

ERDAS

ISSUE

02

AUG

'22

*College of
Liberal Arts*

CAL STATE
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**CALIFORNIA
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Aspire is a publication
of the College of Liberal
Arts at California State
University, Long Beach

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ON THE COVER:
New CLA dean Dr.
Deborah Thien.
Photo by Emily Chen.

ON THE BACK:
Photo by Emily Chen.



DEAN'S LETTER

Dear reader,

I'm delighted to present to you the second edition of *Aspire*, the magazine we launched last year to celebrate the exciting activities happening here in the College of Liberal Arts.

For the past two years, a small team of faculty and students have come together in the spring and summer to create this magazine. The goal is to help some 700 CLA faculty members learn more about each other, so that we can connect on a deeper level—and use that connection to collaborate as we look toward the future of the CLA.

In this issue, you'll learn more about two far-reaching collaborative efforts in our college: the CLA Strategic Plan, or CLASP, and Not Alone at the Beach. Both groups have worked tirelessly to make the university a better place, for faculty, staff, and students.

You'll also get to read about some of our outstanding students. As they told us about their accomplishments, they all, without exception, said they couldn't have done it without the caring mentorship of their professors. It's no surprise, as student success has always been a major piece of everything we do in the CLA.

I hope these stories will encourage and inspire you to embark on some collegial and collaborative projects of your own—or to join some that are already under way. Thank you for reading, and let us know what you think!

*All the best,
Dean Deborah Thien*



1.0

FOCUS *on* FACULTY



ABOVE:
Photograph by
Emily Chen.

New TENURE-TRACK *faculty*

Meet the professors joining the
College of Liberal Arts this year

WRITTEN BY
Bella Arnold, Kelsey Brown & Robin Jones

*“I feel like I’ve been waiting
a long time for this
opportunity. Cal State
Long Beach is exactly the
kind of place I need to be
for this next step.”*

— Dr. David Illingworth,
Psychology professor



David Illingworth

Psychology

DR. DAVID ILLINGWORTH, newly hired as an assistant professor of psychology, brings his expertise in judgment and decision-making to CSULB. His research counters the notion that people have certain “hard grain rules in their minds.”

“I take an alternative approach and assume that the only heuristic you need to postulate, to understand, people’s judgments, their choices, their decisions, is memory,” Dr. Illingworth says. By focusing on how memory operates, he says, he is able to understand how people formulate beliefs and expectations.

For the past three years, Dr. Illingworth, who got his Ph.D. at Georgia Tech in 2020, worked as a postdoctoral researcher. He conducts his research through computer-based experimentation.

Dr. Illingworth became interested in studying cognition as a biology major at UC Merced. After he took his first psychology course, he became more interested in the complexities of behavior and saw the connections between the two fields.

“I’ve found myself in an area where we draw a lot of inspiration from theories of animal behavior,” Dr. Illingworth says. “Like how an individual forages their mind for the memories that are most relevant to what they’re thinking about at any given moment. It’s very similar to how any number of animals go foraging for food in highly complex environments.”

The pandemic allowed Dr. Illingworth to focus on and finish manuscripts he’d been working on. The publication he is most proud of, “Strength of Belief Guides Information Foraging,” was published in Psychological Science.

Dr. Illingworth calls his start at CSULB “close to a homecoming,” as he’s originally from Alhambra. Since then, he’s lived in Oklahoma, Georgia, and Maryland. Dr. Illingworth is excited to expose students to a style of psychology they may not be familiar with, as well as to eat Southern California-style Mexican food, which he says is unbeatable.

“I feel like I’ve been waiting a long time for this opportunity,” he says. “Cal State Long Beach is exactly the kind of place I need to be for this next step.”



Jesús Ayala
Journalism and Public Relations

JESÚS AYALA is the newest assistant professor in the Journalism and Public Relations department. Ayala has almost two decades of professional experience in broadcast journalism.

Ayala says he stumbled into journalism but instantly fell in love with it, and after completing his bachelor's degree at UC Berkeley, took a job at ABC News.

"I started from the bottom as a news assistant," Ayala says. "I worked the overnight shift from midnight to eight in the morning—so, really proving myself and starting from the ground up. I ended up staying for 17 years as a producer."

Five years ago, Ayala transitioned from the newsroom to the classroom, landing at Cal State Fullerton as a full-time lecturer. There, he launched a Spanish newscast, "Al Día," which won several awards and was nominated for a national college Emmy Award.

At CSULB, Ayala, who received his master's in journalism at USC, plans to revamp the broadcast classes and student-led newscast. He eventually hopes to develop a student-led Spanish newscast, as well.

Ayala describes joining the CSULB faculty as a "full-circle moment." In 2016, Journalism and Public Relations chair Dr. Jennifer Fleming asked Ayala to speak at the department's annual symposium, JPR Day. It was Ayala's first time speaking to students, and after seeing how engaging and interested the students were, he felt inspired to teach.

Ayala, who got his bachelor's degree in political science and ethnic studies, says he is excited to be at a campus with a student population as diverse as CSULB's is.

"It's also really exciting when you see students of color who see themselves finally reflected in a faculty member," Ayala says. "That's when really magical things begin to happen."



Kelly Stewart
American Indian Studies

KELLY STEWART, one of the newest assistant professors in American Indian Studies, was inspired to research the impacts of Indian residential schools on the descendants of former students due to her familial connection to the work.

Stewart has more than 30 relatives who attended these schools, and in her research, she's found even more family connections. Her grandma, in particular, has a strong influence on her work, as she often talked about the negative experiences she had at these schools.

"My grandma's experiences really shaped my perceptions of education," she says.

Stewart's research focuses specifically on formerly Catholic-run mission Indian boarding schools, like St. Boniface Indian Industrial School, which was located in Banning, California. Through archival research and oral history from those who attended the school and their descendants, Stewart aims to understand the effects across generations. She describes what she does as "(re)storying history."

Growing up, Stewart, who is Gabrieliño-Tongva/Luiseño, remembers sitting through uncomfortable lessons on Native people in elementary school. She had a feeling that the lessons were inaccurate, so she would go home and share them with her dad.

"He would give me the correct lesson," Stewart says. "I would go back to school and have a little chip on my shoulder because I knew my teachers were not being truthful with me."

Stewart says the work she does is a "labor of love," stating that it's not only healing for the community, but also for herself.

Set to finish her joint-degree doctoral program at UC San Diego and Cal State San Marcos in educational leadership in December, Stewart will join the CSULB faculty in the spring. She is excited to be on Puvungna and join other faculty who are Tongva, like Cindi Alvitre.

"It is the pulls of never wanting to leave my homeland that really drew me to Long Beach," Stewart says.



Manuel de Pulido

Communication Studies

DR. MANUEL DE PULIDO, a CSULB alum, joins the Communication Studies department as an assistant professor this fall. It is the first faculty position for Dr. Pulido, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2022.

Dr. Pulido studies communication of chronic pain and illness, whether it's between romantic or platonic partners, family members, healthcare providers, or people with the same condition.

His own experiences motivated him to study chronic pain, as he and his family all struggle with the condition. Dr. Pulido studies many different areas, including uncertainty management, which helps people deal with all the questions they have about what it means to have chronic pain and its role in relationships.

"Understanding how family dynamics work, how relationship dynamics work, how patient provider interactions could go well, but often go wrong—that's what inspired me," Dr. Pulido says.

Social support is Dr. Pulido's main area of research, with his current work focusing on management advice given to people with chronic pain. That advice may be about diet and nutrition, physical activity, rest and sleep—basically, anything besides pharmaceutical prescriptions and surgeries.

For his dissertation, Dr. Pulido created a cross-sectional survey testing a theoretical model of how people with chronic pain process advice, with the goal of ensuring they take that advice from healthcare providers. Dr. Pulido is currently looking at Reddit forums to investigate whether the most clinically effective self-management strategies are also the most popular.

Though it's been five years since Dr. Pulido left CSULB, he still feels right at home in Long Beach.

"Once we got to the interviewing process and talking again, it felt like I hadn't even left," Dr. Pulido said about the Communication Studies department. "Everyone's just so warm, inviting."



Thomas Reed

American Indian Studies

DR. THOMAS REED, a new tenure-track professor in the American Indian Studies department, is proudly English, Irish, German and Oneida. His Oneidan name is Lukwe'tiyó, Oneida for "he is a good man," and he aims, he says, to live up to the sentiment of his name and to honor all of his cultures.

"I am really passionate about my identity and my heritage," Dr. Reed says. "Also just about trying to create a better world for Native people and all peoples. I think that I'm really passionate about trying to create a better, more inclusive world for everybody."

Carrying that mentality into his teachings has been a priority for Dr. Reed, who labels himself a lifelong learner. In 2012, he graduated from Pepperdine University, where he studied communication with an emphasis in rhetoric and leadership.

He received his master's in public administration and a certificate in American Indian Studies from CSULB in 2016, then attended an American political leadership program at George Washington University before finally returning to California for his Ph.D. in leadership and organizational consulting at University of San Diego.

"The best advice I got was to just go in with humility and authenticity," he says. "I do not pretend to know all the answers, but I'll tell you what I learned from my different experiences in education."

"I tell my class, 'Whatever we co-create, whatever we collaborate, you are all co-instructors.' I recognize that there is so much out there I do not know, and when we put our minds together, we can accomplish more."



Christopher Rosales
Chicano and Latino Studies

DR. CHRISTOPHER ROSALES, a Chicano writer of novels and short stories, joins the tenure track in the Chicano and Latino Studies department this fall.

After receiving his bachelor's degree from CSULB in English with an emphasis in creative writing, Dr. Rosales got his MFA in English from the University of Colorado and Ph.D. in creative writing from the University of Denver.

His career trajectory, he says, was fueled by his family's active participation in academia, as well as his desire to teach young people in underserved communities. In addition to working as a lecturer and professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder and Naropa University, he has published multiple short stories and three novels, including "Word Is Bone," winner of the International Latino Book Award.

When Dr. Rosales first returned to CSULB as a lecturer a year ago, he noticed that his students were driven.

"The students were like me and all of my community that grew up near CSULB and in some of those neighborhoods," Dr. Rosales says. "I felt like we had a lot to share and comment on. Classes were incredible. The resilience of students was motivating."

Dr. Rosales says CSULB allows him to combine his love for teaching, mentorship, outreach and English studies. He hopes to establish a creative writing track in the department and wants to help students get their work published. Overall, he looks forward to providing a "space for community."

"There's a different way in which you're afforded an opportunity to engage with students when you know you have time," Dr. Rosales says. "Mentorship is such a pivotal component of this job."



Sunyoung Park
Communication Studies

DR. SUNYOUNG PARK, who joins the faculty in the Communication Studies department this fall, arrives at CSULB fresh from her Ph.D. program in communications at Michigan State University, where she also received her master's in communications.

Originally from South Korea, Dr. Park moved to the U.S. in 2015, where she became fascinated with communications. Her research concerns the intersection between interpersonal communication and health communication.

For Dr. Park, the decision to pursue her Ph.D. was an easy one, as she realized while she was studying for her master's degree how much she loved the discipline. However, she never considered herself a star student.

"I was never a student who just understood statistics instantly. I needed the extra time and extra effort," Dr. Park says. "My motivation to work in institutions, like Long Beach, is that I know how I struggled, so I like to guide students in the way that I taught myself as well. I consider myself a bridge between communication studies and the students."

This fall, Dr. Park is teaching Communication Studies 307: Measurement Communication Research, and Communication Studies 334: Communication in the Workplace. She is looking forward to collaborating with a new community of students.

"The new job and designing my own class and meeting a student body with diversity are all things I'm very excited about," Dr. Park says. "Personally, I am excited for the challenge."



Mystyn Mills
Geography

DR. MYSTYN MILLS, a new tenure-track professor in the Geography department, likes to describe herself as a landscape ecologist and conservation geographer.

As a child, she moved around a lot, and her academic career followed a similar pattern. She started off at community college before transferring to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo for her undergraduate studies. For her master's degree, she attended CSULB, where she also served as a lecturer before heading to UC Riverside for a Ph.D. in ecology.

Bouncing around and experiencing different environments, Dr. Mills says, helped her form a career path.

"Moving around as a kid and then moving around institutions really drove home this idea that places are unique," Dr. Mills says. "All environments were really different. It inspired me to look into what influences animals and vegetation in different areas and how they interact with each other."

In what she calls a career highlight, Dr. Mills recently partnered with a working ranch in the Sierra Nevada Foothills, where she worked with undergraduate and graduate students on a research project.

"I've liked teaching students the cool, nitty-gritty field methods of going out there and collecting data and then coming back and analyzing it," Dr. Mills says. "What I'm really excited about is giving these students a hands-on experience doing real-world research."

This fall, Dr. Mills is teaching Geography 330: California Ecosystems, Geography 640: Seminar in Physical/Environmental Geography, and Geography 698: Thesis.



Ezgi Yildiz
Political Science

DR. EZGI YILDIZ, who will join the Political Science department as an assistant professor and Model United Nations director in spring 2023, was drawn to CSULB by the campus's dedication to its diverse student body.

"I was attracted to CSULB's commitment to student success regardless of background," she says.

A first-generation college student whose academic journey started in rural Turkey, Dr. Yildiz received her bachelor's degree in American culture and literature from Bilkent University in Turkey. She studied for her master's in political science and Ph.D. in international relations/political science at the Geneva Graduate Institute in Switzerland.

After graduate school, she moved to the U.S. to work on her first monograph at Harvard. She was grateful for the experience but admits she struggled with imposter syndrome.

"While I value the opportunities of upward mobility, it comes with the curse of imposter syndrome," Dr. Yildiz says. "I hope that having this experience will help me relate to the experiences that students might have. I received excellent mentorship and support at critical moments in my academic journey. Now, I want to pay it forward."

Dr. Yildiz, who defines herself as a scholar of international relations specializing in international law and organizations of global governance, focuses her research on international courts and organizations, human rights and ocean governance.

While she takes on the roles of Model UN director and tenure-track faculty member, she will continue to research human rights issues and women's rights. Additionally, she plans to develop a new project on ocean governance.



Robert Chlala
Sociology

DR. ROBERT CHLALA, who joins the Sociology department this fall, conducts research that aims to answer the question: How do people make a healthy living and find community in U.S. urban cities, when places like L.A. have prioritized police spending and allow racial and gender inequity to expand?

Recently, Dr. Chlala's studies have focused on how different communities have survived, and even thrived, in the cannabis industry in Los Angeles. Chlala says he treats his research as a responsibility to the community, learning from different cannabis workers, small operators, and equity and labor organizations.

"Cannabis felt different in some ways because it was a struggle, but also a place where people found meaning, joy, collectivity," Dr. Chlala says. "I also really started to see how much policing shapes our urban economy."

Through community-based ethnography and in-depth interviews, Dr. Chlala hopes to help repair the harms of the war on drugs and address the inequity it caused. He has been able to use his research to develop projects to support on-the-ground organizing and creative-community building.

Dr. Chlala says his next step is to take his research to the California state level to help build a community-led, co-created project to survey 1,500 cannabis workers in delivery, dispensary, and cultivation.

Dr. Chlala, who received his Ph.D. from USC, will be teaching Racism, Power and Inequality, as well as the urban policy methods course, this fall.

"I'm ready to get to know the students in my classes and in the campus community and figure out how I can best support their vision for the world," Dr. Chlala said.



Debby Sneed
Classics

DR. DEBBY SNEED, an expert on physical disability in ancient Greece, has been lecturing in the Classics department at CSULB since 2020. This fall, she joins the tenure track.

Dr. Sneed got her first taste of classics as an undergrad at the University of Wyoming, when she signed up for a GE writing course on classical Greek civilizations because it fit into her schedule. She found it "intriguing," but wasn't fully hooked on classics until she went on her first archaeological excavation, at the Agora in Athens.

"I loved being out in the field, finding the things that would contribute to the narrative of life in ancient Athens," she says.

During her master's program in classics from the University of Colorado at Boulder, Dr. Sneed first dipped into the topic of disability in ancient Greece while writing a paper on Hellenistic figurines showing a wide array of body types. She dove in completely during her Ph.D. program in archaeology at UCLA, and today, she's working on a book about what life was like for physically disabled people in ancient Greece.

"My aim is to see if physically disabled people participated in ways that were similar to or different from nondisabled people, keeping in mind that experiences of disability will be different depending on the person's age, sex and gender, status, and wealth," Dr. Sneed says. "I hope to contribute to an appreciation of disability as a cultural narrative and, importantly, as a universal feature of human experience."

This fall, Dr. Sneed is excited about getting back to the classroom after a semester on research leave. She'll be teaching introductory Ancient Greek and Greek Mythology.

"It's really fun to teach ancient Greek on a campus where so many students speak multiple languages," she says. "I learn so much more about how language works by interacting with people from a diversity of backgrounds, and it makes me a better teacher and scholar."



Barbara Caplan

Psychology

DR. BARBARA CAPLAN, whose research aims to maximize the impact of autism research in diverse communities, joins the faculty in the department of Psychology this fall. She recently completed postdoctoral training at UC San Diego, where she studied how to best support implementation of research-supported practices in a real-world setting.

At UCLA, where she received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees, Dr. Caplan focused her studies on child clinical psychology, with an emphasis on youth with autism and other developmental disabilities and their families. She was inspired to pursue this area of study by her mother, who worked as a special education teacher for 30 years. Dr. Caplan visited her mother's classrooms as a child and worked as a teacher's aide in an autism-specific classroom as her first job out of high school.

"I loved the individuality and strength of my students, as no two children with autism are alike," Dr. Caplan says. "Yet something that stuck with me was the tremendous stress placed on families to navigate complex service systems while supporting their child's behavior and development."

Dr. Caplan's research looks at the factors that impact the effectiveness of autism intervention in the community and ways to help families, community leaders and providers, and advocacy organizations "develop practices and strategies that are culturally responsive and fit community-based service settings."

She'll bring her passion for these subjects into the classroom this fall, as she'll be teaching Developmental Psychopathology and Family Therapy.

She's looking forward to teaching again. "During my postdoc I pursued clinical research, and while I mentored undergrads and gave guest lectures on campus, I had less opportunity for formal classroom teaching," Dr. Caplan says. "I am excited to get back in the classroom and connect with my students."



Eva Bohler

Africana Studies

DR. EVA BOHLER is one of the newest assistant professors of Africana Studies. Her research focuses on Afrocentricity, political movements, the Civil Rights movement, and Africana womanism.

Dr. Bohler's dissertation was an Afrocentric analysis of the philosophies of Howard Thurman, a theologian and Civil Rights leader. She evaluated his philosophies and examined what was compatible with Afrocentricity. This research inspired Dr. Bohler to look at political movements and Africana womanism, to understand the role of African women during the Civil Rights movement.

Dr. Bohler, who received her Ph.D. at Temple University in 2021, explained that Afrocentricity looks at the lives of African-descended people with their experiences centered. This same framework can be applied to all marginalized groups, she says.

"For so long, African-descended people have been looked at from a European gaze," Dr. Bohler says. "It's important to center African-descended people within their own experiences."

Though Dr. Bohler just received her doctorate this past December, she was able to gain some experience in teaching while working as an adjunct professor last spring at John Jay College in New York City, teaching Race and Ethnicity in America.

Originally from Michigan, Dr. Bohler is looking forward to the California weather, as well as being able to teach a diverse group of students. Dr. Bohler was drawn to teach at CSULB because of the Africana Studies department and its world-renowned chair, Dr. Maulana Karenga.

"That's a dream come true," Dr. Bohler says.

TENURED & PROMOTED *faculty*

WRITTEN BY
Bella Arnold & Kelsey Brown

These 12 CLA professors are taking the
next step in their academic careers



1

*Psychology***Yada Treesukosol**

DR. YADA TREESUKOSOL has received tenure and been promoted to associate professor in the Psychology department. Dr. Treesukosol's current research regarding physiological mechanisms underlying alterations in diet preference is being funded by the National Institutes of Health.

"Eating behavior begins with foods and fluids entering the mouth, and thus everything that we eat is evaluated by the taste system," Dr. Treesukosol says. "My research focuses on how signals from the mouth are sent to the brain to influence feeding behavior."

Dr. Treesukosol, who is Australian, attended Osaka University in Japan before moving to the United States to study behavioral neuroscience at the University of Florida. She earned her Ph.D. in neuroscience at Florida State University and served as a postdoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, where she worked for nearly five years before becoming a research associate.

2

*Sociology***Sabrina
Alimahomed-Wilson**

DR. SABRINA ALIMAHOMED-WILSON has been promoted to professor in the Sociology department. Her research focuses on race, gender and class, as well as on gendered Islamophobia and anti-Muslim racism and transnational feminists.

Dr. Alimahomed-Wilson served as an honorary research fellow for the University College London's Centre for the Study of Education in Muslim Contexts and as a research fellow in the civil rights division at the Council of American Islamic Relations. She is also an affiliate faculty member at the Center for Security, Race, and Rights at Rutgers Law School.

Dr. Alimahomed-Wilson has been published in multiple journals, including *Gender & Society* and *Critical Sociology*.

3	<i>Geography</i>
Lily A. House Peters	

DR. LILY A. HOUSE PETERS has filled numerous positions in the nearly six years she's been at CSULB. In 2016, she began her CSULB career as the resilience commitment coordinator and assistant professor of sustainability science for the Geography department and as affiliated faculty in the environmental science and policy program. In the spring, she received tenure and was promoted to associate professor of geography.

During her time at CSULB, Dr. Peters has served as master's thesis chair, master's thesis committee member, and undergraduate honors thesis adviser for the Geography department, as well as the project adviser for the M.S. in geographic information science. She belongs to the Association of American Geographers, Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, Conference of Latin American Geographers, Southern Arizona Geographers' Association and Team Science Association.

4	<i>History</i>
Michiko Takeuchi	

DR. MICHIKO TAKEUCHI, whose research focuses on women's roles and sexual politics within the the relationship between Japan and the U.S., was promoted to professor in the History department.

Dr. Takeuchi is currently working on a book about the relationship between Japanese and American feminists in the first half of the 20th century.

Dr. Takeuchi was awarded the National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for Advanced Social Science research on Japan. At CSULB, she teaches lower-division U.S. history courses, upper-division Japanese history courses, and research seminars on transnational history.

5	<i>Sociology</i>
Chantrey Joelle Murphy	

DR. CHANTREY JOELLE MURPHY, whose research focuses on inequality of outcomes in interpersonal settings and explores how gender presentation is connected to occurrences of aggression and victimization, has received tenure and been promoted to associate professor.

Using experimental methodology, Dr. Murphy evaluates social psychological phenomena, such as incarceration, in depth. Dr. Murphy, who got her doctorate at Texas A&M, has been at CSULB since 2016 and has taught Social Psychology and Quantitative Methods of Social Research, among other courses. Her research has been published in Laboratory Experiments in the Social Sciences.

6	<i>Linguistics</i>
Sarvenaz Hatami	

DR. SARVENAZ HATAMI recently received tenure and was named associate professor of linguistics. Her research focuses on second language vocabulary teaching and learning, as well as second language teacher education. Specifically, she researches the individual differences in second language acquisition and the impact of second language proficiency on immigration experiences.

Dr. Hatami's research has appeared in multiple non-peer reviewed and peer-reviewed journals, like the Canadian Journal of Applied Linguistics and TESOL Quarterly. Additionally, from 2011 until 2016, she was TESL Canada Journal's editorial assistant.

She earned her bachelor's degree in English language and literature from the University of Isfahan in Iran, where she also received a master's degree in teaching English as a foreign language. She earned her Ph.D. in teaching and learning English as a second language from the University of Alberta in 2015.

7	<i>Africana Studies</i>
Maurice Keith Claybrook Jr.	

DR. MAURICE KEITH CLAYBROOK JR. has received tenure and been promoted to associate professor of Africana Studies. He has been an assistant professor in the department since 2017, and has also served as a lecturer at Compton Community College and California State University, Dominguez Hills, where he taught for over nine years and served as the chair for the Black History Month Committee and as an academic senate representative.

Dr. Claybrook belongs to the African Heritage Studies Association, National Council for Black Studies, Reparations United Front and Sixth Region Diaspora Caucus. In 2020, he was featured on a segment of "Today in LA," where he discussed the significance of Juneteenth. Dr. Claybrook received his bachelor's degree in African American studies and history and his master's in general education with a concentration in intercultural education at Loyola Marymount University. He received his Ph.D. in cultural studies with an Africana studies certificate at Claremont Graduate University.

8	<i>RGRLL</i>
Jeannette Acevedo Rivera	

DR. JEANNETTE ACEVEDO RIVERA, a specialist in comparative literature, has received tenure and been promoted to associate professor of Spanish in the Romance, German, Russian Languages and Literatures (RGRLL) department.

Dr. Acevedo Rivera got her start as a visiting assistant professor at Guildford College. After nearly two years, she moved to CSULB, where she joined the faculty as an assistant professor of Spanish. She teaches upper-level undergraduate courses, as well as master's level courses like Spanish 593: Women and War.

Dr. Acevedo Rivera has presented her research around the world, including at the Museo del Romanticismo in Madrid. Her work has appeared in the Bulletin of Spanish Studies, Decimonónica and more. She received her Ph.D. in romance studies and 19th-century French and Spanish literature from Duke University, where she was a language and literature instructor.

8	<i>Economics</i>
Mariya Mihailova Mileva	

DR. MARIYA MIHAILOVA MILEVA, a graduate adviser seminar series director for the Economics department, has received tenure and been promoted to associate professor. Her research in economics focuses on international macroeconomics, international finance, international trade, monetary policy economics and labor markets.

Before joining the Economics department at CSULB in 2016, Dr. Mileva was a postdoctoral researcher at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy. She has also served as a research assistant for the monetary policy research division at the European Central Bank and as an intern for the Bank of England's international spillovers team.

Dr. Mileva received her bachelor's degree with a double major in economics and business and international affairs from Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, and her master's degree and doctorate in economics from UC Santa Cruz.



9	<i>Communication Studies</i>
Christopher M. Duerringer	

DR. CHRISTOPHER M. DUERRINGER has been promoted to professor in the Communication Studies department. Dr. Duerringer's expertise is in rhetoric and critical and cultural studies, as he is interested in the rhetoric that shapes publics and counter-publics.

Dr. Duerringer works as the director of argumentation research at the Center for First Amendment Studies and serves as the chief editor for the Journal of the International Public Debate Association. His work has been published in multiple journals, including the Journal of Communication Inquiry and the Howard Journal of Communications.

Dr. Duerringer's favorite parts of teaching are discussing "the arguments, language, and ideology that circulate in popular culture and politics."

10	<i>Sociology</i>
Esa Syeed	

DR. ESA SYEED, a sociologist, has received tenure and been promoted to associate professor. Dr. Syeed's research explores urban education, social movement, and the intersectionality of race and ethnicity.

Dr. Syeed, who received his Ph.D. in sociology of education from New York University, teaches Qualitative Methods, Sociology of Education, and Social Order and Social Change. Recent published articles include "The Space Beyond Equity: A Blueprint of Radical Possibilities in School Design" in Educational Policy and "Putting Everything on the Table: Complexity, Context, and Community Engagement with Public Education" in Interchange.

11	<i>Psychology</i>
Christopher Raymond Warren	

DR. CHRISTOPHER RAYMOND WARREN, who has been at CSULB since 2006, has been promoted to professor of psychology.

Dr. Warren, who received his Ph.D. from Tulane University, focuses his research on industrial-organizational psychology. He is a member of the American Psychology Association and the Society for Industrial/Organizational Psychology.

12	<i>English</i>
Rene Horacio Treviño	

DR. RENE HORACIO TREVIÑO, who has been an assistant professor of English since 2016, has received tenure and been promoted to associate professor. Dr. Treviño's research focuses on the female gothic, African-American slave narrative tradition, and literary animal representations of the 19th century. He has presented his research at numerous conferences, including the American Literature Association and College English Association, and has had numerous pieces published in various journals, including "Frederick Douglas Beyond the United States-Transatlantic Activism and Correspondence" for *One More Voice*. He's currently working on research for *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists*.

Dr. Treviño is associated with the American Literature Association, C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, American Literature Society and Modern Language Association. He received his bachelor's degree in English from the University of Texas-Pan American, his master's degree in English from the University of Arkansas, and his doctorate in English with a graduate certificate in Africana studies from Texas A&M.

WRITTEN BY

Kelsey Brown

RIGHT:
Sean Smith, winner of
the John and Phyllis
Jung Endowed Part-
Time Faculty Award,
established the Center
for the History of
Video Games and
Critical Play.



History lecturer wins John and Phyllis Jung Endowed Part-Time Faculty Award

History lecturer Sean Smith, who created the Center for the History of Video Games and Critical Play on campus and co-created a pair of popular classes examining the history of video games, received the CLA's 2022 John and Phyllis Jung Endowed Part-Time Faculty Award.

Smith's research has always involved pop culture, with his early work focusing on American theater in the West. He shifted his focus to video games because he saw them as a point of intersectionality with his students, where his interests could merge with theirs.

In the past 10 to 15 years, Smith says, video games have grown in relevance. However, he adds, first-person shooter games like the Assassin's Creed series, Battlefield, and Call of Duty are bringing students into "the discipline in the wrong way."

"The stories that those games tell are stories that are rooted in historical

violence," Smith says. "They're rooted in hegemony and in exceptionalist narrative, white male fantasy, misogyny, racism."

Smith and his colleague Jeffrey Lawler started a series of classes about five years ago to teach students how to read games and critically think about the messages. Together, they created History 306: Playing the Past: Games as Historical Narrative, Public Memory and Cultural Representations, which investigates how video games represent the past, and History 307: A Critical History of Computing and Video Games Technology, which evaluates the historical and cultural aspects of video games.

Smith loves showing his students that history majors can be more than just teachers or scholars.

"Even without [the award], I'd continue to do what I was doing," Smith says. "This is something that I love."

TOP:
A drum group
featuring professor
emeritus Craig Stone
played at the Dream
the Impossible
conference in April.

BOTTOM:
A student speaks to
a college rep during
the 14th annual event,
which was held on the
CSULB campus.

Dream the Impossible conference brings Native youth to campus

Dr. Theresa Gregor, an assistant professor of American Indian Studies, and Anna Nazarian-Peters, the director of Student Life and Development, brought the 14th annual Dream the Impossible Tribal Youth Conference to CSULB for the first time on April 23.

The conference started in 2007 with the goal of encouraging Native youth to dream big and empowering them with cultural and educational resources.

Dr. Gregor was inspired to bring the conference to CSULB after attending it at the University of Redlands with her daughter in 2019. Though Dr. Gregor and Nazarian-Peters planned to host the conference in the spring of 2020, COVID-19 put those plans on hold.

“To host and to see this vast body of youth, and their chaperones and educators, on our campus, which had been so sparsely attended and populated for a couple years—that made it feel full of life again and showed some of our resilience,” Dr. Gregor says.

Dream the Impossible, which was originally held on reservations, has expanded on to university campuses in hopes of lessening the intimidation and fear that Native students may feel about going to college. The conference consists of different events; this year’s included a panel on Indigenous tattoo practices by CSULB American Indian Studies lecturer Heidi Lucero and a session on social justice and activism.

A drum group including CSULB professor emeritus Craig Stone, who has been in the group since the 1970s, sang their flag song and the alumni song to show the blend of Indigenous reservation rural experience with Indigenous urban experience. Dr. Gregor emphasized the importance in “centering your culture to center yourself,” reminding students they always have their community to return to.

“They have the capacity and capability to do anything,” Dr. Gregor says. “It’s really our cultural foundation that carries us forward.”



CLA mental health and graduation preparedness program receives \$1.46 million grant

Project Resilience, a four-part initiative focusing on mental health and wellness and post-graduation preparedness for Asian American and Pacific Islander students, recently received a five-year grant of \$1.46 million.

Dr. Barbara Kim, a professor of Asian American Studies and the department chair for Asian and Asian American Studies, explained that the project builds on existing programs, such as peer mentoring through CAPS and internship programs through the Career Development Center.

Dr. Kim explained that the rise of hate against people of color, specifically anti-Asian hate through the linking of Asian Americans and Asians to COVID-19, has made student success more challenging.

“Because CSULB is so strategically located, we can serve lots of different AAPI groups,” Dr. Kim says. “We can make sure that AAPI students from different backgrounds are recognized and feel seen and are served.”

Through general education classes, the project is providing information about mental health and wellness so first-year students are aware of resources. Beyond partnering with CAPS, the project is also creating a multilingual online hub to address the needs of the diverse population at CSULB. In addition, the project is funding 25 scholarships per year and is cultivating faculty development through workshops.

Dr. Varisa Patraporn, an associate professor of sociology and a faculty associate in the department of Asian and Asian American Studies, has been the main coordinator for the career readiness and faculty awareness components of the project.

“Having the money and the resources to bring people together, it makes a difference,” she says. “We can make such a greater impact if we work together and collaborate.”

Though they’ve completed only one faculty workshop thus far, Dr. Patraporn says there was significant interest. She describes the project as trying to establish a “holistic model of student success.”

Success, Dr. Patraporn says, is not measured just by preparedness, but also by support.

“We want to be able to give them the tools that they need, that they can carry with them, even beyond university when they leave,” Dr. Patraporn says.



“Having a historical perspective is always useful when facing these challenges.”

— Dr. Isacar Bolaños,
History professor

Pair of history professors receive prestigious research fellowships

Dr. Ulices Piña and Dr. Isacar Bolaños, two assistant professors in the History department, recently received prestigious research fellowships for their individual projects.

Dr. Piña, who has taught Latin American history at CSULB since fall 2019, was awarded a one-year Career Enhancement fellowship through the Institute for Citizens and Scholars, which will allow him to take leave from teaching to finish his book manuscript.

Dr. Piña’s book, which is tentatively titled “Rebellious Citizens: Democracy and the Search for Dignity in Revolutionary Mexico,” started in 2012 as a dissertation.

“It’s been kind of taking different shape and form ever since,” Dr. Piña says.

As a dual citizen, Dr. Piña has a close relationship to the work he does. His parents immigrated to the United States from Mexico in the 1970s, and his project focuses on the political history of his parents’ hometown of Jalisco after the Mexican Revolution.

“My first real introduction to Mexican history in a formal way was through taking



ABOVE:
Dr. Isacar Bolaños and
Dr. Ulices Piña, both of
the History department,
recently received
fellowships that will allow
them to complete book
projects.

classes at UC Riverside,” Piña says. “But I’ve always been introduced to that history from my own parents and my grandfather’s stories.”

Dr. Isacar Bolaños, who recently finished his second year on the faculty at CSULB, was awarded a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies to fund research and writing for his book, which focuses on natural disasters and pandemics in the Ottoman Empire during the 19th century.

While attending graduate school at Ohio State University, Dr. Bolaños was exposed to scholarly publications examining how natural disasters and environmental factors shaped human history in the Middle East. He decided he “wanted to contribute to that new body of scholarship.”

Dr. Bolaños hopes that by examining current environmental and public health issues through a historical lens, people can make sense of current and future crises.

“Hopefully, we can draw lessons from those past events as to how to respond to future environmental and public health crises that will happen,” Dr. Bolaños says. “Having a historical perspective is always useful when facing these challenges.”

RIGHT:
Nick Roman, KPCC
radio host, retired
from the Journalism
and Public Relations
department this
spring.

KPCC radio host retires after 30 years teaching in the Journalism and Public Relations department

After three decades at Cal State Long Beach, Nick Roman, a journalism professor and audio expert, announced his retirement from teaching this spring, as he plans to devote more of his time to KPCC and help his daughter prepare for her wedding.

Roman's career in news and public radio started at KSBR in 1981. In 1984, he started at KKJZ, formerly known as KLON. He moved to KPCC in 2004.

When he started teaching at Cal State Long Beach in 1992, Roman taught a radio production class, which has since transformed into a podcasting class.

In his time on campus, Roman says, he's been moved by how hard students in his classes have worked and thrived despite adversity.

After Roman posted about his retirement on Instagram, a student he'd taught 15 years ago who went into a field unrelated to broadcasting commented and told Roman that he was the professor who made her believe in herself.

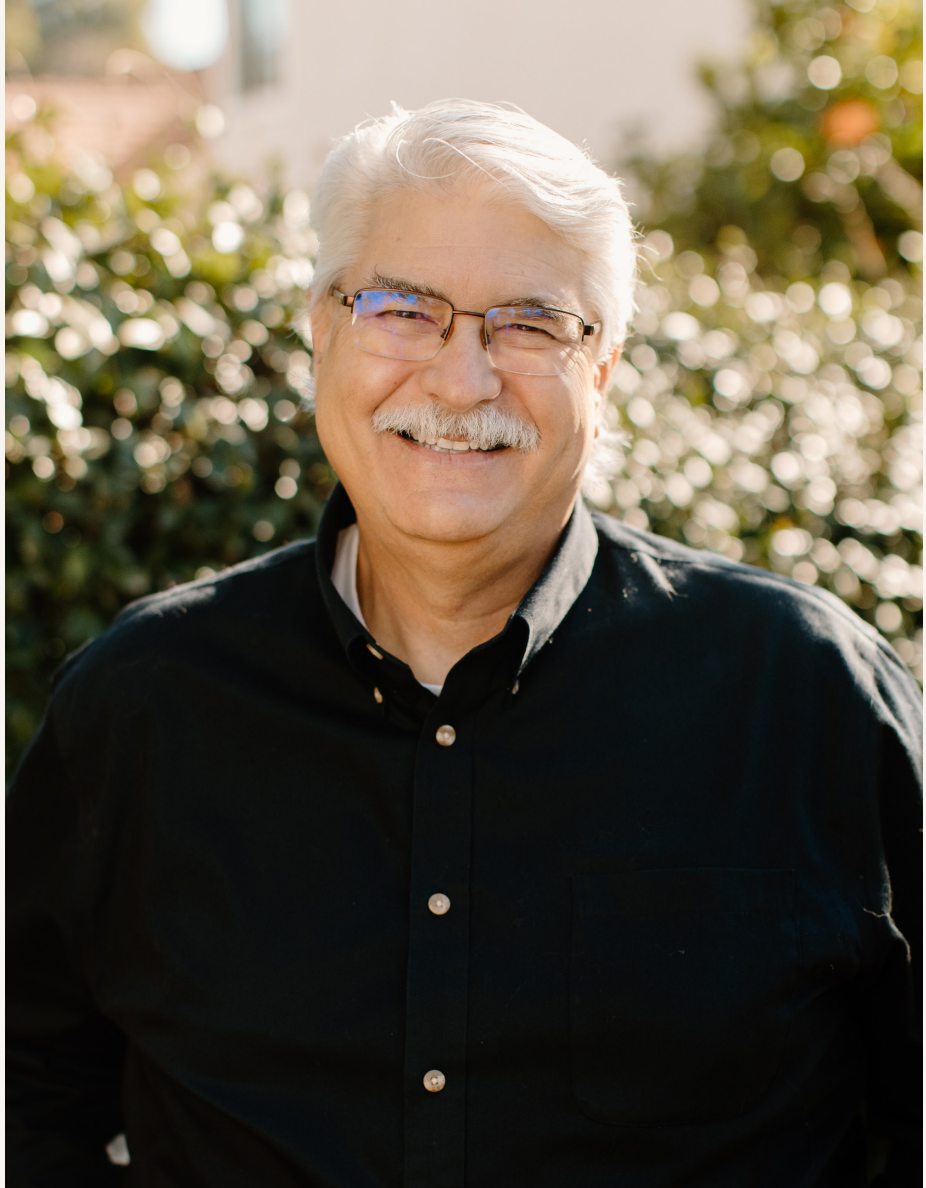
"I hope all those kids will take what they learned from me and deliver it to somebody else—that sort of encouragement," Roman says.

Though Roman first became active in radio while attending college at UC Irvine, his relationship with audio has been lifelong. As a kid, he would listen to news on the radio while his mom prepared breakfast.

"I remember thinking as a little kid how amazing it was that I could sit at my kitchen table, and I would know what was going on in Hong Kong," Roman says. "I felt sort of honored in a way, because my friends knew none of this. But I knew all of it."

Roman describes audio as "magic." Someone can read a story and be affected and entertained, he says, but not necessarily be touched by the story in the same way.

"To hear a human voice tell that same story is so much more intimate," he says. "It is so much more moving to hear the voices of people talk about what they do."



*"I hope all those kids will
take what they learned
from me and deliver it to
someone else—that sort of
encouragement."*

— Nick Roman,
KPCC radio host and
retired Journalism lecturer



2.0

RIGHT:
Dr. Deborah Thien
was named dean of
the College of
Liberal Arts in July.



A CONVERSATION WITH *Dr. Deborah Thien*

WRITTEN BY
Robin Jones

**We caught up with the
CLA's new dean as she
embarked on her new role.**

In July, Dr. Deborah Thien was named the new dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Hired as a geography professor in 2006, Dr. Thien has served as the CLA's associate dean of enrollment management and student success since 2019, a post she assumed after five years as the director of the University Honors Program and two years as chair of the Human Development department.

During her time as associate dean, Dr. Thien developed the Equity Scholars program and the Misty Jaffe Early Leaders Program, aimed at providing welcoming and nurturing spaces for graduate students and faculty from historically underrepresented groups. As a faculty member, she has taught multiple graduate and undergraduate courses, presented and published her

research in dozens of conferences and journals, and received various grants for her work.

Dr. Thien received her doctorate in human geography at the University of Edinburgh in the U.K., her master's degree in gender studies at the University of Northern British Columbia in Canada, and her bachelor's degree in English and women's studies at the University of Victoria in Canada. Her research focuses on feminist geography and social, cultural, health and emotional geographies.

We sat down with Dr. Thien over the summer as she was settling into her new office to learn more about her plans and goals as dean.

What is your vision for the CLA?

As dean I get the honor of supporting the work that's ongoing, as well as leading new initiatives essential to student and faculty success in the 21st century. I am coming in as dean following almost 16 years of being a citizen of this college. This knowledge allows me to focus on uplifting our collegial and collaborative efforts already under way, as well as encouraging innovation and advancement in instruction, equity, community and other areas important to CLA faculty, staff and students.

My big picture vision is sustaining the college as we go forward and making sure we have a framework that supports our members. I'm a scholar of emotions, so I think about how we can set conditions to have respect and compassion. Change and transformation is ongoing, and it's not always easy and comfortable.

Within that framework, the student success piece is my and everyone else's priority. It's very important to me. As I've gone through the ranks here, the student success piece has always been right at the center of every effort. We want to create more than just a symbolic good. We want to be creating structural pathways for student success to be elevated.

As for our equity efforts, the CLA Strategic Plan (CLASP) group has done great work, and I'm in the process of working closely with them and the faculty council to build on what they've done and implement suggestions they've made. For me, the importance of equity goes way back, from early childhood. Coming from a multicultural family and seeing how different people in my familial community encountered racism, I was presented with the fact that things aren't fair, but you can do things about that. Where things are not equitable, you call it out and take action. I want to move us forward on this path.

What are the biggest opportunities for the CLA?

We have many pathways that have been laid out for us, in particular, by Beach 2030 and CLASP. We've had talented people thinking through the question of where we go from here, grounded in the values of our college and campus. So we have a lot of guidance about next steps.

I think we have a lot of exciting developments awaiting us. We've gone through so much over the past few years, but we've found that we have incredible resiliency, and we were able to dig deep into it. And there's a truism about how great art comes from great struggle. We have an opportunity to shine, to come back to the elements that make liberal arts important.

I'm interested in the fact that as a college, we transform people's lives. We contribute to them getting a degree, and the resulting social mobility, and that's so significant. But in college, you also learn how to be in the world as a human being. This uplifts your experience. It might not be a direct line to joy or personal happiness. It might be more about difficult realizations, but it is transformative. Our large and diverse college, spanning the humanities and the social sciences, is uniquely positioned to offer such experiences.

What are the CLA's biggest challenges?

Our scale is always a challenge. The college is the size of a standalone institution. Some deans oversee faculty numbering in the 10s; we have 700 faculty and close to 10,000 students. It's great, but it's a challenge, in that we have to think about scalability in all the things we do.

Also, because of COVID, a lot of people were spending most of their time at home and had more time to think about things. COVID was new, but the injustices we were seeing were not, and the two things together have compelled us to engage with things around us, but also at times to disengage. We're in a fragmented place, and we need to build back those connections, through presence and conversations. I'm coming in at a moment when it's time for us to come back together in person, and I'm excited about that.

Finally, we exist within a context, nationally and internationally, where liberal arts are not recognized or valued to the degree we know their value. We deliver on that value every day, but we also have to promote ourselves, tell those good stories showing why there's value in students studying the liberal arts.

Why are the liberal arts important?

When I think about the liberal arts, I think about a class I took in my first college experience at a community college. I took a German literature in translation class that I loved, and one of the reasons was that the professor taught me how to read in a new way. It was an epiphany.

This is something we excel at. We teach our students how to read at a deeper level. Once you understand that different frameworks exist, and can co-exist, it changes things. It's very powerful to know that there's more than one way to read and understand something. There's the intellectual piece, but there's also the citizenship piece. It's so important to be able to think and understand and analyze information, and creatively engage, whether it's at work or in your personal life.

When I moved on to a four-year institution, I took a women's studies class where we had to interview someone we admired. I interviewed the mother of a friend who had painted quotations on the walls in her house. I was so astounded by the temerity of that, I thought it was so bold and interesting—and she was bold and interesting, because she was challenging gendered norms and expectations by taking ownership of her home space in a very visible way. Being able to spot and ask questions about things that interest you, and follow a thread and be curious, is something liberal arts fosters, and that benefits society at large.

How will your long tenure on campus benefit you as dean?

I know people. I think that's one of the most important pieces—I have relationships with people across campus from years of working with different groups. In every interview I did for this position, I realized that I knew the people I was talking with, and they knew me. I understand how the campus works, and I know who to ask for things. And if I'm advocating for something for CLA, I'm not also having to convince people that I'm a worthy advocate.

How will your research into the spaces of emotional well-being inform your leadership style?

I think it's foundational in how I operate in the world. By reflex, I think about what people need in order to be successful. As a scholar who's done a lot of fieldwork spending time in different communities, I'm sensitive to the fact that you have to attend to the needs of people you're working with. There's a whole conversation to be had about the gendered aspects of that, but caring about the community you serve is not mutually exclusive with tending to and uplifting the intellectual and creative ambitions of our faculty, students and staff.

It's very important to be compassionate and caring in the work we do. We always bring our emotional selves with us, and when people try to divorce themselves from that, it does not facilitate our work. Sometimes in a scholarly context, there's an emphasis placed on being objective, or standing at a distance, and I very fundamentally disagree with that. We don't separate out pieces of ourselves here or there. Having that as a starting place is valuable when working with the people of our college.

I'm incredibly proud to be in this role and be the lead for this college. I always mean that in a collaborative sense. To be honored with widespread support is fantastic, and I aim to deliver on people's good faith.

CREATING *CLASP*

WRITTEN BY
Kelsey Brown

PHOTOS BY
Debbie Hildreth Pisarcik

Working with a diverse group of campus constituents, a small team of dedicated CLA faculty developed and presented the college's new strategic plan.

The College of Liberal Arts Strategic Plan, a three-year plan created with the goal to achieve greater equity across the College of Liberal Arts, was adopted in May 2022. It goes into effect at the beginning of the 2022-23 academic year.

The overarching goal of the plan is to improve equity in the College of Liberal Arts through four strategies, which are supported by 15 core solutions.

"It's not like we're intentionally making it complex," says Dr. Rigo Rodriguez, a professor of Chicano and Latino Studies at CSULB who served as a member of the planning support team for CLASP. "Reality is complex."

Because the College of Liberal Arts is the largest college at CSULB, Dr. Rodriguez says, it needs a plan to guide leadership and faculty through strategic decision-making. Originally, he worked with Dr. Sabrina Alimahomed-Wilson and Dr. Justin Gomer on CLASP, but the team has since expanded to include four other faculty members and a graduate student assistant.

The strategies and solutions were developed through diverse group input and discussions. Since March 2021, more than 150 faculty, students, staff and administrators contributed to the ideas and solutions developed in the plan.

During summer 2021, a 33-person group developed a planning process for the plan, helping to create collaborative agreements and share insight on how to ensure the plan was an equity-driven process. That group grew in fall 2021 to 75 people with the shared goal of identifying the key issues around equity and grouping them into four problems, which evolved into four strategies.



"We intentionally tried to reach out to people—faculty, staff—who are typically marginalized by planning processes, where our issues are often not brought up because we're not included," Dr. Rodriguez says. "This process is impressive, not just because of the number of people, but more specifically, because of the actual diversity of the people that we've brought in."

The plan, which is owned by the Faculty Council and endorsed by the dean of the CLA, was first read in April 2022, at which point members of the college were invited to give feedback, ask questions, and share concerns.

One topic the plan addresses is the increased interest in the value of STEM and the notion that it is more important than liberal arts disciplines.

"Our concern is that the university is also then allocating resources in the same way," Dr. Rodriguez says. "Unless we tackle this issue, then the liberal arts, and all of the work that we do, is going to continue to be devalued."

ABOVE:

The CLASP planning support team: Sabrina Alimahomed-Wilson, Azza Basarudin, Araceli Esparanza, Justin Gomer, Yuping Mao, Chantrey Murphy, Muhammad Rafi and Rigo Rodriguez.

Some strategic plans, Dr. Rodriguez says, fail because they are not effectively implemented. Because of that, the committee has developed an implementation leadership team that will ensure the plan is actively used and has adequate structural support.

Though there's no guarantee the plan will work, Dr. Rodriguez says, referencing the delays of COVID-19, he says he feels confident that the plan will be effective.

"I'm looking forward to the journey over the next three years, where we try to create the world we want to live in here in the CLA," Dr. Rodriguez says. "I'm not expecting perfection. I'm just looking forward to expanding the circle of inclusion in this effort."



STANDING BY *their side*

WRITTEN BY
Kelsey Brown

PHOTO BY
Debbie Hildreth Pisarcik

The CLA's Not Alone at the Beach provides support to survivors of sexual harassment and abuse, while also teaching students and faculty how to help prevent trauma from happening in the first place.

When someone experiences trauma, it feels like their control has been taken away. Jacqueline Urtiz, the campus confidential advocate for Not Alone at the Beach, explains that first-year students are often the victim of these traumas.

Not Alone at the Beach, a project run through the College of Liberal Arts, aims to resolve this issue. Since 2015, the project, which is the longest-standing grant recipient from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, has provided coordinated community responses to support survivors, as well as prevention services.

Dr. Shelley Eriksen, a professor of human development and sociology at CSULB, has been project director of Not Alone at the Beach since 2018 and previously worked as the project evaluator. Eriksen explained how the project uses a "multipronged approach" to engage students and faculty in a multitude of primary prevention practices like risk reduction, awareness programming, and bystander education.

"We want to make certain that it's not just that students are prepared to support themselves and each other, but also that faculty and staff have the tools and knowledge to be of support and to use best practice supports for our students," Dr. Eriksen says.

Urtiz, who is a CSULB alumna, is one of those who provides tools, knowledge and

"We want to make certain that it's not just that students are prepared to support themselves and each other, but also that faculty and staff have the tools and knowledge to be of support and to use best practice supports for our students."

— Dr. Shelley Eriksen,
Human Development and Sociology professor

support to the campus. She specializes in assisting people with issues related to sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, and dating or domestic violence.

For Urtiz, this means accompanying students to file police reports or undergo a forensic medical exam. It can be advocating publicly on students' behalf or simply providing them with the opportunity to have a private conversation. Most faculty on campus are "responsible employees" who are mandated to report certain incidents, but because Urtiz is a confidential advocate, students are able to disclose information without fearing it'll be reported.

"It's so important that students have that safe space to even just process the thoughts around what just happened to them," Urtiz says.

Not Alone at the Beach also employs an investigative officer and supports two national organizations that specialize in bystander education: Mentors and Violence Prevention, and InterAct. Eriksen says they use a "big tent approach," doing large performances on and off campuses to help students understand the concept of bystander education.

Not Alone at the Beach also aims to inform student leaders, whether they be from residential life, Greek life, or ASI, about bystander education in order to shift the cultural and social norms within their own peer groups.

This summer, Not Alone at the Beach worked on a consent education peer-led project called "Flip the Script." Dr. Courtney Aaron will be training people in



the risk-reduction curriculum.

“[It] really helps participants think about their own sexual agency,” Dr. Eriksen says. “What is it that they want from sexual encounters, sexual experiences; to give those processes considerable thought, prior to going out in the world.”

Both Dr. Eriksen and Urtiz say it’s a struggle to bring people’s awareness to Not Alone at the Beach. Because of that, they say, it’s important for students and faculty to inform each other about the services it provides.

“Everybody at Cal State Long Beach has a role to play in creating a campus free from violence,” Dr. Eriksen says.

Interested in learning more? Not Alone at the Beach is located in the Student Health Center and online at cla.csulb.edu/natb. Contact them at (562) 985-2668 or advocate@csulb.edu.

“Everybody at Cal State Long Beach has a role to play in creating a campus free from violence.”

*— Dr. Shelley Eriksen,
Human Development and Sociology professor*

ABOVE:
This summer, Not Alone at the Beach worked on a consent education peer-led project called “Flip the Script.”

A COLLEGE *full of stars*

WRITTEN BY
Bella Arnold

Six CLA faculty members were honored with University Achievement Awards this spring. Here's a glimpse into their work, goals and future plans.

Dr. Sarah Schrank *Outstanding Professor Award*

Dr. Sarah Schrank knew that she had to make the move from her home country of Canada, where she received her bachelor's degree in history from McGill University, to the United States once she discovered her passion for U.S. history.

So when it came time for graduate school, she chose UC San Diego, where she earned a master's, and eventually a Ph.D., in history. After she completed her doctorate, Dr. Schrank moved up the coast to CSULB to join the faculty in the history department.

This spring, after 20 years of service to the university, Dr. Schrank was given CSULB's Outstanding Professor Award.

"The idea that the Outstanding Professor Award connects my service work, my teaching and all of these research projects together, it's just really kind of marvelous," Dr. Schrank says. "It was like, 'Oh, yeah, it did all make sense.'"

Dr. Schrank says her career at CSULB has been marked with meaningful connections with students, research, and new creative opportunities. She emphasizes that the freedom to continuously expand her knowledge and tap into her creative side is part of her recipe for success and longevity in the College of Liberal Arts, and in academia in general.



LEFT:
Dr. Sarah Schrank,
Outstanding Professor
Award recipient.

"There's just been a lot of support for my type of creative cultural work," Dr. Schrank says. "The College of Liberal Arts has been very, very supportive of that type of creativity."

In addition to the accolade, Dr. Schrank was given a new appointment in the spring; this fall, she'll step in as the CLA's director of graduate studies. Though she'll be teaching less, Dr. Schrank says she's excited

to be able to connect with students in a new way and hopes to inspire women to pursue careers in academia.

"I think [my students] enjoy seeing a woman professor who is published and can incorporate that work into the classroom really seamlessly," Dr. Schrank says. "The award helps me think, 'Yeah, it has been a good idea bringing this all together.'"



Dr. Guido Urizar *Outstanding Professor Award*

During his 16 years at CSULB, psychology professor Dr. Guido Urizar has mentored more than 130 students who have helped the directors of local hospitals, health clinics, churches and schools to implement health promotion programs in low-income neighborhoods. He's also worked with the Center for Latino Community Health and received a \$24 million BUILD grant for student research training at CSULB, an award that has supported 300 undergraduate students.

For his extensive work with students and the community, Dr. Urizar was recognized with the 2022 Outstanding Professor Award, something he says "meant a lot."

"This accolade is also a reflection of all of the work of the students that I have had the privilege to work with over the past 15 years," he says.

Lately, Dr. Urizar's research has centered on prevention of stress-related disorders in low-income and minority communities. He continues to serve as the director of the Partners in Research and Outreach for Health research program, and he recently received a Professors Around the World award from CSULB's Office of International Education and Global Engagement to collaborate with universities and health organizations in Bolivia.

Dr. Urizar's career in academia began at the University of Miami, where he received



Dr. Rich Haesly *Distinguished Faculty Advising Award*

For the past nine years, Dr. Rich Haesly has been advising students in the Political Science department. This spring, as he prepared to shift his focus back to teaching and research, he received the university's Distinguished Faculty Advising Award, a recognition of all he'd achieved in the role.

For Dr. Haesly, the opportunity to help students navigate their educational choices was a rewarding one. He remembers having trouble deciding on a career path when he was a student.

He initially set out to get his Ph.D. in economics, but ended up switching to political science and eventually received his doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"When I got involved in advising, it really opened my eyes to both the opportunities and the challenges that students face in taking advantage of all we have to offer," Dr. Haesly says.

This fall, Dr. Haesly is excited about teaching two in-person sections of Political Science 300: Scope and Methods of Political Science. He also continues to research nationalism and national identities.

Also, though he is stepping down from the official role, Dr. Haesly does not intend to abandon his passion for advising and plans to introduce advising workshops with Dr. Amy Rasmussen, chair of the Political Science department.

During his time as an advisor, Dr. Haesly made his affinity for the College of Liberal Arts very clear to his students. He always recommended that political science majors dive into the multitude of courses the college has to offer.

With a laugh, Dr. Haesly recalled all the times when students would ask, "Do you even like our department?" because of how often he advocated branching out and taking classes beyond the major.

"I try to find different ways of encouraging students to get that diversity of experiences that we have here in the College of Liberal Arts, and certainly in our department," Dr. Haesly says.

his bachelor's of science in psychology. He earned his Ph.D. in clinical and health psychology from the University of Florida and completed a clinical psychology internship as a postdoctoral fellow of public service and minority mental health at UC San Francisco before joining Stanford University's School of Medicine as a postdoctoral research fellow in cardiovascular epidemiology and prevention.

Soon after, he came to CSULB, and he's never looked back.

"As soon as I stepped foot on this campus, I knew this was the right place," Dr. Urizar says. "In fact, the most memorable part of my job interview was having lunch with CSULB students. In getting to know the students, I realized that we had the same core values to create something great."

"This accolade is also a reflection of all of the work of the students that I have had the privilege to work with over the past 15 years."

— Dr. Guido Urizar,
Psychology professor



Dr. H. Isabella Lanza
*Distinguished Scholarly and
 Creative Achievement Award*

In less than a decade, Dr. H. Isabella Lanza has made an indelible mark on the CSULB campus through her extensive research efforts.

An associate professor in the Human Development department, she established the Risky Health Among Adolescents and Young Adults (RHAYA) lab, where in 2020 she launched a study of 1,500 CSULB undergraduates that will examine co-occurring health risks such as obesity and substance abuse. She's received several grants for her research and published 15 papers in the past four years.

In recognition of her research, she received the 2022 Distinguished Faculty Scholarly and Creative Achievement Award. She says she was "delighted" when she received the accolade.

Dr. Lanza, who received her Ph.D. in developmental psychology from Temple University, has also served as a student training director and faculty mentor for the BUILD and UROP programs on campus. In 2020, she assumed the role of director of research for the College of Liberal Arts, where she helps to promote research opportunities for both students and faculty.

Last spring, Dr. Lanza led CSULB's semester abroad program in London, which she calls a career highlight. "It will be difficult to top that experience," she says.

This fall, Dr. Lanza is teaching an in-person section of Human Development 308: Pseudoscience vs. Science, and, of course, continuing her research.

"I am looking forward to completing data collection for my health-risk behavior longitudinal study and presenting the research findings at conferences and meetings," she says. "I miss interacting with the scientific community in person."

Dr. Sabrina Alimahomed-Wilson
*Faculty Excellence in Equity,
 Diversity and Inclusion Award*

Dr. Sabrina Alimahomed-Wilson has been an integral part of equity efforts in the College of Liberal Arts, serving as a faculty equity advocate, co-facilitator of the CLA Parenting Learning Community, and co-facilitator for the Feminist Writing and Research Group. And she's served as the CSULB chair for the California Faculty Association's Racial and Social Justice Council.

What's more, her work spans well beyond the CSULB campus. The associate professor of sociology is also an affiliate faculty at the Center for Security, Race, and Rights at Rutgers Law School and has served as an honorary research fellow at University College London's Centre for the Study of Education in Muslim Contexts.

So it's no surprise that she was given the 2022 Faculty Excellence in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award. Still, she says she was "beyond humbled" to receive the honor.

"I work with so many inspiring colleagues to carry out this work," she says. "So I don't see this as just an individual achievement, but a reflection of our collective labor."

Dr. Alimahomed-Wilson's research focuses on race, gender, class, and sexuality—specifically, gendered Islamophobia and anti-Muslim racism, the war on terror, gender and counterterrorism, security and surveillance, transnational feminism and women of color feminisms. She has published in journals like *Critical Sociology* and *Women, Gender, and Families of Color*.

This fall, she is looking forward to pursuing a new project that she says "will make strides to ensure more equitable workloads among faculty."

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 inspiring colleagues to
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— Dr. Sabrina Alimahomed-Wilson,
 Sociology professor

Dr. Arturo Zavala
*Distinguished Faculty Research,
 Scholarly, and Creative Activity
 Mentoring Award*

Dr. Arturo Zavala is no stranger to life as a CSU student. He began his collegiate career at CSU San Bernardino, where he earned his bachelor's degree in psychology. He also received his master's degree in experimental psychology from CSUSB before moving to Arizona State University, where he received his Ph.D. in psychology with an emphasis on behavioral neuroscience.

So it's no surprise that the psychology professor focuses much of his time on mentoring undergraduate and graduate students in a behavioral neuroscience research lab, where they study the effects of psychoactive drugs on human development and try to determine ways to reduce preferences for psychoactive substances.

For Dr. Zavala, receiving the Distinguished Faculty Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity Mentoring Award was "truly rewarding." His goal as a CSULB professor has always been to provide students with an environment where they feel supported.

"I wanted to create an environment where students could enrich their education by getting hands-on experience in behavioral neuroscience research and thrive as independent thinkers who crave more and desire to be producers of scientific research," Dr. Zavala says.

According to Dr. Zavala, the award was extremely humbling because former and current students nominated him for it. Over the past 14 years, he has engaged 52 undergraduate and 10 graduate students in mentored research experiences. He's helped them present at professional meetings and publish, and he's encouraged them to pursue doctoral degrees of their own.

Of those 62 students, 20 have gone on to doctoral programs at universities like Yale, UC Santa Barbara, and the University of Texas, El Paso. Seven have already completed their degrees.

For Dr. Zavala, the work goes on. He's looking forward to continuing to mentor three students next year and plans to take on six new mentees. With a return to in-person conferences, he also will be presenting research with his students at the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting in San Diego, as well as the National Hispanic Science Network annual conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

"Seeing their success is truly rewarding to me," Dr. Zavala says.

3.0

STUDENT *success*

WRITTEN BY
Bella Arnold



RIGHT:
Marco Romero and
Vaishalee Chaudhary,
American Moot Court
Association national
championship winners

RIGHT:
Vaishalee Chaudhary,
Outstanding
Baccalaureate Award
recipient

Moot Court team wins national championship for first time in 20 years

Vaishalee Chaudhary and Marco Romero won the American Moot Court Association national championship in appellate advocacy for the CSULB Moot Court team this January, bringing the title home for the first time in two decades.

Before competing nationally, Chaudhary and Romero competed at invitationals and regional competitions. Their final triumph was the amalgamation of years of teamwork between the two.

“It was a really, really overwhelming moment because we had worked so hard,” Chaudhary says. “To win for the first time in two decades was crazy.”

Chaudhary participated in mock trial in high school and was excited when she found out about CSULB’s moot court team as a first-year student.

However, becoming part of the award-winning team wasn’t an easy task. Hopeful participants are required to meet prerequisites, apply for a spot on the team, and enroll in classes with coaches. The effort was worth it, Chaudhary says.

“It ended up giving me some great friends but at the same time really shaping my career goals, too,” Chaudhary says.

In addition to getting the chance to hone their argumentative and speech skills, participating in moot court gave Romero and Chaudhary the opportunity to fraternize with industry professionals and learn more about the field of law. This fall, Chaudhary is attending Harvard University, and Romero is at Yale University. Both are studying law.

“The skills that you learn in the program are so easily applicable to pretty much every aspect of your life,” Chaudhary says. “When you have intellectual conversations with people who are that experienced, it really allows you to gain a lot more confidence in being able to express your ideas and your arguments in a really collegiate and productive manner.”



CLA Outstanding Baccalaureate award winners reflect on their path as they look to the future

Every spring, the college names its top graduates. We caught up with this year’s honorees before they set off to graduate school.

Vaishalee Chaudhary traversed many avenues during her four years at CSULB. The Cerritos resident was part of the honors college, majored in political science, minored in international studies and completed her legal studies certificate.

She juggled her major, minor, certificate, and the honors program with her participation on the Moot Court team and a job at the University Writing Center. Her

high level of performance in everything she did earned her a 2022 College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Baccalaureate award.

Chaudhary found the award “very validating,” but emphasized how humbled she felt to be one of the three students recognized for this achievement.

“It was really overwhelming and really, really humbling because I was thinking so many students, my teammates and classmates, work so, so hard,” Chaudhary says. “It was really cool to be recognized in this way, but at the same time it really made me more reflective on how privileged I am to have so much time to be doing all this different stuff.”

Being featured on the big screen at the CLA Class of 2022 graduation at Angel Stadium was thrilling to Chaudhary. She was grateful for the opportunity to make her parents proud.



LEFT:
Tyler Nelson,
Outstanding Baccalaureate
Award recipient

“I just remember genuinely enjoying studying for this class and finding out all of these really cool things about the brain.”

— Tyler Nelson,
Outstanding Baccalaureate Award recipient

Her honors thesis brought together her different areas of study to center on the differences between jury duty selection in the United States and the rest of the world. In the fall, Chaudhary will attend law school at Harvard University, which she is “beyond excited” for.

“I didn’t ever see myself jumping from Long Beach to a school like Harvard,” Chaudhary says. “It’s a crazy jump, but I’m really excited for what the future holds.”

She is excited to “bring a new perspective” to Harvard and continue to work toward her career as a lawyer.

“I think that we need to see more representation in big schools,” Chaudhary says. “So, I’m very excited to be in the position to represent our school at such a world-class institution. It’s going to put me in a position to really represent a community that isn’t always at the front of those kinds of discussions politically and academically.”

Tyler Nelson originally set out to use her psychology degree to become a marriage family counselor. But after she took a psychobiology class, everything changed.

“I absolutely loved it,” Nelson says. “I just remember genuinely enjoying studying for this class and finding out all of these really cool things about the brain.”

Dr. Arturo Zavala, professor of psychology, taught Nelson’s psychobiology class, so, naturally, she approached him to learn more about this field she had a newfound fascination with. After talking with Nelson about psychobiology, neuroscience and behavioral science, Dr. Zavala offered her a position in his research lab.

Though it was never something she had planned on pursuing, working in research was a highlight of Nelson’s undergraduate career and something that ultimately helped her decide to pursue her Ph.D. at Yale University, where she will start in the

fall. Another highlight of Nelson’s five years at CSULB was being a part of the BUILD program.

According to Nelson, she felt her face go red while also feeling like a celebrity when she was recognized as an Outstanding Baccalaureate at graduation. She described the experience as both an honor and overwhelming.

“It was really cool to be able to feel everybody’s support,” Nelson says.

Next year, at Yale, she plans on continuing to study neuropsychiatric disorders, like depression and anxiety. Nelson is excited to experience the East Coast after living in Southern California her entire life. She’s also looking forward to participating in one of the top research programs in the world.

“I am so excited for next year,” Nelson says. “It’s cool, seeing how impactful my research could be.”

LEFT:
Aleece Hanson,
Outstanding
Baccalaureate Award
recipient

RIGHT:
Julia Dowell,
Best Master's Thesis
Award recipient

After graduating from the Orange County School of the Arts, where she studied acting, **Aleece Hanson** knew that she wanted to pursue a career where she could use her performance skills. Still, figuring out what she wanted to study wasn't always easy.

"It definitely wasn't a straight line, trying to figure out what I wanted to do career-wise," Hanson says. "When I was growing up I did a lot of performing kind of things, but then I decided that I wanted to do something where I am using presentational skills and being in front of other people but also affecting change at the same time. That's when I decided I wanted to be a lawyer."

She tackled her studies with fervor, double majoring in political science and Spanish, while also pursuing the legal studies certificate and participating in extracurriculars like Moot Court, with law school admission as the ultimate goal.

When she learned that she had been chosen as one of the three CLA Outstanding Baccalaureate award recipients, Hanson was both "shocked and excited." Making her family proud made her feel "honored" and, according to Hanson, her grandparents share the news with everyone they know, even strangers at the supermarket.

But Hanson was also very proud of herself, because she achieved the honor after taking almost two full years of courses online and soon after receiving a lupus diagnosis.

"There are so many people who are worthy of this honor, and being selected and knowing that makes it all the more honorable," Hanson says. "Also, I just feel like it was a really nice way to round up four years at Long Beach, because it was definitely not easy because of the pandemic and personal struggles."

In the fall, she will attend Washington University in St. Louis for law school to take the first step toward becoming a public interest lawyer. Down the line, Hanson hopes to work as a public defender or for the Department of Justice.

"It was just really rewarding and kind of a great way to be like, 'You know, even though it was difficult, I faced those challenges and it all paid off in the end.' And I've got this to show for it," Hanson says.



"There are so many people who are worthy of this honor, and being selected and knowing that makes it all the more honorable."

— Aleece Hanson,
Outstanding Baccalaureate Award recipient

CLA Best Master's Thesis Awards go to students in Geography, History and Philosophy

Students studying extreme heat health impacts, early aviation, and memory engrams in neuroscience received the top honors in 2022.

So many members of **Julia Rose Dowell's** family got their degrees from CSULB that it almost seemed like a family tradition. Both of Dowell's sisters and her mother went to CSULB. Her father, Dr. David Dowell, was the university's vice provost.

Dowell received both her bachelor's degree (in 2018) and master's degree (in 2022) from CSULB. She studied environmental science policy as an undergraduate student and geography as a graduate student. In 2022, her master's thesis, "Taking the Temperature of Climate Change in Long Beach: Concerns and Responses of Long Beach Residents Regarding Extreme Heat and Health Impacts," was recognized as one of the best in the CLA.

"Up until a year ago, I had lived in Long Beach my whole life, and growing up I had

noticed a very tall tale of two cities and very vast differences between certain parts of Long Beach," Dowell says. "With my environmental background, I was very interested in climate change. I wanted to look at how climate change would impact certain communities in Long Beach differently."

Specifically, Dowell focused on extreme heat and how different communities had to cope. In her research, Dowell was able to interview local officials and policymakers. She also sent surveys to citizens of Long Beach and gathered data in order to get more "substantial and qualitative data." Her thesis not only took a geographical approach to exploring extreme heat and its health impacts, but also formulated a climate action plan.

"The point of my thesis was to propose policy solutions that essentially could be added into the climate action adaptation plan to bridge these gaps," Dowell says. "I wanted my thesis to be something relevant, local and that could actually be implemented—change for the community."

According to Dowell, focusing on her hometown of Long Beach was important to her, and she wanted the ability to inspire change at the local level. Though she was



LEFT:
Tim Trevor,
Best Master's Thesis
Award recipient

born and raised in Long Beach, about a year ago Dowell moved to the Bay Area to work for a grassroots nonprofit called Green Action for Health and Environmental Justice. She is focused on listening to community voices and continuing to work to create equal access to resources for those in areas with extreme heat, but she is also interested in researching rising sea levels in the future.

For Dowell, receiving the College of Liberal Arts Best Master's Thesis award was extremely validating, especially because so much of her research and data collection was completed during the pandemic.

"It felt like a big moment," Dowell says. "I just really felt like my work made a difference in the community, and that's what I wanted."

Tim Trevor took a nontraditional route to getting his master's degree in history from CSULB. Ultimately, this unconventional journey led him to writing his award-winning thesis, "A Circus in the Sky: Birdmen, Barnstormers, and the Era of Spectacular Aviation in the United States, 1910-1926."

Trevor, who is from the United

Kingdom, worked as an aerospace engineer for 15 years before he got laid off and was forced to reexamine his career plans.

"I kind of thought, 'Well, what am I going to do?'" Trevor says, with a laugh. "Then, I decided to go back to school."

He recalls his wife, who is American, asking him what kind of graduate programs he'd apply to. Trevor decided to pursue his master's degree in history despite his academic and career backgrounds being more geared toward science and math. According to Trevor, he always had an interest in the humanities but never had the chance to pursue subjects like history and social sciences. In fall 2017, he began working toward his master's degree in history at CSULB.

In researching his thesis, Trevor wanted to understand the phenomenon of early plane crashes and the human response in terms of action and technology.

In his postgraduate life, Trevor is hoping to find a job in technical writing that allows him to use his wide array of skills in a professional capacity.

"I've got an interesting, unusual mix of skills," Trevor says. "I'm very technically

minded. I have a strong math and physics background, but also this master's degree is kind of a different discipline."

Caitlin Mace was initially interested in philosophy because of her interest in mind-brain sciences. Specifically, she wanted to investigate the theories and philosophies of these foundations.

"I also had interests in truth, epistemology and the history of philosophy," she says. "By studying philosophy, I hoped to become a better thinker and writer overall."

Mace received her associate's degree in biological sciences, math and science, and psychology from Folsom Lake College before transferring to Humboldt State University, now known as Cal Poly Humboldt, where she earned her bachelor's degree in psychology. Next, she will be studying history and philosophy of science at the University of Pittsburgh.

At CSULB, while completing her master's degree in philosophy, Mace wrote her award-winning thesis, "Casting Light on the Search for Engrams: On the Reductionism-Mechanism Debate."

"At issue in the debate is the nature of explanations in neuroscience," Mace says. "As an attempt to adjudicate, I analyzed the search for memory engrams in neuroscience using optogenetics. This case study shows that adjudication was not possible because, until the science is settled, the debate cannot be settled either."

For Mace, the best part of earning her M.A. at CSULB was collaborating with her fellow graduate students and her professors. Her favorite experiences include presenting at CSULB graduate student conferences and competing in student research competitions.

In addition to her Best Master's Thesis award, Mace earned a summer research fellowship through the CSULB Research Foundation and received a Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program fellowship. Additionally, she made the dean's list for graduating master's students.

When she learned she had received the thesis award, she felt validation for all the work she put in.

"I worked hard on my thesis," Mace says. "My thesis advisor, Cory Wright, devoted a lot of time to helping me work through some of the ideas in my thesis. This award assured me that it was all worth it."





HELPING HANDS

More than 200 students visit the ASI Beach Pantry on campus every week to pick up donated produce, groceries and toiletries. Student interns from Human Development and various other departments in the College of Liberal Arts contributed to that effort over the past year by donating to the pantry 5,249 pounds of fresh produce they harvested from the Long Beach Organic Gardens, a collection of eight community gardens. Under the leadership of history professor Dr. Ali Igmen, the students picked, washed and packaged the produce at the Zaferia Junction Organic Gardens (left).

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