



College of SSIS Newsletter

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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 Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies,

Greetings from the Dean's Office! It is both a privilege and pleasure to be serving as the new Dean of the College and it is also a pleasure for my office to roll out issue # 1 of our College Newsletter. The launch of this Newsletter is one of several ways we are trying to strengthen communication and outreach with our alumni, friends, supporters, retired colleagues, and the university community at large. Newsletters will come out twice a year – at the beginning of the school year and then at the beginning of Spring Semester. The next issue will come out towards the end of this semester, but then we'll start the regular schedule next year. We certainly hope you enjoy the Newsletter and that it helps keep you informed and in touch with the College.

Let me take the opportunity to introduce myself. I took office on August 1, having come from America's Icebox, St. Cloud, Minnesota, the heart of Lake Wobegon (for those of you who are "A Prairie Home Companion" fans). I was born in Iceland, grew up in Oregon, went to graduate school in Canada, and have come to California following a twenty-seven-year career in the Midwest. Most of my career has been spent at St. Cloud State University, the flagship institution in the CSU's counterpart in Minnesota, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. I joined St. Cloud State in 1988 as a young Assistant Professor and 20 years later, began moving into various leadership roles at the university. My most recent leadership responsibility was serving as the Founding Dean of the new School of Public Affairs at St. Cloud State. As the Founding Dean, I focused a lot on strategic planning, the creation of inter- and multi-disciplinary programming, hiring new faculty, forming partnerships with the external community and overseas universities, and building a school culture, identity, and brand. As someone who worked for 3 years to facilitate the creation of a new academic unit, I come to the College of Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies with much excitement, for I see a great future for this college. This is a very strong, talented, and highly valuable academic unit, one that is ready to move to the next level. I really believe this college has the potential to become one of the finest colleges of its kind at a regional comprehensive university on the West Coast. There are some exciting projects underway now in the College. First, in alignment with the roll-out of the university's strategic plan, we are working on a strategic plan in the College. I have formed a 30-person task force to manage strategic planning in the college, as well as an 11-person strategic planning executive work group that is an offshoot of the task force. Through a series of facilitated retreats, meetings, and focus group conversations with the College, the task



Örn Bodvarsson, Dean

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Meet the SSIS Departments, Programs and Centers

Departments & Programs

Department of Anthropology

Established more than 50 years ago, the Department of Anthropology has contributed significantly to the University, the Capitol region and beyond through excellence in teaching and scholarship. Following the American tradition of four-field approach to anthropology, the department provides students a rigorous foundation in Archaeology, Biological Anthropology, Linguistic Anthropology and Sociocultural Anthropology. Faculty and students focus on a wide range of topical interests from across the world, ranging from human evolution to the archaeology of pre-historic societies, from exploring the politics of race, class, gender, sexuality and ethnicity in diverse social sites to the politics of religious practices, from the explorations of illnesses, urbanization, technology, migration, and globalization on people and societies worldwide, and everything else in between. The department strives to provide students “hands-on” experience to complement their in-class learning via specialized projects, such as local archaeological excavations, community engagement and internships. The scholarly interests of the department’s faculty represent a wide range of thematic foci and regional specialization. The department is committed to a well-rounded academic core that provides the necessary foundation in the discipline while allowing students the space to pursue and develop their individual topics of interests.



Asian Studies Program

The Asian Studies Program at California State University, Sacramento is an interdisciplinary program that seeks to prepare our students for a future in an economically and politically important and inter-connected Pacific Basin by providing an in-depth understanding of Asia from a political, cultural, and historical perspective. Graduates of the program utilize their knowledge and training to continue their studies at graduate institutions or through employment in government, business, or education. The program actively increases the awareness of Asia on our campus and is a resource for the community in the capital region through its support for student clubs, faculty colloquia, and cultural activities.

Cooper-Woodson Enhancement Program

The Cooper-Woodson College Enhancement Program (CWC) is an association of faculty, staff, students, and community members who are committed to recognizing and upholding the tradition represented in African American culture that is best expressed in relationships between traditional African American colleges and students. It involves adults in the community assuming responsibility for shaping and guiding a learning environment supportive of, responsive to, and nurturing of CWC students.

Department of Economics

Economics is a social science that examines the functioning of markets, the determination of prices and distribution of income, and the determination of the overall level of income and rates of unemployment and inflation. In addition, Economics deals with various social problems. The Economics major at Sacramento State is designed to provide students with a liberal education with special emphasis on the economic aspects of society; on familiarization with techniques for the analysis of contemporary economic problems; and on developing the ability to think critically, to conceptualize and to possess the communication and computer skills to evaluate private and public policy issues.

Department of Environmental Studies

The mission of the Department of Environmental Studies at California State University, Sacramento, is to prepare students to understand and address environmental problems in their political, economic, social, ethical, and scientific contexts. We promote the use of an interdisciplinary approach to teaching and research, and we encourage the development of strong writing, research, and quantitative skills that give students the ability to identify the causes and consequences of human influence on the environment and to work toward sustainable solutions to complex environmental problems.

Department of Ethnic Studies

The Department of Ethnic Studies at California State University, Sacramento has been in existence for over 40 years! The Department is comprised of four programs: Asian American Studies; Chicano Studies; Native American Studies; and Pan African Studies. Ethnic Studies is a degree-granting interdisciplinary program offering course work in the study of the histories, cultures, and contemporary issues which define and shape ethnic group experiences in the United States. The Department is fully engaged in its primary mission for teaching, research, and community based service.



Department of Family & Consumer Sciences

The mission of the FACS Department is to provide knowledge and skills that will enhance the well-being and quality of life for individuals, families, and communities. We strive to foster healthy relationships between people and their diverse environments. These relationships are examined in the context of clothing and fashion, nutrition and food, family life and resource management. The Family and Consumer Sciences Department has four concentrations: Family Studies, Fashion Merchandising and Design, Nutrition and Food/Dietetics, and Family and Consumer Sciences Education (Pre-credential Single Subject Program).



Gerontology Program

The Gerontology Program at Sacramento State provides students with a unique interdisciplinary perspective of the process of aging. Courses focus on both “ill” and “well” aspects encountered along the life span, emphasizing intergenerational active aging for all populations. Bachelor and Minor students enroll in interdisciplinary core courses spanning many different disciplines and have the opportunity to enroll in a broad variety of elective courses designed to meet individual career aspirations. Graduate Certificate students complete 18 units of core gerontology classes which may also be used when constructing a Special Master’s degree in gerontology and another discipline. The Gerontology Program is proud of its past and present and looks forward to an active future as the world plans for and meets the global aging demographic imperative.



Department of Government

The Department of Government is dedicated to the study of politics; its counterpart at other universities is often called the Department of Politics or Political Science. The department expects to turn politically interested and concerned students into politically literate college graduates, whatever their career plans or other interests. Training in Government courses equips students with analytical skills including: the ability to recognize and understand the use of theory to interpret and understand political phenomena; the ability to recognize the importance of and to weigh the worth of evidence marshaled to support or oppose an argument; and the ability to accumulate political information and knowledge and to use this knowledge to better understand and engage in the political world.

Liberal Studies Program

The Liberal Studies Program is primarily designed for students planning to go on to careers teaching in Sacramento-area elementary and middle schools. As such, the Program is integral and integrated into the community. The Liberal Studies Program prides itself on both the breadth of knowledge our students are afforded by taking courses throughout the social science disciplines and the depth of knowledge attained by creating future teachers and learned critical thinkers. Our students are well-prepared for life as teachers, scholars, businesspeople, lawyers, and citizens. The Liberal Studies Program is proud of its recognition as a Subject Matter Competency Program by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC). The interdisciplinary nature of our Program not only affords our students a wide array of analytical skills, but makes them ideal examples of students who have directly considered the social, economic, political, cultural, and ecological complexities of an ever-changing world.



Department of Psychology

The Department of Psychology at Sacramento State pursues its mission to educate, research, and practice in the field of Psychology with dedication and enthusiasm. We have three undergraduate programs (Major, Minor, Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis) and three graduate master's programs (General Psychology, Industrial/Organizational Psychology,

Applied Behavior Analysis). While our undergraduate program is quite large with upwards of 1,000 majors, Psychology faculty members provide individual mentoring and small group lab experiences to many of our students that help prepare them for graduate studies and the workforce. For example, last year Psychology faculty provided 314 student co-authorships on conference submissions and manuscripts, attended 32 conferences with their students, and supervised 208 graduate and undergraduate research assistants.



Department of Public Policy & Administration

The Department of Public Policy and Administration offers Masters degrees in Public Policy and Administration (PPA) as well as Urban Land Development. The PPA program is distinctive as it offers students extensive coursework in both policy and administration; most programs chose one of these areas. Celebrating its 25th year, and with nearly 400 alumni, the PPA program is well known for its focus on California state and local government. Alumni work successfully in the public, non-profit and private sectors.



Social Science Program

The Social Science Program is primarily designed for students planning to go on to careers teaching in Sacramento-area middle and high schools in the fields of History, Economics, Government, and Geography. As such, the Program is integral and integrated into the community. The Social Science Program prides itself on both the breadth of knowledge our students are afforded by taking courses throughout the social science disciplines and the depth of knowledge attained by creating future teachers and Social Scientists. Our students are well-prepared for life as teachers, scholars, businesspeople, lawyers, and citizens. The Social Science Program is proud of its accreditation as a Subject Matter Competency Program by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC). This is external recognition of our success at teaching and learning the curriculum. The interdisciplinary nature of our Program not only affords our students a wide array of analytical skills, but makes them ideal examples of students who have directly considered the social, economic, political, cultural, and ecological complexities of an ever-changing world.

Department of Sociology

Sociology is the study of social relationships and institutions. Many students major in sociology because they care about our society, want to understand human behaviors, and commit to a fair and just world. The department currently has about 900 majors and 40 graduate students. A variety of classes are regularly offered and selective examples include introductory sociology, social problems, social psychology, social inequalities, immigration studies, and other interesting classes. Currently, there are 13 full-time faculty and 16 lecturers with different types of academic expertise. Graduates from the department move on to various professional careers. Recent and selective examples include researcher, veteran affairs administrator, middle-school counselor, probation officer, police officer, consumer rights advocate, and school educator.

Department of Women's Studies

Founded in 1971 during the height of the feminist movement, the Department of Women's Studies at California State University, Sacramento, has the distinction of being one of the earliest Women's Studies programs in the country. It has hosted such distinguished professors and activists as Kate Millet, author of *Sexual Politics*, and Sally Roesch Wagner, noted writer, movement historian and co-founder of the Program. Our Program takes pride in having been at the cutting edge of interdisciplinary research and intersectional approaches to women's, and gender issues for the past 15 years. The B.S. in Women's Studies offers an interdisciplinary curriculum covering a broad range of issues dealing with gender, sexuality, race, class & culture. While providing a value education in historical and contemporary global issues relevant to our times, the degree in Women's Studies prepares students for graduate studies, Law Degree, nursing, etc., and for various job opportunities including teaching, human resources, women's health, State jobs and non-profit work.

Centers



Archaeological Research Center

The Archaeological Research Center is one component of the broader Institute of Archaeology and Cultrual Studies within the Anthropology Department at Sacramento State. Its principal focus is to facilitate faculty and student research via funding obtained from contracts and grants. The Center brings together considerable individual and team expertise in the management of cultural resources throughout California and the western Great Basin.

Center for California Studies

The Center for California Studies is a public service, educational support, and applied research institute. Its mission is to strengthen democratic governance in California through preparing people for public service and leadership, helping to solve problems of public policy and enhancing civic literacy through multidisciplinary education. The Center runs the prestigious Capital Fellows Programs, as well as other fellowships and civic engagement projects. It also makes research grants, conducts an oral history program, and puts on conferences and symposia focusing on various aspects of California government, policy, and culture.



Center for Collaborative Policy

The Center for Collaborative Policy's (CCP) mission is to build the capacity of public agencies, stakeholder groups, and the public to use collaborative strategies to improve policy outcomes. The Center provides such services as mediating public policy and related conflicts, creating effective communication and dialogue between public agencies and communities, and developing customized learning experiences related to collaborative processes.

Center for Family Studies

The purpose of the Center for Family Studies is to involve students and faculty in enhancing the well-being of individuals and families in the community by: promoting family-centered services, providing family- and consumer-education programs, fostering opportunities to learn directly from multiethnic families, providing pre-service and in-service trainings, and supporting research on child, family and consumer issues.



Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Policy (IHELP)

IHELP's mission is to help improve students' readiness for, and success in, some form of postsecondary education. IHELP staff conducts research and applies knowledge and evidence to produce actionable recommendations to improve policy, practice, and leadership for postsecondary readiness and success. Therefore, we work in both the K-12 and higher education systems. Our research, evaluation, technical assistance, policy analysis, and other services support and inform policymakers, practitioners, and educators.

Institute for Social Research

The Institute for Social Research is a multidisciplinary institute that is committed to advancing the understanding of the social world through applied research. The Institute offers research expertise and related technical assistance needed to develop solutions to problems facing society. It serves as a resource for agencies, organizations, the University and the broader community.

Faculty & Staff Highlights

Dr. Aya Ida (Sociology) was awarded the 2014-2015 Outstanding Teaching Award.

Dr. Ted Lascher (Public Policy & Administration) was awarded the 2014-2015 Outstanding Scholarly and Creative Activities Award.

Dr. Philip Akutsu (Psychology) was awarded the 2014-2015 Outstanding University Service Award.

Dr. Manuel Barajas (Sociology) was awarded the 2014-2105 Outstanding Community Service Award.

Dr. Craig Gallet (Economics) published a paper on the elasticity of illicit drug demand in *Health Economics*. He found that demand for cocaine and heroin is more responsive to change in price than demand for marijuana.

Dr. Rodney Kingsnorth (Sociology) and graduate student Danielle Carmassi have been researching elder abuse victims seeking civil restraining orders and are developing statistical models predicting judicial issuance of temporary and permanent restraining orders.

Dr. Data Barata (Anthropology) has been conducting research within the Ethiopian community in Sacramento, surveying them to gather basic information about the community to improve the Ethiopian Community Center in Sacramento's service delivery to the community, identify concerns, needs and priorities of the community, and identify issues especially affecting families and youth of the community. Dr. Barata worked with graduate students Brittney Chilton and Tyler Carpadus to write the grant proposal for the survey.

Dr. Charles Varano (Sociology) co-authored a book with Ester Carolina Apesoa-Varano called: *Balancing Act: Professionalism and Caring in a Hospital*.

Dr. Donna Jensen (Gerontology) was honored as California State Social Worker of the Year.

Dr. Michelle Stevens (Environmental Studies) partnered with Craig Communications and worked with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) on the Shell Pond Educational Outreach Event, a community service project with 12 of her students from her wetlands class and students from Riverview Middle School and Gateway High School to clean up the Bay Point Regional Shoreline.

Dr. Rob Wassmer (Public Policy & Administration) received a fellowship award to support his work on *Property Taxation and the Generation of "Urban Sprawl": The Needed Empirical Evidence*, a paper which will result in the first stage of a book on the same topic.

Judi Brenner, ASC (Family & Consumer Sciences) and **Anne Montgomery, ASC** (Environmental Studies) are serving as the staff representatives on the College of SSIS Strategic Planning Task Force.

Kristen Anderegg, SSP (Liberal Studies) attended the National Academic Advising (NACADA) national conference in Minneapolis attending sessions on Transforming your Advising Culture; Advising Students on Developing Resiliency; the Advising Backpack; and Introverts and Extroverts-Understanding and Harmony. She also started a listserv which seeks to provide a means of support for decentralized major and college-based staff academic advisors/counselors to collaborate on advising issues, campus-related matters and other pertinent topics related to advising in academic areas.



SACRAMENTO STATE

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force will produce a strategic plan document at the end of this school year. The plan will address all aspects of the college's operations and provide guideposts for moving the college onwards and upwards. Second, a significant part of my vision for the college in the 21st century is having a downtown presence. Conversations and planning are now underway for a downtown school of public affairs/policy, which will be training ground for students seeking careers in public service, a one-stop resource for external stakeholders needing expertise, data, and guidance on all aspects of policy formation, and a hub for public dialogue and events around contemporary policy issues. As the "window" between the university and community, the downtown school would be the project that leads the university in helping to live into its mission to be the "capital university." Stay tuned for more information about plans for the downtown school! Third, I want to see the graduate student population in the college rise from 4% to 10% by 2020, as graduate programming and a vibrant graduate student pool complement so well faculty research and undergraduate programming, in addition to enriching a college's culture. Fourth, the college has great potential in the international arena and I would like to see a really strong portfolio of study abroad and faculty exchange arrangements and research collaborations with overseas university partners. Finally, as the college strategically plans and we move forward with these projects, you will see its "brand," identity, and culture become more visible.

It's always a pleasure to hear from alumni, friends, and retired faculty. Please send us your news! I want to thank those of you who have generously supported the college in the past. As we go forward with our projects, I am grateful for any form of support for the college. 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. Thank you and Happy New Year!

Örn Bodvarsson, Dean

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

