



# College of SSIS Newsletter

Fall 2023  
Volume X, Issue 1

The 2023-24 academic year has been a whirlwind of mixed happenings, opportunities, and challenges. The excitement of a new President and leadership team, bringing inspiring initiatives and plans, has been tempered with the realities of a troubled world and issues confronting higher education



on a local and broad scale. In these moments, it becomes important to remind ourselves of the reasons behind our work. On so many days, amid the greater chaos, I am grateful to work on this campus. In particular, I am thankful to be in our College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies where a deep commitment to understanding, studying, and improving humanity is shared by so many. I also have the joy and honor, as the Dean, to see how intentional we are in our efforts to support students. This labor of love extends beyond our excellence in the classroom, as highlighted in our fall 2023 newsletter. This newsletter showcases

the range of contributions from growing the number of student scholarships, to community engagement activities, impressive scholarly achievements, ongoing work to foster an inclusive and equitable environment, and welcoming talented new personnel to the college. Faculty and staff are demonstrating growing leadership in connecting students to resources, developing innovative educational approaches, and supporting mental health and other needs. Thank you to our generous donors and others who continue to uplift our activities and support our work, including gifts that expand applied learning and paid experiential opportunities for students. I also acknowledge the growing workload of faculty and staff and the need to balance these demands with personal well-being. Now, more than ever, supporting each other, fostering a sense of community and belonging, and coming together in various ways is needed. Acknowledging the importance of shared stories and experiences, we celebrated a successful fall welcome gathering and convocation in September, in a beautiful new location on campus. I enjoyed seeing so many smiling faces. Be on the watch for other positive gatherings on the horizon. In the meantime, please enjoy reading about our shared community in the following pages. Thank you for all you do and your continued commitment to the cherished calling of education for a better future.

## Inside This Issue

- New Faces.....2
- Faculty Awards .....5
- Students in Leadership .....7
- DEI Activities .....9
- Made at Sac State .....14



Photos from the Fall 2023 SSIS Convocation

# New Faces in the College

## New Faculty

### Justin Wu Asian Studies



Dr. Justin Wu joins the Asian Studies Program as an Assistant Professor. He completed his B.S. in Psychology and History at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and he earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in Asian History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He studies modern East Asian history, with an emphasis on Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, and China. He is particularly interested in nationalism, identity formation, social movement, pan-Asianism, (anti-) colonialism, and global connections. He is also a devout football (soccer) fan and a lifelong supporter of AC Milan.

### Giselle Cunanan Ethnic Studies



Dr. Giselle Dejamco Cunanan joins the Asian American Studies program in the Department of Ethnic Studies as an Assistant Professor. She earned

a doctorate in American Studies with a minor in Sociology from Indiana University Bloomington. Her research documents the racial labor of student activism and examines organizers' struggles to institutionalize ethnic studies. Giselle earned a master's degree in Ethnic Studies from San Francisco State University where she also taught for Pin@y Educational Partnerships, a service-learning organization that develops and trains teachers in ethnic studies critical pedagogy. Her broader research interests examine the afterlives of empire as it relates to U.S.-based Filipinx.

### Rachel Lim Ethnic Studies



Dr. Rachel Lim joins the Asian American Studies program in the Department of Ethnic Studies as an Assistant Professor. Her research engages Asian/American and Latina/o/x migration from a transnational framework, with an emphasis on diaspora, citizenship, gender, and comparative race and ethnicity. She received her Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies from the University of California, Berkeley and has written for multiple scholarly and popular venues, including *The Journal of Asian American Studies*, *Oxford Bibliographies*, *Verge: Studies in Global Asias*, and *The Washington Post*. Her current book project, *Itinerant Belonging: Korean Transnational Migration to and from Mexico*, examines the serial migrations of Koreans in the Americas.

### Jasmine Wade Ethnic Studies



Dr. Jasmine Wade joins the Pan African Studies program in the Department of Ethnic Studies as an Assistant Professor. She earned her doctorate from UC Davis in Cultural Studies. Jasmine's research examines lessons from Black and Indigenous science fiction and fantasy and the different ways we can think about those lessons and the struggles of Black and Indigenous communities as different but connected. She's working on a book that connects Black and Indigenous science fiction and fantasy to the manifestos of social movements. Jasmine is excited to teach classes on Black lives around the world, Black feminism, and Black film and literature.

### Ciobha McKeown Psychology



Dr. Ciobha McKeown joins the Psychology Department as an Assistant Professor with a specialty in Behavior Analysis. Prior to joining Sacramento State, Ciobha



developed a short-term, intensive early intervention program at University of Florida Health's Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment. As such, Ciobha's research is focused in improving the quality of care of neurodiverse children. She also is passionate about extending behavior analytic methodology to infants with an elevated likelihood of being diagnosed with a neurodevelopmental disorder.

### **Catherine Warren Psychology**



Dr. Catherine Warren joins the Department of Psychology as an Assistant Professor with a specialty in Industrial/Organizational Psychology. She received her B.A. and M.S. from California State University, Long Beach, and her Ph.D. from the Florida Institute of Technology. Her research includes two primary streams: teams research and diversity, equity, and inclusion research (DEI); however, she has recently begun researching the long-neglected intersection between teams and DEI. Her research has primarily focused on women in the workplace, experiences of marginalized employees, team composition, trust in teams, and team dynamics.

### **Christopher Rogers Sociology**



Dr. Christopher Rogers joins the Sociology Department as an Assistant Professor. Drawing from Critical Race Theory, Abolition, and Care, Chris' work explores mechanisms of power (racialized and gendered) to conceptualize new pathways toward liberation through medical health/intervention, education, and collective coalition (i.e., organization, mutual aid, etc.). At the heart of his research and scholarly activities is the constant pursuit of challenging White supremacy, the patriarchy, and heteropatriarchy. Lastly, Chris lives by the motto: "We do this until we are all healthy and free."

### **Nitika Sharma Sociology**



Dr. Nitika Sharma joins the Sociology Department as an Assistant Professor. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Prior to joining Sacramento State, she was an Assistant Teaching Professor in the Ethnic Studies Program at Northern Arizona University. Her teaching and research interests

include diaspora studies, sociology of race and gender, Asian American studies, and refugee studies. She draws on decolonial and feminist theoretical frameworks and uses qualitative methods to study the social and behavioral processes of marginalized groups of people and the identity making that emerges out of these processes.

### **New Staff**

### **Rebekah Williams Cooper Woodson College Enhancement Program**



Rebekah joins the Cooper-Woodson College Enhancement Program (CWC) as the Administrative Support Coordinator I (ASC I). Rebekah is currently on her way to becoming a double alumna of Sac State as she received her Bachelor's of Arts in Psychology from the University, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Psychology. Rebekah feels extremely blessed to have the opportunity to give back to CWC in this capacity because during her undergraduate years CWC greatly invested in her. She was an active CWC scholar, student assistant, and served as the treasurer for the CWC Student Association. As the program's ASC I, she plans to execute CWC's pillars of leadership, scholarship, and service by ensuring that CWC scholars have the necessary tools and resources to excel, not only in the program, but throughout their college and professional careers.

## Laura Diep EdInsights



Laura Diep joins the Education Insights Center as an Administrative Support Coordinator. Laura earned her B.S. in Managerial Economics from the University of California, Davis. During her time there, she worked as a financial wellness peer advisor and served as the advocacy coordinator for her college chapter of Nazun (Challah For Hunger). In the former role, she taught financial wellness to her fellow students. In the latter role, she helped raise thousands of dollars for the Yolo Food Bank by baking and selling challah to the local community. A former transfer student, Laura is passionate about promoting accessibility and equity in education.

## Aurelia Hayes Student Success Center



Aurelia joins the College of SSIS as an Integrated Advisor in the Student Success Center. She earned a B.S. in Sociology (Social Entrepreneurship Studies) from UC Santa Cruz, after which she moved to Paris for three years. She earned an M.A. in Anglophone Studies (Research track) from Paris-Sorbonne University,

an interdisciplinary program in American cultural studies, language, and literature. After working in both education and libraries, she graduated with her M.S. in Counseling in 2023 from Sacramento State, with a specialization in Career Counseling, and was a graduate counselor intern in the SSIS Student Success Center. Aurelia began working full-time for Sac State as an International Student and Scholar Advisor during the Spring 2023 semester and is now excited to be back in the Student Success Center, working with current and prospective SSIS majors. Her favorite part of her role is meeting students, referring students to campus resources and opportunities, as well as helping students make connections between the classroom and the world of work. In her leisure time, Aurelia enjoys being outdoors, reading, listening to music, dancing, and cooking.





# Campus Faculty Awards & Grants

## OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARDS



**Alexandra Morrison**  
Psychology  
Outstanding Teaching Award



**Young-Im Lee**  
Political Science  
Outstanding Scholarly and Creative Activity Award



**Nancy Huante-Tzintun**  
Ethnic Studies  
Outstanding Community Service Award



**Elvia Ramirez**  
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.

**Jacob Fisher**  
Anthropology  
Resource Scheduling and Seasonal Occupation of Alpine Environments in the White Mountains, California

**Samantha Hens**  
Anthropology  
The Bioarchaeology of Inequality and Embodiment in the 19th to 20th Century United States

## ANCHOR UNIVERSITY ANCHOR GRANTS AND COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS



Dr. Michelle Stevens (ENVS) received a grant for the "Bushy Lake Eco-Cultural Restoration - Rising from the Ashes."

Dr. Wayne Linkater (ENVS; not pictured) received a grant for "Advancing air quality, public health, and environmental justice in Sacramento County."

Dr. Kelly Thompson and Dr. Seunghee Wie (FACS) received a research fellowship for the California Grocers Association & Nutrition, Food & Dietetics Program titled, "Food Localization: The Impact on Sacramento Consumers and Our Communities."



Dr. Elvia Ramirez (ETHN) and Dr. Heidy Sarabia (SOC) received a research fellowship from the Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce & College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies titled, "Advancing the Sacramento Region Hispanic Community's Well-Being."

# Community and Professional Faculty Awards

## Nadine Braunstein - Award for Excellence in Education



Nadine Braunstein (FACS) received the CA Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (CAND) Award for Excellence in Education. She received the award at the CAND Annual Conference in the Spring.

## Michelle Stevens - Awards in the Community

Michelle Stevens (ENVS) received the Environmentalist of the Year award in 2021 from the Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS) for her work at Bushy Lake.

Michelle was also inducted into the Oroville Hall of Fame in October 2022. Michelle was nominated by her mother Vaida Stevens and inducted after her mother had passed.

Finally, Michelle received the Society of Wetland Scientists Award for Outstanding Educator in 2023.



## Bushy Lake Eco-Cultural Community Celebration



Photo courtesy of Sacramento Bee

On Saturday, April 29, 2023 the university celebrated years of work on the Bushy Lake habitat by Michelle Stevens (ENVS) with a celebration that included tours, tabling, and community. With the help of grants, Dr. Stevens and her students have collaborated with Sacramento County Parks and Recreation since 2015 to build fire-resilient restoration throughout the habitat. Despite these efforts, another fire tore through the area in June 2021 and then-President Robert Nelsen offered an Anchor Grant for the students to rebuild and replant the habitat. Along with this support, the project also received \$350,000 in funding from the California Wildlife Conservation Board.



# SSIS Students in Leadership

## Strong SSIS Representation in ASI Student Government

### NEW ASI DIRECTOR



Meet our 2023-2024 ASI Director of SSIS, Isabella Jimenez. Isabella had this to share with the college: "Hi Hornets! I am absolutely honored to be your Director of the Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies! My name is Isabella Jimenez and I am a 4th year student studying Political Science. My journey began when I decided to run for my position after discovering how resourceful ASI was. I wanted to be a part of something larger and I found my home within ASI. I hope you all find your way and discover the importance of using your voice. I would like to express how excited I am to be representing you

and offering the support you deserve. I cannot stress enough that my role is to support and enhance your experience as a Social Science and Interdisciplinary Studies major. I am so excited for the school year and to see all of our wonderful accomplishments. ASI is an organization that is by students for students and we are here to amplify your voice and bring you into the conversation. Remember to always take care of yourself first and know that I will always be here for you, please utilize me as a resource.

STINGERS UP!"

### OTHER SSIS STUDENTS IN ASI POSITIONS

Just as in the previous year, SSIS is well represented in the ASI Board of Directors. This is the second year in a row that the ASI President/CEO has been an SSIS student and three out of five of the executive officers represent SSIS.

Here are all the student government positions in 2023-2024 that are represented by students in SSIS Majors:

Name: Nataly Andrade  
Position: ASI President and CEO  
Major: Political Science  
Year: 4th/Senior

Name: Veronica Boulos  
Position: Executive Vice President  
Major: Political Science  
Year: 4th/Senior

Name: Alec Tong  
ASI Position: Vice President of University Affairs  
Major: International Relations  
Year: 3rd/ Junior



# Dean's Award Winners

## UNDERGRADUATE



Sacramento State/Andrea Price

Aylaliya Assefa Birru, Sociology, was the 2023 undergraduate Dean's Award\* and President's Medal of Honor recipient. Each year, the President's Medal of Honor is given to the University's top graduate and this year Aylaliya was selected as one of two recipients. Aylaliya was convicted in 2015 for felony assault and served four years in a state prison, facing possible deportation back to Ethiopia. She had fled Ethiopia with her mother and sister when she was 15, settling in Los Angeles. She returned to Ethiopia in 2009 when her mother became

ill and met and married a U.S. Marine. Aylaliya says her relationship took a turn for the worse very quickly after joining her husband back in California. She ended up hurting him in an attempt to defend herself against him, which is how she ended up in prison. While in the Folsom Women's Facility, she enrolled in Lake Tahoe Community College. She received an associate's degree in Social Sciences and joined Project Rebound, a program to help incarcerated people get a college education. After serving four years, Aylaliya expected to be released but her green card was revoked and she was transferred to a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention center, where she was held for more than a year. She has since appealed an immigration judge's deportation order, and her case is making its way through the courts. Her petition to Governor Gavin Newsom for a pardon has been pending since 2019.

Aylaliya is now a mentor with the Division of Juvenile Justice, guiding incarcerated youths to use their time to prepare for college. She sits on the advisory board of the New Breath Foundation in Oakland, which supports Asian American and Pacific Islander immigrants and refugees and is involved with Survived and



Sacramento State/Andrea Price

Punished Organization, a volunteer-run program that campaigns for the abolition of custodial sentences for victims of abuse. Aylaliya's nominator, Patricia Morris, said "she is one of the most mature, responsible, and reliable students I have had in nearly twenty years of teaching undergraduates" and that she is "simply a beautiful human being".



Sacramento State/Bibiana Ortiz

## GRADUATE



Nicole Cropper, Public Policy & Administration, was the 2023 graduate Dean's Award\* recipient. Nicole is the Deputy Director of Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Tribal Affairs at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife under the Natural Resources Agency. Previously, Nicole served as the Special Assistant to the Office of the Commission at the California Public Utilities Commission where she led the implementation of the Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group activities. In this role, she coordinated a variety of policy initiatives that impacted California's most vulnerable populations and marginalized communities.

Previously, she served as the Assistant

to Commissioner Rechtschaffen where she supported his efforts on equity, transportation electrification, affordability, environmental and social justice, and building decarbonization. In a previous life, she led an organization which addressed environmental, health, and food access inequities in marginalized communities by combining biology and environmental science curricula with urban gardening techniques.



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



# Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Action

**California Native American Day**

Poll on Californians' Divergent Views on Equity and Race in Public Education

**Exhibit on History of Chicana/Latina at Sac State and Beyond**

Panels during Latina/Hispanic Heritage Month

CRISJ Social Justice Podcast

Exhibit on The Seen Iranian Woman

**Peer Mentors**

Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Staff Academy

Working to Close DFW Equity Gaps

Forum and Diverse Panel on Law School and Legal Careers

Presentation on Eleanor Roosevelt and the White Racial Frame

Research and scholarship that address social inequalities, racial disparities, and the promotion of equity

**Lectures on Intersectionality and Interdisciplinarity in Feminist Research**

Harvest Moon Festival

**DEI Pipeline Work**

Cooper Woodson College Enhancement Program

Recruitment Videos to Attract Diverse Students to Nutrition

Study and Travel Abroad in India, Egypt, and South Africa

Curriculum to incorporate diverse voices and perspectives across disciplines

**Anti-racist education and training initiatives**

Environmental Justice Course

**Full Circle Program**

DEI workshops held by SSIS Faculty Fellow for Anti-Racism

Black Voter Project

The College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies (SSIS) is actively involved in a variety of significant initiatives and programs aimed at advancing the campus's commitment to fostering inclusivity and anti-racism. We remain committed to fostering a diverse and supportive community that values and celebrates the contributions of every individual. Above are a few highlighted examples of our work.

## Center for California Studies Returns to SSIS

After a six-year absence, the Center for California Studies is housed again at SSIS. The Center's history at Sac State goes back several decades, and during that time it has been located at various places within the Sac State organizational chart. The Center was a part of SSIS for many years, but was moved to the Division of Public Affairs and Advocacy in 2017.

If you have never heard of the Center, you may have heard of the largest programs they run, the Capital Fellows Programs, where recent college graduates from all over the state spend a year working full-time in one of California's three branches of government. While the fellows are getting valuable work experience (and earning a paycheck), they are also enrolled as Sac State graduate students, taking a graduate seminar in applied public policy. These seminars are taught by SSIS faculty. "It really makes sense for

us to be housed at SSIS, given that our fellows are graduate students. Being a part of SSIS allows us to be integrated into a student-serving community, where our fellows can benefit from all of the knowledge and expertise of the college" said Leonor Ehling, Executive Director of the Center.

In addition to the four Capital Fellows Programs (the Senate, Executive, Assembly and Judicial), the Center also runs civic education programs like the LegiSchool Program for high school students and applied research programs. Research programs include the Faculty Research Fellows Program, which links the policy expertise of the CSU faculty with the research needs of state policy makers. "The proximity to all of the wonderful SSIS faculty is also a plus; I hope to continue to grow our research partnerships with the faculty at this college," said Leonor Ehling.



Courtesy of Center for California Studies

## Pathway Fellows Program



Courtesy of Jackie Brooks, Sociology

The Sacramento State Pathways Fellows Program is currently hosting its seventh cohort of Fellows. Since 2017, the program has worked to diversify higher education. Funded through the Institute of Education Sciences, it is one of six programs in the country that works intensely to prepare

undergraduates, graduate students, and recent graduates for a doctoral program in education research.

During the one-year program, Fellows collaborate with a Faculty Research Mentor, receive training in research methods, participate in a summer apprenticeship, and receive graduate school coaching. In addition, Fellows receive financial support to present their research at academic and professional conferences and visit graduate schools. Fellows work with experts in education research throughout the university and the surrounding community. An alumnus stated, "Learning from someone else that has a different discipline really taught me a lot about being really patient and understanding different perspectives... You're often trained in

one discipline, and you think that's the norm. Working with someone else opens your eyes on how to approach research" (Tseng Vang, Cohort One). Alumni have pursued graduate degrees, presented at conferences, and published in academic journals. Recently, Dr. Nia Gregory (Cohort Three) accepted a tenure-track position at a local college!

The Pathways Fellows Program is preparing for their next cohort of Fellows. Please visit their website to learn about this valuable program.



## Iranian and Middle Eastern Studies Center

The Iranian and Middle Eastern Studies Center (IMESC) is proud to serve and help support our campus community and the greater Sacramento region. The past year brought many events, several of which addressed the “Woman, Life, Freedom” movement which burgeoned in Iran in September 2022 and captivated the world. We have hosted concerts, academic presentations, film screenings, teacher-in-service workshops, and cultural celebrations. Many of these events brought together numerous departments across campus as well as community members. IMESC is happy to announce another full slate of programming in the coming year.

In particular, we’d like to highlight a collaboration with the Women’s and Gender Studies Department and International Programs and Global Engagement (IPGE). In November two stars of the Afghan Girls’ Robotics Team and Sacramento State students, Somaya Faruqi and Shabnam Noorzai, will talk about their experiences with the team, Afghan girls’ education, and their heartbreaking departure from Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover. We are also delighted to serve as co-sponsor and advisor on an exhibit led by FACS faculty Jaleh Naasz, “The Seen Iranian Woman: Fashion Lens into Iranian Politics,” which was featured in the Union Gallery in October and November. In Spring 2024 we will host a musical performance by acclaimed composer Saeed Farajpouri, as well as a presentation by Aram Sarkissian about the recent conflict in Armenia and the responses among the Armenian diaspora.

We are deeply grateful to Dean Hyson and the College of SSIS, whose continued support make this programming possible and enable IMESC to continue serving this incredible campus.



Photos courtesy of IMESC

## California Native American Day



Photos courtesy of Ethnic Studies

On every fourth Friday of September, California Native American day is held at the California State Capitol. On September 20th the California Tribal Chairpersons’ Association hosted their 56th annual event celebrating the theme, “Protecting Our People Through Sovereignty.” In a press release, the planners write, “The event celebrates the culture and contributions of California Native Americans. This time-honored tradition brings together California Tribes, organizations, universities, and state agencies to honor and commemorate the valuable achievements by California Native Americans, throughout history and today.” The event was held 10:00am-2:00pm; however over 100 Sac State volunteers participated in setting up and breaking down tents, tables, chairs, flags, and refreshments from 7:00am-4:00pm. In addition, they helped with serving Elders, traditional dancers and Native American veterans, and others food and water. Our Sac State volunteers performed whatever jobs were asked of them to make the event a success! Students, faculty, staff, and administrators from Sac State were in attendance. For over 20 years, Native American Studies within the Department of Ethnic Studies has been involved in the planning and recruitment of student volunteers. We would like to sincerely thank all the folks who made this event possible!

## Model United Nations

Sacramento State's Model UN Team finished strong at the 2022-2023 National Model United Nations New York Conference (NMUN NY) held from April 2–6. Sac State represented Human Rights Watch in six committees during the UN simulation. The group received an overall Distinguished Delegation Award and four Best Position Paper awards were also given to the students representing the Human Rights Council (Elizabeth Schloezer and Chandler Witthaus), Commission on the Status of Women (Burooj Akram), Commission on Crime Prevention and Justice (Bashaar Allathkani and Emilie Jocson), and Economic and Social Council (Taylor LeNay). This year's team are: Burooj Akram, Bashaar Allathkani, Jenn Galinato, Emilie Jocson, Taylor LeNay, Elizabeth Schloezer, Arsema Tekeste, Erik Venegas-Leon, and Chandler Witthaus. For more information, click [here](#) or follow us on Twitter. Student travel is supported by the Sac State Instructional Related Activities grant. Watch a video put together by the students.



Photo courtesy of Sac State Model UN

## Happiness Day

The Department of Psychology organized the 1st Sac State Happiness Day on March 16 in the Redwood Room at the University Union, a few days before the International Day of Happiness. The event was supported by the Rekhi Singh Foundation for Happiness. Our goals were to raise awareness about the importance of happiness and to deliver the message that happiness is a necessity in our lives. The event included two dozen informational posters on different aspects of happiness (e.g., how to become happier) presented by students, a scavenger hunt, and three happiness stations (e.g., mindfulness practice). More than 400 students attended the event along with the donor, Rekhi Singh, then-President of Sacramento State, Robert Nelsen, SSIS Dean Dianne Hyson, other college deans, and faculty members. Importantly, 50 attendees who completed brief pre- and post-surveys reported increases in their happiness and provided glowing reviews for the event. We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2nd Sac State Happiness Day on March 12, 2024.

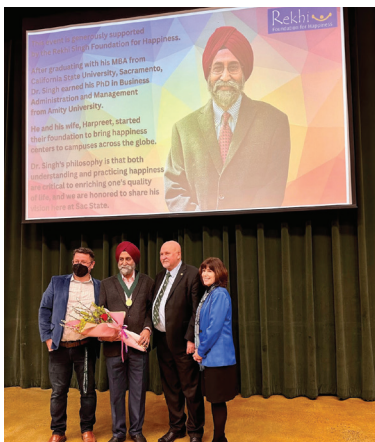


Photo courtesy of Tess Dyer

## Sociology Student Research Symposium

The Sociology Student Symposium started in fall 2017, led by Dr. Aya Ida, with a goal of recognizing and sharing the amazing work Sociology students produced in their classes and beyond. From 2017 to 2022, for 5 years, it was led by Dr. Aya Ida. Dr. Ida was on sabbatical in the Spring of 2023, so Dr. Heidi Sarabia stepped in to help with the organization.

The symposium was renamed as the Ayad Al-Qazzaz Sociology Student Symposium. There were a total of 17 round tables, with presiders that included graduate students, Sac State alumni, and faculty, moderating 43 different student presentations.

Dr. Sarabia led the event with the help and support of Dr. Amanda Shigihara, who co-chaired this committee; Dr. Amy Liu, Chair of the Department, who offered guidance and advice throughout the planning process; Dr. Amalia Perez Martin; Dr. Debra Welkley; Dr. Nathen Menard; Dr. Trish Morris, who actively encouraged students to participate in the symposium; and Millie Ballesteros and Lex Hylaris, whose invaluable help and support made the symposium possible. In addition, the Sociology Club sponsored the raffle prizes.



Photo courtesy of Tess Dyer



# Student Success Corner

## GRAND OPENING EVENT

The SSIS Student Success Center (SSC) held its Grand Opening event on April 18, 2023 to celebrate our physical space on the third floor of Tahoe Hall (Room 3065). Our space includes a community room, advisor offices, and reception area. The event hosted approximately 100 attendees who were students, faculty, and staff. SSC staff provided box lunches, drop-in advising, tours, and information about our services.



Photos courtesy of SSIS Student Success Center

## STUDENT SUCCESS UPDATE

Mirroring campus trends in repopulation emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are finding increasing numbers of students wanting in-person appointments and drop-in visits (although remote service options continue to be the most popular). Entering its 7th year of operations, the SSIS Student Success Center (SSC) continues to advise our students towards timely degree progress, graduation, and future plans. We are finding that students are experiencing significant personal, financial, medical, and psychological hardships that require our staff to provide holistic advising and connections to our campus partners who offer various support services. The dedicated work of our SSC staff members and our SSIS Faculty Fellows for Student Success resulted in a 13% increase in advising contacts over the past year. This work has contributed to milestone achievements in graduation rates, with SSIS surpassing University averages and campus targets under the Graduation Initiative 2025. We look forward to the new academic year when we will be increasing our focus on proactive campaigns to support recruitment, enrollment, retention, and students' sense of belonging.





We are proud of our staff and faculty who are giving back to their Alma Mater. "OUR HIVE, OUR HOME!"

## STAFF

### Alumni

### Degree Received

Mayrose Acob, Dean's Office	MA Counselor Education (Career Counseling)	Anne Montgomery, Dean's Office	BA Geography (Physical Geography and Metropolitan Area Planning)
Andrea Adams, Family & Consumer Sciences	BA Deaf Studies BA Ethnic Studies	Palesa Mosupyoe, Ethnic Studies	BA Ethnic Studies, Concentration in Pan African Studies
Kristen Anderegg, Liberal Studies	BA Social Work MS Counselor Education PPS Credential	Heather Mummaw, Dean's Office	BA Psychology MA Counseling Psychology
Lowela Anunciacion, EdInsights	BS Business Administration, Marketing	Grecia Soto, Psychology	BA Psychology
Ryan Arndt, Dean's Office	BA Mathematics	Michelle Tarter, Political Science	BA Women's Studies
Millicent Ballesteros, Sociology	BS Gerontology	Jenna Westbrook-Kline, Center for California Studies	BA Family and Consumer Sciences, emphasis on Nutrition and Food
Jeanine Cunningham, EdInsights	MA Sociology	Rebekah Williams, Cooper-Woodson College	BA Psychology
Aaron Eichenberger, Dean's Office	MA Education - Higher Education Leadership and Policy	Rebecca Woolston, EdInsights	BA English, Minor in History EdD in Educational Leadership
Ana Gutierrez, Anthropology	BS Business Administration, General Management BA Communication Studies, Organizational Communication, Minor in Spanish		
Aurelia Hayes, Dean's Office	MS Counselor Education (Career Counseling)		
Rotce Hernandez, Center for California Studies	BA Psychology		
Alexa-Lynn Hylaris, Sociology	BA Sociology		
Saba Kbrom, Psychology	BA Ethnic Studies		
Madeleine Kerrick, EdInsights	BA Child Development		
Emeline Koloamatangi, Full Circle Project	BS Women's Studies		

### Current students

### Degree Program

Grecia Soto, Psychology	MA Education - Higher Education Leadership and Policy
Erika Cessna, Political Science	BA Political Science
Saba Kbrom, Psychology	MS Rehabilitation Counseling
Rebekah Williams, Cooper-Woodson College	MA Psychology

Cont'd next page





## FACULTY

### Alumni

### Degree Received

Suzanne Anderson, Gerontology	BA Spanish MS Special Major in Gerontology	Marietess Masulit, Ethnic Studies	BA Ethnic Studies
Christopher Arns, Political Science	MA International Relations	Greg Popejoy, Environmental Studies	BA Environmental Studies BA Communications Studies MA Special Major, Environmental Communications
Mark Carnero, Sociology	BA Sociology MA Sociology EdD Educational Leadership (K-12 emphasis)	James Reede, Environmental Studies	Master of Public Policy & Administration (Environmental Emphasis)
Corin Choppin, Political Science	MA Government	Maria Sampanis, Political Science	BA Government/Journalism MA International Affairs
Booker Cook, Ethnic Studies	BA Ethnic Studies EdD Educational Leadership	Mical Shilts, Family & Consumer Sciences (FACS)	BS Special Major (Dietetics)
Michael Dowell, Economics	BA Economics	Jenny Stevenson, Gerontology & FACS	BS Gerontology
Hyrum Eastman, Economics	BA Economics MA Economics	Jessica Surprenant, FACS	BA Family & Consumer Sciences (Apparel Marketing and Design)
Craig Gallet, Economics	BA Economics	Kelly Thompson, FACS	BA Family & Consumer Sciences (Nutrition and Food)
Clarence George III, Ethnic Studies	BA Communication Studies, Minor Pan African Studies	Jesus "JT" Trujillo, FACS	BS Special Major (Dietetics)
James Goldstene, Environmental Studies	BA Government MA Government	Jake Tuttle, Economics	BA Economics MA Economics
Nancy Huante- Tzintzun, Ethnic Studies	BA Ethnic Studies, Minor Sociology	Rose Varesio, Sociology	BA Psychology MA Sociology
Donna Jensen, Gerontology	Master of Social Work	Kristina Victor, Political Science	BA Government (International Relations) MA International Affairs
Vincent Latino, Political Science	BA Government MA Government	Jason Vitaich, Political Science	BA Government MA Government

# Master's Candidate Reception and Hooding Ceremony

On May 16, 2023, the College of SSIS held its annual Master's Candidate Reception and Hooding Ceremony. Speakers included President Nelsen, Interim Provost Carlos Nevarez, and Dean of Graduate Studies, Chevelle Newsome. Our special Guest Speaker was Nicole Cropper, a graduate candidate from Public Policy & Administration. Nicole is currently the Deputy Director of Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Tribal Affairs at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife under the Natural Resources Agency.



Photos courtesy of Sundeep Gill



# Scholarship Corner

Last year the College convened an inaugural Scholarship Committee after the addition of two new college administered awards, bringing the total to four. The College thought it would be a good service opportunity that would be accessible to newer faculty because of a one-year commitment. Thank you to the members of last year's committee: Theresa Abah (GERO), Martin Boston (ETHN), Meliksah Demir (PSYC), Erin Ellison (PSYC), Hannah Gabriel (ECON), Si Gao (ENVS), Paulette Garcia Peraza (PSYC), Will Gow (ETHN), Casey Knifsend (PSYC), Joanna Nunez (WGS), James Rae, (POL/ASIA), Zach Schudson (PSYC), Raul Tadle (ECON), and Kelly Thompson (FACS).

## ANTHROPOLOGY

Richard H. Reeve Award  
**Alejandra Cano**  
John. W. Connor Scholarship  
**Camilla Wiench**  
Edgar Lee Jordan Scholarship  
**Nicholas Rizzonelli**



## ASIAN STUDIES

Mishra Family Scholarship  
**Elizabeth Burns**  
**Freddie Boy Cariaso**  
Professor Thomas Swift Asian  
Studies Scholarship  
**Grace Matayoshi**

## ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Thomas Swift Environmental Studies  
Scholarship  
**Owen Guarienti**  
**Katilynn Sandretto**  
Patrick James Dugal Memorial  
Scholarship  
**Riley Currey**  
**Destiny Nash**



## ETHNIC STUDIES

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation Native  
American Studies Scholarship  
**Pauline Ghost-Perez**  
**Alexis Gonzales**  
**Juliet Maestas**  
**Christopher Savage**



## FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Apparel, Marketing, and Design  
Scholarship  
**Amy Cruz**  
**Stanley Phan**

## GERONTOLOGY

Art & Phoebe German Gerontology  
Scholarship  
**Fapiena Kaho**  
Eskaton Leadership and Diversity  
Scholarship  
**Michelle Silva**  
Dolores J. Eitel Gerontology Scholarship  
**Fapiena Kaho**  
**Michelle Silva**  
**April Thompson**

## POLITICAL SCIENCE

Prof. R. Jeffrey Lustig Memorial Prize  
**Farah Al Masri**  
Thomas Swift Government/Journalism  
Scholarship  
**Liam Gravvat**  
College Access Foundation of California  
Scholarship  
**Jacob Rincon-Murillo**  
**Mohamad Salman**  
**Imani Wilson**  
Robert G. Thompson Scholarship  
**Callie Lichti**  
Donald R. Gerth Scholarship in Political  
Science  
**Imani Wilson**  
Wade R. Smith Memorial Scholarship  
**Leslie Roberts**  
Christopher Dyer-Bennet Scholarship

### **Margaret Broderick**

Jack Livingston Fellow in Political Theory  
and American Institutions Scholarship

**Sabrina Fiora-Beach**



### **PUBLIC POLICY & ADMINISTRATION**

GASPPA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
Scholarship

**Jose Ayala**

**Jake Linn**

**Nazanin Niknia**



### **PSYCHOLOGY**

Douglas Michell Memorial Scholarship

**Ryan McClennen**

Duane E. C. Johnson Memorial  
Scholarship

**Luiza Araujo Rocha**

**Polina Demyanchuk**

**Kyle DiLorenzo**

**Melissa McDermott**

Dr. George Parrott Outstanding  
Psychology Student Endowed  
Scholarship

**Carrissa Ammons**

McConnell Family Psychology  
Scholarship

**Ryan Sims**



### **SOCIOLOGY**

Ibn Khaldun Al-Qazzaz Scholarship

**Jaikamal Sangha**

### **COLLEGE OF SSIS**

Otis L. Scott Scholarship

**Jaron Dumag**

**Leslie Roberts**

Bradley E. Long (BEL) Scholarship

**Bradley Nnachetam**

Marie I. and Cecil L. Clement Memorial  
Scholarship

**Felicia Van Felden**

Professor Erwin Kelly Scholarship

**Margaret Broderick**

**Ruby Portillo**

### **COOPER WOODSON COLLEGE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

Anna J. Cooper - Carter G. Woodson  
Scholarship

**Sabrina Charleston**

**Augusta Cheek**

**Leslie Robers**

Carol J. Barbee Scholarship

**Destiny Akins-Adams**

**LaToya Mays**

Chris Glenn Cooper-Woodson College  
Scholarship

**Ramona Daniels**

**TaQuisha Thomas**

Cooper-Woodson College  
Enhancement Program Scholarship

**Eric Davis**

**Ashlee Green**

**Myles Holloway**

**Amantle Nteta**

**Muhulu Ramaano**

**Mary Williams**

George Floyd Emergency Grant Fund

**Derrold Barry**

**Octavia Bickham**

**Kieona Coleman**

**Jada Norwood**

Lesego Mosupyoe Memorial  
Scholarship

**Brea Price**



### **FULL CIRCLE PROJECT**

May O. Lee & Milt Yee Full Circle  
Project Endowed Scholarship

**Faith Ballesteros**

Chancellor Tiern Full Circle Endowed  
Scholarship

**Melissa Lee**

Andrade-Sales Full Circle Project  
Scholarship

**Simranjot Kaur**



# Staff in Action

## Academic Resources Conference

In 2002, Robin Pollock (emeritus staff) started the Academic Resources Conference. A conference for college and department administrative staff across the CSU to discuss topics related to academic affairs budget and HR. The conference has grown from 20 attendees to over 400 since its start. This year, several SSIS staff attended. Heather Mummaw (Dean's Office) also served on a panel on Staff Council and Andrea Adams (FACS) served as a session moderator. After the conference, the staff in SSIS were invited to a debrief so that the attendees could share what they learned.



L to R: Michelle Tarter, Robyn Pitts, Donna Leiva, Pat Hughes, Heather Mummaw



L to R: Michelle Tarter, Heather Mummaw, Pat Hughes, Millie Ballesteros, ARC attendee



Andrea Adams and Donna Leiva



L to R: Heather Mummaw, Donna Leiva, Andrea Adams, Robin Pollock, Michelle Tarter

## Staff Council Activities

The SSIS Staff Council is beginning its third year and several activities have been underway. The Council is working on a guiding document for the standardized recognition of college service and retirement/separation of staff. The Staff Council also worked with the Dean and Associate Deans to convene an All Staff Forum in the spring to offer the opportunity for staff to discuss topics of current relevance to the staff environment on campus and in the College. They also convened a staff breakfast in April to thank the staff for their hard work all year (photos below). In the future, Staff Council has plans to discuss working titles for staff, professional development, and expanding staff recognitions.



L to R: Heather Rogers, Andrea Adams, Diana Lopez



# Faculty in Action

## Publications\*

### Journal Articles

**Denys Brand and Caio Miguel (PSYC).** Procedural parameters in equivalence-based instruction with individuals diagnosed with Autism: A call for systematic research. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*.

**Denys Brand, Megan Heinicke, Caio Miguel (PSYC).** A parametric analysis of procedural fidelity errors following mastery of a task: A translational study. *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*.

**Mark Brown (POLs).** Mark Warren: Between Realism and Aspiration – Democracy for the Twenty-First Century. *Political Science Today*.

**Giselle Cunanan (ETHN).** Ethnic Studies as Social Movement: Resistance in the Face of Public Reaction. *Journal of Asian American Studies*.

**Hannah Gabriel (ECON).** Bankruptcy and international intervention: The case of Addiko bank. *Economics of Transition and Institutional Change*.

**Si Gao (ENVS).** The effects of different biochar-dairy manure co-composts on soil moisture and nutrients retention, greenhouse gas emissions, and tomato productivity: Observations from a soil column experiment. *Agrosystems, Geosciences & Environment*.

**Si Gao (ENVS).** Quantifying impacts of forest fire on soil carbon in young, intensively managed tree farm in the western Oregon Cascades. *Soil Science Society of American Journal*.

**Si Gao (ENVS).** Biochar co-compost improves nitrogen retention and reduces carbon emissions in a winter wheat cropping system. *Global Change Biology. Bioenergy*.

**Clarence George III (ETHN).** Africana Digital Pedagogy: Cultural Exchange,

Learning, and Innovation. *Journal of African American Studies*.

**Megan Heinicke and Caio Miguel (PSYC).** A Treatment Evaluation of Successive and Simultaneous Visual Stimulus Presentation During Tact Training with Children with Autism. *The Analysis of Verbal Behavior*.

**Young-Im Lee (POLs).** Higher Expectations, Greater Disappointment: Ambivalent Sexism and Backlash After the Impeachment of the First Woman President of South Korea. *Journal of Women, Politics & Policy*.

**Young-Im Lee (POLs).** A Trailblazer or a Barrier? Dynastic Politics and Symbolic Representation of the First Female President of South Korea, Park Geun-hye. *Politics & Gender*.

**Wayne Linklater (ENVS).** Expression, purification and characterization of the recombinant possum lipocalin vulpeculin. *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta. General Subjects*.

**Bao Lo (ETHN).** Anti-Asian Violence and Abolition Feminism as Asian American Feminist Praxis. *Feminist Formations*

**Caio Miguel (PSYC).** The effects of note taking as a visual meditation strategy on the formation of equivalence classes. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*.

**Caio Miguel (PSYC).** A translational evaluation of component skills for the establishment of multiply controlled intraverbals. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*.

**Sahar Razavi (POLs).** Woman, Life, Freedom: Decoding the feminist uprising in Iran. *Political Geography*.

**Zach Schudson (PSYC).** Gender identity, sexual orientation, and the prenatal androgen theory: Reevaluating definitions, cognitive tests, and somatic

markers. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*.

**Zach Schudson (PSYC).** Feminist and queer science: Principles for research with gender, sex, and sexuality in psychology and beyond. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*.

**Rose Soza War Soldier (ETHN).** A Coalition of Lineages: The Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians. By Duane Champagne and Carole Goldberg. *The Western Historical Quarterly*.

**Sarah Strand (PSYC).** Emergence of functionally aberrant and subsequent reduction of neuromuscular connectivity and improved motor performance after cervical spinal cord injury in Rhesus. *Frontiers in Rehabilitation Sciences*.

**Catherine Warren (PSYC).** Development and validation of the benevolent sexism in the workplace scale. *Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology*.

**Rob Wassmer (PPA).** What matters for improving the success rates of different cohorts of community college students? *Community College Review*.

**Rob Wassmer (PPA).** Past structural racism and present home prices. *Journal of Urban Affairs*.

### Books or Book Chapters

**Jacob Fisher (ANTH).** Questioning Rebound: People and Environmental Change in the Protohistoric and Early Historic Americas.

**Rachel Flamenbaum (ANTH).** Published a book chapter: Digital Literacies in A New Companion to Linguistic Anthropology. Bao Lo. Anti-Asian Violence and Abolition Feminism as Asian American Feminist Praxis. *Feminist Formations*.

Cont'd next page



**Tristan Josephson (WGS).** Book. On Transits and Transitions: Trans Migrants and U.S. Immigration Law.

**Heidy Sarabia (SOC).** Book Chapter. 66(Re) Framing Legal Vulnerability; Identity, Abjection, and Resistance among DACAmented Immigrants in the Era of Trumpism. Donald Trump's Presidency.

### Other

**William Gow (ETHN)** contributed to an oral history project called the Sacramento COVID-19 Asian American Oral History Project. Topics included COVID-19 and the Asian American Communities course: ETHN 113, taught by Dr. Gow.

\*Publications Sourced from Sac State Scholars

## Faculty Activities

Sacramento State has been selected to serve as the California State University Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Student Achievement Program Statewide Central Office. This was made possible by a proposal created by **Tim Fong (ETHN/FCP)**, Yvonne Harris, Shannon Rein, and the team in the Office of Research, Innovation, and Economic Development (OREID).

**Megan Raschig (ANTH)** is the co-editor in chief of the *Journal for the Anthropology of North America* and its partner open access platform *Home/Field*.

**Christopher Towler (POLS)** is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics (JREP)*, a Cambridge University Press Journal. They also published a short meet-the-editors blog post.

## Tenure and Promotion

### Faculty who received Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor in 2022-2023

- Nandini Singh (Anthropology)
- June Hee Kwon (Asian Studies)
- Daniel Burghart (Economics)
- Raul Tadle (Economics)
- Maria Vargas (Ethnic Studies)
- Catheryn Koss (Gerontology)
- Erin Ellison (Psychology)
- Sharon Flicker (Psychology)
- Cara Jones (Women's and Gender Studies)

### Retirements/FERP

- Terri Castaneda (Anthropology)
- Smile Dube (Economics)
- Michelle Stevens (Environmental Studies)
- Darryl Freeman (Ethnic Studies/Political Science)
- Jerry Cook (Family & Consumer Sciences)
- Charles Varano (Sociology)

## Staff Recognition and Awards

### The following staff celebrated milestone service anniversaries in 2022-2023:

- Donna Leiva (ENVS) - 10 years
- Michelle Tarter (POLS) - 15 years
- Aaron Eichenberger (Dean's Office) - 15 years
- Heather Mumshaw (Dean's Office) - 20 years
- Marsha Robinson (Dean's Office) - 30 years

### 2023 Award for Outstanding First-Generation Student Advocacy

PaHoua Lee  
Student Success Coordinator  
SSIS Student Success Center

Hnou Lee  
Advising & Outreach Coordinator  
Full Circle Project



From L to R: Pahoua Lee, Hnou Lee, Jane Nguyen (student), Dominique Noble (student), Hopoate Koloamatangi (student), and Marya Endriga

# Development Corner

Thank you for being a critical part of our students' success. We deeply appreciate your support and want to celebrate your generosity.

Contact Rebekah Rabirotff to:

**Reconnect:** take a golf cart tour of campus.

**Join:** be a part of the Dean's Circle today with a gift.

**Change:** make a difference in students' lives for years to come with just one sentence.

For more ways to get involved and support the College, please contact our Director of Development  
Rebekah Rabirotff at 916-278-2612 or  
r.rabirotff@csus.edu



## COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Dianne Hyson  
DEAN

Marya Endriga  
ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR STUDENT AND PERSONNEL SUCCESS

Boatamo Mosupyoe  
ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESOURCE AND PROGRAM  
MANAGEMENT

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



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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