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*College of
Liberal Arts*

CAL STATE
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BEACH



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Yedda Zhang, 2020-2021 Equity Scholar.

Photograph by Emily Chen.

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Photograph by Emily Chen.



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CALIFORNIA
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LONG BEACH

Reach is a publication
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California State
University, Long Beach

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LEFT:
Photograph by
Emily Chen.

CENTER:
Dr. Kim, Dr. Rodriguez,
and Professor Stone.
Photo by Emily Chen.

RIGHT:
Joshua Acosta, winner
of the Outstanding
Baccalaureate Award.



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DEAN'S LETTER



Dear reader,

I'm happy to bring you the inaugural issue of Reach, the magazine for the CSULB College of Liberal Arts. We launched this project last spring to celebrate the exciting things our faculty, students and staff have accomplished in the past year — and to take a look at what's on CLA's horizon.

With 29 departments, 10 centers and institutes, and 20 graduate programs, CLA is easily the biggest college on campus. It's even larger than some small universities. It can be hard to keep up with everything that's happening — and that's where Reach comes in.

In this issue, you'll learn the story behind the CSU's new ethnic studies GE requirement and how the chairs of our ethnic studies departments worked together to develop the course. You'll also get the scoop on some of our college's newest programs — the Equity Scholars Initiative and CLASP — as well as a progress report on one of our popular existing programs, Transfer Learning Communities. And you'll get to meet the new tenure-track faculty members starting in our college this fall.

It's been a challenging year, to say the least. But as we return to campus for the first time in more than 18 months, I hope these stories will encourage and inspire you. Thank you for reading, and let us know what you think!

*All the best,
Dean David Wallace*

1.0



ABOVE:
Photograph by
Emily Chen.

WELCOME *to the* BEACH

WRITTEN BY

Kelsey Brown, Bella Arnold & Robin Jones



Fourteen professors will be joining the tenure track in the College of Liberal Arts this fall. They come from near (Irvine, Los Angeles, Riverside) and far (New Mexico, Tennessee and Barcelona) and research

subjects as diverse as immigration, minoritized languages, and the masculinization of sign language. In other words, they're a perfect representation of the CLA. Turn the page to learn more about them.



Kimberly Stowers

Psychology

DR. KIMBERLY STOWERS, who will join the psychology department in the fall, was drawn to the university for more than just the department's prestige. They want to make an impact on equity and inclusion, and they were impressed with CSULB's efforts toward that end.

"I got here because of all the teachers, professors and mentors who helped me when I didn't know what I needed," Dr. Stowers says. "I want to pass that on, and I feel like [California State University, Long Beach] epitomizes that."

Dr. Stowers, a first-generation college graduate, attended University of Central Florida and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology, master's in modeling and simulation and doctorate in cognitive and human factors psychology.

Though they find their home in human factors, Dr. Stowers "can't escape" researching the future of work in business. They spent the past three years teaching business communication at University of Alabama, where their teaching focused on the integration of human technology and interaction in the business world.

In the fall, Dr. Stowers will teach Introduction to Human Factors and Human Cognition. Though they say there is "no shortage of opportunities" when it comes to research, they hope to continue examining how humans interact with artificially intelligent teammates.

Dr. Stowers's research has been published in works that have been presented at conferences, like the NASA Human Research Program Investigators' Workshop. In August 2019, they received a research grant from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Overall, Dr. Stowers aspires to use their resources to uplift underrepresented voices in higher education.

"The impact of systemic racism and race-related issues has been highlighted in a really important way," Dr. Stowers says. "I'm hoping that I can contribute to any future work that the university is doing on that."



Janet Muniz

Sociology

DR. JANET MUNIZ, a new tenure-track professor in the sociology department, first became interested in the racial ethnic dynamics of the predominately Mexican community where she grew up in Santa Ana, California, when she was attending UC Santa Barbara for her undergraduate degree in feminist studies. There, she became involved with MEChA, a Latino cultural group that organizes around social issues.

So when she entered her master's program at Claremont Graduate University, she began a research project on Latino economic life. Dr. Muniz eventually received a master's in cultural studies, then a doctorate in sociology at UC Irvine. Today, Dr. Muniz's research focuses on children immigrants and second-generation Mexican-American adults who have businesses in the communities they grew up in.

Through interviews with business owners and participant observation, Dr. Muniz studies how communities have shifted, as well as the economic and social roles individuals play in their community. She also researches incarcerated fathers and their family members, with a focus on how they experience the workforce before and after incarceration.

Dr. Muniz, who was the recipient of an Outstanding Research Award in the department of sociology at UC Irvine, taught her first class, Qualitative Research Methods in Sociology, in 2018 at Cal State Pomona. She also taught as an adjunct professor at Lake Tahoe Community College. She has also taught Introduction to Sociology via mail to community college students who are incarcerated.

Dr. Muniz, who described her new position at CSULB as her "dream job," is looking forward to meeting her colleagues and students in person and teaching two sociology courses: Migration and Immigration, and Latinos in the U.S.

"It was a perfect fit," she says. "I was like, 'This job was written for me.' I do research on Latinx communities, I taught on Latinx communities, I am from a Latinx community. I am super excited."



Madeleine Liseblad

Journalism and Public Relations

MADELEINE LISEBLAD first came to California from Sweden when she was 16 years old. This fall, she's returning as a professor in the journalism and public relations department.

Most recently, Dr. Liseblad was on the faculty at Middle Tennessee State University. She also previously taught at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Communication at Arizona State University, where she received her doctorate. She earned her bachelor's degree in journalism from Point Loma Nazarene University and her master's degree in communication studies at California State University, Sacramento.

Before joining academia, Dr. Liseblad worked as a journalist in television, radio, newspapers, magazines and digital media. She also spent 15 years as a PR professional and served as the corporate spokesperson for Volvo Cars.

She says her organizational skills married with her fascination for the journalism and PR industry paved the way for her eventual return to academia, but this time as a professor.

"I went into teaching because I love students," she says. "I just want to make a difference."

In 2020, Dr. Liseblad was recognized for her exceptional service by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication's History Division. Her book, "American Consultants and the Marketization of Television News in the United Kingdom," developed from her dissertation, was published in 2020.

Recently, she joined the Dean's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at ASU's Cronkite School.

"I think that you can learn so much more from people who are different from you," Dr. Liseblad says. "I just love the setting that the Cal State system has, in terms of the diversity and the student body."



Wenjie Ji

Geography

DR. WENJIE JI will be making his professorial debut this fall when he joins the department of geography.

In 2010, Dr. Ji earned his bachelor's degree in engineering, geo-information science and technology at Tongji University in Shanghai, China. Soon after, he moved to New York to pursue his doctorate in geography at the University of Buffalo, where he also gained experience as a research assistant.

Dr. Ji has been presenting his research at conferences and lectures since 2014. He has appeared as a guest lecturer at New Mexico State University and Buffalo State University, where his teachings focused on remote sensing and plant diversity. Additionally, he has shared his research with fellow academics at conferences like the Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting and NASA Terrestrial Ecology Science Team Meeting.

Before joining the CSULB faculty, Dr. Ji was a postdoctoral research associate at New Mexico State University. In that capacity, he was involved in two NASA-funded research projects using light detecting and ranging satellite systems to measure the vertical structure of plants from space. He believes that getting involved in research is extremely important for students.

"[I want to] inspire one or two of them to take part in scientific research and in a community," Dr. Ji says. "The world really needs it right now."

He decided to switch gears and become an educator because he wants to lead his students by example. He says he looks forward to building a community of researchers and scientists at CSULB.

"I feel that having a good education is essential to any student," Dr. Ji says. "I think a good class, or even just one good instructor, changes a lot. I want to inspire the next generation of scientists."



May Lin

Asian and Asian American Studies

DR. MAY LIN, a comparative ethnic studies scholar, is the newest hire for the Asian and Asian American studies department.

Dr. Lin studied comparative ethnic studies at Columbia and continued her education at UCLA, where she got her master's in Asian American studies. A year ago, she received her doctorate in sociology at USC, where she learned research methods to address the questions and issues that arose in her ethnic studies grounding.

For Dr. Lin, who was awarded a fellowship from the American Sociological Association and the Minority Fellowship Program, research offers the possibility of tangible changes in the communities that her field studies.

"I really try to think about research as not just being about studying marginalized communities, but about really leveraging the power of possibilities of the university and the resources that we have to transform the conditions that we study and critique," Dr. Lin says.

Dr. Lin's background is in social movements, organizing, and civil and political engagement of Asian Americans and other youths of color. Over the past year, she worked as a post-doctorate fellow at the University of Denver in their Social Movement Support Lab, which supports organizations working to divest funds from criminalization and policing and invest them instead in social support.

In the fall semester, Dr. Lin will be teaching the new required ethnic studies course. In the spring, she'll take on the Contemporary Issues in Asian America course.

For Dr. Lin, who has worked with organizations like Californians for Justice and Khmer Girls in Action, working at CSULB, so close to a community where she's established deep ties, is ideal.

"I've been really invested in Long Beach communities for racial, gender, economic and health justice, whether in the form of youth organizing or other entities," she says. "I feel very much invested in supporting and being a part of Long Beach movements."



Sophea Seng

Asian and Asian American Studies

A DECADE after beginning her master's program at CSULB, Sophea Seng is returning to campus this fall to join the faculty in the Asian and Asian American studies department.

Seng, a first-generation student, got her bachelor's degree in linguistics and Italian language at UC Santa Cruz. After graduating, she taught in Fukushima as part of the Japan Exchange and Teaching program before starting a master's program at CSULB in Asian American studies.

She is currently completing her doctorate in anthropology and master's in South Eastern Asian studies at UC Riverside. She won an Outstanding Teacher Award in 2018, an honor determined by the vote of students.

Seng is excited to return to Long Beach because the city has the largest Cambodian diaspora outside of Southeast Asia. While she was studying for her master's at CSULB, Seng built relationships with various members of the community and taught English to senior citizens studying for their citizenship test.

"I'm really excited to be able to be back at Long Beach and also to be able to continue to build those bridges and create opportunities for students," Seng says.

From 2019 to 2020, Seng was a Fulbright scholar in Italy. She conducted research at the only Cambodian Buddhist temple in Italy, bringing together her studies of the Americas, Europe, and Asia. Unfortunately, the fellowship was cut short by the pandemic.

Seng, whose expertise is in Cambodian diaspora, South East Asian studies and critical refugee studies, hopes to bring her international experiences, as well as her life experiences, to the students of CSULB.

This fall, Seng will be teaching Introduction to Ethnic Studies, the new GE requirement. She looks forward to connecting with her future students and "being able to use those experiences to help another generation."



Marlene Nava Ramos

Chicano and Latino Studies

MARLENE NAVA RAMOS, a Los Angeles native, will join the Chicano and Latino studies department this spring.

At CSULB, Ramos hopes to continue her research centered around immigration detention and pursue solidarity work between Latino studies and the fight against anti-Black racism in the classroom. She finds these conversations “really timely,” especially among her students.

“People were really thinking, especially now, with all of the social unrest happening in our country,” Dr. Ramos says. “It’s conversations inside the classroom. They’re very fruitful and very generative. Young people have a lot of ideas for how to make things happen.”

Ramos earned her bachelor’s degree in labor and industrial relations at Cornell University. After graduation, she returned to L.A. to serve her community as an environmental justice organizer. Soon, though, she was drawn back to New York to pursue her master’s in public health in urbanism and the built environment at Columbia University.

She is currently working toward her doctorate in philosophy at the City University of New York graduate center. She hopes to develop her dissertation into a book.

Ramos is no stranger to the classroom; she has taught at Lehman College and the New School in New York, as well as in the correctional setting, which, she says, has been the “most rewarding.”

She says she was drawn to CSULB as an Angeleno and an intellectual. While teaching in the CUNY system, Ramos was inspired by students who took a “nontraditional route” to get their degrees. She says she looks forward to learning from her students at CSULB.



Kimberly Robertson

American Indian Studies

DR. KIMBERLY ROBERTSON, a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, was hired as an associate professor of American Indian studies. She will teach the new required ethnic studies course along with other American Indian studies classes.

Dr. Robertson, who received her master’s in American Indian studies and her doctorate in women’s studies at UCLA, taught as an associate professor at CSU Los Angeles in women’s, gender and sexuality studies. Although CSULA did not have American Indian studies, Robertson created and was a faculty advisor for the American Indian Student Association.

“As a Native woman and a first-generation college student, I found that educational spaces were really challenging for Native peoples and Native women,” Dr. Robertson says. “I wanted to become a professor to be able to connect with other first-generation Native students. To recruit more Native students and to provide services for Native students.”

Dr. Robertson, whose expertise is in Native and women of color feminism and American Indian studies, is also an artist who uses Native practices to create. Most recently, Dr. Robertson’s art was featured on the cover and inside “Otherwise Worlds,” a Duke University Press publication. She also had two co-authored articles in the publication.

Last month, Dr. Robertson won the Mozaik Future Art Award for an art piece she created with her daughter. She also works as the co-creative director for Meztli Projects, where she gives workshops, like teaching beading or talking circles, with youth and Native women.

Dr. Robertson is an active member in the Los Angeles Native community while raising two children as a single mother. Her children inspire her to create an educational experience that is uplifting and empowering.

“One of the biggest pieces of my life is just trying to create the opportunities in college that I would like them to have,” she says.



Adria Martin Mor

Romance, German, Russian languages & literature

DR. ADRIÀ MARTÍN-MOR is moving from Barcelona to Long Beach to join the romance, German, Russian languages & literature department as an assistant professor this fall.

Dr. Martín-Mor, who knows several languages, will focus on romance languages at CSULB. Previously, he taught at universities in Barcelona, as well as at the University of Cagliari on the island of Sardinia.

Dr. Martín-Mor's area of expertise is translation technology, which is meant to help translators do their work more fluidly and faster. His research interests focus on minoritized languages, such as Sardinian and Catalan, and how technology can help these languages survive. He likens the emergency in language to the climate emergency.

"Both processes lead to desertification," Dr. Martín-Mor says. "So it's these disappearing languages and environments that are contributing to our less diverse and plural world—both in the field of biology or environmental, and also in the field of cultures and languages. What I try to do is use technologies to help those languages get some time."

Outside of academia, Dr. Martín-Mor combined his love of language with his love of music to create a TV show, "Come With Me," broadcast in Italy. While traveling around the island of Sardinia with his van and guitar, he met with people committed to linguistic and cultural diversity.

Though his doctorate in translation, with a specialization in translation technology, is uncommon in the United States, it is well-established in European universities. He is excited to bring his expertise to CSULB, as well as learn from the people, culture, and languages of Long Beach.

"I'm coming from a background where translation studies is something that we've been living with for some time now," Dr. Martín-Mor says. "So I will be happy to contribute to the state of translation studies in Long Beach."



Rezenet Moges-Riedel

Sociology

DR. REZENET MOGES-RIEDEL, who researches Deaf intersectionality, critical race theory, language and culture, will become a tenure-track professor in the ASL linguistics and Deaf cultures program in the fall.

Dr. Moges-Riedel holds a B.F.A. in illustration and a master's degree in anthropology from CSULB. Drawn to the relationship between language and culture, she wrote her master's thesis on the Deaf community in Eritrea. In 2020, she received her EdD in education and leadership policy studies from CSU Northridge.

Before she joined the ASLD faculty as a lecturer in 2016, Dr. Moges-Riedel taught ASL at Goldenwest College and Mt. SAC. Additionally, she taught Deaf studies at Santa Ana College and Deaf culture at Goldenwest College.

"Each of those institutions helped me gain a better understanding of what to expect from students," Dr. Moges-Riedel says. "I could better address their needs when they got here."

Dr. Moges-Riedel's work has been published by Oxford University Press and Gallaudet University Press, to name a few. Recently, her research has centered on the masculinization of sign language.

"Gender, style and identification in signing has impact," Dr. Moges-Riedel says. "If you learn a language from a certain source, you're going to pick up that person's accent, and the same is true with sign language."

Dr. Moges-Riedel developed a course focusing on critical Deaf and Disabled studies, which will be offered in the fall.

"It's a course that I believe will benefit the university," she says. "It will really put this topic at the forefront, really pushing Deaf studies and Disability studies together and seeing the intersection. We must recognize Deaf people as a linguistic minority."



Jacqueline Lyon

Chicano and Latino Studies

DR. JACQUELINE LYON, whose research focuses on the intersections of race and citizenship, has been hired as an associate professor of Chicano and Latino studies.

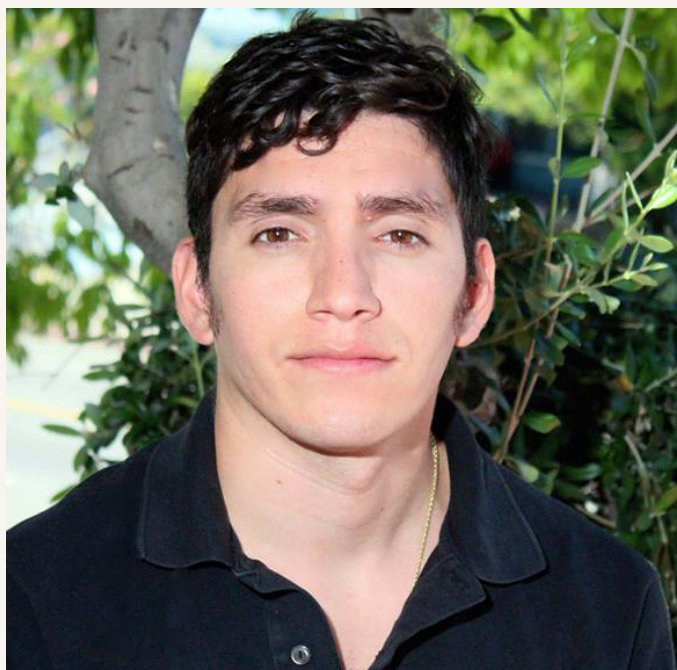
Dr. Lyon will be teaching the new ethnic studies course, along with Asian and Latino Migration Since WWII. Previously, she's taught Latin American anthropology, looking at the ways scholars in the Americas generated anthropological theory that responded to the histories, cultural production, and societies in the region; a course titled Race, Racism, and Redress that considered theories of race and racialization, racial violence, and activist efforts; and a class on Citizenship, Borders, and Belonging, which used an intersectional perspective to understand how citizenship is experienced for migrants and non-migrants alike.

She is excited to join the CSULB faculty, where she will be able to ground her teaching and scholarship in ethnic and Latino studies.

"CSULB offers the opportunity to work with a student body to which I am personally and professionally committed," Dr. Lyon says. "In particular, joining the Chicano and Latino Studies department and being part of the new ethnic studies initiative allows me to collaborate with scholars and teachers of color who understand and value both scholarly and community work."

Dr. Lyon is currently working with a group of Dominicans of Haitian descent who are struggling to assert their citizenship rights after the government decided to retroactively eliminate birthright citizenship. She is writing a book based on this research, and plans to soon begin a new research project looking at the ways Puerto Rican ancestry researchers construct narratives about colonialism, migration, and race.

"As a scholar who studies Blackness in Latin America, I hope to strengthen the connections between Africana Studies and Chicano and Latino Studies," Dr. Lyon says. "I see the new ethnic studies course as part of this effort."



Dario Valles

Chicano and Latino Studies

DR. DARIO VALLES, an anthropologist in Latinx studies, joins the department of Chicano and Latino Studies as an associate professor this fall.

Most recently, Dr. Valles was a teaching and lecture fellow at Columbia University. He was also a postdoctoral research associate in race and ethnicity at Brown University's Watson Institute for International Affairs/Center for Study of Race and Ethnicity in America.

Joining the faculty at CSULB marks a return to Southern California for Dr. Valles, who received his bachelor's degrees in anthropology and political science from USC and his master's degree and doctorate in anthropology from Northwestern.

"As a first-generation Latinx student who grew up in Los Angeles County, I have seen the impact of the Cal State system on providing educational access, creating equity and supporting engaged research," Dr. Valles says. "Being able to teach and serve at home in a public university in Southern California has been a number one goal."

Dr. Valles conducts ethnographic research with a focus on methods that include visual and digital tools and is currently completing a documentary, "No Separate Survival," that grew out of digital storytelling workshops he held with Guatemalan, Honduran, Salvadoran and Haitian asylum seekers in Tijuana.

He looks forward to continuing his research at CSULB and to working with students as they discover how "different ethnic studies and other social science readings apply to everyday life."

"My first and foremost goal is to contribute to CHLS students and those in ethnic studies courses in ways that help each participant grasp the value of Latinx and ethnic studies scholarship and apply it to their various personal, professional, and community-oriented goals," Dr. Valles says. "CHLS has also made an intentional effort to include Central American and Caribbean communities as part of Latinx studies, and I look forward to both centering this in my courses and in events I help bring to campus, as well as supporting related student groups."



Crystal Edwards
Africana Studies

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Alice Nicholas
Africana Studies

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WRITTEN BY
Kelsey Brown



Geography professor receives prestigious grant for Skid Row research

Dr. Deshonay Dozier, an assistant professor in the geography department, recently received a project development grant from the American Council of Learned Societies to support her research on homeless activism in Los Angeles.

The \$5,000 grant goes to faculty at teaching-intensive universities who are conducting research in humanistic studies and interpretive social sciences and can be used for any costs that support the research.

Dr. Dozier, who has a doctorate in environmental psychology and focuses on social and cultural geography, will use the grant to

continue her work delving into the history and current dynamics of Los Angeles's Skid Row.

"What I'm trying to uplift is how homeless people reshape the penal organization of their lives by putting forth alternative visions for Los Angeles," Dr. Dozier says. "I'm tracing that from the 1930s to today."

At the Huntington Library, for instance, she investigates how activists seek to intervene in the public administration of homeless services by reviewing policy briefs and correspondence in collections such as the Kenneth Hahn Administration Papers.

“We can do more with more transformative solutions.”

She’s also partnered with grassroots organizations to learn about the concerns of homeless activists and how they are contesting processes that are punitive against homelessness. She emphasizes the importance of not only listening to homeless voices, but also understanding their vision for change.

“Knowing their perspective is the best work that I can do,” Dr. Dozier says. “Because the perspectives of the city, the county, and private interests are more dominant. We just don’t know what homeless people have been fighting for, and it’s particularly important because L.A. is the homeless capital of the U.S.”

Dr. Dozier also recently received the University of California Chancellor’s Post-doctoral Fellowship. Over the next year, she will write a book based on her research. She also plans to write a series of op-ed articles for local newspapers.

Though she says instigating change is complex, she believes it’s necessary to “foreground these alternatives.”

“We have more strategies to manage homelessness through penal practices from the police to incarceration to short-lived social service programs,” Dr. Dozier said. “We can do more with more transformative solutions.”



ABOVE:
Dr. Justin Gomer,
American studies
professor.

American studies professor wins 2021 Early Academic Career Excellence Award

Dr. Justin Gomer, an American Studies professor, received the Early Academic Career Excellence Award in 2021, a university-wide accolade that acknowledges exemplary assistant professors in their first five years at CSULB.

Dr. Gomer, an associate professor, just marked his fifth year at CSULB and was awarded tenure in 2021. Over the past five years, he has created American Studies classes like *Race in Hollywood*, *The Suburbs*, and the *American Studies Mixtape*. His book, “*White Balance: How Hollywood Shaped Colorblind Ideology and Undermined Civil Rights*,” was published by UNC Press.

“I was trained in Ethnic Studies,” he says. “I am an Ethnic Studies scholar. If this award is evidence that my teaching and re-

search is positively impacting CSULB then it should also serve as proof of how essential Ethnic Studies is to our campus, academia, and our nation’s curriculum. With many states trying to ban critical race theory I hope my award reminds us that robust and well-supported Ethnic Studies departments are the best way to protect our educational institutions from these attacks.”

Dr. Gomer believes that when studying history, race is the fundamental framework necessary to lead the discussion.

“As an undergraduate, I became convinced that if you were studying U.S. history, the only way to do so was to put race at the center of historical analysis,” he says.

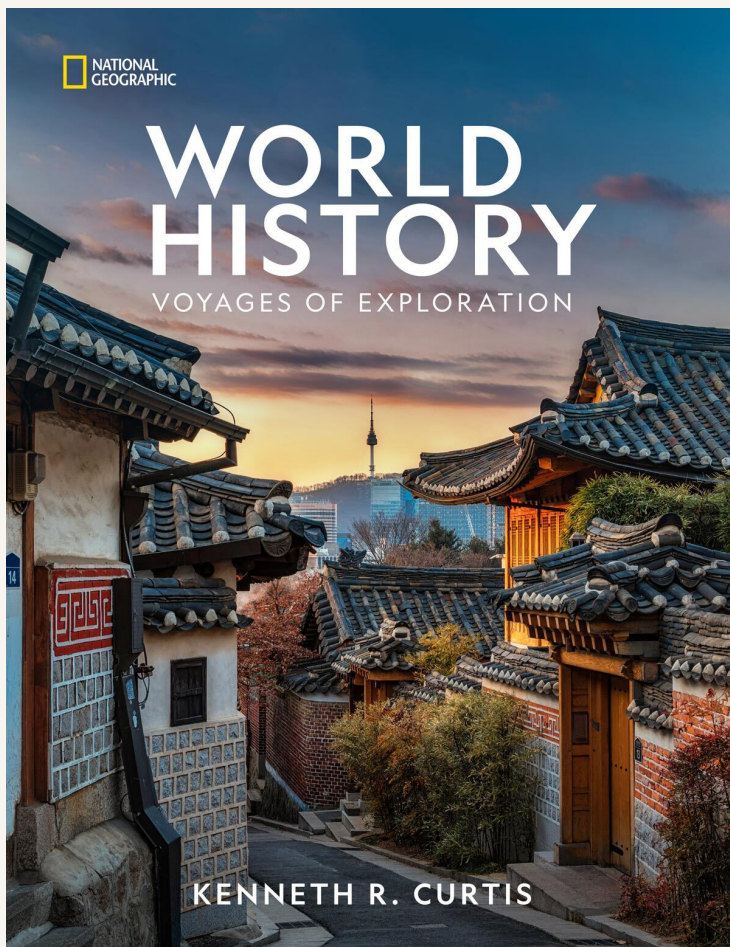
Dr. Gomer attended UC Berkeley, where he received his bachelor’s and master’s in African American studies and his doctorate in African Diaspora Studies. There, he found mentors who continue to inspire him to this day.

“I happened to stumble across, who I think anybody would say, are some of the

most brilliant people on the planet,” he says. “And I was at least smart enough to recognize that. I really just thought, as long as I can learn from these folks, I’m going to do so.”

Through education, Dr. Gomer says, he gained the tools to understand his own experiences and translate it to the world. He strives to give his students those same tools.

“I hope to give my students a deeper understanding of the role of race in American history,” he says. “I hope to equip them with the critical thinking skills that will allow them to better understand the ways in which race continues to shape American society.”



LEFT:
Dr. Kenneth Curtis' book, *World History: Voyages of Exploration*.

RIGHT:
Dr. Curtis, a history professor, partnered with National Geographic Learning.

History professor publishes textbook with National Geographic Learning

History professor Dr. Kenneth Curtis partnered with National Geographic Learning to create "World History: Voyages of Exploration," a high school-level textbook that was published in November 2020.

The textbook, which starts at the Neolithic era, aims to engage students by connecting the content of the chapters to historical figures and explorers. Each chapter starts with a narrative about someone who exemplifies one piece of the historical puzzle, with the aim of drawing students into the text.

The overall goal, Dr. Curtis says, is to make high school students "curious about the world around them."

"Following the example of a featured National Geographic Explorer who is using radar and satellite imagery to search for the grave of Genghis Khan, they might be inspired to imagine journeys of their own," he says. "Curiosity, exploration — those should be at the forefront of any child's education."

The textbook was modeled after a

college-level history textbook, "Voyages in World History," that Dr. Curtis co-wrote over a decade ago with Dr. Valerie Hansen, a history professor at Yale, who came up with the framework for the textbook.

Dr. Curtis says the new textbook is visually "unbelievable," filled with stunning photos of art pieces and artifacts. Not only do the photos make the textbook more appealing, he says, they also help English-language learners and students who aren't strong readers.

Dr. Curtis's research focuses on African history, with an emphasis on modern Africa and world history. The historical narrative Americans have consumed, he says, is the European story.

In his teaching and textbooks, Dr. Curtis aims to expand students' limited and one-dimensional knowledge of history so that they better understand the interconnections between societies and civilizations. When approaching world history, Dr. Curtis says, it's important to examine events with a global lens. This, he hopes, will inspire curiosity in students.

"If only one was inspired to say: I'm going to go to Mongolia, or I'm going to go to Brazil," Dr. Curtis says, "that's a win."

"Following the example of a featured National Geographic Explorer who is using radar and satellite imagery to search for the grave of Genghis Khan, they might be inspired to imagine journeys of their own. Curiosity, exploration — those should be at the forefront of any child's education."

— Dr. Kenneth Curtis, professor of history

continued on page 16

Endowments bolster ancient history studies and research

Dr. David Hood had an insatiable passion for ancient history, and he spent 50 years passing his enthusiasm on to CSULB students.

Before his death in 2018, Dr. Hood worked to establish two endowments so that CSULB students would continue to have the opportunity to study ancient Greek and Roman history. As the fall semester commences, his gifts will begin to take root.

The first, the David Hood Endowed Professorship in Ancient History, will create a permanent spot on the faculty for a professor who specializes in ancient Greek and Roman History.

In the position, the professor will develop and teach undergraduate- and graduate-level classes in ancient history. They can also use the endowment funds to host workshops and guest lectures and to travel as part of their research.

The second endowment, the David Hood Endowed Ancient History Student Support Fund, will aid CSULB history majors who want to focus their studies on ancient history. The gift will provide scholarships, as well as funding for travel related to the student's coursework.

History lecturer Dr. Mik Larsen will serve as the interim David Hood Professor of Ancient History in the fall. Scholarships from the student fund will be distributed starting in fall 2022.

CLA launches strategic planning initiative

Three faculty members—Sabrina Alimahomed-Wilson, Justin Gomer, and Rigoberto Rodriguez—have been asked to develop a steering committee that will serve as a recommendation-making body for the creation of a new College of Liberal Arts Strategic Plan.

The committee will consist of 60 to 100 people representing faculty, staff members, and students across the college.

"The purpose of a strategic plan is to make sure that an organization has a clear direction for the future," Dr. Rodriguez says. "And that the direction has clear goals and is based on values that whoever is part of that organization shares."

The professors, along with a few faculty members, are part of a planning support team that has been working since March on the technical parts of the project. Dr. Alimahomed-Wilson described their role as being a "vehicle that makes change happen," as they facilitate the process and feedback within the planning process.

The goal is to facilitate a process that is equitable in both process and outcome. This means that those who have been marginalized by existing structures will be centered in conversations as they collaboratively work to outline specific issues and plans of actions to reestablish structures to benefit the college as a whole.

The planning process is scheduled to be finalized by March 2022, after which im-

plementation will begin. Final decisions on implementation will be made by the dean's office and the Faculty Council.

The CLA's previous strategic plan expired during the 2019-20 school year. Because the university has a strategic plan, Beach 2030, the college must create a plan that ensures resources are coordinated, studies are focused, and values are aligned.

With the dean of the CLA retiring at the end of the academic year, there is an "incredible opportunity," Dr. Rodriguez says, to address concerns related to inequities raised in past years and set the direction for the next three to five years.

"Our hope is that the amount of effort and care and inclusivity that we are approaching this process with will be met with a similar kind of seriousness, commitment and respect," Dr. Gomer says.

"Our hope is that the amount of effort and care and inclusivity that we are approaching this process with will be met with a similar kind of seriousness, commitment and respect,"

— Dr. Justin Gomer,
American studies professor



Journalism and Public Relations lecturer receives part-time faculty award

When Jennifer Newton took over the business operations of the student media outlets in the journalism and public relations department in January 2018, there were two students on staff, both almost entirely dedicated to selling advertising for the Daily 49er.

Now, less than four years later, the business office employs 10 student assistants working in not only advertising, but also PR and promotions, accounting and HR, distribution, creative and marketing, and digital, all in support of the JPR department's three media outlets: the Forty-Niner, DIG MAG, and DÍG en Español. What's more, Newton will develop and teach a new course, The Business of Student Media, this fall.

For her extraordinary efforts to improve

and grow the opportunities for students interested in the business side of media, Newton received the 2021-22 John and Phyllis Jung Endowed Part-Time Faculty Award in May.

"I think in this day and age in journalism, understanding the business and promotions side is essential," Newton says. "Now that there's so much opportunity for content creators, you have to understand the money portion and how to promote yourself. You can have a great YouTube channel or podcast, but if no one knows about it, it won't be around long."

It's not the first time Newton has developed a class reflecting the changes in the way the media communicates. When she joined the faculty in 2017, she created Digital Toolkit for PR Professionals, a required course for public relations majors that explores social media and other forms of digital media.



Largest gift in CLA history goes to Donato Center

The Clorinda Donato Center for Global Romance Languages and Translation Studies received a \$5.25 million gift to continue its work in establishing CSULB as a top school for students hoping to make a career in translation studies.

It's the second major endowment to the center from CSU alumni Mario Giannini, CEO of the asset management firm Hamilton Lane, and the largest gift in the

history of the College of Liberal Arts.

Since 2019, the center has launched a minor and a certificate program in translation studies and added two tenure-track faculty members to its ranks. Its goal is to prepare students to become translators in a wide variety of industries, including entertainment, publishing, and diplomatic fields.

A small portion of the gift will be used to create a space with a computer lab and other translation-related technology where students can practice their craft.

ABOVE:
CSU alumni Mario
Giannini, CEO of
Hamilton Lane.

Newton, a 2001 CSULB graduate, developed her expertise in digital and social media when she established her own PR agency, Ideations Communications, after working for Hill & Knowlton, Michael Stars, and Murad. She was consulting for a small start-up when Dr. Emma Daugherty, public relations professor and then-chair of the journalism and public relations department, called and asked her to teach a class. When the start-up lost its funding, Newton was able to take on two more classes, and she's never looked back.

"This is the best job I've ever had," she says. "I worked in corporate America for so long, and at the end of the day, you're earning a dollar for someone else, helping someone else achieve their dream. Here, I get to teach students how to chase their own dreams."

In memoriam: Dr. John Jung

CSULB professor emeritus and former chair of the psychology department John Jung, who endowed the award given this year to Professor Jennifer Newton, among several others, died on July 26, 2021.

Dr. Jung studied motivation, social support and problem drinking and served as director of the Career Opportunities in Research program at CSULB for 25 years. Through the COR program, he trained nearly 200 psychology undergraduate students, most of them students of color, in research; nearly 70 percent went on to graduate school.

He also created five scholarships and awards for undergraduate and graduate students, lecturers and staff members, along with the John Garcia Lecture Series.

"His legacy at CSULB is one

"His legacy at CSULB is one of selflessness and generosity—a professor who created opportunities for others through training programs and scholarships,"

— Dr. Sherry Span, chair,
Psychology

of selflessness and generosity—a professor who created opportunities for others through training programs and scholarships," says Dr. Sherry Span, psychology chair. "He was a gentle mentor who guided students and junior faculty down the path to success." ▢

TENURED & PROMOTED *faculty*



①

*English***David Hernandez**

DAVID HERNANDEZ has felt “continually challenged and fulfilled” as a professor of poetry and fiction writing for the English department where he teaches lower division, upper division and graduate courses. He has received tenure and been promoted to associate professor.

Hernandez obtained his MFA at UC Irvine, where he studied creative writing. In 2011, he returned to the CSULB English department, where he earned his bachelor’s, as a lecturer. He became an assistant professor in 2016.

Hernandez’s work has been published by HarperCollins, Tupelo Press and Sarabande Books, among others. His latest book of poetry, “Hello I Must Be Going,” will be published by Pitt Poetry in 2022.

②

*American Studies***Dr. Justin Gomer**

DR. JUSTIN GOMER, a cultural historian, was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor after completing his fifth year teaching American studies.

Dr. Gomer, who received the Early Academic Career Excellence Award (see page TK), created American studies classes like *Race in Hollywood*, *The Suburbs*, and the *American Mixtape*, which examine the role that race plays in various facets of American history and American society today.

Dr. Gomer attributes his accomplishments to the training he received in the African American studies department at UC Berkeley, where he earned his undergraduate and master’s degrees in African American studies and doctorate in Africa Diaspora.

③

*Psychology***Dr. Danielle Kohfeldt**

DR. DANIELLE KOHFELDT, an expert in social and community psychology, received tenure and has been promoted to associate professor.

Dr. Kohfeldt received her doctorate in psychology at UC Santa Cruz and approaches her work through applied and intervention research, as well as community research. Her research focuses on health promotion, human development, psychology and social interactions.

Dr. Kohfeldt, who takes an ecological approach to studying how environments foster or hinder empowerment, has been a part of various community-based projects, such as the Children’s Empowerment Project and the Justice Activism Project.

④

*Sociology***Dr. Jan Haldipur**

SOCIOLOGY’S DR. JAN HALDIPUR, who researches urban sociology, crime, law and deviance, and race and ethnic relations, received tenure and has been promoted to associate professor.

Dr. Haldipur attended George Washington University for his undergraduate in sociology, eventually receiving his doctorate in sociology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Dr. Haldipur, whose research has been published in various academic journals, teaches *Critical Criminology*; *Racism, Power and Inequality*; and *Principles of Sociology*. His book, “No Place on the Corner: The Costs of Aggressive Policing,” was derived from the three years he spent in the South Bronx conducting ethnographic fieldwork.

⑤

*Asian American Studies***Dr. Haiping Wu**

DR. HAIPING WU, who joined the Asian American studies department at CSULB as an assistant professor of Chinese studies in 2015, has received tenure and been promoted to associate professor.

Dr. Wu teaches *The Fundamentals of Chinese*, *Chinese Culture and Tradition*, and *Directed Studies in Chinese*. Most of her classes are taught at both the graduate and undergraduate level. Her research is centered on Chinese culture, linguistics and pedagogy.

Dr. Wu attended Tsinghua University, in Beijing, for her undergraduate studies before moving to UC Santa Barbara for graduate school to study linguistics. In 2014, she received her doctorate in applied linguistics from UCLA.

Before landing at CSULB, Dr. Wu was a lecturer at the University of Mississippi.



6	<i>Sociology</i>
Dr. Steven Osuna	

DR. STEVEN OSUNA, who researches racism and the political economy, globalization and immigration, policing and criminalization, and social theory, received tenure and has been promoted to associate professor in the sociology department.

Dr. Osuna received his bachelor's and master's degrees in Chicana/o studies at CSU Los Angeles and continued his education at UC Santa Barbara, where he got his doctorate in sociology in 2015.

Dr. Osuna, who's written for the *Journal of World Systems Research*, teaches a variety of sociology courses, including Critical Criminology, Modern Sociological Theory, Sociology of Migration and Immigration, and the Transnational Latino Experience in the Caribbean: Imperialism, Reform, and Revolution.

8	<i>Psychology</i>
Dr. Amy Wax	

DR. AMY WAX, a psychology professor, received tenure and has been promoted to associate professor. Dr. Wax, who received her doctorate at the Georgia Institute of Technology, focuses on industrial-organizational psychology.

In her research and teaching, Dr. Wax focuses on "workplace diversity, social networks, and team composition," according to the Wax Lab website. She teaches both undergraduate and graduate psychology courses, including Organizational Psychology and Social Network Analysis.

Dr. Wax, who has a long list of publications, grants and awards, is a BUILD mentor and leads a group of CSULB students at the Wax Lab, which studies people's thoughts, feelings, behaviors and relationships in the workplace.

7	<i>Women, Gender & Sexuality</i>
Dr. Stacy Macias	

DR. STACY MACIAS joined CSULB's women, gender and sexuality studies department in 2016 as an assistant professor. She has received tenure and been promoted to associate professor.

The UCLA graduate regularly teaches Gender, Race, Sex and Societies; Fierce Struggle: U.S. Women of Color; Pop Culture: Seeing Sex and Gender; and Queering Gender. Additionally, she created and taught a two-semester sequential course, Feminist Thinking in Action, with Dr. Abraham Weil.

The South El Monte native's research focuses on the queer Latinx community east of East Los Angeles. Her work has been published by Oxford University, Rutgers University and University of Texas Press. She is currently working on a new book and recently joined the board of the Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition.

9	<i>Geography</i>
Dr. Hyowon Ban	

DR. HYOWON BAN, a professor in the geography department, has been promoted to full professor.

Dr. Ban's research interests vary from geographic information science, including spatial analysis and visual analytics, to multidisciplinary research that focuses on geographic inquiry with art, dance, design, music and psychology. Dr. Ban has written several journal articles, editorials and book chapters.

Dr. Ban, who received her doctorate in geography at the Ohio State University in 2009, teaches Introduction to Geospatial Techniques, Introduction to Digital Cartography, and Advanced Digital Cartography and GIS.



10 *International Studies*
Dr. Caitlin Fouratt

DR. CAITLIN FOURATT, a professor of international studies since 2014, has received tenure and been promoted to associate professor.

Dr. Fouratt attended Villanova University for her undergraduate studies in Spanish language and literature before moving to Costa Rica on a Fulbright grant. She then earned her master's of philosophy in Latin American studies at Cambridge University before eventually moving back to Costa Rica to work as a research consultant and study-abroad coordinator. In 2008, she moved to California to study anthropology at UC Irvine, where she received her doctorate.

Dr. Fouratt was recently able to teach Migration and Modernity as a bilingual course. She says it was "really fun to let the students apply their cultural and linguistic skills to the course content." Over the summer, her students worked with a refugee youth network in Costa Rica to produce Spanish podcasts discussing immigration reform.

11 *Communication Studies*
Dr. Mary McPherson

DR. MARY MCPHERSON has been promoted to full professor.

12 *Psychology*
Dr. Arturo Zavala

DR. ARTURO ZAVALA has been promoted to full professor. A member of the psychology department faculty, he attended Arizona State University for his doctorate and focuses on behavioral neuroscience in his research.

Through basic and lab research, Dr. Zavala researches addiction, alcohol, tobacco and substance use. His ongoing projects include studying caffeine exposure during the prenatal period, the role of the serotonin system in nicotine, and the effects of alcohol and nicotine on drug reward.

13 *Anthropology*
Dr. Christine El Ouardani

DR. CHRISTINE EL OUARDANI, a cultural, medical and psychological anthropologist, received tenure and has been promoted to associate professor.

Dr. El Ouardani's research examines family life in the United States and Morocco, with particular attention to children's experiences in families. Her research also looks at the experiences of children and their families in child mental health institutions.

She earned her bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in psychology and international relations. Following her undergraduate studies, she studied comparative human development at University of Chicago, where she earned her master's degree and doctorate. She teaches Cultural Approaches to Child Mental Health, Life Course and Generation in the Arab World, and Qualitative Methods in Human Development.



14 *International Studies*
Dr. Kimberly Walters

DR. KIMBERLY WALTERS, who has received tenure and been promoted to associate professor, researches gender and race as they operate in international humanitarianism, particularly within anti-human trafficking networks.

The international studies professor and cultural anthropologist attended the University of Chicago, where she studied psychological anthropology within the Department of Comparative Human Development. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, and UChicago's Committee on South Asian Studies and continues to be funded by UChicago's Center in Delhi.

Dr. Walters' upcoming research will focus on the distribution of basic income to poor communities in urban India. With this project, she hopes to examine the relationship between basic income, labor relations, and self-determination.

15 *International Studies*
Dr. Yousef K. Baker

DR. YOUSEF K. BAKER, who teaches Global Citizenship, The World that Racism Built, International Social Conflicts, Unimagining the Middle East, and Nationalism and National Identities in the international studies department, has received tenure and been promoted to associate professor.

The Middle East studies program co-director has been teaching at CSULB since 2014 and focuses his work on the Middle East and North Africa. His current research looks specifically at anti-Muslim racism and its relation to geopolitics.

Dr. Baker is a co-founder of the Iraqi Narratives Project within CSULB's oral history program, which seeks to obtain the stories of those who have migrated from Iraq to the United States and Canada.

Baker attended UCLA for his undergraduate studies in political science and obtained his master's and doctorate degrees in sociology at UC Santa Barbara.

A GROUNDBREAKING *moment*

WRITTEN BY
Kelsey Brown



RIGHT:
Dr. Barbara Kim,
Professor Craig Stone,
and Dr. Rigoberto
Rodriguez worked with
Dr. Maulena Kalenga
and other faculty
throughout the
university to develop
the new required
ethnic studies course.
Photograph by
Emily Chen.

Through collaboration and hard work, the CSULB ethnic studies departments created a new required course that will teach students about not only the history and contributions of historically under-represented groups, but also their resilience and joy.



This fall marks a historic moment in the CSU system, as first-time freshmen are now required to take one, three-unit course in ethnic studies before graduating.

The ethnic studies requirement, which was enacted in August 2020 after Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 1460 into law, will give students the opportunity to learn about each other's histories and experiences, as well as how they connect and relate, according to Dr. Barbara Kim, the chair of the Asian and Asian American Studies department at CSULB.

"We've really felt that no matter what you go into, no matter what you study, all of us should know about each other's contributions in order to build a just and better society for all," Dr. Kim says.

The passage of the bill was a historic achievement for several reasons, says Dr. Maulana Karenga, chair of the Africana Studies department.

"It makes Ethnic Studies integral to the conception and practice of a quality education; it enriches and expands the educational project, moving it from its Eurocentric monocultural focus to a multicultural, global engagement; it fulfills an historical aspiration of the discipline, its practitioners, its advocates and its beneficiaries for this legalized expanded institutional arc of inclusion; it is a unique achievement in the country and opens the way and provides a model for other similar initiatives; and it is another milestone in the ongoing struggle for not only a quality education, but also a just and good society," he says. "For the two are critically and inseparably linked."

"We've really felt that no matter what you go into, no matter what you study, all of us should know about each other's contributions in order to build a just and better society for all."

— Dr. Barbara Kim, chair,
Asian and Asian American Studies

Students will fulfill the requirement with the Introduction to Racial and Ethnic Studies course, which provides a survey of race and ethnic relations with a focus on the four historically underrepresented groups defined by the Ethnic Studies Movement of the 1960s: American Indians, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Chicanos and Latinos.

The class looks at the formation and transformation of each ethnic group and their roles in the development of the country. All four ethnic studies departments on campus—Africana Studies, American Indian Studies, Asian and Asian American Studies, and Chicano and Latino Studies—will offer sections of the class.

Professor emeritus Craig Stone, director of the American Indian Studies program at CSULB, explained that the department's experience in teaching comparative ethnic studies courses, like Racial and Ethnic Expe-

LEFT:
Dr. Barbara Kim, chair
of the Asian and Asian
American Studies
department.

RIGHT:
Dr. Rigoberto
Rodriguez, chair of the
Chicano and Latino
Studies department.

rience in the United States, was instrumental in the formation of the new course. The comparative courses, which served as a model for the new class, are co-taught by four professors from the different ethnic studies disciplines who share knowledge about culture, contemporary issues and history from their distinct perspectives.

For the new class, one professor will teach all four ethnic studies disciplines. All of the professors teaching the course will work in tandem, sharing lesson plans and resources and taking part in workshops and training together.

To develop the curriculum for the course, the chairs of each discipline—Dr. Kim and Professor Stone, along with Africana Studies's Dr. Maulana Karenga and Chicano and Latino Studies's Dr. Rigoberto Rodriguez—have been working with chairs and faculty from different departments, as well as different campuses, to determine the best way to implement the requirement throughout the CSU system.

Some CSULB students will take only one ethnic studies class over the course of their college career, and because of that, the departments worked hard to ensure that the course material included not only the essential history about disenfranchised groups, but also stories about their resilience and joy.

"The way we've developed this is through this cooperative, collaborative pro-



LEFT:
Dr. Maulena Karenga,
Africana Studies
professor.



RIGHT:
Professor Craig Stone,
director of the
American Indian
Studies program.

cess,” Professor Stone says. “One of mutual respect to the other disciplines. That’s how we have to approach this.”

In the future, junior colleges and high schools throughout California will offer courses that meet the criteria so students will have the opportunity to complete the requirement even before they enroll at a CSU campus.

Those courses have already been introduced in Long Beach. Through the Long Beach Ethnic Studies Initiative, the CSULB ethnic studies departments have taught comparative ethnic studies courses at high schools for the past six years. The practice originally started at Long Beach Unified School District and has since been extended to three other local school districts. By taking the courses, high school students can receive college credit.

Professor Stone attributes the passing of the bill requiring the course to the momentum created by the Black Lives Matter movement. Dr. Kim added that the pandemic has emphasized the extreme inequities in our society, and people want to do something about it.

Both professors noted that students walk away from ethnic studies courses with applicable knowledge that they can “draw from everyday,” Dr. Kim says. Ethnic studies courses not only teach general history and contemporary issues, both necessary to

“How well we work and struggle together to accomplish these tasks ... will define and determine how this historical achievement ultimately evolves and endures.”

— Dr. Maulena Karenga,
Africana Studies professor

navigate the world, but also spark “empathy production,” Professor Stone explains.

“The purpose of ethnic studies is that by learning about each other, we understand the complicated, complex, but also very wonderful multiracial, multiethnic, multilingual aspects of our communities and our society,” Dr. Kim says. “And that we will each see ourselves as part of that and want to work with one another and want to contribute to creating a more just and loving society.”

When they arrive on campus as freshmen, most students have a limited understanding of what there is to study, and GE requirements serve as a gateway for students to explore a variety of disciplines, Dr. Kim says. She has spoken with Asian Americans working in the entertainment industry who wished they had taken ethnic studies to learn how to tell underrepresented stories and better connect with diverse audiences.

Also, in learning about others, students will learn about themselves, Dr. Kim says.

She adds that the ethnic studies requirement may be what connects students to something bigger and empowers them with knowledge to not only serve and advance their own lives, but their communities, too.

For the CSULB ethnic studies departments, which have invested significant time and research advocating and engaging with the lobbying and legislation that resulted in the new course, this moment is a long time coming.

Dr. Kim hopes that students see this as more than just another class they have to take, but instead a “groundbreaking” moment they get to be a part of.

“I hope students also understand that they are part of a larger social movement that other people have really helped to make happen,” Dr. Kim says. “I’m talking about generations who have been struggling in order to re-envision and transform our society.”

And, Dr. Karenga says, the work continues, as faculty, staff and students continue to push for adoption of all the recommendations put forth in the CSU Task Force on the Advancement of Ethnic Studies Report, including essential hiring, curriculum development, an enhanced campus climate, and increased community engagement.

“How well we work and struggle together to accomplish these tasks as a campus in mutual respect and appreciation for the shared good of our students, faculty, staff, campus as a whole, and our communities,” Dr. Karenga says, “will define and determine how this historical achievement ultimately evolves and endures.” □

SUPPORTING *excellence*

WRITTEN BY
Bella Arnold

Yedda Zhang,
photograph by
Emily Chen.



The CLA's new Equity Scholars initiative provides assistance and encouragement to graduate students in the humanities and social sciences

Yedda Zhang will begin working toward her master's degree this fall in CSULB's Asian and Asian American studies program. With the education she gets here, she hopes to eventually teach Chinese as a foreign language.

But she almost didn't take the leap back into academia. Getting the news that she'd been named an Equity Scholar under a new graduate recruitment initiative in the College of Liberal Arts provided the push she needed.



TOP LEFT:
Ning Shao, 2021-22
Equity Scholar



TOP RIGHT:
Lupita Barragan, 2021-
22 Equity Scholar



BOTTOM LEFT:
Taryn Thrasher, 2021-
22 Equity Scholar

"It's not an easy decision for me to go back to school at this age," Zhang says. "The news brought me to tears. It means so much to me, not only to be helped financially, but also the encouragement. It gives me more strength to challenge myself for the next two years."

That's the idea, says Dr. Cory Wright, the CLA director of graduate studies, who hopes the initiative will encourage those who are considering graduate studies but aren't sure to take the sometimes intimidating step of returning to school.

"The backbone of the initiative is the threefold relationship between recruitment, access and student success," he says.

The program, which welcomes its first cohort this fall, aims to recruit first-generation, low-income students from historically underrepresented backgrounds into the humanities and social sciences, with the goal of promoting top-notch research

and supporting greater accessibility to mentorship and training in liberal arts.

The initiative will support graduate-serving departments with one assistantship totaling \$7,000 for the academic year, or two one-semester awards of \$3,500 each. Equity scholars are nominated by graduate advisors, according to the recruitment needs of their departments.

For Ning Shao, who will begin graduate studies in philosophy this fall, receiving the Equity Scholars award was a relief.

"The Equity Scholars program surely influenced my decision and helps me financially," Shao says. "I want to have enough time to study, and the Equity Scholars program gives me this opportunity."

Shao earned her bachelor's degree from Shandong University in China. During her time at CSULB, she says, "I hope to learn as much as possible. I want my studies and work to benefit humanity's well being."

Taryn Thrasher, who is pursuing a master's degree in psychology with an option in psychological research, received her bachelor's degree from UCLA with a major in psychology and a minor in African American studies. She's most excited about the mentorship aspect of the program.

"I believe that mentorship can make a world of difference, especially for folks like me who are the first in their family to aspire toward a doctoral degree," Thrasher says. "I know that my selection as an Equity Scholar will make me a more effective researcher and thus more of an asset to the community of folks I intend to serve."

Lupita Barragan, an incoming creative

writing MFA student, is honored to be a part of the cohort.

Barragan began her career in higher education studying engineering at UC Santa Barbara. She put a pause on her studies before returning to academia nearly a decade later as a student at Oxnard College, where she received her A.A. in English, history and Spanish. She then attended UC Santa Barbara, where she majored in English and was certified in early modern literature, literature and the mind, and the medical humanities.

"I am extremely excited and cannot wait to be a part of it," Barragan says.

As a graduate student, Barragan hopes to continue to develop her creative sample, collaborate with her peers and professors, and research metaphors within medical rhetoric.

Zhang, a native of Heilongjiang, China, likewise has ambitious goals for her time at CSULB. The pandemic, she says, gave her the opportunity to reflect on her goals. She is eager to learn the origins and history of language, and when she found the Asian and Asian American Studies program at CSULB, she knew that it was a fit.

"I believe I will be able to apply the new knowledge learned from this program and my teaching experience in Chinese-language classrooms in high school and college," Zhang says.

"I even envision bringing American students to China for cultural exchange activities and playing a role in promoting mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries." ■

IN GOOD *faith*

WRITTEN BY
Kelsey Brown

RIGHT:
Jain temple, photo
courtesy of PxFuel.



Amid all of the past year's bad news, the religious studies department received some extraordinarily good news: a million-dollar endowment for a Jain studies endowed chair that left the department "absolutely delighted," according to religious studies chair Dr. Sophia Pandya.

The endowment will allow the department to hire a full-time tenure track professor who will primarily teach courses on the Jain tradition, but will also be able to teach courses on the religions of South Asia, including Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism—as well as related courses in departments like philosophy and history.

Dr. Pandya explained how the secular study of religion helps students understand

the diverse and globalizing world and the role religion plays in it. According to Dr. Pandya, there are only four to five million Jains left, which is why the establishment of this chair is imperative.

People in the Jain community "feel strongly that their philosophy is so important to not just the survival of humanity, but the survival of our planet, that I think it compels them to want to share it," Dr. Pandya says. "When they open Jain studies programs, this is not an attempt to convert people to Jainism at all—it's an attempt to be understood."

Other California universities like UC Riverside and UC Santa Barbara also have endowed chairs in Jain studies, and Dr.

Pandya hopes to collaborate with those schools as a part of a larger project orchestrated by the Jain community.

Though Dr. Purushottama Bilimoria is already teaching classes relating to Jain studies as part of the Selected Topics in Religious Studies course, by the fall semester of 2022, Dr. Pandya hopes to have an introductory Jain studies class in the course catalog, as well as a professor hired to develop the course.

Dr. Pandya explained that most students entering the religious studies department have only limited experiences with religion, mainly within their own faith. Expanding their knowledge to religions originating in South Asia—like Jainism, which predates Christianity—enables students to understand the diversity of religion "in a more profound way," she says. The fundamentals of Jainism, which promote non-violence and open-mindedness, are principles anyone can use, she asserts.

"This tradition is quite a positive force," Dr. Pandya says. "Just this idea that you don't hurt anything—ahimsa—that you believe in a many-sided reality—pluralism. This is very positive."

Dr. Pandya says she hopes that the creation of the chair will instigate students' interests in other parts of the world and teach them that religion is multidimensional.

"We want to be more diverse; we want to be excellent," Dr. Pandya says. "We have wanted to have more of a focus on South Asian studies, but we didn't have the resources. Now we can." ■

Five Great Vows of Jainism



AHIMSA
Non-violence



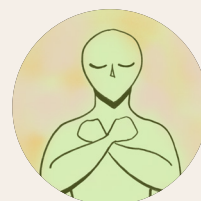
SATYA
Truth



ACHAURYA
Non-stealing



APARIGRAHA
Non-attachment



BRAHMACHARYA
Chastity



Dr. Kristy Shih,
associate professor of
human devolpment.



CREATING *connections*

WRITTEN BY
Bella Arnold

The CLA's Transfer Learning Communities help new students forge relationships that enhance their entire college experience

When Christina Merino transferred to CSULB in fall 2020, everything about the college experience had changed. Because all of her classes had been shifted to online instruction, she knew she wouldn't have the opportunity to meet fellow students in the classroom or at on-campus activities, and she figured it would be harder to make lasting connections with her peers.

So to bridge the social gap the pandemic caused, she decided to join the Transfer Learning Community offered in her major of journalism.

The College of Liberal Arts has offered students the opportunity to join Transfer Learning Communities, or TLCs, since 1992. The goal of the program is to help students make friends, develop teamwork and leadership skills, and connect with their professors in a unique environment. TLCs have been established in the departments of anthropology, communication studies, human development, journalism and public relations, political science, and psychology.

Students who join TLCs are all enrolled together in two or three courses within their major. Merino took Journalism: Past, Present and Future and Data Detectives with her TLC and found the experience especially helpful during the "difficult" period of remote learning. She would recommend it to future students.

"We transferred during a pandemic and wouldn't actually get to meet any other way," she says. "I got to know a few other transfer students, which later helped us stay connected if we needed help on projects. It just felt nice seeing a familiar face in different classes."

Dr. Kristy Shih, an associate professor of human development, began teaching a TLC cohort during her second year at CSULB, in fall 2019.



ABOVE:
Dr. Nicholas Alt,
assistant professor of
psychology.

Last year, Dr. Shih's Approaches to Adulthood Through Aging course was paired with Dr. Claudia Huang's Qualitative Methods in Human Development class.

She collaborated with the other professor while developing her syllabus, and together, they created one big assignment covering both classes so students could manage their course load in a functional way.

"We try to do things along the way to make the students feel more connected and welcomed to campus," Dr. Shih says.

Dr. Nicholas Alt, assistant professor of psychology, became involved in the TLC program in fall 2020. During his first semester as a TLC professor, Dr. Alt's Personality Psychology course was bundled with Dr. Karissa Miller's Psychology of Stress class. He says students in the cohort were able to create relationships and form study groups to augment their learning experience.

"I think there are numerous benefits to

joining the Transfer Learning Community," Dr. Alt says. "There's an immediate sense of community, and that means it's easier to form new friendships and connections with your fellow students who are all new transfers to CSULB. You can ask questions and share experiences to help each other."

According to Dr. Alt, the program has proved to be an asset to students, especially in the era of remote instruction.

"With any change, there can be a lot of fear and anxiety about the unknown," Dr. Alt says. "The Transfer Learning Community helps to alleviate these emotions by immediately creating a sense of community and helps to enrich student knowledge." ■

3.0

STUDENT *success*

WRITTEN BY
Bella Arnold



RIGHT:
Rebecca Cantor,
president of the Beach
Forensics team.

President of Beach Forensics team wins national competition

Rebecca Cantor, president of the Beach Forensics team, prevailed over students from 17 other universities when they placed first in the after-dinner speech and persuasive speech categories at the National Online Forensics Tournament in the spring. Additionally, they placed fourth in the overall individual sweepstakes.

Cantor's after-dinner speech focused on rising antisemitism in the United States. Their persuasive speech informed the virtual audience about the harms of United States intervention in Colombia.

The linguistics and communications student has been a speech competitor since high school. In addition to the after-dinner speech and persuasive speech, they have competed in the prose, dramatic interpretation and duo interpretation categories.

During their freshman year in high school, Cantor joined their forensics team because a close family friend was the team's coach. Though they felt they initially "didn't have much of a choice" to join the team, they have fallen in love with competitive speaking.

Cantor hopes to eventually obtain master's and doctoral degrees in linguistics and coach forensics.



LEFT:
Joshua Acosta,
Outstanding
Baccalaureate
Award recipient.

Winners of CLA 2021 Outstanding Baccalaureate Awards reflect on their educational journey and look to the future

The College of Liberal Arts names Outstanding Baccalaureate Award recipients every spring at graduation. We caught up with the 2021 winners.

Joshua Acosta has always loved history. "I think what drives me are the narratives," he says. "When I study narratives, I find a lot of self-identification of empowerment and also how people have struggled. I think those stories are important to bring out, especially in our modern context."

At CSULB, Acosta majored in history and minored in religious studies. When

history department chair Dr. David Shafer told Acosta that the department would be nominating him for the Outstanding Baccalaureate Award in the spring, the 2021 graduate was "very humbled."

"It was overwhelming because it's something you don't really expect," Acosta says. "When I finally understood the scope of the award and its recognition, it was overwhelmingly gratifying."

As an undergraduate, Acosta, a Mellon Mays fellow, participated in two research projects. The first was a case study surrounding Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo and her experience pioneering a religious movement among mestiza women, while battling colonial hierarchies. The second was his final senior paper, which studied the relationship between European sailors and Tahitian islanders in the late 1700s.

He maintains a great deal of gratitude for the history department as a whole, and in particular, for Dr. Guotong Li.

"Dr. Li's mentorship made possible the many important opportunities I had in my undergraduate journey that made it possible for me to pursue a Ph.D.," Acosta says.

This fall, Acosta will begin studying for his doctorate in ethnic studies at UC Berkeley. His goal is to become a professor of ethnic studies. He feels that there is immense value in igniting conversations about race in the classroom.

"This last year has really affirmed why there are a lot of systemic issues relating to people of color," Acosta says. "Immigrants and lower-income folks across the country have been held back by systems. I want to lend my brain, my advocacy work, and my writing to really shape and push for a more inclusive society."

RIGHT:
Adriana Ochoa,
Outstanding
Baccalaureate
Award recipient.

“This was a huge game changer for me because I knew that I wanted to do research,”

— Adriana Ochoa

Adriana Ochoa took a nontraditional route to her recognition as a College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Baccalaureate upon her spring 2021 graduation from CSULB.

The first-generation student, who earned a degree in sociology, initially attended UC San Diego in 2011, where she studied molecular biology. She struggled to maintain financial stability on top of her course load and eventually left school.

“I left academia with a bad taste in my mouth,” Ochoa says. “I ended up working in the floral industry to support myself, but I continued to do volunteer work and things that I was passionate about, like tutoring students who wanted to get their GEDs. I was realizing that sociology incorporated so many things that I found to be really important.”

In 2018, Ochoa became a CSULB student. This time, she entered with the intention of boosting her GPA and making the most of her second chance.

In an attempt to make up for lost time, Ochoa took on a full course load, as well as summer classes. Additionally, she was a member of the BUILD fellowship, Guardian Scholars program and undergraduate research, which was “a huge deal” for her. Ochoa emphasizes the importance of programs like the NIH BUILD fellowship and the ability to experience academic research.

“This was a huge game changer for me because I knew that I wanted to do research,” Ochoa says. “I sort of got to see research, not necessarily in a strictly academic environment but in a way that could be applied to programs and nonprofits, which I thought was really cool—getting that hands-on research and being able to apply it to a lot of the work that I hope to do in the future.”

Ochoa hopes to attend graduate school and obtain a master’s degree in public health and urban planning so that she can eventually work on issues like the housing crisis, urbanization and environmental racism.



CLA Best Master’s Thesis Awards go to students in geography and communications

We spoke with the 2020-21 winners of the awards, Andrew Siwabessy and Jacob Moran, about their research and their plans for the future.

Andrew Siwabessy earned his bachelor’s degree at CSULB, where he studied mechanical engineering and physics with a minor in geology. He decided to continue his studies at the Beach, and in the spring of 2021, he earned his master’s degree in geography.

His award-winning thesis, “Geologic Mapping of Terra Cimmeria, Mars, and Resultant Implications for the Martian Plate Tectonics Hypotheses,” focused on the geology and geography of Mars and their

extreme differences from the geology and geography of Earth. According to Siwabessy, his work was part of a larger effort to map regions of Tharsis, as well as the region’s magnetic data.

“I always have my eye on where that instinct might draw me next,” Siwabessy says. “I intuit that the most natural next discipline to become acquainted with will be artificial intelligence as it applies to replicating geological reasoning. Other than that, I see value in engaging in ethnographic research.”

Siwabessy first became interested in scientific research in 2012 when he was working as a systems engineering intern at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. He continued his work at the Los Angeles NASA center, producing geologic maps of Mars.

Recently, Siwabessy was recognized by the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference and awarded the 2020 Career Development



LEFT:
Andrew Siwabessy,
Best Master's Thesis
Award recipient.

RIGHT:
Jacob Moran, Best
Master's Thesis
Award recipient.

Award. He says his interest in geography goes beyond his interest in scientific research.

"This process of iterative self-knowing also informs my own academic choices at kind of a meta level," Siwabessy says. "More than being interested in Martian geography is understanding how the human mind collects and engages with information."

In the fall, Siwabessy will move to Canada to attend the University of Western Ontario, where he will pursue a doctorate in Earth sciences.

During his first semester at CSULB, **Jacob Moran** noticed that churches in Orange County took on a more modern look. This led him to research millennial Evangelicalism, which would become the center of his award-winning master's thesis, "100% Slave-Free Chocolate: Authenticity and Interpellation in Consumptive Spaces."

"Hipster churches basically look like coffee shops," Moran says. "I was like, 'This is really interesting,' and was wondering why they decided to do this. So, my goal was to try to make an argument or to do some research on performance indicators and consumer culture to try to understand this entire subculture that's based around authentic spaces and authentic goods."

Moran's research is slated to be presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association in Seattle, Washington, in November 2021.

After earning his bachelor's in communication studies from Biola University, the Sally Cassanova Scholar worked as a background actor, front desk supervisor and

restaurant administrator. According to Moran, working in these fields "gave me some material" for what he would go on to study and research at CSULB.

"I'd say that my expertise is trying to understand the rhetoric and the aesthetics that you'll see," Moran says.

In 2019, Moran decided to pursue his master's in communication studies at CSULB. He also taught public speaking as a teaching associate. He quickly discovered that communications merged his love for performing with human interaction.

Moran hopes to enter a doctoral program in communications, with an emphasis in rhetoric, in fall 2022.

Journalism and Public Relations department team wins 2021 Bateman Case Study Competition

A team of five students from the journalism and public relations department won the 2021 Bateman Case Study Competition, an annual contest held by the Public Relations Student Society of America.

For the competition, the team was asked to create a public relations campaign focused on "reversing the corrosion of civility in American life and fostering more constructive and inclusive public discourse in all corners of society." The CSULB team's campaign, CivilityLB, was judged the best out of the 54 entries the competition received.

Working together, Alyssa Canales, Shani Crooks, Giselle Ormeno, David Rowe,

and Samantha Troisi conducted extensive research, including surveying, interviewing and hosting focus groups made up of Long Beach students and residents. According to Troisi, the team leader, they quickly realized that incivility was not an isolated issue, but rather something that affected society as a whole.

The stated goal of the CivilityLB campaign was "to facilitate discussions among CSULB students, parents, organizational leaders and the general public on the impacts of incivility in public discourse and empower individuals to be agents of change through education and community connections." To reach that goal, the team designed and executed a social media campaign, created a Communication Toolbox to encourage and promote civil discourse, and hosted virtual and socially distanced events to encourage people to talk about challenges and solutions.

They even wrote and published a children's book, "Michael & Mia Save Meanville," on the importance of civility, respect and kindness, with art commissioned from CSULB alumni Chanmealea Huy.

Troisi, who graduated in the spring with a degree in public relations, hopes that the team's work and research will be valued, even after the competition.

"I really hope that the resources we created ... will help people rekindle and mend the broken relationships in their lives,"

— Samantha Troisi

"I really hope that the resources we created and the tools we gave the community will help people rekindle and mend the broken relationships in their lives," she says. "We had so many discussions with people who lost family and friends because of a difference of opinion or the inability to effectively communicate. Hopefully, they can start those conversations again in a healthier, more productive way." ■

IN MEMORIAM:

Harvey Hunt

WRITTEN BY
Robin Jones

PHOTO BY
Debbie Hildreth Pisarcik

Ask anyone in the College of Liberal Arts about Harvey Hunt, and they'll probably tell you about a time he patiently walked them through a hospitality expense form or managed to get approval for a travel request in half the time they expected.

They'll likely also tell you about the smile on his face, or the joke he told them, or his infectious giggle, or just how kind and generous he was with his time.

"Acts of service, that was his love language," says Becky Zeferino, the coordinator for development in the dean's office. "He would always go above and beyond."

Hunt passed away early this summer after a brief illness, leaving a void his colleagues in the dean's office say will be impossible to fill.

"For the people who were lucky enough to know him, he went out of his way to help you," dean's office communications specialist Debbie Hildreth Pisarcik says. "He went out of his way to joke and laugh with you, but also to cry with you. If you were not feeling good, he would give you the space or the comfort you needed."

When Hunt first came to CSULB, he split his time between Africana Studies, where he was the department administrator, and the dean's office, where he was the fiscal coordinator. In 2016, he moved into a full-time travel and fiscal coordinator position in the dean's office, where he helped faculty and administrators with all kinds of travel and expense claims.

In the dean's office, he was known for his cooking and party-planning skills and was always right in the middle of any office party. "He was a terrific cook," says Julie Ortiz, the curriculum and personnel manager at the dean's office. "He was always bringing us home-cooked comfort food or surprising us with a cake or a pie."

Hunt was a native of New Orleans and graduated from Tulane University with a degree in Africana Studies, and he loved sharing pieces of his hometown with his CSULB family. He'd often bring gumbo to the office to share and baked a king cake every year to celebrate Mardi Gras.

An avid swimmer, Hunt could be found down at the campus pool every day getting his laps in. He also loved thrift shopping for his favorite brand, Ralph Lauren, and anything with a nautical theme. It's no surprise he was known throughout the campus for his style, often wearing bright bow ties and colorful socks to work.

He became like an uncle to Ortiz's and fiscal and program supervisor Joyce Morfe's kids and even helped Ortiz's son pick out a tuxedo for his prom. It was just one of the many ways he made a daily impact on his coworkers' lives.

"He always had a lot of patience for everybody, and he was really kind, too," Zeferino says. "If you wanted to stop by and say hi, he'd always say hi and chat. I would do that every day. He'd always crack a joke, and we'd laugh. He was just so good at making you feel good." ■



