



College of SSIS Newsletter

Spring 2018

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First Master's Hooding Ceremony and Reception

In Fall 2017 the College of SSIS held its first Master's Hooding Ceremony and Reception to honor those students who were graduating with a master's degree in Summer 2017 and Fall 2017. The event was held on Thursday, December 14th, 2017 in the Harper Alumni Center. Several graduate students attended, along with their faculty, friends and family. The graduates were officially hooded by their faculty advisor and both President Robert Nelsen and Interim Dean Ted Lascher spoke to honor the graduates. The official program was followed by a reception. Special thanks for Professor Ayad Al-Qazzaz Endowment for sponsoring the event. Professor Al-Qazzaz is a member of the Sociology Department. The college will be holding another reception on May 16th for the Spring 2018 and Summer 2018 master's graduates. More photos to follow on page 3.

Inside This Issue

Master's Hooding Photos	3
#MadeAtSacState	4
New Faces in the College	5
Highlights.....	7

Dean's Message

Happy spring! For this newsletter, I want to focus especially on SSIS staff and the new Hooding Ceremony for students graduating with a master's degree.

I am most pleased to officially welcome several new people to the SSIS Dean's Office: Mayrose Acob, our new Student Services Professional; Aaron Eichenberger, the college resource analyst; Marya Endriga, our Associate Dean for Student and Personnel Success; and Melanie Saeck, our new Administrative Support Coordinator.

Mentioning staff members prompts me to think about the wide range of activities in which they engage for the College. Indeed, it is difficult to overstate the diversity of staff roles. Yes, there is the highly visible work such as dealing with day-to-day student issues and ensuring that commencement runs smoothly. Yet those on the outside may not realize that staff also conduct such activities as advising students about general education and major possibilities; managing departmental Web sites; and organizing key events that are top priorities for faculty and administrators.

We are lucky to have so many talented staff members within SSIS. I am

pleased to encourage their professional development through such means as supporting participation in the upcoming Academic Resources Conference, which allows staff to exchange information, knowledge, and experiences.

At last fall's convocation, I stressed my desire to focus more attention on graduate students. One way to do this is by celebrating their achievements. I am proud that last fall SSIS for the first time conducted a Hooding Ceremony for graduating master's students. This allowed us to interact with the graduates in a more intimate setting, with time to mention specific accomplishments on the way to their degrees. President Nelsen attended as did many students and their family/friends, as well as faculty and staff. It was very successful, with the President indicating he wanted to see others conduct such an event.

Many people were involved in making the Hooding Ceremony so memorable. In particular, I wish to thank Professor of Sociology Ayad Al-Qazzaz,



who supported the ceremony financially and has been encouraging other events of this kind, and Melanie Saeck, who took the planning lead. We will be holding another Hooding Ceremony on Wednesday, May 16 from 10 to noon in the Alumni Center. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

We have made significant progress on the Sacramento State Downtown building!

Kudos to Brigett Reilly and everyone involved in the reconstruction. We experienced delays for a variety of reasons but the project is now close to complete. It looks like people will begin moving into the building within the next couple of months, and there will be a formal grand opening in late summer or early fall. We look forward to fall classes and many events at 304 S Street.

Best wishes for the remainder of the semester.

Ted Lascher
Interim Dean

Government Department is Now Political Science Department

On September 7, 2017 the university officially announced that the Government Department would be changing to the Political Science Department. The Government Department has been under the College of SSIS since its inception as one of three colleges that split off from the School of Arts and Sciences in 1996.

The history of this change may go back to an ongoing debate that dates back to post World War II when Political Science departments at educational institutions began promoting a more scientific and quantitative approach to the study of politics. There were some other departments that rejected this approach, wanting to ground the study of politics in more political philosophy, history and public law. This ongoing debate in the field may have

been behind the founders of Sac State's Government Department to side with the less scientific approach, according to its faculty.

When the current faculty decided to change the name, the concerns were more practical than philosophical. There was evidence that students and employers found the department's name confusing. The field seems to identify more with the Political Science name and many didn't realize that Government and Political Science are essentially the same thing, when looking at Sac State's program. Almost all the community colleges in California, CSUs, and UCs have Political Science Departments and this name also aligns with most universities in the rest of the United States.

This name change will help students make informed career choices

that are relevant for political science graduates. In the announcement about the name change, Provost Ching-Hua Wang thanked the faculty and staff in the department and within the college for a "dedicated pursuit of this matter as part of a comprehensive redesign of the discipline in ways that would benefit our students and region as California's capital campus." As this change was an Academic Unit Name Change and did not affect any changes in curriculum or degrees offered, the department is now going through the process of making those changes so that the courses and degrees that students receive will correspond with the Political Science Department name.



*Master's Hooding
Ceremony
December 14, 2017*





Several of the staff in the College of SSIS are #MadeAtSacState, having graduated with a degree or multiple degrees from Sac State! Some staff are also currently in a degree program on their way to becoming #MadeAtSacState. Several of our staff started out as students and became staff and others have gone back to school after becoming staff on campus. Here is a list of our #MadeAtSacState staff!

Alumni

Degree Received*

Colleen Moore, EdInsights	MPPA (Master's of Public Policy and Administration)	Ryan Arndt, Dean's Office	BA Pure Mathematics
Suzi Byrd, PPA	BS Biological Science BA Art Studio	Anne Montgomery, Dean's Office	BA Spanish with minor in Teaching English as a Second or Other Language (TESOL)
Aaron Eichenberger, Dean's Office	MA Education - Higher Education Leadership and Policy	Ana Gutierrez, Anthropology	BS in Business Administration, General Management BA in Communication Studies, Organizational Communication, minor in Spanish
Lowela Anunciacion, EdInsights	BS Business Administration, Marketing	Kristen Anderegg, Liberal Studies	BA in Social Work MS in Counselor Education PPS Credential
Heather Mummaw, Dean's Office	BA Psychology MA Counseling Psychology	Michelle Tarter, Political Science	BA in Women's Studies
Nicole Scanlan, Psychology	BA Psychology BA English	Mayrose Acob, Dean's Office	MA in Counselor Education - Career Counseling
Saba Kbrom, Sociology	BA Ethnic Studies		

Current students

Degree Program

Anne Montgomery, Dean's Office	BA Geography with concentration in Physical Geography and Metropolitan Area Planning
To Lan Phin, Full Circle Project	MPPA (Master's of Public Policy and Administration)
Christine Hall, FACS	MA Education - Higher Education Leadership and Policy



SACRAMENTO STATE
Redefine the Possible

*Does not necessarily represent terminal degree, but only those degrees received at Sac State

New Faces in the College

Melanie Saeck Dean's Office



Melanie joined the College of SSIS in June 2017. Her position is a “utility” position within the College, meaning she fills in for departments where there is a staff vacancy. Her home base is the Dean's Office where she helps with event planning and other coordinator duties.

Melanie was born in San Francisco and has lived in Northern California all of her life, except for five years living in Madison, Wisconsin and a summer in Philadelphia. She currently lives in a small Midtown Sacramento studio apartment with her cat, Violet. In her free time she enjoys “geeking out” over her academic interests, going on adventures to thrift stores with friends, and drinking more caffeine than the human body should be able to handle.

She is an art history nerd who is very interested in intersectional social justice activism. Melanie has a BA in religion and visual culture from UC Santa Cruz, an MA in art history from UC Davis, and recently finished her Ph.D. in art history from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Her research and scholarly interests include issues of race, gender, and sexuality in modern and contemporary trans-Atlantic art. Her current work with the Gerontology Department has sparked interest in the history of how aging is represented in art and culture.

Melanie brings to her ASC position a strong background in administrative work, especially event coordination, in both museum and university environments. She finds administrative work and assisting students (and coworkers) to be extremely personally fulfilling. She feels so fortunate that in her ASC role with the Dean's Office, she has the opportunity to help out in various departments in the College as needed. Melanie says: “I love working in SSIS at Sac State and love learning about the College's fields from speaking with each Department's faculty and students.”

Aaron Eichenberger Dean's Office



Aaron started working at Sacramento State in the English department in January 2008 and has now been on campus for 10 years. He joined the SSIS Dean's Office staff in September 2017 as the new College Resource Analyst. Aaron received a BA in English with a minor in mass communication from North Dakota State University; and a few years ago, he earned his M.A.Ed in Higher Education Leadership right here at Sac State. Apart from the typical high school jobs (e.g., he was a master in the grill area at his local McDonalds for 3 years) and odd jobs after college (he was a Mac Specialist at the Apple store who knew nothing about Macs), he's worked in higher education

in some capacity for 15 years. Prior to the start of his professional career, he worked at NDSU as a student assistant in their Student Activities Office and student Union; a resident advisor; and a member of their Conference, Orientation, and Recruitment Team. After Aaron was hired at Sac State, he worked his way up through the English department—from an ASA I 10/12 to an ASA II to an ASC II—before accepting his current position. Aaron firmly believes that we should always strive to make our piece of the world better than how we find it. He looks forward to finding his place in the College and discovering how he can contribute to making it even better than it already is.

Marya Endriga Dean's Office



Marya joined the Psychology Department in 1997, reaching Full Professor in 2009 and serving as Department Chair from 2011-2016. Dr. Endriga completed her BA in Psychology at the University of California, Berkeley and her doctorate in Child Clinical Psychology from the University of Washington. She is a licensed psychologist who has provided clinical service and consultation to individuals and organizations in the Sacramento area. Dr. Endriga worked for a year as the Director of Graduate Studies and Special Assistant to the Undergraduate Studies Dean before being selected as the new Associate Dean for Student and Personnel Success in SSIS.

Among her accomplishments at Sacramento State are developing diversity and counseling curricula, managing

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program impact, and instituting a multi-layered student advising and success model within the Department of Psychology. Dr. Endriga is committed to service in all forms and has recently co-chaired the Advising Task Force and the Graduate Education Task Force.

In partnership with Dr. Dianne Hyson, SSIS Associate Dean for Resource and Program Management, Dr. Endriga supports the college primarily in the areas of student (e.g., success initiatives, petition approvals, complaints) and personnel (e.g., faculty and staff development, concerns/conflicts) matters and oversight of the curricular process.

The addition of a second Associate Dean to the College will allow both administrators to move beyond the daily work of "putting out fires" and better implement proactive, growth-oriented strategies to move SSIS forward in its vision. Dr. Endriga is especially excited about this aspect of her new position and is currently focused on gathering input from SSIS departments and programs about the current needs and concerns of our students, staff, and faculty. She also hopes to facilitate better communication within the college and across campus, especially in light of the varied, complex, and often urgent initiatives that exist at our university today.

Mayrose Acob Dean's Office



Mayrose Acob recently joined SSIS as Graduation and Retention Coordinator. In this role, she works with the Faculty Fellows Program whose goal is to support the Graduation Initiative 2025, and increase the university's graduation rate through intensive student outreach and advising. This position was created in a collaborative effort between the College of SSIS and the Academic Advising Center to develop an Integrated Advising model.

Mayrose understands that navigating the complexities of higher education can be daunting and overwhelming for students, so she strives to be a resource that students feel comfortable reaching out. With a keen understanding that students have unique situations and needs, her advising approach is one that is holistic and student-centered.

Mayrose is enthusiastic about helping students residing in the College of

SSIS to persist and graduate promptly. She wants students to know she is available so they can conveniently seek out advising help within the college. She welcomes anyone to schedule an appointment with her or visit her during her drop-in hours in Amador Hall 460, Room C. Some of the services she provides includes, but are not limited to:

- Completing an overall assessment of student's progress to degree through a comprehensive review of General Education & Graduation requirements, unit, and GPA requirements
- Assisting students in learning to navigate and utilize the Keys to Degree Toolbox found in their Student Center
- Helping to identify and reassess student action plans and career goals

Mayrose has been in higher education for nine years, starting her career as an Advisor in the Academic Advising Center in 2009. After two years with the center, she became the Coordinator for the Second Year Success program, which focuses on helping students in their second year of college to maintain a successful path to graduation.

Mayrose grew up in Hawaii where she obtained her B.A in Psychology from the University of Hawaii at Hilo. A year after receiving her degree, she moved to Sacramento, California and subsequently earned her Master's Degree in Counselor Education with a Career Counseling emphasis. Mayrose is married and lives in Elk Grove with her husband, daughter and two cats. She loves being outdoors, reading mystery books, listening to music, eating and especially spending leisure time with family and friends.

Welcome, New Staff!

CSU Student Success Network Takes Off

When the Education Insights Center launched the CSU Student Success Network last year, it knew there was demand for evidence-driven, cross-campus, team-based professional learning opportunities in the CSU, but it had no idea how big the demand would be. Yet, in the days after Thanksgiving, staff found themselves scrambling to find a bigger venue (and a new caterer) because interest in the final convening of the year, hosted by CSU Long Beach, exploded just one week before registration closed.

The Network brings together faculty, staff, and administrators from across the CSU system to support

student learning, engagement, progression, and completion.

This CSU Long Beach convening was the third in a series of day-long events open to campus-based teams and designed to facilitate peer-to-peer learning and information-sharing both within and across campuses. Each convening has centered on a different theme, with the most recent examining the unique challenges facing transfer students.

At the core of the Network curriculum is the Middle Leadership Academy, a structured, year-long, collaborative professional learning experience that brings together experts, facilitators and teams of CSU faculty,

student affairs staff, researchers, and students to create, implement and iterate on solutions to common problems of practice. Registration for the 2018-19 Academy opens in the spring.

The Network is always looking for new participants. Teams from all 23 CSU campuses are welcome to get involved in developing and expanding the CSU Student Success Network. To learn more contact Network staff at studentsuccessnetwork@edinsightscenter.org.

All Network activities, including travel and meals, are currently free to participants.

Faculty/Staff/Student Highlights

Su Jin Jez (faculty, PPA) is the recipient of the College of SSIS's annual research award for 2017-18. She has also received renewal of a \$1.2 million annual award to study institutional effectiveness at CA community colleges. Su Jin also continues her work as co-coordinator of the U.S. Department of Education Institute for Educational Sciences Pathway Fellowship Program. This assists current Sac State students in the future pursuit of a doctorate in an education related field. Her, Andrea Venezia, and Suzi Byrd also launched a "Women of PPA" group to discuss relevant issues among PPA students and alumni.

Andrea Venezia (faculty, PPA) had a co-authored book chapter on "Disconnect by Design: College Readiness Efforts Still Hampered by Divided K-12 and Higher Education Systems" published by Routledge in the second edition of *Shaping Education Policy: Power and Process*. Her coauthor Michael Kirst, is the current President of the California State Board of Education.

Rob Wassmer (faculty, PPA) attended the 110th Annual Conference of the National Tax Association in Philadelphia in November and presented two papers: "The Economic and Fiscal Effects of Property Tax Abatement in an Urban County," and "Four Decades of Prop 13:

Property Tax Knowledge and Support in California." With Nathan Anderson, a current MPPA student at Sac State, Rob continues his work on a grant from the California Department of Consumer Affairs on "Should California Adopt a Fire-Barrier Standard for Upholstered Furniture: A Review of the Previous Academic Evidence and a new Benefit-Cost Analysis." Rob also had another of his regular bi-monthly, co-authored (with Ron Fisher) columns in the professional journal *State Tax Notes* published in December on CA "Property Tax Knowledge and Attitudes". This, and the previous paper presented in Philadelphia, are a result of survey questions awarded through Sac State's Institute for Social Research.

Students of Sustainability in the Tropics (ENVS144) in Fall 2017, conducted the first annual Stinger Sustainability Survey of undergraduate students. The survey gauged student's sustainability knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors. As part of their final project students created a report and presented their findings to the Office of Sustainability and the Sustainability Manager for the City of Sacramento. A final report will be published in Spring, 2018.

Key findings are:

- 1) The average distance students travel to campus is 18 miles
- 2) The average carbon emissions for one

car trip is 16 pounds of CO2

3) 55% of student are willing to use a student-only rideshare app similar to Lyft or Waze carpool

4) 69% of students are willing to take a hybrid class to reduce the number of commutes to campus

5) 82% of students are willing to support programs to reduce single use plastics on campus

6) 77% of students are willing to participate in a reusable takeout container program on campus

Logan Kemp (student, Political Science) was selected for the 2017 Panetta Internship in Washington D.C. 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. For his internship, Logan was placed in House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi's office. He said, "I have been primarily working with the Leader's Senior Health and Budget Policy Advisor. He is a wealth of knowledge and has allowed me to sit in on lobbying visits and committee staff meetings as well as write drafts of memos directly to the Leader herself." Logan indicated it has been a life-changing experience for him. Congratulations to Logan!

Environmental Studies Continues to Bring Environmental Awareness to Campus



Heather Crabb

Don't feed the monster!!

Did you know that the average American uses more than 500 plastic bags per year? Luckily, California has limited the use of single-use plastic bags. However, single-use plastic is still used for other products such as to-go containers and bottles for water and other drinks. There are many environmental impacts to using plastic including plastic 'islands' in our

oceans. So, don't feed the monster! Help us reduce single-use plastics on campus! Reduce, reuse, recycle, and remember!*

Dr. Julian Fulton's Energy, Society, and the Environment class decided to switch off the lights on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. No, they weren't trying to beat the traffic out of town. They were holding class using a "Solar Suitcase," a low-tech solution for communities around the world that lack clean, quality energy resources for essential services like health centers, classrooms, and cell phone



charging. Twenty percent of the world's population faces such "energy poverty," a condition that detrimentally affects health, safety, education, and livelihood outcomes. The solar suitcase is part of a larger effort led by CSU East Bay and an international NGO called "We Care Solar" to connect CSU students, local high schools, and energy-poverty communities around the world, including right here in California. Dr. Fulton plans to expand his class' engagement with this program in coming semesters.

Support SSIS by making a gift!

**Please contact
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916-278-6504**

*In an effort to be more environmentally friendly, this issue will not be widely distributed in print. If you would still like a print copy of the newsletter, please contact Heather Mumma at mummawh@csus.edu or 916-278-6504



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