



College of SSIS Newsletter

2025

As we begin a new academic year and reflect on the past one, I am grateful for the community that makes the College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies (SSIS) such a special place. Our faculty, staff, and students dedicate themselves to teaching, learning, discovery, and creating positive change on our campus and in our region. Across departments and centers, they cultivate learning and research environments that spark curiosity, examine equity and social justice, teach scientific inquiry, and connect students to real-world questions and needs.



A highlight of our newsletter is welcoming new faculty and staff who bring fresh energy and ideas. This year, our faculty earned awards and grants, published scholarly work, developed new pedagogies, and served the institution and community, demonstrating the exceptional talent across SSIS. Recognizing staff members' years of

service further illustrates the breadth of their contributions as they support students, manage complex administrative processes, and keep our operations running smoothly—work that is central to the college's success and spirit.

Our students continue to inspire us through leadership roles, receiving scholarships and awards, and conference presentations, reminding us of what dedication and opportunity can achieve. I am also grateful for our alumni, whose public service, advocacy, leadership, and research create meaningful impact throughout the region. Likewise, our donors and community partners, many of them alumni, provide essential support for scholarships, internships, departments, and community-based programs.

Despite a year of uncertainty marked by budget reductions and leadership transitions, our community responded with resilience, ingenuity, and genuine care. Looking ahead, we will continue prioritizing student success, supporting faculty and staff, and securing the resources needed to sustain our momentum.

Serving as Interim Dean has been an honor. As I prepare for retirement after 29 years, I am delighted to welcome a new permanent Dean and look forward to the fresh possibilities ahead. I invite you to enjoy this newsletter and the stories that showcase the strength of our SSIS community.

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Photos from the NUFD hosted retirement event for Marya Endriga

New Faces in the College

New Faculty

Yajaira Núñez-Cortés Anthropology



Dr. Yajaira Núñez-Cortés is joining the Department of Anthropology as an assistant professor. She was a post-doctoral fellow at Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) in Panama and at Instituto de Investigaciones Antropológicas at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM). She received her PhD and MA from the University at Albany, SUNY, and her Licenciatura and BA at Universidad de Costa Rica. Her research focuses on the archaeology of southern Central America, post-Classic Mesoamerica, the development of social complexity, economic and diet inequality, and migration and mobility in the past.

Jorge Lumbrales Psychology



Dr. Jorge Lumbrales joins the Department of Psychology as an assistant professor. He is a first-generation Mexican-American faculty and researcher who specializes in Industrial-Organizational Psychology. His research interests and current projects focus on first-generation professionals, social identity management (i.e., code-switching), and the Latine worker experience. He is excited to start his work at Sac State with its many wonderful faculty and students!

Saahir Shafi Public Policy & Administration



Dr. Saahir Shafi has joined the Department of Public Policy and Administration as the Hazel Cramer Endowed Chair and an assistant professor. Her research explores the intersection of comparative public policy, public health, and governance. She focuses on evaluating policymaking during crises, with particular attention to intentional policy design, errors in information processing at both individual and subsystem levels, and institutional friction at the macro level. Dr. Shafi earned her PhD in Public Administration from Pennsylvania State University, with a specialization in Health Policy and Administration. Prior to her current role, she served as a faculty member at California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH), where she was actively involved in community-engaged teaching, research, and service.

New Staff

Adwoa Akyianu EdInsights



Adwoa V. Akyianu joins EdInsights as the Social Media and Communications Coordinator. She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Sac State, where she also served as vice president and president of the Black Student Union, developing skills in advocacy, teamwork, and community mobilization. With years of experience in marketing and communications, Adwoa specializes in crafting messages that inspire action and foster inclusion. Her work is shaped by her identity as a Black, first-generation, woman-identifying professional and her dedication to centering voices that have been historically marginalized. She envisions a future where equity is not an aspiration, but a lived reality, a world where access, resources, and safety are guaranteed for all.

Beth Hart EdInsights



Beth Hart joins the Education Insights Center (EdInsights) as the director of research and evaluation. She leads a team of 10+ researchers providing direct supervision, mentorship, expert advising, and quality assurance across the center's projects to improve public higher education in California. She received her PhD in Sociology from UC Davis, where she was a National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellow. Prior to Joining EdInsights, Beth was a Senior Research Associate at WestEd. Outside of work, she loves spending time on the American River Parkway with her husband and dog. She works from her home office in Rancho Cordova.

Amy Trimmer Environmental Studies

Amy Trimmer joins the Environmental Studies Department as the Administrative Support Coordinator.

Robyn Pitts Ethnic Studies

Robyn joins the Ethnic Studies Department as Administrative Analyst/ Specialist. She has worked on campus for 21 years in various departments. While working here she earned her bachelor's degree in Human Resources and Organizational Behavior. She looks forward to supporting faculty and students in her newest role. Her favorite part of working at Sac State is the relationships she has built over the years of working and going to school here. Outside of work, she enjoys cooking (and eating), watching movies, being outdoors, and most of all spending time with family and friends.

Quyen Lu Family & Consumer Sciences / Nutrition, Food & Dietetics



Quyen Lu joins the Nutrition, Food & Dietetics Department and the Family & Consumer Sciences Department as an Instructional Support Assistant II. Quyen is Made at Sac State! She earned her bachelor's degree in Nutrition and Food and is currently pursuing her master's in Public Health at Sac State. She looks forward to supporting faculty and students in both departments in the upcoming academic year. Quyen has enjoyed working with college students and assisting them in finding resources on campus. Outside of work and school, she enjoys matcha, reading, and exploring new restaurants. Her favorite part of her role is interacting with students and collaborating with so many intelligent and inspiring people.

Allison Burke Institute for Social Research



Allison joins the Institute for Social Research as a Research Specialist. Allison received her MS in Survey Research and Methodology from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and her BA from

UC Davis. She has over 19 years of experience managing program evaluation and research studies in the areas of community health and wellbeing; alcohol, tobacco, and drug prevention; youth development and leadership; and violence prevention. She is especially interested in utilization-focused evaluation studies, using questionnaire design techniques that elicit quality data, as well as creative reporting styles that communicate evaluation findings to a variety of stakeholders.

Logan Giardino Psychology



Logan joined the Psychology department in October 2024 as the Administrative Support Coordinator I - Reception & Operations Coordinator. She is a proud alum of the Peralta Community College District and Cal State East Bay, where she earned her BA in Psychology while managing a small bakery in Berkeley for 8 years. At the start of 2024, Logan moved from the East Bay to Sacramento to pursue a career in higher education. Spending ten years as a working college student helped her develop an interest in helping others pursue their academic goals in hopefully less time than it took her. During her time in the Psychology department, she has enjoyed helping others with her organizational talents and can-do attitude. With an extensive background in the food industry, Logan is used to a challenging environment and being of service to others. Providing students and faculty with helpful information to guide them in the right direction is something Logan really values in her role. She plans to continue using her transferable skills to help colleagues and students in the pursuit of achieving goals and creating a positive environment for everyone.

Campus Faculty Awards & Grants

24-25 OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARDS



Brittany Young
Psychology
Outstanding Teaching Award



Denys Brand
Psychology
Outstanding Scholarly and Creative Activity Award



Heidy Sarabia
Sociology
Outstanding Community Service Award



Nancy Huante-Tzintzun
Ethnic Studies
Outstanding University Service Award

RESEARCH & CREATIVE ACTIVITY AWARDS

The Research & Creative Activity (RCA) Awards Program supports faculty research, scholarly and creative activity, and encourages faculty contributions to their disciplines. This program is funded in part through the Chancellor's Office and Academic Affairs and is administered by the RCA Subcommittee with support from the Office of Research, Innovation, and Economic Development.

Adam Berrey
Anthropology
Household and Community Adaptions to Raised-Field Agriculture in Prehispanic Panama

Si Gao
Environmental Studies
Enhancing Surban Soil Health and Envirionmental Mitigation: Evaluating the Combined Effects of Soil Amendments and Phytoremediation

Samantha Hens
Anthropology
Population Trends in Frailty and Mortality Over 2000 Years in Milan, Italy

Catheryn Koss
Gerontology
Elder Abuse Prosecution Without Victim Consent: Advocates' Voices

Justin Wu
Asian Studies
The Diasporic Politics of Imagining China: Taiwanese Maoists, the Cold War, and the Dilemma of Chinese Nationalism in Taiwan

Nitika Sharma
Sociology
The Intricacies of Displacement: The Lhotsampa Story

ANCHOR UNIVERSITY ANCHOR GRANTS

Nancy Huante-Tzintzun (ETHN) received the Robert S. Nelsen Civic & Community Engagement Grant for "Dia de los Muertos - Honoring Ancestors, Activating Community". Dia de los Muertos Communal Gathering at Sacramento State is an annual, intergenerational event led by Ethnic Studies - Chicanx and Latinx Studies and the Barrio Arts Program. It brings together campus and community through art, storytelling, and civic engagement to honor cultural memory and resistance. Participation has grown from 100 students and 25 ofrendas to over 600 participants and nearly 100 altars. In collaboration with Sol Collective and the Washington Neighborhood Center, the gathering continues to serve as a space for healing, collective resistance, and empowerment rooted in cultura, memory, and radical kinship.

Jasmine Wade (ETHN) received the Robert S. Nelsen Civic & Community Engagement Grant for "Dreaming Tomorrow: High School & College Voices in Afrofuturism", a mentorship initiative connecting Sacramento State students in Ethnic Studies and Pan African Studies with high school students from Museum

of Children's Art (MOCHA) Community Futures School. The program fosters college-bound identities, supports college and career goals, and promotes cultural exchange to expand participants' visions of their futures. It builds on a 2024 pilot pen pal program between MOCHA and the Black Honors College.

Erin Rose Ellison (PSYC) received the Robert S. Nelsen Civic & Community Engagement Grant for "Through Children's Eyes: Storytelling & Civic Engagement at Morrison Creek". Amplifying Youth Civic Engagement through Art and Research builds on an existing program that empowers 4th–6th grade students to shape the future of Morrison Creek. Through photography, mapping, and neighborhood research, students explore their community and connect with local change efforts, including work with the Sacramento Community Land Trust (SacCLT). This expansion engages Dr. Eliza Gregory, an Associate Professor of Photography from the Department of Design, and two of her undergraduate students to create a booklet and outdoor exhibition to share the project's findings, raise awareness, and inspire broader civic engagement and community research work.

Nadine Braunstein (NUFD) received the Robert S. Nelsen Civic & Community Engagement Grant for "Nutrition Education for Guests of the Rancho Cordova Food Locker - Partnership with the Sacramento State Dietetic Internship Program". Nutrition Education for Rancho Cordova Food Locker Guests is a partnership between the Sacramento State Dietetic Internship Program and the Rancho Cordova Food Locker, with activities also taking place at Veterans Village and the Rancho Cordova Youth Center. Graduate dietetic interns will deliver at least six culturally sensitive nutrition education lessons and food demonstrations to a minimum of 100 neighbors, while fulfilling supervised practice hours toward becoming Registered Dietitian Nutritionists. Deliverables include a needs assessment, post-lesson evaluations, a summary report to the Food Locker Board of Directors, a professional poster, and a Policy and Procedure manual.

RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY (RSCA) FOR SENIOR CAREER FACULTY

The Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (RSCA) for Senior Career Faculty is given each year by the Office of Research, Innovation, and Economic Development (ORIED) to recognize a colleague in the later stage of their faculty appointment who has made significant contributions to their discipline. The award includes \$2,500 in professional development funds and three units of release time. This year's winner was Caio Miguel (PSYC) for his research in using Applied Behavior Analysis to teach generative language to Autistic children.



Photo courtesy of Psychology

Community and Professional Faculty Awards

Sharon Furtak - National Institutes of Health (NIH) Grant



In an effort led by Drs. Monica Gonzalez, Kimberly Mulligan, and Sharon Furtak, Sacramento State has successfully secured funding from the NIH for a new confocal microscope. The new microscope will significantly enhance research efforts across multiple research labs on campus, supporting studies on topics such as the relationship between pesticide exposure and neurodegenerative diseases, the effects of pollution on neurodevelopment, and the brain circuitry impacted in Alzheimer's disease. In addition to advancing faculty research, the microscope will be integrated into teaching laboratories, providing students with hands-on training in the latest instrumentation.

Emily Oertling - CSUS Retirees Association's Probationary Faculty Research Award

Emily Oertling (FACS) was awarded the CSUS Retirees Association Probationary Faculty Research Award for 2025. This award is a grant program that recognizes the research and scholarly activity of probationary faculty. The award is \$1000, with partial matching by the College of SSIS, and assists in supporting faculty contributions as they progress toward tenure. What distinguishes Dr. Oertling's scholarship is her commitment to student involvement. She has mentored undergraduate students in developing scholarly presentations for the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences regional conference and she is making outstanding progress in teaching effectiveness.



Emily Oertling and Susan Holl, President of the CSUS Retirees Association



Photo courtesy of CSUS Retiree Association

SSIS Students in Leadership

SSIS Representation in ASI Student Government

NEW ASI DIRECTOR



Meet our 2025-2026 Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) Director of SSIS, Jonathan Poston. He has this message for our students:

Hi Hornets! I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to serve as your ASI Director for the College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies. My name is Jonathan, and I first became involved with ASI after seeing just how much student leadership can influence our campus experience. I chose to run for this role because I wanted to make a change for SSIS students and help create spaces where engagement, collaboration, and support can thrive.

I am passionate about public service and policy so that every student feels seen and heard. My goal this year is to

make sure SSIS students feel connected to their college, to campus resources, and to opportunities that help them grow career wise or post-graduation. SSIS is filled with a diverse population of students and amazing faculty, and I'm excited to focus on all of our achievements that make this college so great and work alongside you throughout the year.

Please feel free to reach out at any time. Whether you need guidance, have an idea you'd like to share, or simply want to get more involved, I'm always here to listen and advocate on your behalf. I'm looking forward to a continuing year together.

STINGERS UP!

OTHER SSIS STUDENTS IN ASI POSITIONS

As in previous years, SSIS is well represented on the ASI Board of Directors. The following student government positions in 2025-2026 are represented by students in SSIS Majors:



Name: Amaka Okam
Position: Vice President of University Affairs
Major: Political Science



Name: Jenn Galinato
Position: Vice President of Academic Affairs
Major: Political Science - Journalism
Minor: Asian American Studies

Dean's Award Winners

UNDERGRADUATE



Sacramento State/Andrea Price

Danae Bolton (they/them), Women's and Gender Studies, was the 2025 Dean's Award* recipient. Bolton grew up as the oldest child in a Black, low-income, single-parent household. Bolton was the first in their family to go to college but their kid brother was encouraged by Bolton to pursue higher education and will do so after having graduated high school in June. Bolton's mom, a preschool teacher, earned her associate's degree in early childhood education

from Sacramento City College the same month Bolton graduated from Sac State. Bolton's higher education journey began at Sacramento City College where they enrolled after having enrolled at San Francisco State University but realizing they couldn't afford tuition and the Bay Area's high cost of living. After receiving an associate's degree, Bolton transferred to Sac State. At that time, Bolton said they felt like classes were a lot more intense and they were working two jobs. Bolton was living alone, working 40 hours a week between the Disability Access Center, University Enterprises, Inc., and the Department of Women's and Gender Studies. They were also a College Corps Fellow, tutoring K-12 students from underrepresented communities in math and English. All the stress from working so many hours and the course load forced them to take a semester off. Through it all, Bolton made the Dean's Honors List and won first place at the Georgia State University CIBER International Business Case competition in February. After Bolton graduated, their plans were to work with autistic children as an



Sacramento State/Andrea Price

instructional aide at a K-12 school. They also plan to pursue a master's degree and doctorate in education, hoping to be a college professor.

GRADUATE



Devon Hunter (he/him) was the 2025 graduate Dean's Award Recipient. Devon graduated with a Master of Science in Quantitative Economics from Sac State in Fall 2024. His thesis, "Exchange Traded Funds and the Index Effect: Implications for Market Efficiency," examined the evolving relationship between passive investment vehicles and market dynamics. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of California, Merced. During his graduate studies, he held a full-time position as a Financial Planner at Focus Partners Wealth. In this role, he applies economic theory and quantitative analysis to support informed investment decision-making. His primary academic interest lies in financial economics, and he aims to integrate this expertise into the delivery of disciplined,

research-based investment advice. He is a dual American-British citizen and lived and worked in Europe prior to Brexit. He met his wife, Kristýna, while teaching English in the Czech Republic, and continues to teach English as a volunteer. Devon and Kristýna live in Marysville with their three children.



The Dean's Award undergraduate and graduate recipients are also honored with the Mayada Al-Qazzaz and Sharifa Al-Qazzaz Distinguished Achievement Awards, respectively, a \$1000 award for each, contributed annually by Dr. Ayad Al-Qazzaz

Center Highlights

Center for California Studies



Photo courtesy of CCS

The Center for California Studies is the home of the Capital Fellows Programs -- nationally recognized public policy fellowships which offer unique experiences in policy-making and development in each branch of California's state government. Our top accomplishment for the year was obtaining funding in the 2025 state budget to increase the fellows' salary, making the fellows programs more affordable and accessible to individuals from all walks of life and all life experiences. The budget increase allows us to increase the fellows' salary from \$3253 a month to \$4888 a month. This higher salary helps offset the rising cost of housing in Sacramento, and also ensures that individuals of limited means can participate in the programs.

This year Education Insights Center (EdInsights) has welcomed several new staff members – including Adwoa Akyianu, Beth Hart, and Sophia Morrison. EdInsights began or continued work on several equity focused evaluation projects with partners like the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and Sacramento City College. In partnership with the Center for California Studies, we welcomed our ninth California Education Policy Fellowship Program cohort. We're also facilitating the CSU Student Success Network's ninth year of programming with a redesign of the Middle Leadership Academy, continued partnership with the CSU Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Native Hawaiian Student Achievement Program, and a systemwide convening on servingness across Minority Serving Institution designations.

Education Insights Center (EdInsights)



The EdInsights team volunteering at Pansy Community Garden Park with Alchemist CDC, October 2025

Institute for Social Research (ISR)

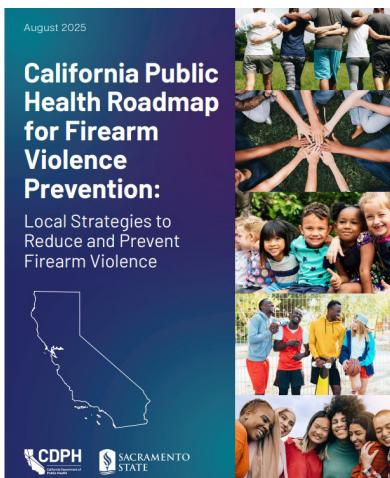


Photo courtesy of cdph.ca.gov

The Institute for Social Research (ISR) partnered with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) on a new guide for evidence-based, community-driven firearm violence prevention strategies. The California Public Health Roadmap for Firearm Violence Prevention is based in research and real community experiences, including interviews with violence prevention experts across the U.S., listening sessions with community members impacted by violence, and surveys from California's county public health and behavioral health agencies. ISR presented strategies from the report at a CDPH convening of state and local leaders in violence prevention in October. ISR is proud to have contributed to this effort and to showcase the expertise, dedication, and lived experience of violence prevention leaders and organizations across the state. For questions about the guide, contact isr-info@csus.edu.

Sociology End-of-the-Year Celebration

The Sociology Department, in collaboration with Soc Club, SOC Circle, and the Sociology Alumni Network, and the Alumni Center, hosted its second annual End-of-the-Year Celebration at the Global Lounge on April 30, 2025.

Sac State alumni Magali Kincaid and John Kincaid '05 (Sociology) were keynote speakers for the event and more than 120 attendees enjoyed this powerful and motivational event. In addition, the event was an opportunity to recognize current students, alumni, faculty, staff, and emeritus faculty who have made significant contributions to the Department of Sociology, Sac State, and in their communities. Olivia Schlanger Sodhi, of the Alumni Association, kindly agreed to capture the day in pictures (you can see all the pictures here).

We would like to make a special acknowledgement for the committee that organized this event: Heidy Sarabia (chair of the organizing committee), Amy Liu (chair of the Department of Sociology), Nitika Sharma (Faculty), Yesenia Sandoval Lopez (Sociology Alumni Network Liaison), Millicent Ballesteros and Lex Hylaris (Staff), Olivia Schlanger Sodhi (Alumni Association), and Debra Welkey (SOC Circle).



Photos courtesy of Sociology



Western Positive Psychology Association Conference



Photos courtesy of WPPA

The 9th Annual Western Positive Psychology Association Conference (WPPA) was held at Sac State from April 4 - 6, 2025. Psychology faculty Dr. Meliksah Demir was the Academic Faculty Conference Chair and the conference was sponsored by The Rekhi Singh Foundation, the Leader and Organization Vitality (LOV) Lab/LOV Center, and the Department of Psychology. The conference welcomed presenters and attendees from the US western region, plus Europe, Canada, Korea, and more.

Dr. Greg Hurtz's students, Senon Rivera, Lily Vang, Z Zulphar, and Miguel Leonardo Dela Cruz Alcantara, received 2nd place in the Rikhi Singh Foundation Poster Award for Academic Research Excellence for their poster *Measuring Profiles of Perceived "Performance" across Multiple Life Role Domains*.



Ayad Al-Qazzaz Sociology Student Poster Symposium

The Sociology Department hosted its annual Ayad Al-Qazzaz Sociology Student Poster Symposium on May 6th, 2025 at the Carlsen Center. During the event, more than 80 students presented around 40 posters from their research and public sociology projects focused on the following topics: Racial Capitalism and Labor Exploitation; Gender, Sexuality, and Reproductive Justice; Higher Education and Institutional Inequality; State Violence and Carceral Systems; Environmental and Health Inequities; Media, Ideology, and Social Control; Labor, Precarity, and Resistance; Social Determinants of Wellbeing; Technology and Human Futures; and Intersectional Marginalizations. The goal of this year's symposium was to explore how sociological research, theory, and praxis are vital for contextualizing and challenging the current social, political, and economic climate we find ourselves within. It also sought to remind us that collective resistance, solidarity, and community-led alternatives can reclaim power, technology and space for liberation and equity. Presenters

included graduate and undergraduate sociology students from the following classes: SOC 199: Individual Study Projects, SOC 144: Public Health, SOC 102 & SOC 103: Research Methods, SOC 123: Black Studies, SOC 192: Sociological Theory. In addition to the posters, a guest speaker panel featured Dr. Madeleine Kerrick (Education Insight Center), Dave Weiner (UC Berkeley NSF I-Corps), and Jose Alvarez Torres (California Rural Legal Assistance - Pro Bono Department).

The event would not have been possible without the generous donation of Professor Ayad Al-Qazzaz, the leadership of Amalia Perez Martin and Christopher Rogers (Symposium Committee Co-Chairs) and Amy Liu (Sociology Department Chair), the support of Vanesa Alejos (Research Student Center), Suzanne Castaneda (University Print), Millie Ballesteros and Lex Hylaris (sociology staff), as well as the participating faculty Gabrielle Gonzalez, Aya Kimura Ida, Trish Morris, Lina Rincon, Heidy Sarabia, and Amanda Shigihara.



L to R: Chris Rogers, Ayad Al-Qazzaz, and Amalia Perez Martinez



Photos courtesy of Sociology

College of SSIS Welcome Back and Fall Social

The College of SSIS held its annual Welcome Back and Fall Social on September 24, 2025. This event welcomes back the faculty and staff for a new academic year and the Dean shares important updates with the college.



L to R: Catheryn Koss, Kristin Van Gaasbeck, Raleigh Wilcox



L to R: Erica Costa, Heidy Sarabia, Nitika Sharma, Millicent Ballesteros



L to R: Sujatha Moni, Theresa Abah, Jaime Jackson, James Rae, Erika Cessna

REMEMBERING DR. MARTIN L. BOSTON



Photo courtesy of Ethnic Studies

As we reflect on the life and legacy of Dr. Martin L. Boston, we honor a remarkable scholar, mentor, and friend whose impact on our community will never be forgotten. Though his passing on August 17, 2025 left a profound void, his spirit of warmth, passion, and purpose continues to inspire all who knew him.

Dr. Boston was more than an educator—he was a beacon of energy and compassion. His vibrant personality and unwavering enthusiasm touched the lives of students, colleagues, and friends alike. He embodied the spirit of friendship and community, values that will continue to resonate through those fortunate enough to have known him.

A proud alumnus of Washington State University, Martin earned both his B.A. and M.A. degrees before pursuing a second M.A. and his Ph.D. at the University of California, San Diego. His academic journey reflected his deep commitment to scholarship and service. Martin joined the Ethnic Studies Department at Sac State in Fall 2021 where he served as Assistant Professor of Pan African Studies and Ethnic Studies and as Editor-in-Chief of African and Black Diaspora: An International Journal. His research and publications in esteemed peer-reviewed journals advanced critical conversations in his field, leaving an indelible mark on academia.

Beyond his professional achievements, Martin was a dedicated member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., initiated through Chi Alpha Alpha Chapter in 2004. His leadership and vision shaped numerous initiatives, including the "March to 2000" Initiative Award, the Recognition of Fatherhood and Mentoring Awards, and his most cherished program, Omega Gents. His service reflected his lifelong commitment to mentorship and community uplift.

Above all, Martin treasured his family. He is survived by his loving wife, Krystal Boston, and their daughters, Kairo and Kamara. His memory will be honored by his mother, Candace Wilson, his fathers, Todd Boston and Paul Davis, his brother, Malcolm Boston, and his sister, Aneka Davis. He was predeceased by his sister, Marissa Boston. His legacy of wisdom, kindness, and dedication will continue to inspire all who knew him.

Dr. Boston's passing is a profound loss to our university and the broader community. We extend our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones. May his life and work remain a guiding light for generations to come.

Student Success Corner

The SSIS Student Success Center (SSC) continues to play a central role in supporting students' academic progress, well-being, and sense of belonging. While remote advising remains a highly utilized and accessible option, the demand for in-person appointments and drop-in support has grown steadily. Now in its eighth year, the SSC has become a well-known and trusted resource for students, dedicated to timely degree completion, graduate school preparation, and post-graduation planning.

Holistic Support and High Engagement

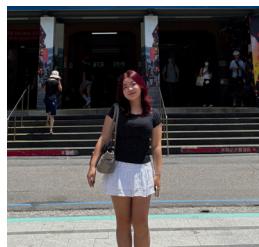
In AY 2024-2025, SSC staff supported students who were navigating a wide range of personal, financial, medical, and psychological challenges by strengthening their holistic advising approach and deepening collaborations with campus partners. The SSC team, comprised of professional staff, graduate interns, student assistants, and Faculty Fellows, recorded over 4,700 student contacts.

Although the SSIS Faculty Fellows for Student Success Program concluded in Fall 2024, the SSC introduced a new model to support faculty advisors through refresher trainings and Q&A sessions to ensure continued communication and consistency. The remarkable volume of student support is possible only through the dedication of our counseling graduate interns, Peer Success Leaders, and front desk student assistants. Their contributions remain essential to the Center's success, and we are extremely grateful for their commitment.

MEET THIS YEAR'S STUDENT STAFF



Ysabella Beltran – Political Science



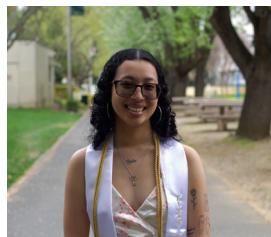
Anh Le – Economics and Finance



Christian Lonero – Psychology and 1st year graduate student



Avril Hernandez – Criminal Justice



Jennifer Pham – Psychology and 1st year graduate student



Maria Sandoval – Sociology and 3rd year graduate student

Looking Ahead

As the SSC continues the momentum of the Graduation Initiative 2025, the team is expanding proactive outreach and engagement efforts to strengthen recruitment, enrollment, and retention. New initiatives include:

- Expanded career and graduate school planning services
- Launch of student feedback surveys to guide data-informed improvements
- Stronger collaboration with departments

We're excited for the work ahead and the continued success of our SSIS students.



Photos courtesy of SSIS Student Success Center

Student Awards

Model United Nations

Sacramento State's Model United Nations (UN) Team attended the National Model UN Conference in April 2025 and returned with several awards, including one of the conference's top honors. The team consisted of Nikita Akhumov, Isabella Dominguez, Daniel Fernandez, Melanie Kannalikham, Emanuela Koplik, Aedhan Lanta, Molly Mellon, Sophia Mercer, Timothy Morrison, Jania Sanchez, Jasmit Singh, Sofia Vranchan, and Ian Zentner. They were awarded the Overall Outstanding Delegation Award, which is the highest honor for an entire delegation, along with the following position paper awards:

Commission on the Status of Women: Isabella Dominguez and Melanie Kannalikham

Human Rights Council: Timothy Morrison and Sofia Vranchan

Commission for Population and Development: Ian Zentner

Economic and Social Council: Molly Mellon and Emanuela Koplik

The Outstanding Delegate Award recognizes leadership qualities of delegates in committee during the conference and that was awarded to Ian Zentner, Sofia Vranchan, and Timothy Morrison.



Photos courtesy of Political Science

On March 5th Sacramento State's Student Research Center hosted its annual Student Research and Creative Activity Symposium. Many SSIS Students received either 1st or 2nd place awards:

1st Place

Jason Hansen (PPA)
Mitigating the Pandemic Learning Loss: Differential Effects of California's K-12 Weighted Formula Aid on Student Performance.
Mentor: Dr. Robert Wassmer

Isabella Valencia (PSYC)
Evaluation of a Mentorship and Training

Model in Neuroscience for Diverse Undergraduate Students
Mentor: Dr. Sharon Furtak

Macey Briones (NUFD)
Appying Implementation Science Framework and Community-Based Research to an Intervention Implementation Guide.
Mentor: Dr. Mical Shilts

Nyasa Mitchell Ramirez (ANTH)
A Non-Invasive and High-Resolution Imaging Study of Endocranial Volume in Museum Specimens.
Mentor: Dr. Nandini Singh

Student Research Awards

2nd Place

Christopher Nunez (SOC)
Pozole: A Food, a Tradition, and a Heritage; Exploring the Rich History of Pozole and its Adaption in American Society.
Mentors: Dr. Heidy Sarabia & Dr. Gabrielle Gonzalez

Shoshana Levy (PPA)
The Role of NIMBYism in the Lack of Affordable Housing in California Cities.
Mentor: Dr. Robert Wassmer



Photo courtesy of the Student Research Center

In addition to receiving 2nd place in the Student Research and Creative Activities Symposium, MPPA student Shoshana Levy was able to present her research at the 50th Annual Research Symposium hosted by the Social Science Research and Instructional Council (SSRIC) at CSU Dominguez Hills. There Shoshana received the SRRIC award for "Best Use of Quantitative Data". Shoshana was mentored by Dr. Robert Wassmer (PPA).

In Spring 2025, Cal Poly Humboldt hosted the 39th CSU Research Competition. Jason Hansen, MPPA graduate student, received 2nd place for his research "Mitigating the Pandemic Learning Loss: Differential Effects of California's K-12 Weighted Formula Aid on Student Performance. Jason was mentored by Dr. Robert Wassmer (PPA) and graduated in Spring 2025 with a 4.0 GPA and the honor of Graduation with Distinction.

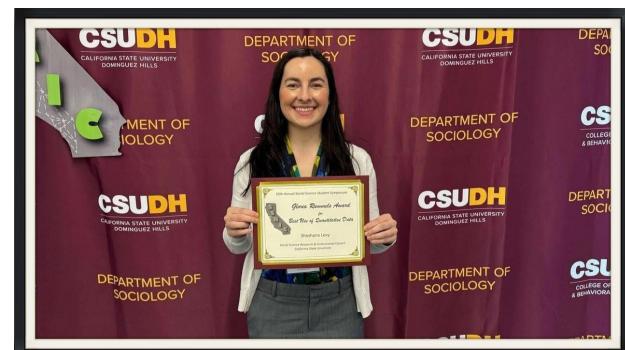


Photo courtesy of the Student Research Center



Charles Potts II, NUDF undergraduate student, presented his McNair Scholar research on food assistance stigma among Black College students at a national conference in Atlanta, GA and took 2nd place in his category. He also presented his work, *Exploring SNAP Stigmas Among Black College Students and Identifying Ethical Approaches to Reducing Them* and is currently applying to MSW programs nationwide.

In addition to receiving 1st place in the Student Research and Creative Activities Symposium, NUDF graduate student Macey Briones was able to present her research at the California Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Annual Conference (CANDAC), a statewide event for nutrition students and professionals. Macey was mentored by Dr. Mical Shilts.



Photos courtesy of NUDF



Photos courtesy of ANTH

Nyasa Mitchell Ramirez graduated from Sac State in Spring 2025 with a BA in Anthropology (Archaeology and Biological Anthropology concentration). As mentioned above, she received 1st place for her research at the 2025 Student Research and Creative Activity Spring Symposium. She went on to compete at the CSU-wide research symposium at Humboldt.



L to R: Provost Erika Cameron and Nyasa Mitchell Ramirez

First-Generation Awards

The Campus Educational Equity Committee (CEEC), Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), Faculty Student Mentor Program (FSMP), and First-Generation Institute (FGI) hosted an awards luncheon to honor 33 first-generation students and 15 faculty and staff who serve as exemplary advocates for first-generation student success at Sacramento State. The First-Gen Excellence Awards were presented in late Fall 2024, coinciding with the annual National First-Generation College Celebration to honor the anniversary of the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Sacramento State is designated by NASPA and the Suder Foundation as a First-Gen Forward Institution. The First-Gen Forward designation recognizes Institutions of higher education that have demonstrated a commitment to improving experiences and advancing outcomes of first-generation college students.

First-Generation Student Achievement Award

The First-Generation Student Achievement Award honors first-generation undergraduate students and graduate or professional students who have pursued and met ambitious educational goals and demonstrated commitment to academic excellence.

Ashley Aguirre Noriega, Women's and Gender Studies
Jenavi De Anda, Psychology
Ana Andrade, Sociology
Mikayla Clemens, Psychology
Gabriel Conejo-Gallegos, Ethnic Studies
Kalamaulihiwa Fatanum, Nutrition and Food
Olivia Fernandes, Sociology
Ja'Mya Jackson, Sociology
Xavier Pickens, Economics
Susan Monglo Saephan, Psychology
Liliana Zaragoza-Ramirez, Nutrition and Food

Award for Outstanding First-Generation Student Advocacy

The Award for Outstanding First-Generation Student Advocacy honors faculty and staff members who support first-generation students' education and serve as exemplary advocates for first-generation students at Sacramento State. It is not required that nominees have identified as first-generation students themselves.

Frances Losana Palu (Alum SOC/POLS), Director of Operations, CSU Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Student Achievement Program (ASAP)
Dr. Sahar Razavi, Assistant Professor, Political Science Department
Dr. Rose Soza War Soldier, Assistant Professor, Ethnic Studies Department

Master's Candidate Reception and Hooding Ceremony

On May 16, 2025 the College of SSIS held its annual Master's Candidate Reception and Hooding Ceremony. Guest Speaker was Devon Hunter, a graduate candidate from Economics, who was also the Graduate Dean's Award Recipient. We had approximately 66 students graduating from Anthropology, Economics, Nutrition, Food & Dietetics, Political Science, Psychology, and Public Policy & Administration. A highlight of this year was that Dr. Lisa Bohon's (PSYC) own daughter Alexandra Hock graduated with her MS in Psychological Research, advised by Dr. Casey Knifsend.



Scholarship Corner

ANTHROPOLOGY

Edgar Lee Jordan Scholarship

Sarah Arnold
Nora Cary
Jeremiah Kennedy
Natalie McNeel
George Rosas

John. W. Connor Scholarship

Kaitlyn Anderson
Jeremiah Kennedy

Richard H. Reeve Award

Natalie McNeel
George Rosas



ASIAN STUDIES

Mishra Family Scholarship

EvaMarie Day
Michael Lee-Chang

Professor Thomas Swift Asian Studies Scholarship

Rigg Arambulo
Annika Butterfield
Payton Forbes
Sarah Golovey

ECONOMICS

Professor Robert L. Curry, Jr. and Chi Ming Dana Curry Scholarship

Diego Salvador Oliva

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Thomas Swift Environmental Studies Scholarship

Alondra Madera Anguiano
Robert Sabino

Patrick James Dugal Memorial Scholarship

Rabbit Korbin
Julia Sisneros

ETHNIC STUDIES

Nakatani Asian American Studies Scholarship

Maria Alyana Ordonez
Chelsea Samonte

Thomas Swift Asian American Studies Scholarship

Maria Alyana Ordonez
Ranaye Manu

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation Native American Studies Scholarship

Tru Billie
Wicahpi Cook
Emoni Durham
Anthony Flores
Nikkianna Kinsel
Victoria Martinez-Goodwin
Matthew Mullarkey
Jayson Redhouse
Fredrick Scott
Feathers Valencia



GERONTOLOGY

Art & Phoebe German Gerontology Scholarship

Frida Gopar Garcia

Cheryl Brown Gerontology Scholarship

Damiya Story

Dolores J. Eitel Gerontology Scholarship

Rei-Na Allen-Stephens

Leonardo Camacho

Isaias Diaz-Lopez

Vanessa Maldonado-Soto

Eskaton Leadership and Diversity Scholarship

Rei-Na Allen-Stephens

Isaias Diaz-Lopez



POLITICAL SCIENCE

Prof. R. Jeffrey Lustig Memorial Prize

Donald Hunter

College Access Foundation of California Scholarship

Anna Petrovich

Donald R. Gerth Scholarship in Political Science

Anum Hassan

Wade R. Smith Memorial Scholarship

Kadija Rhuma

Christopher Dyer-Bennet Scholarship

Michael Lee-Chang

Karena Payden

Caroline Tah-Espens

Professor William Ansley Dorman Scholarship

Averi Berry

Ashley Ramirez

Jack Livingston Fellow in Political Theory and American Institutions

Irasema Garcia

Robert G. Thompson Scholarship

Fnu Namrata

Thomas Swift Government/Journalism Scholarship

Anum Hassan



PSYCHOLOGY

Applied Behavior Consultants

Yasmin Guzman

Douglas Michell Memorial Scholarship

Sabringa Charleston

Duane E. C. Johnson Memorial Scholarship

Sabrina Charleston

Kandle Vang

June Gersten Memorial Scholarship in Psychology

Shiyu Zhong

Dr. George Parrott Outstanding Psychology Student Endowed Scholarship

Kandle Vang



PUBLIC POLICY & ADMINISTRATION

GASPPA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Scholarship

Zion Cobb

Designing Our Future Graduate Student Scholarship

Xitlali Curcinita

Luiz Torres

SOCIOLOGY

Ayad Al-Qazzaz Distinguished Achievement in Sociology Award

Nevaeh Trigo

COLLEGE OF SSIS

Mayada Al-Qazzaz Distinguished Achievement Undergraduate Award
Funded by the Ayad Al-Qazzaz Endowment

Danae Bolton

Sharifa Al-Qazzaz Distinguished Achievement Graduate Award Funded by the Ayad Al-Qazzaz Endowment

Devon Hunter

Otis L. Scott Scholarship

Michael Lee-Chang

Maria Alyana Ordonez

BEL Foundation Scholarship

Anthony Flores

Jennifer Gonzalez Limon

Kandle Vang

Sydney Williams

Marie I. and Cecil L. Clement Memorial Scholarship

Jeremiah Kennedy

Professor Erwin Kelly Scholarship

Julisa Arreola-Renteria

Maria Alyana Ordonez

COOPER WOODSON COLLEGE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Carol J. Barbee Scholarship

Karysa Smith-Rutland

Chris Glenn Cooper-Woodson College Scholarship

Karysa Smith-Rutland

Mary Williams

Cooper-Woodson College Enhancement Program Scholarship

Aalayla Booker

Sharnette Brooks Davis

Obasi Green

Jannesse Hunt

Bright Okongwu

Karena Payden

Muhulu Ramaano

Jade Sapenter-Coulter

Amya Terry

Deborah Williams

Fannie Foster Research Scholarship

Sharnell Martin

George Floyd Emergency Grant Fund

Josiah Graham

Trinity Henry-Jack

Jonathan Johnson

Danielle Merritt

Lesego Mosupyoem Memorial Scholarship

Mary Williams



Photos courtesy of Heather Mummaw

Staff in Action

2025 Academic Resources Conference

Due to the state budget situation, the 2025 Academic Resources Conference (ARC) was held virtually in May 2025. SSIS hosted a "Watch Party" similar to many of the other CSU campuses to increase networking and collaboration despite the conference being virtual. ARC is a CSU wide conference for college and department administrative staff to discuss topics related to academic affairs, budget, and HR. Attendees included Andrea Adams (FACS), Sandy Bernard (CCS), Lora Bowler, Pat Hughes (PSYC), Heather Mummaw (Dean's Office), Michelle Tarter (POLS), and Amy Trimmer (ENVS).



Staff Recognition and Awards



30 Year Recipients, including Marsha Robinson (SSIS Dean's Office)
Photo courtesy of USA



25 Year Recipients including Marya Endriga (SSIS Dean's Office)
Photo courtesy of USA

University Staff Assembly (USA) brought back its Staff Years of Service Awards in December 2024 for the first time in since pre-pandemic days. Due to missing many years of celebration, USA recognized everyone who had celebrated a service anniversary since 2020. USA returned to annual celebration in 2025, combining the Outstanding Staff Awards with the Years of Service Awards.

The following staff celebrated milestone service anniversaries in 2024-2025:
Lora Bowler (WGS) - 10 years
Karen Dively (ANTH) - 10 years
Amy Trimmer (ENVS) - 25 years



L to R: Suzi Byrd, Anne Montgomery, Marsha Robinson, Heather Mummaw, Marya Endriga, Dianne Hyson, Kristen Anderegg
Photo courtesy of USA

Staff Recognition Event

The SSIS Staff Council held its annual Staff Service Recognition Event on October 8th. The event recognized service anniversaries for working for the College of SSIS for 1 year, 5 years, 10 years, and subsequent 5 year intervals between the dates of July 2024 and June 2025. Congratulations to all the recipients!



Karen Dively

Recipients:

1 Year

Monica Braughton

Annelise Green

Aurelia Hayes

Ranesh Karma

Sukai Kato-Hopkins

Ann Kawasaki

Robert Rodriguez*

Seraphina Soule

Shannon Swanson

Lara Triona

Raleigh Wilcox

5 Years

Malia Almeida

Kalifa Madden

Richard Mason*

Joanlyn Ocampo*

10 Years

Lora Bowler

Karen Dively

15 Years

Lowela Anunction

20 Years

Ryan Arndt

25 Years

Valory Messier

30 Years

Kristen Anderegg

*23-24 Recipients



L to R: Raleigh Wilcox, Monica Braughton, Robert Rodriguez, Aurelia Hayes



Lowela Anunction



Valory Messier



L to R: Michelle Tarter, Heather Mummaw, Mayra Adame, Sandra Bernard, Julie Mac, Raleigh Wilcox, Andrea Adams, Dianne Hyson, Mayra Endriga, Lynn Hanna



Photos courtesy of Mayra Adame and Julie Mac

Faculty in Action

Publications*

Journal Articles**

Itzel Aceves-Azuara (PSYC). Mother-child collaboration in an Indigenous community: Changing and enduring across generations. *Child Development*

Alfonso Aranda (ENVS). Environmental Health Assessment by Local Environmental Justice Experts for Evidence-Based Decision-Making in an Agricultural Community of Northern California. *Community Science* (Hoboken, N.J.)

Manuel Barajas & Heidy Sarabia (SOC). From Natives to Aliens. *Aztlan*

Adam Berrey (ANTH). Modeling maize-based carrying capacities and population pressure in prehispanic central Panama. *Journal of Archaeological Science*

Harry Blain (POLS). The myth of coercive diplomacy: the U.S. intelligence community and the war in Bosnia. *Intelligence and National Security*

Harry Blain (POLS). A Useful Nuisance: Congress and the Consolidation of US-Yugoslavia Relations, 1948-1960. *Diplomacy and Statecraft*

Mark Brown (POLS). Black Reparations for Whom? The Eligibility Debate in California. *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*.

Mark Brown (POLS). Political Theory and the reconstruction of expertise and democracy. *Science as culture*.

Terri A Castaneda (ANTH). California, A Slave State by Jean Pfaelzer (review). *Western American Literature*

Katherine Chalmers (ECON) & Raleigh Wilcox (staff, LIBS). Students or prisoners: Contrasting approaches to rural economic development. *Social Science Quarterly*

Ahrum Chang (PPA). Recurring Street-Level Encounters: How Bureaucratic Representation Changes Through Citizen Interactions. *Public Administration Review*

Anna Daily (POLS). "This Is a Work for the Mothers": Strategic Maternalism against the Far Right. *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*

Rachel Flamenbaum (ANTH). Teaching Tech by Rote: Socialization into Digital Literacies in a Ghanaian Classroom. *African Journalism Studies*

Sharon Flicker (PSYC). Revisiting the Five Love Languages Framework: Toward a More Flexible Model of Love Expression. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*

Sharon Flicker (PSYC). How Many Love Languages Are There? Examining Chapman's Five Love Languages Using a Bottom-Up Approach. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*

Sharon Flicker (PSYC). Polyamorous Individuals' Jealous and Compulsive Responses to Their Partner's New Relationship Energy: The Role of Mindfulness, Emotion Regulation, Distress Tolerance, and Empathy. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*

Sharon Flicker (PSYC). Mechanisms of Anxiety Reduction During Adult Coloring: Mindfulness, Flow, Enjoyment, and Distraction. *Mindfulness*

Sharon Flicker (PSYC). Depression in Asian Americans: Does Generational Status and Acculturation Predict Severity and Type of Symptoms? *Psi Chi Journal of Psychological Research*

Sharon Flicker (PSYC). Testing the predictions of Chapman's five love languages theory: Does speaking a partner's primary love language predict relationship quality? *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*

Sharon Flicker (PSYC). How Many

Love Languages Are There? Examining Chapman's Five Love Languages Using a Bottom-Up Approach. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*

Sharon Flicker (PSYC). Advancing consensual non-monogamy in psychological research, practice, and policy: A guide for psychologists. *Social Issues and Policy Review*

Hannah Gabriel (ECON). Multinational Activity and Banking: The Effects of International Banking on Exporters. *The International Trade Journal*

Si Gao (ENVS). Soil carbon stability is enhanced by charcoal deposition after broadcast burning in a subtropical plantation forest. *Forest Ecology and Management*.

Si Gao (ENVS). Boosting soil health and crop nutrients with locally sourced biochar and compost in Sacramento urban agriculture. *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*

William Gow (ETHN). Chinatown, Honolulu: Place, Race, and Empire. *Pacific Historical Review*

Samantha Hens (ANTH). Sex Estimation from the Pubic Bone in Contemporary Italians: Comparisons of Accuracy and Reliability Among the Phenice (1969), Klales et al. (2012), and MorphoPASSE Methods. *Forensic Sciences (Basel, Switzerland)*

Samantha Hens (ANTH). A Bayesian approach to Suchey-Brooks age estimation from the pubic symphysis using modern American samples. *Journal of Forensic Sciences*

Jonathan Kaplan (ECON). Quantifying Replacement Rates From Indoor and Outdoor Urban Water Conservation Incentives in California. *Journal of the American Water Resources Association*

Jonathan Kaplan (ECON) & Ajay Singh (ENVS). Belief in neighbor behavior and confidence in scientific information as barriers to cooperative disease control. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*

Jamie Kneitel (ENVS). Variable effects of a fire-retardant gradient on seasonal wetland communities. *Ecotoxicology (London)*

Catheryn Koss (GERO). Responding to elder abuse when the victim opposes prosecution. *Journal of Elder Policy*

Catheryn Koss (GERO). Elder Abuse Prosecution Without Victim Cooperation: A Decision-Making for Prosecutors. *Innovation in Aging*

Edward Lascher (PPA). Editor's Introduction, Winter 2025. *California Journal of Politics and Policy*

Young-Im Lee (POLS). Blaming feminists, claiming pain: Anti-feminist discourse and electoral mobilization by New Men's Solidarity in South Korea. *Women's Studies International Forum*

Young-Im Lee & Danielle Joesten Martin (POLS). Grading for Equity? The Limits of Course-Level Interventions in Closing Achievement Gaps in Political Science Education. *Journal of Political Science Education*

Caio Miguel & Denys Brand (PSYC). Verbal Mediation During Auditory Equivalence Class Formation Using Go/No-Go Successive Matching-to-Sample. *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*

Caio Miguel (PSYC). The use of preferred target stimuli on the acquisition of a small foreign vocabulary. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*

Caio Miguel (PSYC). The role of bidirectional naming in the emergence of analogical relations in children. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*

Dong Shen (FACS). Examining the evolution of a discipline through a longitudinal study of its key academic journal. *International Journal of Fashion Design, Technology and Education*

Dong Shen (FACS). Mapping Luxury Fashion Brands in China: An Exploratory Study. *IUP Journal of Brand Management*

Michael Walker (ANTH). Sweet Deal, Bitter Landscape: Gender Politics and Liminality in Tanzania's New Enclosures. *African Studies Review*

Catherine Warren (PSYC). Interpersonal trust and distrust at work: Scale validation and theoretical exploration. *Applied Psychology*

Catherine Warren (PSYC). Development and Validation of the Ambivalent Homoprejudice Toward Lesbian Women at Work Scale. *Sex Roles*

Books or Book Chapters

Itzel Aceves-Azurara (PSYC). Book Chapter. Mothers' Reflections on Generational Changes in Childhood in a Mayan Town: Globalization Challenges to Convivencia/Togetherness

Miguel Barajas (SOC). Book Review. *Masculinities, Migration, and Intergenerational Relations*, by Katie Wright

Anna Daily (POLS). Book Review. *Addiction Becomes Normal: On the Late-Modern American Subject*, by Jaeyoon Park

Sharon Flicker (PSYC). Book Chapter. Addressing Relationship Stigma and Supporting LGBTQ+ Individuals in Consensually Non-Monogamous Relationships. *Addressing Minority Stress and Enhancing Resilience with Diverse LGBTQ+ Clients*

Gabrielle Gonzales (SOC) and Si Gao (ENVS). Book Chapter. Understanding Environmental and Food (In)justice through Community-based Research: Stories from Sacramento Community Coalitions. *Equity in the Urban Built Environment*

Caio Miguel (PSYC). Book Chapter. Teaching Verbal Behavior to Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. *Handbook of Early Intervention for Autism Spectrum Disorders*

Mark Siegler (ECON). Book. An Economic History of the United States:

Connecting the Present with the Past.

Ayanna Yonemura (ETHN). Book. *Women, Wars and Public Policies: from Hostile Shores to Storming Seas*

Other

Lisa Bohon (PSYC). Technical Documentation. Final SEM Materials Codebook

Jonathan Kaplan (ECON) and Ajay Singh (ENVS). Conference paper. The Potential Economic Benefits of Preventative and Mitigating Practices to Manage Citrus Greening Disease in California. 2025 Agriculture and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) & Western Agricultural Economics Association (WAEA) Joint Annual Meeting

Tenure and Promotion

Faculty who received Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor in 2024-2025

David Giguere (Psychology)
William Gow (Ethnic Studies)
Zachary Schudson (Psychology)
Brittany Young (Psychology)

Faculty who received promotion to Full Professor in 2024-2025

Julian Fulton (Environmental Studies)
Tristan Josephson (Women's and Gender Studies)
Casey Knifsend (Psychology)
Anne Luna (Sociology)
Danielle Martin (Political Science)
Andrea Moore (Ethnic Studies)
Heidy Sarabia (Sociology)

Retirements/FERP

Rachel August (Psychology)
Wendy Buchan (FACS)
Michael Dowell (Economics)
Dianne Hyson (Dean's Office)
Donna Jensen (Gerontology)
Vince Latino (Political Science)
Oriel Strickland (Psychology)
Rob Wassmer (PPA)
David Zeanah (Anthropology)

*Publications Sourced from Sac State Scholars

**May not include all authors

Alumni News

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

The College of SSIS had three alumni receive the 2025 Distinguished Service Award from the Sac State Alumni Association:

Ronald K. Fong '83 (Psychology)
Art Pimentel '02 (Social Science)
Peter L. Tateishi '02 (Government)

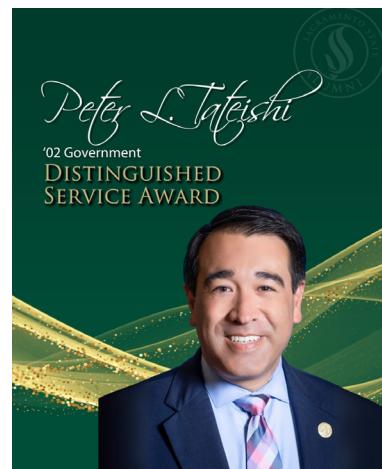
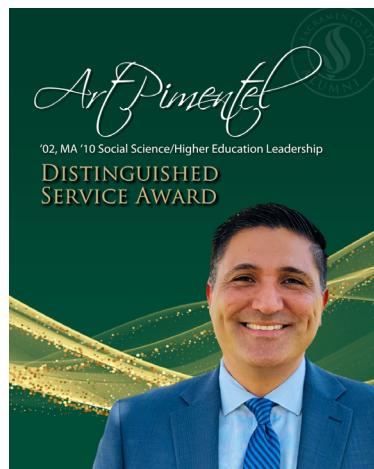
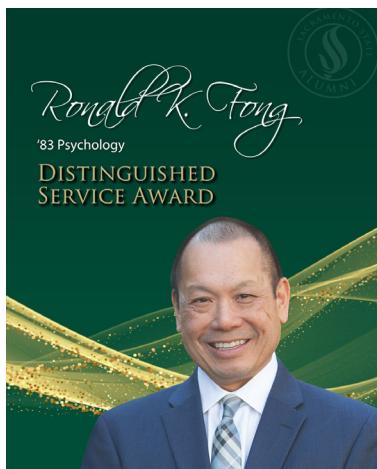
Ron Fong is the current President and CEO of the California Grocers Association (CGA). Under his leadership, CGA has grown into the state's largest grocery association, representing over 300 retailers and 250 suppliers, including national chains, independents, and online grocers. Before joining CGA, he was a lobbyist and worked in both private law and the

Sacramento district Attorney's Office. He holds a BA in Organizational Psychology and a J.D. from New College School of Law.

Art Pimentel serves as President of Folsom Lake College. Under his leadership, the college has seen a 32% increase in enrollment, reflecting significant progress in closing equity gaps for disproportionately impacted student populations. Previously, he served as dean of Sacramento City College's West Sacramento Center and as interim director of educational services and student success for the Los Rios Community College District. He holds a BA in Social Science and an MA in Educational Leadership from Sac State, and a

Doctorate in Education (Ed.D.) from UC Davis.

Peter Tateishi is the CEO of the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of California, the largest AGC chapter in the nation. Under Tateishi's leadership, AGC's revenue has grown by over 150% to \$16 million annually, staff has expanded to 54, and contractor membership has reached record levels, with over 85% engagement. AGC California was recognized as one of the "Best Places to Work" by the Sacramento Business Journal in 2024 and 2025. Tateishi earned a BA in Government from Sac State and an MPA from USC.



Photos courtesy of the Alumni Association

OTHER ALUMNI NEWS*

Krista Bernasconi '99 (Liberal Studies) received a title change from vice mayor to mayor when she was sworn in as Roseville's 59th mayor for a second two-year mayoral term at a special City Council meeting held on December 11, 2024.

Lance Hastings '87 (Economics) was featured in Comstock's "The Way We Work" series, offering a glimpse into the daily life as the president and CEO of the

California Manufacturers & Technology Association.

Blake Johnson '15 (Government) was featured in Comstock's Magazine as the Chief Strategy Officer of Child Action, Inc., the primary conduit for subsidized child care in Sacramento County, providing families access to essential services and early childhood development programs.

Carrie Johnson '09 (Psychology),

executive director of the Rancho Cordova Food Locker, was featured in Comstock's Magazine to discuss the transformation of The Rancho Cordova Food Locker into something unprecedented in the region: the Rancho Cordova Community Food Hub.

Amy E. Brown '10 (Ethnic Studies) was recently hired as the Community Impact Program Manager for the Sacramento Region Community Foundation.

The following alumni were recognized by the Sacramento Business Journal for leadership in their respective fields:
Joshua Wood '05 (Government)
Sheri Peifer '01 (Gerontology)
Carrie Johnson '09 (Psychology)

Ryan Todd '09 (Environmental Studies) was a guest on Sac State's Beyond J podcast, sharing his journey from Environmental Studies student to campus director of Sustainability and Energy.

Erica Costa '19 (Public Policy & Administration), longtime legislative staffer and former Capital Fellow, has been named Director of the Senate Fellowship Program at the Center for California Studies.

Ward Stewart '03 (Government) has been named to The Greater Vallejo Recreation District Board of Directors.

Maria Contreras '05 (Liberal Studies) was featured in the Daily Democrat as teacher of the week for her work in education.

Damon Wright '97 (Psychology) was named superintendent by the SCUSD Board of Trustees.

Antinique Piggee '24 (Family Studies & Human Development) was featured on Inside CDCR for her post-incarceration success.

Gena Castro Rodriguez '93 (Psychology) has been appointed to the Board of State and Community Corrections.

Blake Johnson '15 (Government) was recognized in the Sacramento Business Journal's 2025 40 under 40 list.

Three of our students were recognized in The OBSERVER's 30 under 30: A New Generation of Black Excellence:

Kamiya Turner '23 (Family Studies and Human Development)

Khalil Ferguson '19 (Government/International Relations)

George Harris '23 (Government)

John Valencia, founder of lobbying firm Valencia Government Relations Inc., announced the promotion of **Alex Khan '10 (Government)** to principal and the rebranding of the lobbying firm to

Valencia Khan Government Relations. Khan is a season lobbyist, attorney, and government relations specialist who has worked at the firm for the last five years as a senior legislative advocate.

Hornet-Owned Business Highlights

ABC Berries & Sweets LLC
Alumni: **Amber Allen '19 (Social Sciences)**
Position: Owner

KNB Sport Performance LLC
Alumni: **Kayla Bryson '20 (Psychology)**
Position: Owner/Founder



*Alumni info retrieved from the Alumni Association

Development Corner

With 4,946 students in the College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies, our community is vibrant, determined, and academically strong—the average GPA in SSIS is above a 3.0. Yet half of our students are Pell Grant eligible, demonstrating exceptional financial need, and more than half identify as underrepresented minorities. Many of our students balance long commutes, multiple jobs, and family responsibilities in order to pursue their degrees. Their dedication is extraordinary, and with your support, we can ensure they have the resources necessary to thrive.

Supporting one of our many scholarship funds is one powerful way to lift up the next generation of SSIS alumni, but there are many other meaningful ways to make a difference. You can join the Dean's Circle, providing unrestricted support that fuels innovation in the classroom; let us know if you have included the College of SSIS in your estate plans; or reconnect with campus by joining the Sacramento State Alumni Association. Your engagement—whether through giving, mentorship, or involvement—helps strengthen the path to graduation for every student in our college. Thank you for supporting their success and shaping the future of SSIS.

Email Rebekah Rabiroff at r.rabiroff@csus.edu to learn more or use the QR code to connect.



Sacramento State/Bibiana Ortiz



Scan to contact Rebekah



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Marya Endriga
INTERIM DEAN

Aaron Eichenberger
COLLEGE RESOURCE ANALYST

Marsha Robinson
DEAN'S ASSISTANT/HR ANALYST

Heather Mummaw
MARKETING AND OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

Anne Montgomery
TRAVEL/SCHOLARSHIP COORDINATOR

Rodrigo da Silva
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT COORDINATOR

Mayrose Acob
SENIOR GRADUATION AND RETENTION COORDINATOR

PaHoua Lee
STUDENT SUCCESS COORDINATOR

Aurelia Hayes
INTEGRATED ADVISOR

Ryan Arndt
LEAD INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANT

Jordan Etter
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANT

Lynn Hanna
Young-im Lee
Sujatha Moni
Emily Wickelgren
FACULTY FELLOWS



SACRAMENTO STATE
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES



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The College of SSIS wants to hear from you! If you would like to receive more information or you wish to contribute to a story or news item, contact Heather Mummaw at mummawh@csus.edu