Walter Yost, lecturer, has published his first book, *A Glove and A Prayer*, a novel about baseball, labor and race in the Gilded Age. It was published by the Sacramento Public Library's I Street Press.

■ Dr. S. David Zuckerman, professor, has published a chapter in *The Routledge Companion to Migration, Communication and Politics*. His chapter is titled, "Gebersian Theory and Method." He also presented a paper, *The Illusion of Deficient Synchronicity in the Perspectival Hall of Mirrors* at the Joint Conference of the International Jean Gebser Society and the Monterey Friends of Carl Jung in November 2019.



IRWIN HONORED — Dr. Jacqueline Irwin, professor, was honored at a Sacramento State football game in November as the Faculty-Staff Member of the Week. The award is given to faculty members nominated by student athletes. Irwin is shown here with **Markus Jennings**, associate athletic director, and the Sac State mascot, **Herky the Hornet**.

Comm Studies alum Lonie Paxton still a pro

Lonie Paxton knows all about being a pro.

After completing 12 years in the NFL as a long-kicker for the New England Patriots — and picking up three Super Bowl championship rings along the way —



■ LONIE PAXTON

Paxon has new priorities now.

Paxon, BA '00, is now a marketing manager with GoPro, one of the world's leading manufacturers of cameras, mobile apps and video-editing software, based in San Mateo.

During the November Global Entrepreneurship Week at Sac State, Paxton joined a panel titled, "Developing Wisdom to Manage Emotional Energy in Entrepreneurship."

Paxon's career advice? "Be fluid and don't be pigeonholed in one aspect of your job and do more than you're asked in a good way."



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT — Mike Luery, an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Communication Studies, was honored by the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences with his Silver Circle Award recently. Luery is also an on-air reporter for KCRA 3 News, Sacramento.

Students leave Sac State as confident leaders

Five years ago, Melanie Devera, BA '14, was a Sacramento State undergraduate feeling nervous about leading a workshop for 40 fellow students.

Today, she's a captain in the U.S. Air Force and the maintenance flight commander at Moody AFB, in Georgia, where she supervises 170 men and women.



■ Capt. MELANIE DEVERA, USAF

Her confidence has soared since college, thanks in part to Sac State's Leadership Initiative, a certificate program that immerses students in campus life and challenges them to become leaders.

Devera, a Communication Studies major, completed the requirements for all four certificate levels by the time she graduated in 2014. The final certificate required her to host an event, so she planned a time-

management workshop where she could share the tips that helped her get through school.

"When I was preparing the room, so many students walked in," Devera recalls. "I initially got nervous. I'd done plenty of public speaking, but hadn't taught anything

with so many people watching. The workshop was a success, and it helped me find the confidence to lead a large group of people."

She has taken some of the leadership and networking skills learned at Sac State and applied them to her work with the Air Force.

"I encourage my airmen to seek connections, develop personally and professionally, and volunteer to help out the community," Devera says. "I've learned that being involved in the unit and the community can benefit airmen tremendously throughout their career."

Since its founding 10 years ago, Leadership Initiative participation has grown from an initial group of 60 students to as many as 400 students who attend many of the 800 events held on campus each semester.

The Leadership Initiative, managed by Student Organizations and Leadership (SOAL), was created in 2009 after Sac State students asked for a co-curricular certificate program designed to supplement classroom learning. The program is based on the Social Change Model of Leadership Development, which proposes three sets of values to help students grow as leaders: individual, group, and community.

■ Article by Dixie Reid

Two new books from Comm Studies faculty

Two new books have recently been published by faculty members in the Department of Communication Studies.

Journalism Lecturer Walter Yost has written his first book about a subject near and dear to his heart. *A Glove and A Prayer* is a novel about baseball, labor and race in the Gilded Age. The novel follows the fictionalized exploits of a real-life pitcher, August Yost, who played in just one big league game for the Chicago Colts in 1893 during a significant turmoil in the U.S.

"I've always loved baseball and particularly baseball history," Yost said, "which often mirrors the best and worst of the American experience. When I stumbled across an obscure ballplayer named Yost (no relation to me, as far as I know) who played in only one game in the major league, I wanted to know about his life."

From that inquiry, Yost created a story involving the player in "one of the most tumultuous times in U.S. history: unions were engaged in bloody

strikes, Jim Crow was becoming entrenched, and a man named Jacob Coxey had the audacity to lead a march of the unemployed on the nation's Capital."

The book is published by the Sacramento Public Library's I Street Press and a portion of the sales of the book will benefit *The State Hornet*.

Meanwhile, Routledge has just released a revised and extended edition of *Making Sense of Messages: A Critical Apprenticeship in Rhetorical Criticism*, by Dr. Mark Stoner, professor emeritus.

Stoner said his new book offers new theoretical models and critical examples for analyzing messages categorized as "the rhetoric of ignorance" and for analysis of multimodal mediated messages that are ubiquitous in social media.

