



## College of SSIS Newsletter

**Spring 2019**

Volume 5, Issue 2



Boatamo Mosupoye  
(Sacramento State/Jessica Vernone)

### 5th International Conference on Genocide

On November 1 – 3, 2018 the fifth International Conference on Genocide was held at Sacramento State in the University Union, with the theme “Forms of Genocide Across the Globe: Challenges, Responses, and Accountability.”

This year’s conference was dedicated to Alexandre Kimenyi, Professor of Pan African Studies, who organized the first conference back in 1998 and was actually working on the 2011 conference when he passed away suddenly. Kimenyi was Rwandan and lost more than 100 family members in the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, along with his widow, Mathilde Mukantabana who earned her master’s degrees in history and social work from Sacramento State and is now the ambassador from the Republic of Rwanda to the United States.

In speaking about her late husband, according to a Sac State news article, Mukantabana said, “There is no better way to honor his legacy and the memory of all those who have perished. This conference offers yet another opportunity to reflect collectively, and to offer insightful research, on the scourge of genocide and

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## Dean's Corner

The beginning of June will mark the end of my Grover Cleveland\* style tenure as SSIS Interim Dean. I am pleased that our senior Associate Dean, Dianne Hyson, will be stepping in as the new Dean and confident she will do great things.

I am also proud of what we accomplished together these past two years including putting the budget on a good footing, opening a student success center, initiating a regular Hooding Ceremony for graduating master's students, holding a prominent international conference on genocide, advancing the Gerontology program to full departmental status, gaining approval to search for the



first full-time faculty member for the burgeoning Asian Studies Program, securing the fiscal health of the Institute for Social Research and the 65th Street Corridor Community Collaborative

Project, and restarting a seminar series for faculty to present work in progress, among other things. I look forward to completion of other projects, such as the pending public administration completion degree. Additionally, we all have cause to celebrate the cadre of exceptionally talented and committed faculty members hired during the past two years.

And we continue to have great students who make everything worthwhile.

I personally owe thanks to many people. I've enjoyed great support and sound advice from the department chairs, program directors, and Faculty Council

with whom I meet regularly. I've benefited from the help of generous donors to our scholarships, events, and programs. We have great staff in the College and they have helped me in ways too numerous to mention.

Most of all, I wish to thank my colleagues in the Dean's Office. If we're lucky, we work with a group of people who can be counted on to get things done very well and make it fun along the way. I've been very lucky.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ted Lascher".

Interim Dean  
Ted Lascher

\* As connoisseurs of political trivia may recall, Grover Cleveland is the only U.S. president to serve non-consecutive terms.

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## Psychology Faculty Receives National Science Grant

In 2018 Associate Professor Sharon Furtak received a four-year, \$465,000 National Science Grant, awarded by the National Science Foundation. Dr. Furtak's grant is one of the largest ever received by Sac State faculty and holds potential to discover new approaches and understanding of fear and its link with mental illness.

The National Science Foundation is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950. They serve as the funding source for approximately 27 percent of the total federal budget for basic research conducted at U.S. colleges and universities in many fields such as mathematics, computer science, and the social sciences. They issue limited-term grants to fund specific research proposals that have been judged the most promising by a merit-review system.

Dr. Furtak is using this grant to research how fear can trigger anxiety disorders such as post-traumatic stress,



Sacramento State/Psychology Department

obsessive compulsive and phobias. As a Behavioral Neuroscientist, she believes that understanding the parts of the brain that regulate emotions could lead to breakthroughs in mental health treatment for these disorders. Dr. Furtak hopes to further an understanding that mental illness is neurological and not a behavior that people can always control.

Dr. Furtak has a personal connection to this research. Her

mother was diagnosed as suffering from schizophrenia and obsessive compulsive disorder, after struggling with mental illness from the trauma of going through a divorce when Dr. Furtak was seven years old. Dr. Furtak believes that this work could ultimately help her mother and many others.

There are also ways that this grant is strongly supporting Sac State students. Each year for the grant, it supports salary for students to engage in 40 hours per week of research over the summer and for two students to travel to national conferences.

Congratulations to Dr. Furtak!



## EdInsights News

The CSU Student Success Network, which is facilitated by [EdInsights](#) and serves all campuses in the CSU, is having another productive year.

The Network held its first one-day [Convening on Regional Education Partnerships](#) in November at Sacramento State. Nine teams from across the system took part. They were joined by President Robert S. Nelsen and Sacramento City Unified School District Superintendent Jorge A. Aguilar, who discussed how their partnership—which also includes the Los Rios Community College District—is helping achieve reforms, facilitate data sharing, and improve outcomes at their respective institutions.

In December, we launched our second year-long Middle Leadership Academy. This year, 12 teams are participating in the Academy, including one from Sacramento State. The Academy brings together cross-role

teams from individual CSU campuses to forge deeper relationships with colleagues and develop the skills to address challenges faced by students on their campuses. The Academy is grounded in a problem-based learning model that motivates participants to “lead from the middle” as they explore and apply strategies to support student learning, engagement, progression, and success on their campuses, with a focus on closing opportunity and outcomes gaps.

Recruitment for the 2019-20 Middle Leadership Academy began in February.

We also published our latest study, [Destination Integration: Strategies to Improve Academy Advising](#). In this exploration of academic advising on CSU campuses, we describe the perspectives of administrators from five participating campuses on efforts to improve advising services with the goal of increasing student progress and graduation rates.

Across the campuses we studied,

the Network found five strategies to enhance coordination and leverage limited resources, most of which are at early stages of implementation. These campuses provide a glimpse into many of the different strategies for improving advising in the CSU, and early indications of how campuses plan to better integrate advising with other campus units in the future.

A follow-up study, based on student perspectives, is scheduled for release in spring 2019.

For more information about the Student Success Network, contact Sasha Horwitz at [horwitz@csus.edu](mailto:horwitz@csus.edu).

## Faculty Awards

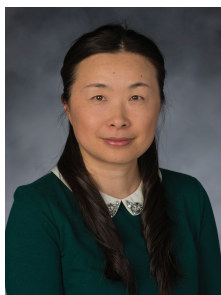
### OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARDS



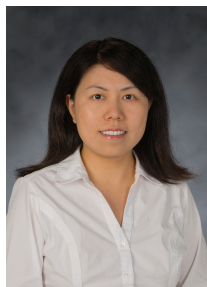
**David Andersen-Rogers** (Political Science)  
Scholarly and Creative Activity Award



**Wesley Hussey** (Political Science)  
Outstanding University Service Award



**Dong Shen** (Family and Consumer Sciences)  
Outstanding Teaching Award



**Yan (Joni) Zhou** (Economics)  
Outstanding Community Service Award

Sacramento State/ Women's Studies



Dr. Boatamo Mosupyoe received an award from the Department of Women's Studies for her contributions to promoting diversity at Sacramento State. Dr. Rita Cameron Wedding presented the award and it was supported and endorsed by the administration in the college.

other mass atrocities that have been, and still are, devastating our world. And it encourages survivors to find a medium to channel their resilience and express their sorrow."

The conference opened with a keynote address by Johnston Busingye, Attorney General and Minister of Justice Republic of Rwanda. The conference included four keynote addresses, by Dr. Christine Finley, Assistant Professor in American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California; Adama Dieng, JD, Special Advisor to the United Nations Secretary General on the Prevention of Genocide; and Jeanette T. Ndlovhu, Former South African Ambassador to Ghana/Permanent Ambassador to the United Nations for South Africa. There was a special guest speech on day two by Dr. Jean-Damascène Bizimana who is the current Executive Secretary of National Commission for the Fight Against Genocide in Rwanda. There were multiple sessions across all three days, with many panels and presentations that included several SSIS faculty such as:

Boatamo Mosupye (ETHN)  
Timothy Fong (ETHN)  
Bao Lo (ETHN)  
Raghuraman Trichur (ANTH)  
Booker Cook (ETHN)  
Rashad Abdul Alim Baadqir (ETHN)  
Rachel Flamenbaum (ATHN)  
James Sobredo (ETHN)  
Ricky Green (ETHN)



Johnston Busingye  
(Sacramento State/Jessica Vernone)

Annette Reed, (ETHN)  
Sujatha Moni (WOMS)  
Brian Baker (ETHN)  
Elizabeth Mukiibi (WOMS)  
Tristan Josephson (WOMS)  
Michelle Stevens (ENVS)  
Michael Walker (ANTH)  
Data Barata (ANTH)  
Anne Luna-Gordinier (SOC)  
Darryl Freeman (ETHN)  
Maria Vargas (ETHN)  
James DeShaw Rae (POLS)  
Andrea Moore (ETHN)

The conference highlighted the eight stages of genocide:

*Classification* – A culture having categories to distinguish people into "us and them".

*Symbolization* – Giving names or other symbols to the classifications, such as naming people "Jews" or "Gypsies", or distinguishing them by colors or dress and applying those symbols to members of groups.

*Dehumanization* – One group denies the humanity of the other group. Members of it are equated with animals, vermin, insects, or diseases.

*Organization* – Genocide is always organized, usually by the state, often using militias to provide deniability of state responsibility.

*Polarization* – Extremists drive the groups apart.

*Preparation* – Victims are identified and separated out because of their ethnic or religious identity.

*Extermination* – Quickly becomes mass killing legally called "Genocide" and is called such because the killers do not believe their victims to be fully human.

*Denial* – The eighth stage that always follows a genocide. It is among the surest indicators of further genocidal massacres. The perpetrators try to cover up evidence, intimidate the witnesses, and often blame the victims.

Sessions covered mass killings of the 20th and 21st centuries including



Mathilde Mukantabana  
(Sacramento State/Jessica Vernone)

the Holocaust, Cambodian killing fields, extermination of American Indians, genocides in Armenia, East Timor, and Rwanda, and sexual violence against the LGBT community. There was exploration of healing through art, music, photography, and dance and included discussions of genocide denial and its consequences and how to prevent future mass killings.

The conference was presented by the Sacramento State Department of Ethnic Studies and Pan African Studies in collaboration with the College of SSIS, Professor Ayad Al-Qazzaz endowments, the College of Arts and Letters, The National Commission for the Fight Against Genocide in Rwanda (CNLG), Sonoma State University, Dickinson College, Global Majority, and Friends of Rwanda Association.

This year's conference was organized primarily by Boatamo "Ati" Mosupye, Professor of Ethnic Studies and Pan African Studies, who grew up in South Africa during apartheid. Just like many other South Africans, Dr. Mosupye had members of her family detained and tortured by the police during the apartheid era. She came to the USA after the death of her husband and three year old son. Dr. Mosupye said, "My focus all my life, as soon as I experienced tragedy, is to have a peaceful world, to forgive and reconcile. Genocide is a somber and sad topic, but also can be hopeful. Essentially, people want peace. I don't think we nurture that need enough. For me, creating a better world is possible."



## Bushy Lake Restoration Project

by Moiz Mir and Dr. Michelle Stevens

Students at Sacramento State are actively engaged in an ongoing restoration project at the Bushy Lake wildlife refuge. Located along the American River Parkway behind Cal Expo and managed by Dr. Michelle Stevens in partnership with Sacramento County Parks, the Bushy Lake site is home to native species including the threatened Western Pond Turtle. Since 2015, Sacramento State students and volunteers have been establishing native plant experiments, cleaning up trash and



invasive species, and monitoring wildlife at Bushy Lake.

Plant experiments and Western Pond Turtle monitoring studies are used for both high impact student-faculty research in the restoration ecology class and as senior thesis topics by students in the Environmental Studies Department. The restoration plant pallet includes drought tolerant and fire resilient native species, beneficial pollinator plants like milkweed, and culturally significant plants to the Nisenan, Maidu, and Miwok tribes. The restoration efforts being done at Bushy Lake provide habitat for river otters, rabbits, a myriad of birds, deer, coyotes, and the iconic monarch butterfly.

Bushy Lake itself is a vital refugia for the Western Pond Turtle, a species that is listed as endangered in Oregon and as a “species of special concern” in California. As a result of restoration efforts, Bushy Lake remains a great place to go birdwatching and enjoy the



serenity of nature. A goal of the Bushy Lake Restoration Project is to provide an opportunity for citizen science and a beautiful walking trail for members of the community to enjoy. Dr. Stevens and Sacramento State students are working to re-establish a functioning ecosystem of native species for the benefit of both people and animals.

## Wonder of Wetlands Community Service at Bay Point, CA

For the past five years, Dr. Michelle Stevens’s wetlands ecology class has presented a Wonder of Wetlands program for over 50 Riverview Middle School students. Students in the college class provide a one day opportunity for hands-on wetlands science activities, and get a deeper understanding of how wetlands work and their importance to their local Bay Point tidal marsh. Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), Environmental Resources Management, the Society of Wetland



Scientists, Western Chapter, and Craig Communications collaborate to provide funding and experience for Wonder of Wetlands.

By providing this educational opportunity, students will be able to study, enjoy, appreciate, and learn from the wetlands in their own community! “Every year we do a better job of getting the Bay Point students more engaged, and I think this year was the most successful yet! You could really see the students enjoying getting muddy, learning about the unique animals and plants in this habitat, and coming away with a sense of stewardship for their local wetland,” said Dr. Michelle Stevens.

Students were given a guided nature walk in the morning to the local salt marsh. After lunch, college students set up stations that focused on wetland STEM education with experiential learning and hands-on activities. “We got a chance to really connect one-on-one with the Bay Point students in our group,” said



Sacramento State student Azalia Rivera, “It was great being able to find out what they were interested in and talk with them about how they could actually incorporate that into future classes and career.” Student assessments indicated that they were pleased with the new things they had learned and experienced. Both students and mentors walked away with a new and beautiful experience which will hold value for a lifetime.

Photos courtesy of Environmental Studies

## Faculty/Staff/Student/Department Highlights

**Jonathan Kaplan** (faculty, ECON) recently participated in a panel discussion titled "Assessing the real impact of plant pathology: the many hidden losses due to plant diseases," at the 16th International Congress of Plant Pathology held in Boston, July 29-Aug. 3. His participation on the panel also included a talk on the impact of plant diseases on high value products (the effect of grape diseases on the wine industry).

Dr. Santos Torres Jr., Division of Social Work, and **Debra L. Welkley** (lecturer, SOC), co-facilitated a professional development session at American River College, The Power of Vulnerability: Strongest in Our Broken Places, on Aug. 22. The session explored how the role of instructor can often generate a tendency to focus on experiences that have made us feel at risk (e.g. course evaluations, classroom observations, disruptive behaviors, etc.). In addition to professional and personal challenges that faculty often face, strategies for overcoming such vulnerabilities are a central aspect of this professional development session. Through this workshop, participants will be able to explore the creation of a new narrative relative to vulnerabilities faced.

**Dr. Smile Dube** (faculty, ECON) had a paper accepted in the Journal of Applied Finance & Banking, Vol. 9, no. 1, 2019, 1-25 ISSN: 1792-6580. The paper examines the nature of Brazilian, Russian, Indian, Chinese, and South African (BRICS) volatility of currency returns. Under the classical normal assumptions, the disturbance term in a model assumes constant variance both unconditionally and conditionally. In finance and macroeconomics, the disturbance term is hardly ever constant. The paper, titled "GARCH Modelling of Conditional Correlations and Volatility of Exchange Rates in BRICS Countries," provides empirical measures of volatility in the currencies of these countries. The paper initially considers a multivariate normal-DCC model and shows that it cannot adequately capture the fat tails prevalent in financial time series data such as exchange rates. Next, the paper

considers a multivariate t- version of the Gaussian dynamic conditional correlation (DCC) to measure the extent of volatility of currency returns. A major result is that the t-DCC model (dynamic conditional correlation based on the t-distribution) outperforms the normal-DCC model. The result is important for currency traders, investors, and policymakers in these emerging markets.

During the fall 2018 semester **Sara McClellan** (faculty, PPA) established a community engaged research and teaching partnership with the Sacramento Youth & Families Collective (YFC). She co-designed and co-facilitated multiple YFC planning sessions with YFC leaders and with graduate student assistance. They will continue this partnership during Spring 2019 and extend applied learning opportunities for graduate students enrolled in the MPPA 272 Collaborative Policy Making seminar.

**Ajay Singh** (faculty, ENVS) was either interviewed or had a research article used for several recent news items: Insight with Beth Ruyack on NPR, "Transformative Climate Communities"; Weekend Edition Sunday on NPR "As Grizzlies Come Back, Frustrations Build Over Continued Protections"; CSU System News "Is the Endangered Species Act at Risk of Extinction?"

**Cheryl Lugo**, Student Success Coordinator (staff, Dean's Office), and **Mayrose Acob**, Graduation and Retention Coordinator (staff, Dean's Office), will be presenting at the National Academic Advising Association Regional Conference March 13 – 15, 2019. Their presentation is titled: "Paddling the Canoe Upstream: Working Collaboratively with Students, Community College Advisors, and Campus Advisors to Create a Holistic, Creative, and Integrated Advising Model."

Farm to Fork at Sac State is scheduled for May 3rd with a student hosted evening of seasonal bites with beer and wine on the Guy West Bridge. Students in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences in **Dr. Kelly Thompson's** Food Production and Sustainability course

will be planning, preparing, and serving at the third annual event, "Bites on the Bridge" from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Small plates and desserts will be served along with wine as well as beer made with campus-grown hops and honey. This year's theme is "Tastes of the World." The foods served will highlight dishes from around the globe while featuring sustainable, locally sourced ingredients. Proceeds from the event will benefit Sac State's Bioconversion and Agricultural Collaborative (BAC Yard).

The 3rd Annual School Food Forum is scheduled for April 30th in the Union Ballroom. This event is a gathering of K-12 food service professionals and educators, students, policy makers and community allies to learn about and discuss current topics in education, food service practices, and food policy that affect our local school food environment. It is hosted by the Food and Nutrition Club in partnership with the Sacramento Food Policy Council. We are planning a student poster presentation session, resources/career fair, and many symposia. Topics will include food service management, government regulations of food in K-12 settings, farm to school, sustainability, nutrition education, curriculum development, public health and more. Questions can be directed to Lynn Hanna [lhanna@csus.edu](mailto:lhanna@csus.edu) or Brenda Ruiz [chfebrendaruiz@gmail.com](mailto:chfebrendaruiz@gmail.com).

**Moiz Mir** (student, ENVS) won first place at the Sac State Student Research Spring Symposium, held on March 4th, in the category of Education, Social Science & Interdisciplinary Studies for his presentation titled "Companion planting as an understory restoration strategy along the American River." His mentor is **Michelle Stevens** (faculty, ENVS).

**Eli Bassett**, Government Alumnus and 2018 Dean's Award Winner, is attending the University of Helsinki in Finland. He wrote this about his experience so far: "Finland and the University of Helsinki have been remarkable so far! I am working towards my Master of Social Sciences in Global Politics and Communication, with an emphasis

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on Global Political Economy. The first quarter has officially ended and for the last two months I've been studying Globalization, History of Economic Thought, and Philosophy of Politics. While the lectures have been fascinating, the most striking to me has been the broader Finnish culture and society. Being a model

Nordic welfare state, Finland enjoys high levels of socio-economic equality, universal education, and a strong trust in political institutions, all of which seem impossible in the United States. Yet somehow Finland makes it look easy. As I've begun thinking about my master's thesis, I can't help but ponder the vital role human capital has played

in Finland success. I would be interested to study how state investments in human capital have led to Finland's global reputation as a happy, highly educated, and productive country. All-in-all, I am eager and optimistic to see what the next two years will hold while I escape the cold in the infamous Finnish saunas!"

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## Student Success Center

The College of SSIS has a fully functional Student Success Center (SSC), currently housed in Amador Hall, Room 452A. The SSC is run by the college's Graduation and Retention Coordinator, Mayrose Acob, who came to us from Academic Advising. The SSC can help with such things as:

- Advising for GE and Graduation Requirements
- Smart Planner Completion Assistance
- Graduation Application Submission
- Basic Career Exploration and Planning
- Academic Probation, Disqualification, & Dismissal
- Time Management & Study Skills
- GPA Calculation
- Referrals to Campus Resources & Faculty Advisors

Drop-in hours are Tuesdays from 11:30am – 3:00pm. To schedule an appointment, email [ssis\\_studentsuccess@csus.edu](mailto:ssis_studentsuccess@csus.edu) or call 916-278-3846.



## The Kitchen

Last fall, SSIS launched "The Kitchen" faculty research workshops. Interim Dean Ted Lascher proposed this initiative during the College's fall 2019 Symposium, based on successful efforts of this type that had been tried in prior years. Professor Monicka Tutschka of the Department of Political Science has organized these workshops. The Kitchen is a gathering place designed to help SSIS faculty develop their early research ideas and to promote intellectual dialogue across departments in the college. In other words, it's a place where "half baked" proposals are welcome!

We hope people will make a point of supporting research and intellectual discourse on campus by attending some of the Kitchen sessions.

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## Upcoming Events

**April 12, 2019**

*Deans' Award Reception and Dinner  
Harper Alumni Center*

**April 30, 2019**

*3rd Annual School Food Forum  
University Union Ballroom*

**May 2, 2019**

*SSIS Scholarship Reception  
University Union Forest Suite*

**May 3, 2019**

*Farm to Form at Sac State  
Guy West Bridge*

**May 13, 2019**

*College of SSIS Master's Hooding and  
Reception  
Harper Alumni Center*

**May 19, 2019**

*College of SSIS Commencement  
Golden 1 Center*



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Please contact  
the Dean's Office  
[ssis@csus.edu](mailto:ssis@csus.edu)  
916-278-6504

## COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

**Ted Lascher**  
INTERIM DEAN

**Dianne Hyson**  
ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESOURCE AND  
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

**Marya Endriga**  
ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR STUDENT AND PERSONNEL SUCCESS

**Aaron Eichenberger**  
COLLEGE RESOURCE ANALYST

**Marsha Robinson**  
HR ANALYST

**Heather Mummaw**  
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT COORDINATOR

**Anne Montgomery**  
TRAVEL/SCHOLARSHIP COORDINATOR

**Rodrigo da Silva**  
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT COORDINATOR

**Cheryl Lugo**  
STUDENT SUCCESS COORDINATOR

**Mayrose Acob**  
GRADUATION AND RETENTION COORDINATOR

**Frank Preuss**  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANT

**Ryan Arndt**  
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 916-278-6504 or [mummawh@csus.edu](mailto:mummawh@csus.edu)