



College of SSIS Newsletter

June 2015

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The College of
Social Sciences &
Interdisciplinary
Studies

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Designed by: Heather Mummaw

Dear Friends of the College of SSIS,

It is hard to believe that another school year has come and gone. My first year at Sacramento State felt like a whirlwind, but it has been an exciting year in the College and at the University. On May 22, I enjoyed one of the real pleasures of my job – congratulating all of our graduates at Spring Commencement. Over 850 undergraduate and graduate students came with their families and friends to Sleep Train Arena for our College's Commencement ceremony. In addition to Interim Associate Dean Dianne Hyson and I handing out all our graduates' diplomas, we celebrated the award of the President's Medal to Roula Omary, a graduating Senior in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (more about Roula later in this Newsletter). Roula was selected as the College's outstanding graduating Senior and the winner of the Mayada Al-Qazzaz Award, which is a \$500 award, established by Dr. Ayad Al-Qazzaz from Sociology, named after his daughter. It's a great honor for a student from our College to receive the university-wide President's Medal, so congratulations to Roula! We also heard at Commencement an inspiring speech by former Assemblyman Roger Dickinson, who, by the way, will be joining the College next year as a part-time "Practitioner in Residence." Mr. Dickinson will guest lecture, be a resource for students and faculty, and advise the College on planning for the downtown School of Public Affairs.

In updating you on developments since the last Newsletter, let me begin by highlighting some important staffing developments in the College. First, I am delighted to report that Interim Associate Dean Dianne Hyson has been appointed permanent Associate Dean as of June 15. Dr. Hyson served admirably in the interim position for three years. An internal search for a permanent Associate Dean was done during Spring Semester and she was selected from that search. I am looking very forward to working with Dr. Hyson in the years ahead. She is a wonderful colleague, very hard working, and immensely supportive of our students, faculty, and staff. Second, we will be welcoming a new cohort of tenure-track and visiting faculty members next year. We have made 6 very successful hires in Sociology, Environmental Studies, Anthropology, Ethnic Studies, and Economics. Note that two are tenure-track hires in the "water" area, part of the group of 6 water hires from around the university brought in to focus on teaching, research, and service on California water issues. We will be introducing all these new



Örn Bodvarsson, Dean

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Dean's Message cont'd

hires to the College community soon and you will learn about them in our next Newsletter. Finally, please join me in congratulating Dr. Timothy Fong, Professor of Ethnic Studies and Director of the Full Circle Project, as the new Director of the Liberal Studies and Social Science Programs. Dr. Fong was selected from an internal search to replace Dr. David Lang, who served as Director for 6 years, and is returning to the Department of Economics full time to serve as its chair. I am looking forward to working with Dr. Fong as he puts his experience and skills to work in his new assignment and also want to thank Dr. Lang for his 6 years of service managing both these important programs.

When I wrote to you in January, I described a number of large-scale projects that were starting up in the College, projects that will help move the College up to the next level. Let me take the opportunity to update you on the status of those projects:

1. The 2015-20 College of SSIS Strategic Plan. Thanks to the hard work of a 30-person task force this past year, which included an 11-person Executive Work Group that did a lot of the detailed work, the College is now weeks away from finalizing a 5-year strategic plan. Our timetable calls for the strategic plan to be finalized and submitted for approval by the President at the end of this month. Once it is approved, we will post it on our website. The next phase in the process will be implementation, which I will be working with the College on starting this Fall;

2. The Downtown School of Public Affairs. In the last Newsletter, I shared with you that a significant part of my vision for our College in the 21st century is having a downtown presence. Since then, I am excited to report that I have formed a 22-person Downtown School of Public Affairs Planning Task Force. This group, which comprises faculty, staff, students, alumni, a representative from the College of Continuing Education, and some former and current officials in government, has been charged with working with me to develop operational and financial plans for the downtown school. There are many challenges,

both operational and financial, to this project, and it will take some time to get all the pieces together, but the project has great potential for our region and I am fully committed to seeing it come to fruition. The tentative

start date for the downtown school is August, 2016. As the work of the task force goes forward, I will keep you updated;

3. Initiatives in global engagement, graduate programming, and climate change. As I shared in the previous Newsletter, it is my plan to raise our graduate student population in the College to 10% by 2020 and

for the College to build a very strong portfolio of global engagement activities, including expansion of and creation of new partnerships with overseas universities. This summer, two task forces – on global engagement and graduate education, respectively – will begin work on these initiatives. In June I am in Southwest-Central China, for meetings with administrators and faculty at Sacramento State's partner, Chongqing University. Finally, Provost Harmsen has asked our College to take the lead in facilitating a "Climate Change" initiative on campus. As a first step, we are working with the Institute on Science for Global Policy (ISGP), a nationally renowned non-profit organization dedicated to fostering public awareness and discussion about critical policy issues of a scientific nature, to hold a conference on climate change next April. Key players in our College are involved in planning for that conference and I look forward to sharing more details in our next Newsletter.

Finally, I want to share two other pieces of news with you, which are cause for celebration. First, please join me in congratulating Drs. Kristin Kiesel (Economics), Elvia Ramirez (Ethnic Studies), Lynn Hanna (Family and Consumer Sciences), Minejong Kang (Family and Consumer Sciences) and Su Jin Jez (Public Policy and Administration) for being awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor, and to Drs. Annette Reed (Ethnic Studies), Jerry Cook (Family and Consumer Sciences), and Jian Jian Qin (Psychology)

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Dean's Message cont'd

for being awarded promotion to Professor. Second, I am thrilled to announce the creation of the Al Qazzaz Dean's Lecture Series, made possible by a generous endowment established by Dr. Ayad Al Qazzaz, Professor of Sociology. This lecture series will feature prominent speakers on significant public issues. The inaugural lecture will be given by Dr. Peter Gleick of the Pacific Institute, who will speak on climate change on September 28 (more details later). I know I speak for the College and University by saying how appreciative I am of Dr. Al Qazzaz's generosity.

So, as you can see the College is "buzzing." I'm very happy to be here, both professionally and personally, and to be part of a great College at a fine university in arguably the nation's most interesting and significant state capital. It's always a pleasure to hear from alumni, friends, and retired faculty. Please do send us your news. Many thanks to those of you who

have generously supported the College in the past and, as always, I am always grateful for any form of support to help with scholarships, our projects and initiatives, and many of the other things we do. If you are interested in making a gift to the College, please feel free to call me at (916) 278-2212 or e-mail obbodvarsson@csus.edu. Best wishes for a wonderful and relaxing summer!

Örn Bodvarsson



Hazel Cramer Endowed Chair Gift

At the Green and Gold Gala, held on March 27, 2015, President Gonzalez announced a \$1 million gift from the estate of Hazel Cramer to create an endowed chair in the Department of Public Policy and Administration in the College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies. It is the University's first endowed chair and will allow the campus to bring in a renowned expert in the discipline to expand the range and quality of offerings for students. Mrs. Cramer was a longtime donor to the University, providing more than \$800,000 in scholarships before her death in December and a total of more than \$3.5 million through her estate.

The process of making this donation a reality began back in the late 1990s. Hazel Cramer, who was a career civil servant for the state of California, called then-President Donald R. Gerth and spoke with him off and on over the span of a couple of years. Hazel was very interested in supporting public policy. Dr. Gerth says that Hazel had a "commitment to the importance of public service." The academic department that best matched that discipline was the Department of Public Policy and Administration (PPA). Therefore, in 2002 Ms. Cramer wrote a letter to Dr. Gerth, acknowledging her gift of \$1 million

to the university, that would be conveyed through her estate. At that time, the Hazel Cramer Endowed Chair and Hazel Cramer Endowed Scholarship Program were established.

The gift of \$1 million would fully endow a Chair for the Department of PPA. This principal would never be spent. The earned income (likely in the \$50,000 range) would be used to support the endowed faculty position by supplementing the basic salary of the professor and the remaining earned income would be utilized to support the research projects of the Chair. Finally the funds will be used to support local conferences organized by the Chair and meetings with community members aimed at increasing partnerships between the University and the Sacramento Region.

According to her obituary, Ms. Cramer passed away peacefully on December 6, 2014 at age 96. She was born in Texas but lived in East Sacramento for more than 80 years. Besides public policy, her interests included world travel, literature and foreign affairs. The College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies is extremely grateful to Ms. Cramer and her unprecedented philanthropy to the University, to the College and to PPA.

Model UN students head to National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference



The delegation is inside the UN General Assembly Hall waiting for the closing ceremonies

This past March during spring break the Sacramento State government department's Model United Nations delegation traveled to New York and participated in the 2015 National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference representing the non-governmental organization the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) in nine different committees. The NMUN conference is academically challenging and truly international, attracting some 5,000 students, 60% from foreign universities. The students prepared throughout the fall and early spring semesters, researching the real-world problems they would be addressing in committee as well as crafting solutions to those problems applying an AWID's perspective. Their hard work was recognized in New York with seven total awards.

Overall Distinguished Delegation Award

Jessica Arauza	David Morgan
James Di Filippo	Ciara Morin
Andrea Edelman	Claudia Reeves
Sam Esquibel	Jennifer Rice
Juanita Greene	Arnell Rusanganwa
Tyler Jimenez	Meghan Sheely
Sajjad Kandhro	Olga Shilo
Taylor Maurits	

Five Outstanding Position Paper Awards

Economic and Social Council Plenary (ECOSOC)

Andrea Edelman
Juanita Greene

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Tyler Jimenez

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

David Morgan
Claudia Reeves

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Taylor Maurits
Olga Shilo

Human Rights Council (HRC)

James Di Filippo

Outstanding Delegates in Committee Award

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

David Morgan
Claudia Reeves

Faculty Endowment for Student Scholarship Award

Since 1994, the Faculty Endowment for Student Scholarships Awards has provided 101 scholarships to outstanding undergraduate and graduate students. These awards are granted in recognition of outstanding student achievement and promise of continued academic success as well as service and contribution to the student's major, department and college, the University and the community.

This year, Jennifer Blair, Psychology major, received this award in the College of SSIS. Jennifer's interest in psychology began at a young age. "I had a great interest in listening to people's stories and understanding why they think a certain way or what made them do certain things," Jennifer states. She also found she enjoyed helping people with the problems they were facing which developed into a passion for helping others, connecting them with resources and making a difference in their lives.

Jennifer's faculty advisor is Dr. Rebecca Cameron, Professor of Psychology, who had this to say about Jennifer: "Jennifer is committed to supporting adolescent and young adult development in ways that integrate academic, psychological, sexual, and socio-emotional



Jennifer Blair (photo by Andrea Price)

well-being. She has been enacting that commitment through a wide range of pre-professional activities and involvements on campus and in the community. I have been very impressed by how much she has accomplished since transferring to Sacramento State a few semesters ago."

As far as the future, Jennifer believes it holds great things for her as she will continue to dedicate her time in helping others and making a difference.

"To me, this award signifies that hard work really does pay off and that I have made the right decisions and am heading in the right direction of my life...I could not be more honored and grateful for this award."

2015 Nobel Peace Prize Forum

The 2015 Nobel Peace Prize Forum was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota from March 6 - 8. Three students from the College of SSIS were nominated by faculty from various departments within the college and across the university and were selected by merit based on their academic achievement and interest in peace studies. Each attended the three day forum, and listened to lectures on promoting peace, social justice, environmental consciousness, and human rights, among other issues, most notably by former President Jimmy Carter. They also participated in workshops and dialogue on such themes in smaller group settings. The students got to meet and chat with some major speakers and attended a formal dinner with all the speakers, university presidents and staff, and other students from other universities who were similarly interested in peace. They also learned about

a campaign to raise awareness of peace in everyday life, called Peace it Forward, and brought that campaign to Sac State during the spring, and hope to expand it and other programs that attract other Sac State students.



From L to R: Data Barata (ANTH), Alexandra Denne, Ryan Allain, Eustanik Blanco, Boatamo Mosupyoe (ETHN), David Andersen-Rodgers (GOVT), and James Rae (GOVT)

1st Annual Sacramento Valley Psychological Association (SVPA) Student Psychology Research Conference

SSIS hosted and co-sponsored the first annual Sacramento Valley Psychological Association (SVPA) Student Psychology Research Conference at the Alumni Center on Saturday April 18th. Six universities were represented: Sacramento State, UC Davis, UC Berkeley, Alliant International University, Walden University, and The Wright Institute. The conference drew over 60 attendees and featured 24 poster presentations and five oral presentations. SSIS Interim Associate Dean Hyson gave the welcoming address, in which she remarked that the "Psychology Department is a shining star for research and high impact practices contributing to student success." The College thanks the organizing team for their hard work that made the event a resounding success: Dr. Nathaniel Mills, SVPA President, Dr. Daniel Rockers, Ms. Katherine Kruser, Dr. Marya Endriga, Psychology Chair, and SSIS Dean Bodvarsson. Congratulations to student presenters and coauthors Leo Alexander III, LaNia Bussey, Jazmin Campos, Ho Man Cheung, Glori Embrey, Misha Haghighat, Stephanie Lim, Carlos

Lopez, James MacLellan, Allison Marion, Justin Martin, Monica Mejia, Bernard Reyes, Simon Russell, Tina Smith, Sam Stevens, Marcus Vadnais, and Tyler Virden. Congratulations also to the sponsoring professors, including Dr. Rebecca Cameron, Dr. Lawrence Meyers, Dr. Phillip Akutsu, and Dr. Greg Kim-Ju. We look forward to next year's event!



Tina Smith (photo by Nathaniel Mills)

Scholarship Corner

Department	Student Recipient	Scholarship Awarded
Anthropology	Sarah Fin	George Rich Graduate Scholarship
Anthropology	Jessica Keehn	Richard Reeve Award
Anthropology	Elizabeth Carey	Department of Anthropology Academic Achievement Award
Anthropology	Gloria Brown	John W. Conner Scholarship
Economics	Amy Chen	Rod Swanson Scholarship
Economics	Lauren Lombardo	John G. Ranlett Memorial Scholarship
Economics	Daniel Tatenko	Robert and Chi-Ming Dana Curry Scholarship
Environmental Studies	Paul Oviatt	Patrick James Dugal Memorial Scholarship
Environmental Studies	Mariah Thomas	Patrick James Dugal Memorial Scholarship
Environmental Studies	Austyn Cromartie	Patrick James Dugal Memorial Scholarship
Government	Michele Vass	College Futures Foundation of California Scholarship
Government	Muhamed Umbashi	College Futures Foundation of California Scholarship
Government	Juan Arroyo	Christopher Dyer-Bennet Scholarship
Government	Michael Sharif	Jack Livingston Fellow in Political Theory and American Institutions
Government	Brittany Swenson	Professor R. Jeffrey Lustig Memorial Prize
Government	David Balderston	Earl Warren Prize in Political Science

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Scholarship Corner cont'd

Department	Student Recipient	Scholarship Awarded
Psychology	Kristin Griffith	Applied Behavioral Consultants Scholarship
Psychology	Christina Montes	Applied Behavioral Consultants Scholarship
Psychology	Aaron Beckner	Duane E. C. Johnson Scholarship
Psychology	Monica Mejia	Duane E. C. Johnson Scholarship
Psychology	Catrina Calub	June Gersten Memorial Scholarship
Psychology	Tina Smith	Douglas Michell Memorial Scholarship
College of SSIS	Latasha Paige Johnson	Bradley E. Long (BEL) Scholarship
College of SSIS	Heidi Ramirez	Bradley E. Long (BEL) Scholarship
College of SSIS	Vanessa Mendez	Otis L. Scott Scholarship
College of SSIS	Heather Rose Henry	Otis L. Scott Scholarship

CSU Student Research Competition

On May 1 and 2, 2015, nine Sacramento State students and one student team presented their research over the course of the two-day 29th Annual CSU Student Research Competition hosted by CSU San Bernardino. Twenty-three CSU campuses participated in the event, featuring over 230 student competitors from across the state. The Sac State student participants were selected for their top presentations at the Office

of Research Affairs' Student Research Symposium held in March. Out of three Sac State presenters receiving top awards, two were students from the College of SSIS. Congratulations to them both!

1st Place Business, Economics, and Public Administration, Graduate Division Award

Terra Thorne (Public Policy & Administration) for "Immigrants and Health Insurance Enrollment: Identifying Factors that Influence Coverage"

1st Place Education, Undergraduate Division Award

Nyree Hall (Ethnic Studies) for "Still a Minority: Exploring Black Student Enrollment Decline in the California State University System"



Nyree Hall (Photo by Craig Koscho)



Terra Thorne (Photo by Craig Koscho)

President's Medal Awarded to SSIS Student

Every spring, a student from each college receives a Dean's Award for outstanding achievement in the classroom and the community. One of those students is then chosen to receive the President's Award and this is announced during that student's college Commencement ceremony.

This year, Roula Omary, a Dietetics major from the Department of Family & Consumer Sciences (FACS), was chosen as the undergraduate Dean's Awardee and then honored with the President's Award on Friday, May 22, 2015 at the College of SSIS Commencement ceremony. Roula was nominated by



Roula Omary (Photo by Andrea Price)

Dr. Seunghie Wie, Chair of FACS. Dr. Wie saw potential in Roula as she was continuously on the Dean's Honors List beginning Spring 2009 with a cumulative GPA of 4.0 and also had extensive community service experience.

Roula became a Dietetics major because of a passion for nutrition that began at a very young age when she was a school gymnast. During her time as a gymnast, her coach would give her mother a list of foods that she needed to consume regularly and by paying such close attention to the food she ate, she soon developed a passion for nutrition and cooking. She would read any book or website that talked about nutritious food and their health benefits and would apply that to her eating routine.

Now that she's received her bachelor's degree, Roula wishes to earn a doctoral degree in nutrition and chronic diseases. She hopes to serve the country and its people through her research.

When asked about receiving the President's Award, Roula says, "I am deeply honored to have been afforded this very special award. This award not only will always serve as a reminder of all I'm capable of achieving, but will have a positive, long-term influence on my daughters who saw their mother being awarded during commencement and realized at a very young age the importance of education and hard work." Roula thanks the university and its faculty for the support and guidance that made this possible and who motivated her to realize her full potential.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Summit

The Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) in partnership with our university and the sponsors below held the first Social and Emotional Learning Summit titled "The Power of Relationships" on February 13, 2015. Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) is a growing movement in education in which students are explicitly taught skills like impulse control and empathy. By learning how to self-manage and get along socially, classrooms become safe and managed and teachers can prompt kids to take the kind of learning risks necessary to grasp high-level concepts that colleges and employers want. Over 160 Sacramento community leaders and students attended the summit.

Six of Professor Greg Kim-Ju's (Psychology) students (Josh Haro, Rosalyn Sandoval, Bianca Sprouse, Amber Wilson, Tina Smith, and Jennifer Blair) who are working on a Social and Emotional Learning Program at one of the SCUSD schools, Will C. Wood Middle School, presented on their work at this summit.

California State University, Sacramento sponsors included College of Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies, College of Education, Department of Psychology, Asian Studies Program, Department of Ethnic Studies, Department of Sociology, Community Engagement Center, Full Circle Project, 65th Street Corridor Collaborative, and One World Initiative.

In Memorium

Naomi Thomas, Administrative Support Coordinator in the Psychology Department, passed away on March 8, 2015. Naomi worked for Sacramento State for over 25 years and worked in several departments on campus including Music, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice. She joined the Psychology Department in 2010 and worked closely with the graduate program, working with students on applications, thesis defense processes and more. She was well known among faculty, staff and students as always having a smile on her face and going to great lengths to help people. She had a strong passion for staff well-being and worked with the staff union, CSUEU. A memorial service was held at the Alumni Center on April 24, 2015. She will be greatly missed.



Naomi Thomas (photo courtesy of Psychology Department)



Nate Blair (photo courtesy of Psychology Department)

Nate Blair, Full-Time Lecturer in the Psychology Department, passed away on March 1, 2015. Nate worked as a full-time lecturer in the Psychology Department from 2003 to 2012. He also joined the staff of the Office of Institutional Research in 2005 where he worked as the Academic Planning Database Coordinator. Nate received his Ph.D. in Psychology and Cognitive Science and a Certificate in Mathematical Modeling in Cognitive Science from Indiana University in 2001. From 2001 – 2003, he worked as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at University of California, Irvine. At Sacramento State he taught a broad range of Psychology classes, including Introductory Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Perception, Learning Theories, and Research Methods. His students remember him as humorous, thoughtful, challenging, and as going out of his way to be helpful and available. Faculty remember his dry wit, his sharp intelligence, and his “low key” presence. Nate was an integral member of our Psychology family and we will miss him dearly. He is survived by his wife, Emily Wickelgren (Psychology Department), daughters Josie Blair and Thea Wickelgren, parents John and Joyce Blair, and brothers Matt and Tom Blair.

Faculty/Staff/Student Highlights

Cheyene Keniston, Environmental Studies Department senior, has been awarded a Research Experience for Undergraduate Students (REU) for summer 2015.

Cheyene is assisting **Associate Professor Michelle Stevens** with her sabbatical research with funding from an IRA grant. She has also been integral to STORC with **Dr. Dudley Burton** and **Dr. Murphy**. She has co-authored a book chapter with Dr. Stevens that is in press: *Healing the People, Healing the Land: Weaving Ethnoecology into Environmental Studies Curriculum*. Environmental science for the Curious: Why Study Environmental Science? (Ed.) Kaishor Vaidya, University of Canbarra, Canbarra, Australia.

Associate Professor Michelle Stevens (ENVS) and **Emilie M. Zelazo** (Anthropology Graduate Student) have contributed a chapter to the book *Rivers, Fish, and the People: Tradition, Science, and Historical Ecology of Fisheries in the American West* (edited by Pei-Lin Yu, former Department of Anthropology faculty).

Associate Professor Jennifer Murphy (SOC) organized the 40th annual student research conference, the Social Science Student Symposium (S4), which took place at Sacramento State on May 7, 2015.

Professor Rob Wassmer (PPA) presented his paper on "The Importance of Supply and Demand Factor to Preschool Attendance" at the 79th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Economic Association on March 28th in Minneapolis.

Seven Sac State students recently received paid positions or Capital Fellowship offers through the Sacramento Semester Program, directed by **Michael Wadle** (GOVT). These students are **Buck Ellingson**, **Katie Lagomarsino**,

Matt Macedo, **Spencer Rhoads**, **Aaron Sleichter**, and **Michele Vass**.

Professor Rob Wassmer (PPA) had his coauthored paper on "An Analysis of State and Local Government Capital Expenditure During the 2000s" published in the refereed journal *Public Budgeting and Finance*.

Associate Professor Andrea Venezia (PPA) co-authored a book with Charis McGaughy from the Educational Policy Improvement Center) titled: *Supporting the Dream: High School-College Partnerships for College and Career Readiness*.

Assistant Professor Kelly Thompson (FACS) participated on a task force for the Campus for the Living Lab to identify a proposal to redesign FACS 110 Food Production and Sustainability. The proposal was about integrating sustainability and hands-on experience into the course. Her proposal was selected for a \$12,000 award for Sacramento State.

Support SSIS by making a gift!
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The College of Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies 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 916-278-6504 or mummawh@csus.edu

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