



College of SSIS Newsletter

Fall 2016

Volume III
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Designed by: Heather Mumma

Dear Friends of the College of SSIS,

Here's hoping all of you have had a happy and healthy Summer. Time has flown, as last month marked the completion of my second full year as Dean. I am reminded every day by the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff, what a marvelous College I have the privilege of leading. As I write to you, the campus is gearing up for the new school year and all the "hurly burly" that comes with 30,000+ students descending on campus, the return of our faculty, and all the many wonderful activities and events that take place on campus. It will be a fantastic new school year!

Here are some highlights on what's been going on in the College since the last Newsletter:

1. There have been some significant developments with our Downtown School of Public Affairs project. Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will see a picture and write-up about the future home for the downtown school! The planning work for the downtown school continues through our very talented Downtown School of Public Affairs Planning Task Force, its Executive Work Group offshoot, and six subcommittees, with each subcommittee focusing on a particular aspect of the school's operations. I am personally very excited about the University's move downtown and our College taking the lead in helping the University live into its mission of being the "Capital University";

2. I have great news on the faculty hiring front. First, later this month we are welcoming six new permanent faculty to the College – Dr. Anne Luna Gordinier (Sociology), Dr. Jacqueline Brooks (Sociology), Dr. Heidi Sarabia (Sociology), Dr. Urvashi Mulasi (Family & Consumer Sciences) and Dr. Sara Kross (Environmental Studies). We also want to welcome again Dr. Julian Fulton (Environmental Studies), who joined us last January and will be starting his first full school year with us later this month. We are thrilled to have these six very talented new faculty. In addition, I am very pleased to report that the College has received authorization to hire 15 permanent faculty members this coming year, who we will welcome to the campus in August, 2017;

3. Work is actively underway to plan the start-up of a trans-disciplinary center on race, ethnicity, and immigration. Back in the Spring, a planning task force was formed, which is co-led by Dr. Manuel Barajas (Sociology) and Dr. Rita Cameron-Wedding (Women's Studies and Ethnic Studies). The task force will work this next year on academic and business plans for the center. I expect this center, once launched, will



Örn Bodvarsson, Dean

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Dean's Message cont'd

have a major impact on our students, the campus, and state.

4. Congratulations to Dr. Jacob Fisher (Anthropology) on his tenure and promotion to Associate Professor, and to Drs. Julie Figueroa (Ethnic Studies) and James Rae (Government) for their promotions to Professor. We also welcome Dr. Sujatha Moni to her new assignment as Chair of the Department of Women's Studies and the return to another term of chair's duties for Dr. Bohsiu Wu (Sociology) and Dr. Jeff Foran (Environmental Studies). Many thanks to Dr. Rita Cameron-Wedding for her outstanding work leading the Department of Women's Studies. Finally, earlier this year our Dean's Office welcomed Anne Montgomery to our group. Anne, formerly a staff member in the Department of Environmental Studies, is assisting our

College with management of faculty and staff travel and assisting me with my external fundraising work. We're delighted to have Anne join us here in Amador Hall 255.

There's plenty more news to read about in the next pages. I look forward to updating you on our downtown school and other projects in the next Newsletter. It's always a pleasure to hear from alumni, friends, and retired faculty. Please send us your news. Thanks as always to all those who have generously supported us in the past. I am grateful for any form of support for the College of SSIS. Thank you and here's to a great Fall!

Örn Bodvarsson



2016 Nobel Peace Prize Forum

The College of SSIS and Department of Government sent ten students and five faculty to Minneapolis, Minnesota in June to attend the Nobel Peace Prize Forum. Each year the annual event highlights the work of a recent Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. This year the Nobel Laureate was Kailash Satyarthi, an anti-child labor activist from India, who received the prize in 2014. Students and faculty were able to participate in talks, workshops, and films presented by Mr. Satyarthi and other global leaders on these issues, including representatives from non-governmental organizations, the United States government, the United Nations, and private business. The ten Sac State Peace Scholar students were selected through a competitive process and hope to organize events here on campus related to the Nobel Peace Prize.



L to R: Ashlynn Weaver, David Andersen-Rodgers, Nick Millan, Sumedha Satyarthi, Ivan Tiet, Ernest Uwazie, Alexandra Denne, Johnnie Pina, Kailash Satyarthi, Greg Kim-Ju, Boatamo Mosupyoe, Data Barata, Micaiah Palmer, Melanie Flores, Sania Kandhro. Delegates missing from photo: Eustanik Blanco, Brenda Martinez, and Vannessa LaLonde

Coming Soon! Downtown School of Public Affairs

In previous Newsletters, you've been hearing about the college's plans for a downtown school of public affairs. This signature project took a very important step in May, when the University announced that it had purchased a building at 304 S Street in downtown Sacramento, one mile from the State Capitol. This 30,000 square-foot building, built in 1990, has three floors and is across the street from the CALPERS headquarters. Approximately 2/3 of the building will be occupied by various policy-focused units of the College, with the remainder comprising elements from the College of Business, the College of Arts & Letters, and the College of Continuing Education. There is much excitement both on- and off-campus about Sacramento State's plans to plant a flag downtown and be a high quality resource to the Sacramento policy community and region. The downtown school will help position Sacramento State to be the leading higher education partner of California state government and local governments in the Sacramento region, as well as a



national leader among universities located in state capitals.

The Downtown School of Public Affairs will enhance quality of life in the Sacramento region by

- Providing greater access for students, the policy community, and the public to the University's policy resources
- Creating synergies from locating the university's policy assets together in one location downtown
- Making available a "one-stop shop" for training, service, and public outreach
- Offering a transformative civic experience to students
- Helping to make Sac State more competitive and visible

Over the coming months, the Downtown School of Public Affairs Task Force will complete its work planning for the start-up and operationalization of the school in its home downtown. You'll be kept posted in future issues of this Newsletter, as well as media channels and the Web. Stay tuned!

Dean's Honor Award Winners for Spring 2016



Jennifer Herring
Undergraduate
Dean's Honor
Awardee

Jennifer Herring graduated in May with her Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies. Jennifer took the long road to get to where she is, taking classes off and on for 13 years while raising a family and working

before she went to school full time. She maintained a 4.0 GPA during her time at Sac State, while raising two children, including a son with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Jennifer also gave back to the community, including organizing monthly barbecues for homeless people and working part-time as a Children's Ministry Director tutoring kids of diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. Jennifer feels her calling is to help people, specifically teaching children who come from households and backgrounds where there have been barriers and difficulties. Jennifer has been accepted into the University of the Pacific and Aspire Public Schools where she will receive a Multi-Subject Teaching Credential and MA in Curriculum and Instruction.

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Dean's Awardees Cont'd

Bethany Renfree came to Sacramento State in 2010 as a high school dropout and a single mother of five school-age children; she graduated following an exceptional career as an Undergraduate Student in the Department of Government. She followed quickly by earning an MA in 2016. She earned a position as a Senate Fellow, where her work in the legislature led to her current position as Policy Director of the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, where she has been instrumental in maintaining and expanding state resources supporting single mothers. She has been an active member of her local community,

Bethany Renfree Graduate Dean's Honor Awardee



serving on the Amador County Health Advisory Board and the Community College Scholarship program of the American Association of University Women.

College Sponsors Climate Change Conference in April



From L to R: Annalise Metzger, Terrence Adelsbach, Matt Owens, Ericka Picazo-Soto, Zachary Frese, Christina Munguia, Austin Dunn, Dr. Michelle Stevens, Sam Palmquist, Rebecca Fox, Lucas Sanchez, Andrew Hawkins, Juana Sanchez, and Megan Weiss

Sacramento State and the Institute on Science for Global Policy (ISGP) hosted a key Climate Change Conference April 10-11, 2016. "Water and Fire: Impacts of Climate Change" was a unique and timely conference to connect science, policy, and local climate change. Sponsored by the College of SSIS and the Provosts Office, over 200 people from the local community attended the event at the Sacramento State campus. Fourteen students participated in an interdisciplinary spring semester class to plan and participate in the spring conference taught by Dr. Michelle Stevens, Environmental Studies Department, using the Academic Partnership Model (IAP) between ISGP and Sacramento State. A Climate Change Committee of campus faculty and administrators helped to plan and implement the conference. On April

10th, three internationally recognized scientists engaged in debate with 40 representatives from academia, science, industry, advocacy, and government about water, wildfire, and fish policy in light of changing climate concerns. The featured scientists were: Dr. Roger Bales (UC Merced), Dr. Jon E. Keeley (US Geological Survey), and Dr. Christina Swanson (Natural Resources Defense Council). The first day ended with dinner and a talk by Dr. Frank Kanawha Lake, a research scientist with the U.S. Forest Service, on The Role of Tribal Knowledge Systems in Collaborative Approaches for Addressing Climate, Fire and Water Research and Management. Music was provided by the band The Excursions. On April 11th, audience members and debaters gathered in small group caucuses and a final plenary session to identify areas of consensus and actionable next steps on each of the conference topics of fire, fish and water. Chief Ken Pimlott, Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, was the featured luncheon speaker. Also on the agenda was a 13- minute prequel film on mega-fires, "The Fire Next Door," by film maker Stephen Most and director Kevin White. A short video on sustainability at Sac State was also presented to showcase the campus. We plan to continue building our reputation as a regional climate hub with future collaborations, conferences and speaking engagements between our University faculty, the iWEST Center, and the larger Sacramento community. The final conference conclusions will be published by the ISGP.

Government Student Windy Ly Awarded Prestigious Internship

Windy Ly, Government major, minor in Economics, was nominated by President Nelsen for the prestigious Panetta Congressional Internship program. The Panetta Institute was founded in 1997 by Leon and Sylvia Panetta and partners with the CSU system, Dominican University of California, St. Mary's College, and Santa Clara University. The Congressional Internship Program begins in mid-August with a two-week course at the Institute and will continue through mid-November.

Ly is a native San Franciscan who came to Sacramento to pursue her political interests. "Sac State means opportunity for immense personal growth, long-lasting friendships, and professional development through the people you meet and clubs/organizations you participate in. It's home," says Ly.

Photo by Jessica Vernone



While at Sac State, Ly was very active in Government's Odyssey Mentoring Program, serving as its Student

Coordinator as well as having been a mentee and mentor of the program. She also served as a General Education and Government Peer Advisor for the Academic Resource Center. She was President of the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity and volunteered at the Community Engagement Center.

President Nelsen had this to say about Ly in his nomination letter: "I believe Ms. Ly will bring her demonstrated leadership skills and commitment to excellence to Washington D.C., serving as a role model for her peers. She has aspirations of working in the political and policy realm to

help others, and sees this opportunity as a way to further those goals."

Family and Consumer Science Student Receives Outstanding Award

Family and Consumer Sciences' Family Studies program had this year's recipient of the Student Award for Outstanding Community Engagement.

Senior Summer Wright, a FACS major in the Family Studies concentration, is this year's recipient of the University's Student Award for Outstanding Community Engagement. Honored at the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Community Engagement Center on May 5, 2016, the award was presented by Dr. Ann Moylan, who supervised Summer in fall 2015 in FACS 162, Family Support Services, a service learning course. This course places students in service learning positions throughout the Sacramento area with schools and agencies that provide support to families in any number of ways. Students gain hands-on experience working with diverse families from many different cultures and life experiences.

Summer's service learning was with the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency

(NCADD). NCADD provides, among other programs, a community-based program entitled Strengthening Families, which has components for the children/youth, for the parent(s), and for the parent and child together. This is the ideal model for family support services, simultaneously serving multiple family members and focusing on family relationships. Supervised at NCADD by Angela Da Re, Summer went from being a service learning student with NCADD in fall 2015, to having a paid position with NCADD as a team leader in spring 2016, and has already been promoted to site coordinator with NCADD. Service learning is a great example of a "high-impact" practice, which the university embraces as a means to promote student engagement and career success. Summer Wright provides a great example of what can happen when a student embraces the opportunity to connect to the community, learns about family strengths and family challenges, and in turn learns more about oneself in the process.

Bushy Lake Restoration and Environmental Education Project

Through a contract with the Sacramento County Parks Department, Dr. Michelle Stevens and the Environmental Studies Department is now completing the Bushy Lake Restoration and Environmental Education Project which is a wetland/riparian restoration, monitoring, and citizen science/community education project (Stevens et al., 2015). Students from the restoration ecology class spring semester engaged in high impact learning through restoration experimental design, implementation and adaptive management. A new grant was awarded to the Bushy Lake Project to extend this research that will increase environmental education and public engagement at the site. Given its ecological significance, its proximity to Sacramento State and Cal Expo, and to a large number of people who use the riverway for recreational purposes, Bushy Lake is well-suited to supporting public, passive, outdoor recreational, environmental education and STEM activities requiring the use of natural wildlife habitat and an environment preserved for its “naturalness.” Through this project Sacramento State faculty will create background materials for passive recreation and science/

environmental education with the aim of building future stewardship and a community land ethic. The longer term goal is to reach more broadly and teach the public, recreational users and children about a precious living laboratory in our backyard. Citizen science and self-guided recreation activities will allow people to see the natural resources Bushy Lake offers, including refugia for western pond turtles during high water, denning river otters, and the songs of birds passing and soaring through the seasons and the years.



Scholarship Corner

Department	Student Recipient	Scholarship Awarded
Anthropology	Paul Allgaier	Richard H. Reeve Scholarship
Anthropology	Dayna Barrios	George Rich Graduate Scholarship
Anthropology	Benjamin Gwerder	John. W. Connor Scholarship
Environmental Studies	Evan Gallant	Patrick James Dugal Memorial Scholarship
Environmental Studies	Bethany Rader	Patrick James Dugal Memorial Scholarship
Environmental Studies	Josilynn Spray	Patrick James Dugal Memorial Scholarship
Environmental Studies	Kristy M Vang	Patrick James Dugal Memorial Scholarship
Ethnic Studies	Matthew Brady	Native American Studies Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation Scholarship
Ethnic Studies	Brei Davis	Native American Studies Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation Scholarship
Ethnic Studies	Marissa Ledesma	Native American Studies Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation Scholarship
Ethnic Studies	Ivan Tiet	Native American Studies Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation Scholarship
Ethnic Studies	Karisa Watters	Native American Studies Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation Scholarship
FACS	Theresa Truong	Apparel, Marketing and Design Scholarship
Gerontology	Rebecca Mejia	Renaissance Scholarship
Psychology	Maria Cordeiro	Applied Behavior Consultants Scholarship
Psychology	Kevin David	June Gersten Memorial Scholarship
Psychology	Ashneek Nanua	McConnell Family Psychology Scholarship

Cont'd on next page

Scholarship Corner cont'd

Department	Student Recipient	Scholarship Awarded
Psychology	Berenice Pimental-Lopez	Douglas Michell Memorial Scholarship
Psychology	Bianca Sprouse	Duane E.C. Johnson Scholarship
Sociology	Kristina Gonzales	Al-Qazzaz Outstanding Student Award
Sociology	Sabrina Ward	Al-Qazzaz Outstanding Student Award
College of SSIS	Dejamarie Crozier	Otis L. Scott Scholarship
College of SSIS	Kayla Lee	Otis L. Scott Scholarship

Cooper-Woodson College Enhancement Program Scholarships

Kya Hunter	Yanni Bullock	Sarah Williams	Jasmine Duncan
Kamille Byrd	Shaquille Fisher	Octavia Burnett	Bianca Goodson
Monique Graham	Monica Sanders	Sabrina Harrell	Danarsha Santel-Johnson
Semaj Hornbuckle	Kyerra Weldon	Aarolind Hoskin	Ayesha Harris
Natisha Livingston	Wayne Tucker	Ashlyn Weaver	Nyakoach Lam
Kewana Veal	Akili Terry	Abigail Williams	Camilla Avugwi

Model United Nations (UN) Students Receive Several Awards



This past March during the week of spring break the Government Department's Model United Nations (UN) delegation traveled to New York to participate in the 2016 National Model UN conference. The students earned several awards in recognition of their hard work.

Overall Outstanding Delegation Award

Ryan Brennan	Olena Kondratyuk
Kevin Bursey	Casey O'Connor
Kyle Cabral	Ryan Perez
Patrick Dorsey	Jennifer Reilly
Myles Duran-McFall	Joshua Terry
Taylor Forman	Colin Treanor
Aaron Hagan	Fabio Votta
Joseph Hearn	Tatsiana Williams
Lia Hen	

Outstanding Position Paper Award

UN-Habitat III: Casey O'Connor, Ryan Brennan
UNEP: Joshua Terry, Myles Duran-McFall
HRC: Aaron Hagan, Taylor Foreman
WHO: Colin Treanor, Olena Kondratyuk

Best Delegates in Committee Award

ECLAC: Patrick Dorsey, Ryan Perez
UNEP: Joshua Terry, Myles Duran-McFall
HRC: Aaron Hagan, Taylor Foreman

Sacramento State Receives Close to \$900K Grant for Student Project

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Sacramento State with a five-year, \$895,326 grant to launch a project for student researchers. The project is called Pathways: Successful Transitions To and Through Higher Education and is intended to create training programs that will develop a more diverse field of education researchers. Sac State is only one of four universities nationwide that has received this funding from the Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences.

Tim Fong (Ethnic Studies) and Su Jin Jez (Public Policy & Administration) will serve as principal investigators for the project. Tim Fong said in a written statement, "The most pressing issue in education today is the 'achievement gap' or the disparity in academic performance between different groups of students.

The achievement gap shows up in grades, standardized-test scores, course selection, dropout rates and college-completion rates, among other success measures."

This grant will allow for as many as 60 fellows, chosen from upper-level undergraduate and master's degree students, to work closely with a group of faculty mentors for two semesters and apprentice at a policy-and-research center during the summer. These fellows will be drawn primarily from organizations and programs that support minority populations at Sacramento State. The students may pursue their own research interests or work with the faculty on their current projects.

The program is scheduled to begin in January.

Staff Participate in Out of the Darkness Walk

On April 5th, 2016 Sacramento State hosted its 5th Annual Out of the Darkness Walk. Out of the Darkness is a charitable walk put on by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. This foundation is a non-profit organization that seeks to provide understanding and prevention of suicide and to bring awareness and education about mental disorders.

The College of SSIS staff created a fundraising team as a way to participate in a campus event for teambuilding purposes. They felt that this was a worthy cause, as so many college students (approximately 1,100) die by suicide each year and there are many people on the college campus who are either directly or indirectly affected by mental illness or suicide.

The SSIS staff set a team goal to raise \$500 and exceeded that by raising \$600! The team had 20 participants, some of which were virtual walkers who didn't walk, but who set a personal fundraising goal to raise funds for the team's total.

President Nelsen was present at the walk to speak to participants about the importance of suicide prevention and awareness on college campuses. He lost his own son to suicide, so he has a very personal connection to events like this and is very supportive of them. President Nelsen was even there to pose with the



From R to L: President Nelsen, Debbie James, Jody Nelsen, Ana Gutierrez, Michelle Tarter, Sandy Bernard, Marsha Robinson, Sydney Adams, Heather Mummaw, Dawn Adams, Pat Hughes, Laura Emerson

staff for a picture (see above)!

The SSIS staff hope to continue to participate in this event on an annual basis and hope to raise more funds, get more participants, and generally raise more awareness about the mental health of college students.

New Year, New Faces: New Tenure Track Faculty for the College

Sara Kross Environmental Studies



Sara Kross will join the Environmental Studies Department as an Assistant Professor. Sara is a conservation biologist, agroecologist, and ornithologist and has been based at UC Davis for the past three years. There she was a David H. Smith Conservation Research Postdoctoral Fellow working on ecosystem services provided by birds for farmers. She then was a Postdoctoral Scholar working on a project to evaluate the ability of barn owls to control rodent pests in agriculture. Originally from New York City, Sara did her Ph.D at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. She received her master's degree at St. Andrews University in Scotland, and her undergraduate work at Cornell University in New York. Sara conducts research utilizing multidisciplinary methods to better understand how individual animals and wildlife communities interact with anthropogenic landscapes, and has a strong track record of incorporating undergraduate students into her field research. She is looking forward to joining Sacramento State and to developing

research collaborations and co-teaching opportunities with other faculty in SSIS. When she's not in the field or in front of a computer, Sara spends her time traveling, hiking, and trying to keep up with her young son Lachlan.

Urvashi Mulasi Family and Consumer Sciences



Urvashi Mulasi is excited to join the Family and Consumer Sciences Department. Urvashi completed her doctoral degree in Nutrition with a minor in Psychology from the University of Minnesota (UMN). As a Registered Dietitian, Urvashi is passionate about nutritional sciences and believes in incorporating evidence-based practices in her teaching and research. She has experience in teaching at the UMN's Didactic Program in Dietetics for over six years.

Urvashi's research interests involve assessment of nutritional status using comprehensive approaches such as nutrition-focused physical examination, body composition, dietary intake methodology,

anthropometry, and functional status evaluation. In particular, she is interested in timely identification of malnutrition and clinical implications of malnutrition in chronic diseases such as cancer. Urvashi's doctoral dissertation identified the prevalence of malnutrition among individuals with advanced head and neck cancers using the recent Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition Consensus Statement on diagnosing malnutrition. Urvashi admires the nature of interdisciplinary and collaborative research endeavors and hopes to extend her research at Sacramento State investigating nutritional aspects in clinical and healthy populations.

Urvashi is originally from India, and in her leisure time she enjoys cooking Asian Indian meals. Urvashi hasn't visited California before - she is excited to explore the city of Sacramento!

Jacqueline Brooks Sociology



Jacqueline Brooks received her Ph.D in 2008 from Ohio State University. She has taught Ethnic and Race Relations, Research Design and Analysis, and Social Inequalities at various universities including

New Faces Cont'd

Sacramento State. Her current scholarship deals with minority group opposition and challenges to white race consciousness. Being an Army veteran, she is interested in mentoring veteran students. In Fall 2016, she is slated to teach Research Methods.

Anne Luna-Gordinier Sociology



Anne Luna-Gordinier received her Ph.D in 2014 from Howard University and she also has a JD degree from University of Arizona in 2004. Prior to coming to Sacramento State, she was a visiting professor at Susquehanna University. She has taught Women and Social Movements, Qualitative Research Methods, Environmental Justice, and Sociology of Poverty.

She has conducted funded projects related to Native American concerns. In Fall 2016, she is slated to teach Sociological Theories and Gender.

Heidy Sarabia Sociology



Heidy Sarabia received her Ph.D in 2014 from University of California, Berkeley. Prior to coming to Sacramento State, she was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. She has taught Latinos in American Life and Culture, Sociological Theory, Sociology of Globalization, and Social Statistics. She is currently completing her book project on Illegality in the Borderlands. In Fall 2016, she is slated to teach Statistics and Sociological Theory.

Center Highlights

ISR is partnering with Valley Vision, a nonprofit that focused on bringing people together to address pressing issues facing Sacramento and the region, to build a regional survey panel, similar to our statewide CALSPEAKS panel. Through this partnership, Valley Vision/ISR will conduct quarterly surveys designed to inform public decisionmaking.

ISR partnering with several faculty on campus (Jennie Singer, Criminal Justice; Rebecca Cameron, Psychology; Arturo Baiocchi, Social Work) to conduct a mental health cost inventory for Sacramento County.

ISR just completed the annual report for our evaluation of the CSU system's (NSF funded) Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program, which aims to improve persistence in STEM disciplines among underrepresented minority college students.

EdInsights received a \$1.1 million line item in the state budget to run a CSU student success network. This network functions to run a Student Success Lab, conduct foundational research in the CSU, hold convenings, and disseminate key findings to help drive reforms in the CSU. It will seek to strengthen "horizontal" connectivity among campuses as well "vertical" connectivity between campuses, the Chancellor's Office, and the State. Ultimately the goal is to raise four-year completion rates and close achievement gaps.

Welcome, New Faculty!

Faculty/Staff/Student Highlights

Associate Professor Mary Kirlin (PPA) is putting her skills to work in Yolo County this year. On leave from the University, she is helping the County's Health and Human Services Agency integrate three departments into one Agency. She is working on strategy and communications and special projects such as improving the contracts processes. As part of her portfolio, she is also assisting the County Administrator's office in its efforts to have more departments utilize performance measurement strategies. Dr. Kirlin is especially pleased to work closely with five alumni from the PPA department who work for the County. She will return to campus in January 2017.

Professor Rob Wassmer (PPA) completed his sabbatical in the fall of 2015 in which he further examined the economics of urban sprawl. The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy published his working paper (see https://www.lincolninst.edu/pubs/3652_Further-Empirical-Evidence-on-Property-Taxation-and-the-Occurrence-of-Urban-Sprawl) and partially funded his work as part of the David C. Lincoln Fellowship. Professor Wassmer presented his research at the fall 2015 meeting of the National Tax Association in Boston, spring 2016 meeting of American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association meeting in DC, and the summer 2016 meeting of International Institute of Public Finance in South Lake Tahoe.

Professor Pat Chirapravati of the Asian Studies Program and Art Department, and currently serving as a visiting professor at Yale-NUS College in Singapore, was recently highlighted by the Association for Asian Studies for her work on religious icons and the interpretation of religious practices and texts from art work in Southeast Asia. She has served as an executive member of the Southeast Asian Council (SEAC) with the association since 2014, the first CSU faculty member elected to the Council. In her roles as Director (2008-2014) and Vice-Director (2014-present), Professor Chirapravati has helped the Asian Studies Program grow to a program that now offers both a Major and a Minor in Asian Studies and includes three concentrations, China, Japan, and South and Southeast Asia, with a fourth concentration in Korean coming later this year. In partnership with the World Languages Department, the

Asian Studies Program supports five languages: Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Sikh, and Thai—the latter of which is supported by the Royal Thai Embassy (in Washington).

Professor Kristin Van Gaasbeck (ECON) will be on a Fulbright Scholar grant in Fall 2016. She will be teaching international finance and policy in the graduate program at the University of Economics in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Over the past four-years, **Professor Jonathan Kaplan** (ECON) has been a member of a transdisciplinary research team funded through a United States Department of Agriculture, Specialty Crop Research Initiative grant investigating trunk and vine diseases in California perennial crops. Most recently, this research resulted in a co-authored paper on “The Role of Pest Control Advisers in Preventative Management of Grapevine Trunk Diseases,” published in the refereed journal *Phytopathology*. This paper was awarded the Editor's Pick for the journal issue in which it appeared.

In May, **Professor David Lang** (ECON) presented his TEDx talk, “Allow Me to Introduce You to Yourself,” at the Mondavi Center in Davis. His talk is now available online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYPXXlwlV4o>.

Professor Julian Fulton (ENVS) was invited to attend a communications workshop on “California's Water Future” May 10-11, hosted by Compass and UC Santa Barbara's Bren School of Environmental Science and Management. A total of 19 water scientists from different disciplines, regions of California, and career stages attended, along with journalists from NPR and other media outlets, as well as several people active in water policy making at the state and federal levels. The goal of the workshop was to convey complex scientific findings as easy-to-grasp messages that can help create a more sustainable water future for California. The Compass staff trained scientists with communication tools such as the “elevator pitch” and the “message box,” and emphasized the concept of “silo-busting,” that is, learning to engage a wider audience than those in our scientific disciplines. Dr. Fulton and the other scientists gained better exposure to the core meaning of each others' work and also the tools to convey their own work more confidently and meaningfully to

Cont'd on next page

Highlights cont'd

journalists and policy makers in their careers.

Associate Professor Michelle Stevens (ENVS) published a paper that has gotten good reviews: Al-Mudaffar Fawzi, N., Goodwin, K. P., Mahdi, B. A., & Stevens, M. L. (2016). Effects of Mesopotamian Marsh (Iraq) desiccation on the cultural knowledge and livelihood of Marsh Arab women. *Ecosystem Health and Sustainability*, 2(3).

The California Higher Education Sustainability Conference (CHESC) presented an award in the category for Sustainable Food Systems to ENVS professors, **Drs. Dudley Burton and Brook Murphy**, for their work in a Multi-trophic Food Production System Integrating Aquaponics with Bio-waste Recycling. This ambitious project, housed in STORC, was designed to be a working model of a sustainable system, providing education and community outreach opportunities on the principles of sustainability. The working demonstration of a MTSS uses bio-wastes (green brown, and food waste) diverted from landfills as a resource to produce high quality protein feed through vermicomposting and insect farming to raise fish and plants for human consumption. The project measures the quantities of wastes diverted, the conversion efficiency to protein feed, and the quantities of food generated. It also provides internship and research opportunities for ENVS students.

Kim Nalder and **Danielle Martin** co-authored a blog hosted by the London School of Economics on the

2016 Election.

<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/usappblog/2016/07/22/the-two-hillary-clintons-how-supporters-and-detectors-describe-the-democratic-nominee/>

Three graduate students from the Department of Psychology's Applied Behavior Analysis program received awards at the California Association for Behavior Analysis conference held February 26-28, 2016 in Santa Clara, CA. The awards are sponsored by the B.F. Skinner Foundation and are for either research proposals or completed studies. **Emily Darcey**, and **Careen Meyer** are the recipients of the two annual B.F. Skinner Foundation Research Awards for research proposals. **Kelli Hill** is one of two recipients of the annual Julie Vargas Research Award for completed studies.

Professor Seunghee Wie (FACS) was awarded the Women of Influence Award in the Outstanding Faculty category and was honored at a ceremony on March 15th where Jody Nelson, President Nelson's wife, delivered the keynote speech.

Support SSIS by making a gift!
Please contact Jaqueline Ervin,
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ervin@saclink.csus.edu
OR at 916-278-2453



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