



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

CSULB




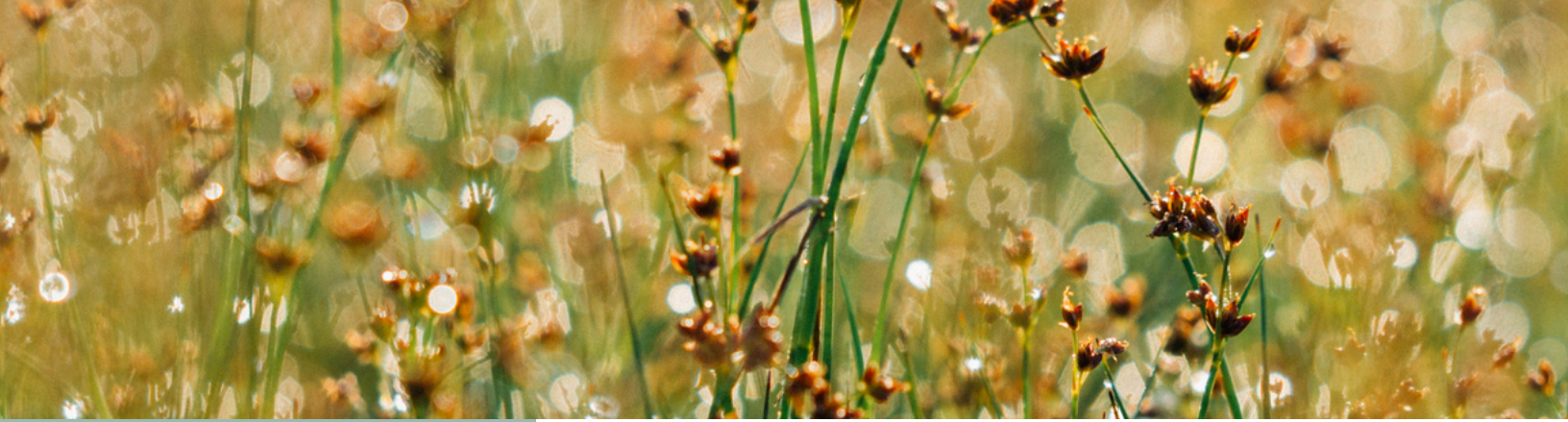
Learn. Grow. Thrive!

2024-2025 Newsletter

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Letter from the Chair

Learn. Grow. Thrive.



**Dr. Kim Kelly
Professor & Chair
Human Development**

As we wrap up another extraordinary year in the Human Development Department, I'm struck by how far we've come and how much energy and excitement lie ahead. Now in my second year as Chair, I continue to be inspired by the momentum we've built together. This year was not just about growth... it was about transformation.

We've grown tremendously: nearly doubling our headcount and welcoming more and more students into our classrooms, labs, and community. The increasing interest in Human Development reflects what we already know: our program speaks to the needs of our world, and students are eager to engage deeply, think critically, and contribute meaningfully.

Our students have thrived in every sense of the word. They've presented original research at campus, regional, and national conferences, earned highly competitive internships, and continued building community through mentorship, peer engagement, and leadership. Their ability to connect classroom learning to real-world impact is what makes HDEV students stand out.

Our faculty have continued to model what it means to learn, grow, and thrive, both personally and professionally. This year, HDEV faculty received major grants, published books, and earned university awards and national recognition for their scholarship, mentorship, and innovation. Sabbaticals took faculty abroad to France and Taiwan, and a study abroad program in Guatemala offers our students life-changing global learning. These experiences continue to infuse our department with fresh insight and global perspective.

Of course, not all growth is professional. We also welcomed two new babies to our department family this year! It's a joyful reminder that human development isn't just what we study... it's something we live, in every stage and season of life.

As we look to the future, I am excited about the possibilities ahead: new collaborations, new student opportunities, and a continued commitment to making HDEV a place where *everyone* can learn, grow, and thrive.

Thank you for making this department such a dynamic, inclusive, and inspiring community. I'm proud to be in it with you.

Wishing you all a restful and energizing summer. I hope to spend mine climbing mountains and crossing canyons!

Kim Kelly
Chair, Human Development, CSULB

YEAR IN REVIEW



HDEV Spooky Social Event — Planned by department PR interns, Karen Barajas and Kenneth Bailon, the HDEV Spooky Social held on October 30th, 2024, was a frightfully fun success! Students, faculty, and staff came together to celebrate the season with a costume contest, games, hands-on activities, festive giveaways, and lively music. From creative costumes to spirited community vibes, the event was a fantastic way to connect and enjoy some Halloween cheer together!

Abolition Infrastructures Panel Centers Worker & Immigration Justice — On December 4, 2024, CSULB hosted Abolition Infrastructures: Moving Towards Worker & Immigration Justice—a dynamic, two-part panel event that brought together powerful voices working at the intersections of immigration, labor, and racial justice.

Panelists included Tania Mattos (Unlocal Inc.), Abraham Paulos (Black Alliance for Just Immigration), and Haydi Torres (Movimiento Cosecha New Jersey), who shared compelling insights on abolitionist frameworks, grassroots organizing, and systemic change.

Co-sponsored by a Scholarly Intersection Grant with Human Development and Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies, the event energized campus conversations around equity and justice, drawing students, faculty, and community members into timely dialogue on how to build more just



Environmental Justice Speaker Event — This past Fall semester, the HDEV community hosted a highly successful event, providing an invaluable forum for our students to engage with critical topics in environmental justice and sustainability. We were privileged to feature Dr. Chris Jadallah, Assistant Professor in Education at UCLA, whose insightful contributions guided discussions on pivotal ideas, current research, effective advocacy, and diverse career opportunities within these essential fields.

This collaborative endeavor was cosponsored by a CLA Scholarly Intersections Grant with Human Development, Geography, and American Indian Studies.

HDEV Alumni Panel — On March 25, 2025, the Human Development department hosted an engaging Alumni Panel featuring three incredible HDEV graduates: Sarah Andre, Jeffery Phillip Basuga, and Sarah Barstad.

Students gathered both in person and on Zoom to hear about each alum's unique journey, the diverse career paths available with an HDEV degree, and the valuable skills they took from the program into their professional lives. The Q&A session gave students a chance to ask thoughtful questions and connect directly with our inspiring alumni.

Thank you to our panelists for sharing their stories—and to all who attended for making this such a meaningful event!



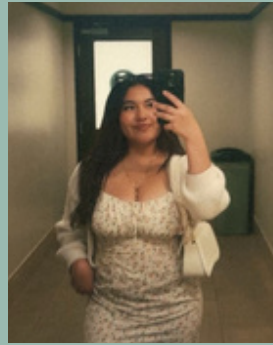
HDEV Award Ceremony — On May 16, the HDEV Student Celebration & Award Ceremony at the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden was a joyful tribute to our incredible community. We celebrated our graduating students, recognized the achievements of HDEV Honors students, and honored this year's outstanding award recipients. It was an inspiring afternoon filled with pride, connection, and celebration. Congratulations to all of our graduates and honorees—your passion and leadership truly embody the heart of HDEV!



Day at The Beach — On April 12, CSULB hosted over 11,000 prospective students and their families for Day at the Beach, one of the university's biggest outreach events of the year. The College of Liberal Arts Showcase welcomed more than 1,500 attendees, and the Human Development table was buzzing with energy as we connected with over 150 future students and their families. Faculty, staff, and current students were on hand to answer questions, share experiences, and highlight the many opportunities within the HDEV major—from internships and research to study abroad and community engagement. It was an exciting and inspiring day, and we're thrilled to welcome a new wave of HDEV students to our community this fall!



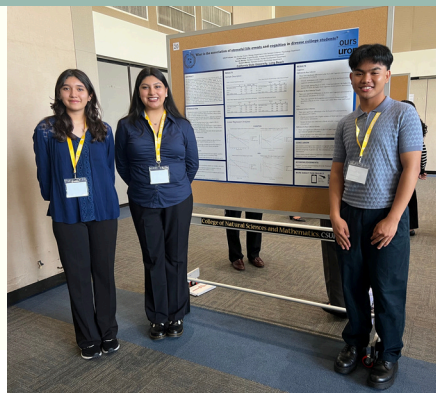
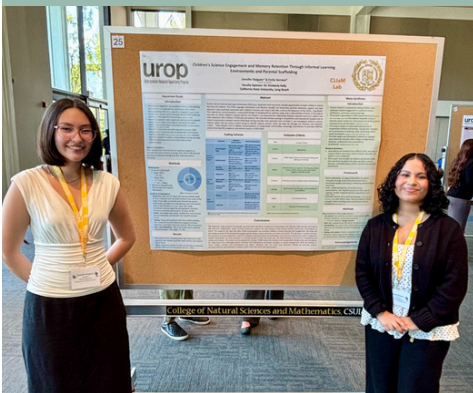
STUDENT RESEARCH AND INTERNSHIPS



This year, **Harmony Panameno**, HDEV major, and **Xiomara Barillas Polanco** earned 2nd place in the 2025 CSULB Student Research Competition in the Education category. Their presentation, titled *“Family Reminiscing and Child Recollection After an Informal Science Learning at an Aquarium,”* explored how conversations between parents and young children during and after informal science experiences can support children’s memory and learning.

Their study focused on how family discussions about science activities—such as visits to aquariums—help children recall and make sense of what they learned. By examining parent-child conversations, Harmony and Xiomara identified key ways in which motivational and cognitive support from parents encourages deeper engagement and retention of scientific concepts. This research highlights the important role families play in extending educational experiences beyond the classroom and fostering children’s curiosity and learning.

Guided by faculty sponsor Dr. Kimberly Kelly, Harmony and Xiomara’s work demonstrates a strong commitment to understanding and improving developmental and educational outcomes. We congratulate them on this well-deserved recognition and look forward to seeing the impact of their research in the field of human development and beyond.



Congratulations to **Jennifer Delgado** and **Emily Serrano** for presenting their research at the 2025 UROP Symposium with support from their faculty mentor, Dr. Kelly! We’re proud of their dedication and insightful research!

Congratulations to our student researchers, **Italy Escobar Dubon**, **Ares Sampert Ordanez**, & **Angela Morales** who presented at the 2025 UROP Symposium with support from faculty sponsor Dr. Arévalo! We’re so proud of their dedication and impactful work!

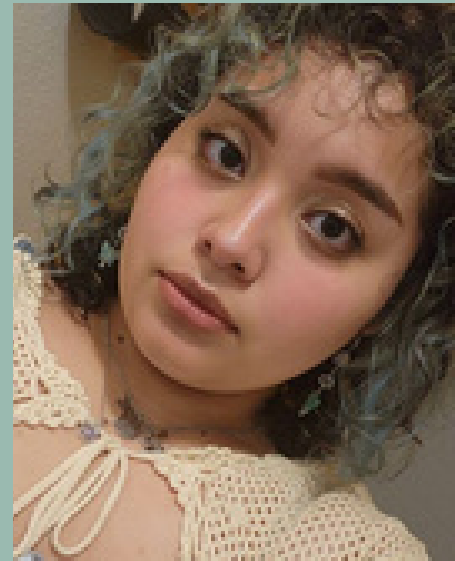
Congratulations to **Harmony Panameno** for also presenting her research project at the 2025 UROP Symposium, supported by faculty mentor Dr. Kelly! We’re so proud of Harmony’s thoughtful work and dedication to her research!

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS



Becca Johnson interned at ProSport Physical Therapy. She plans to pursue a doctorate in physical therapy and took on an internship at the practice where she already worked. She was challenged to define the boundaries of her internship against her existing duties and worked hard to build productive professional relationships with clients in her new role as an intern. She took an engaged stance towards fulfilling her learning goals throughout the internship experience. Becca said, “During my internship, I have learned not only the skills and experience needed to apply to my future in Physical Therapy, but I also learned new traits about myself. I am happy that I took the opportunity as I feel it has changed my outlook on patient care and people overall.”

Cynthia Regalado brought her talents and knowledge to an internship with ThinkBeach, which provides opportunity for young adults with intellectual disabilities. Cynthia mastered many professional and personal skills while building productive relationships with her mentees and delivered an impactful series of talks on the disability rights movement. Cynthia says, “Interning for ThinkBeach on campus has been eye opening and provided me with many new experiences that I am so grateful for. I'm really glad that I waited to take this course this semester, because otherwise I may not have gotten to the ThinkBeach internship. I would definitely recommend this internship to other students as it is a great way to start a path toward helping other students in the future.”



Joseph Anderson interned at A Community of Friends. His passion for education led him to this internship, where he provided after-school programming for youth from formerly unhoused families. His internship project was a very successful event to promote ACOF's services and his contribution to the organization's mission was impactful throughout the semester. Joseph said, “Though the internship was challenging and took a lot of hours, I was able to provide them the support they needed to succeed both academically and physically. I was able to get increasingly at ease with the students and the assignment as the internship went on. I was able to acquire professionalism as well as many other skills necessary for daily work. I had to push outside of my comfort zone, participate in group learning, and have excellent communication skills for the internship to be successful.”

FACULTY UPDATES & SPOTLIGHTS



This semester, **Dr. Samiha Rahman**, Assistant Professor, brought dynamic new perspectives to the classroom while teaching HDEV 490: Youth & Sociopolitical Development for the first time. The course emphasized youth activism and community engagement, featuring guest lectures from youth organizers in Long Beach and beyond.

For their final projects, students created public-facing educational materials raising awareness sociopolitical issues impacting young people. The final products—including TikTok videos, Instagram campaigns, zines, and podcasts—reflected both creativity and critical thought.

Alongside teaching, Dr. Rahman published two new scholarly articles. The first explores Black internationalism and Islamic educational spaces in Senegal, while the second examines how research sites influence qualitative research in Black educational contexts.

This month, Dr. Rahman is co-organizing a major international conference in Dakar, Senegal, honoring Malcolm X's 100th birthday. The event gathers academics, artists, organizers, religious scholars, and elders from the U.S., Caribbean, and Africa who have contributed to Black freedom movements. The conference honors Malcolm X's legacy and fosters dialogue across generations and global communities.

This year, **Dr. Beth Manke**, Professor, completed her third year leading the College Corps internship program, continuing to make a significant impact on student success and community engagement. Under Dr. Manke's leadership, the program supported 71 student interns, guided by two dedicated staff members and five Faculty Fellows. Dr. Manke's vision and coordination have helped create meaningful, hands-on



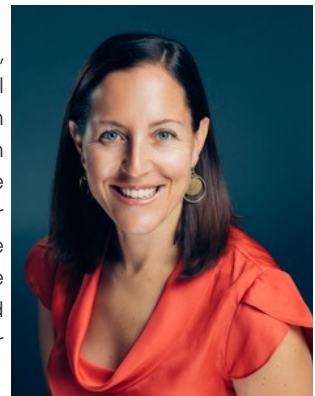
(Dr. Manke continued).

learning experiences that benefit both students and the broader community.

In addition to her work with College Corps, Dr. Manke served as the Senior Faculty Fellow in the Academic Internship Office, where she played a key role in strengthening university-community partnerships. Her efforts this year secured ongoing funding for the Long Beach Community Internship Program, with generous support from the F&M Bank Foundation, President Jane Conoley, and the Gates Family Foundation.

Dr. Manke's commitment to experiential learning and her dedication to student development continue to enhance the impact of internship opportunities at CSULB and beyond. We are proud to recognize her leadership and the lasting contributions she is making across campus and in the Long Beach community.

Dr. Lauren Heidbrink, Professor, is a cultural anthropologist specializing in childhood and migration in Central America. As the Internship Coordinator (interim for Spring 2025), she guided students through the process of finding and securing internships for their HDEV 470 capstone. Her commitment to experiential education is further exemplified by her study abroad program in Guatemala this summer, offering students immersive insights into childhoods in Latin America.



Dr. Heidbrink's dedication to teaching and research has been recognized through multiple awards, underscoring her impact on both students and the broader academic community. Her work not only enriches the curriculum but also inspires students to engage deeply with global and community issues.

We celebrate Dr. Heidbrink's contributions to the department and her unwavering commitment to student development and academic excellence.

FACULTY UPDATES & SPOTLIGHTS



Dr. Christine El Ouardani, Associate Professor, had an exciting year filled with student collaboration, impactful research, and leadership across campus. Alongside her HDEV 470 student Angela, she co-authored a powerful paper titled “It Ends With Me: Intergenerational Trauma, TikTok, and the Refusal of Motherhood.” The project

grew out of Angela’s research exploring why some young people are choosing not to have children and how they’re using TikTok to tell their stories. Dr. El Ouardani presented the paper this spring at the Society for Psychological Anthropology Conference in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico.

She also co-authored a new publication in *Global Health Research and Policy* that takes a thoughtful look at how global health advice on child feeding often misses the mark by ignoring cultural context. The article, “Cultural Foundations of Global Health,” adds an important perspective to conversations about caregiving and public health.

On top of it all, Dr. El Ouardani wore many hats this year—serving as a College Corps Fellow, Project Director at the Center for Evaluation and Educational Effectiveness (CEEE), and Interim Faculty Director of Internships in the College of Liberal Arts. Whether she’s mentoring students or leading campus programs, Dr. El Ouardani brings care, insight, and dedication to everything she does.

University Faculty Distinctions

- **Distinguished Faculty Scholarly & Creative Achievement Award:** Dr. Lauren Heidbrink
- **President’s Award for Outstanding Faculty Achievement:** Dr. Lauren Heidbrink & Dr. Kim Kelly

Dr. Shelley Eriksen, Professor, has been at the forefront of gender-based violence prevention and survivor support at CSULB through her leadership of Not Alone @ the Beach. She has served as Project Director of this grant-funded initiative, providing confidential services to survivors of sexual assault while fostering a campus culture rooted in consent, care, and education.



This spring, Not Alone @ the Beach hosted several impactful events under Dr. Eriksen’s guidance. These included the Healthy Relationship Training (HearT) Workshop, a two-part series that helps students build essential skills for healthy sexual and interpersonal relationships, and Every Kiss Begins with Consent, a conversation-centered event that explored how to navigate consent in romantic partnerships. These programs reflect Dr. Eriksen’s commitment to prevention through education, dialogue, and empowerment.

Tenure & Promotions

- Dr. Sandra Arévalo granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor
- Dr. Lauren Heidbrink earned early promotion to Full Professor
- Dr. Kim Kelly promoted to Full Professor

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS



Scheidecker, G., Funk, L., Chaudhary, N. Chapin, B., & **El Ouardani**, C. 2025.. Cultural foundations of global health: a critical examination of universal child feeding recommendations. *Global Health Research and Policy*, 10, 4 (2025).

Heidbrink, L., Batz, G., & Barillas Chón, D. W. 2024. Forced Family Separation: US crimes against Indigenous Peoples. *Maya America: Journal of Essays, Commentary, and Analysis*, 6(1), 9-35.

Mendiola Luna, L., Beltran, A., Fuentes, M., Zeferino, F., & **Heidbrink**, L. 2024. Inclusive Undergraduate Research Opportunities for Undocumented Students. *Journal of First-Generation Student Success*, 4(2), 193–203.

Huang, C. (2025). *Dancing for their Lives*. Rutgers University Press.

Kelly, K.R., Maloles, C., George, N., Mokatish, S., & Neves, S. (2024). Talking about “bioluminescence” and “puppies of the ocean”: An anti-deficit exploration of how families create and use digital artifacts for informal science learning during and after an aquarium visit. *Science Education*, 108(3), 820-850.

Lanza, H. I., Waller, K., & Sevillano, L. (2024). Bidirectional relationships between nicotine vaping and maladaptive eating behaviors among young adults. *Addictive Behaviors Reports*, 19, 100547.

Johnson, W.F., & **Rahman**, S. (2024). They’re Not Too Young: Centering Young Children of Color’s Racialized Knowledge and Disrupting White Supremacy Through Critical Race Pedagogy. In K. Covino & C. Mulcahy (Eds.), *The intersections of critical pedagogy, critical literacy, and social justice: Toward empowerment, equity, and education for liberation*. Lexington Books.

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS



Arevalo, S. (2024, August). Neighborhood social vulnerability and cognitive function in an older cohort of minoritized adults in the U.S.: A longitudinal analysis. Paper presented at the 16th Conference of the European Sociological Association, Porto, Portugal.

El Ouardani, C. (2025, April). Reimagining parenthood: Social media discourses on family, trauma, and reproduction in the context of economic and climate insecurity. Paper presented at the Society for Psychological Anthropology Biannual Conference, Santa Fe, NM.

Heidbrink, L. (2025, March). Doing ethnography differently: Communities of practice and ethnographic fieldwork. Paper presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology Conference, Portland, OR.

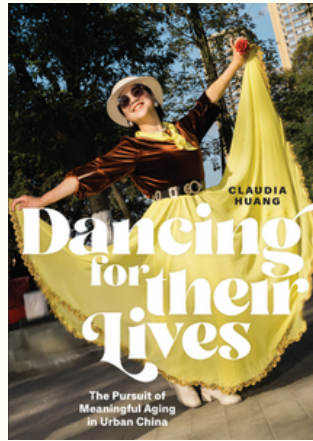
Kelly, K. R., Panameno, H., Barillas Polanco, X., Salary, L., Chhor, L., Aguirre, J., Serrano, E., & Delgado, J. (2025, May). Parent motivational and cognitive conversation supports with young children during and after informal science learning. Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.

Lanza, H. I. (2025, May). Does cannabis use in young adults predict poorer nutrition. Paper presented at the American College of Prevention Medicine Annual Conference, Bellevue, WA.

Rae-Espinoza, H. (2025, March). Qualitative interviews to improve patient and caregiver experience. Paper presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology Conference, Portland, OR.

Shih, K. (2024, November). Heightened racism against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders during the COVID-19 pandemic. Paper presented at the National Conference on Family Relations.

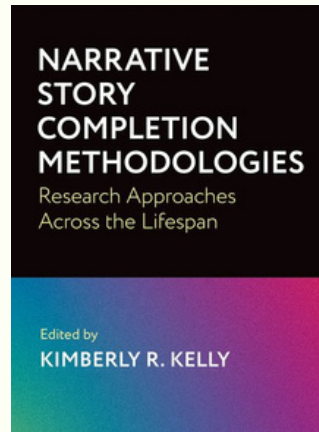
NEW BOOKS



Dr. Claudia Huang, Assistant Professor, celebrated the publication of her new book, *Dancing for Their Lives*, released by Rutgers University Press. Drawing from years of ethnographic research, the book explores how dance operates as a powerful form of survival, resistance, and identity-making for marginalized communities. Through vivid storytelling and cultural analysis, Dr. Huang demonstrates how movement becomes both a personal and political act in the face of social injustice.

Focusing on the lived experiences of dancers navigating the intersections of race, gender, migration, and systemic oppression, *Dancing for Their Lives* centers embodied knowledge as a vital site of agency and expression. The book offers an important lens into how art, performance, and community intersect to challenge dominant narratives and create space for healing and liberation.

This work marks a significant contribution to cultural studies, performance studies, and social justice scholarship. We are proud to recognize Dr. Huang's achievement and the impact her research continues to make across disciplines and communities.



Dr. Kim Kelly, Professor & Chair, celebrated the release of her edited volume, *Narrative Story Completion Methodologies: Research Approaches Across the Lifespan*, published by Oxford University Press in April. The book offers a groundbreaking exploration of narrative story completion as a wide-ranging research method, showcasing how this approach can be used to investigate internal and social meaning-making across the lifespan.

The volume brings together international scholars from a range of disciplines and research contexts, offering practical guidance and rich theoretical insight into how story completion can serve as a flexible and powerful tool for understanding human experience. With its interdisciplinary relevance and methodological depth, *Narrative Story Completion Methodologies* will undoubtedly make a significant impact in the fields of education, psychology, and mixed-methods research.

We congratulate Dr. Kelly on this major scholarly achievement and the important contributions her work continues to make in expanding research methods and understanding lived experience.



Celebrating Student Successes



HDEV AWARD RECEPTION

Outstanding Graduate

Karen Barajas



Alice Hurst Visionary Award

Andrea Guerrero



Community Engagement Award

Kelly Nguyen



HDEV Alumni Award

Avis Atkins



A huge congratulations to all our graduates and honorees! Your unwavering passion, remarkable resilience, and exemplary leadership truly embody the very best of Human Development. We are immensely proud of each of you and eagerly anticipate the incredible contributions you will make in your next endeavors. Here's to your bright futures and continued success! Please stay in touch!

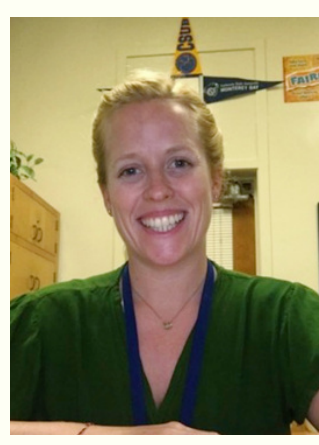


WELCOME



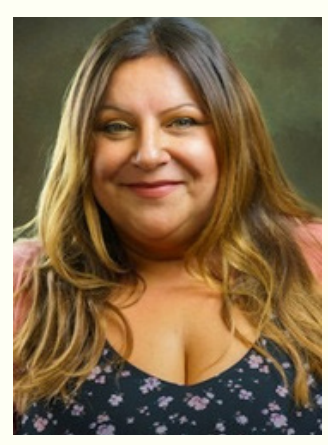
Dr. Melissa Cook

We're excited to welcome Dr. Melissa Cook to the CSULB HDEV department! She earned her Ph.D. in Education from UCLA and has taught courses on brain and behavior as well as adolescent development.



Professor Maria Windt

We're excited to welcome back HDEV alum, Professor Wendt, With an M.S. in School Counseling and extensive practical experience to apply to her teaching, she brings valuable real-world insight to our students.



Professor Leyenda

Jacobson Harris
We're happy to welcome Professor Leyenda Jacobson -Harris to the CSULB HDEV Department! She has a Master's degree from CSU San Marcos and has taught statistics, research methods, social justice, and gender studies.

TO THE HDEV FAMILY

THANK YOU



Dr. Rachna Soni

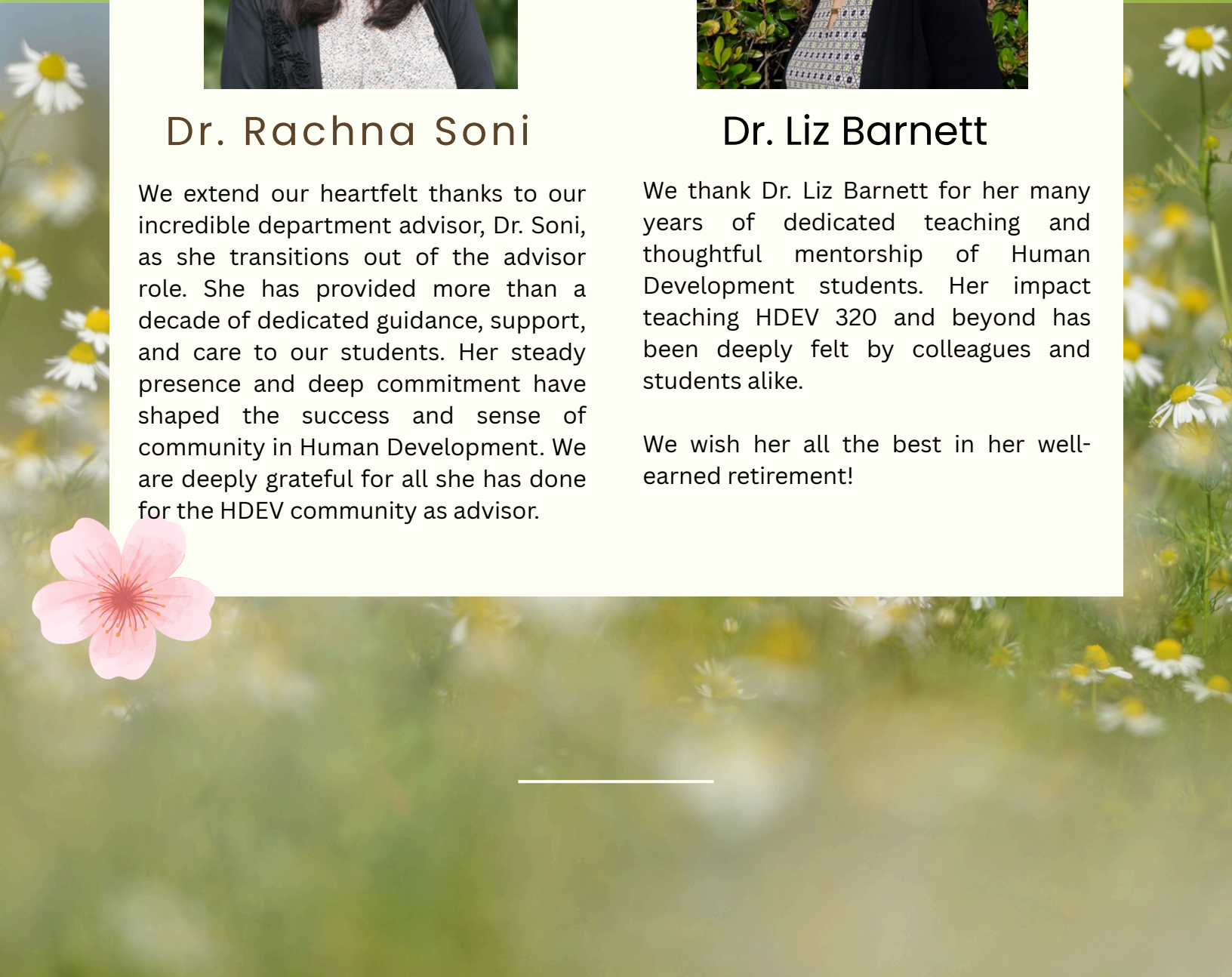
We extend our heartfelt thanks to our incredible department advisor, Dr. Soni, as she transitions out of the advisor role. She has provided more than a decade of dedicated guidance, support, and care to our students. Her steady presence and deep commitment have shaped the success and sense of community in Human Development. We are deeply grateful for all she has done for the HDEV community as advisor.



Dr. Liz Barnett

We thank Dr. Liz Barnett for her many years of dedicated teaching and thoughtful mentorship of Human Development students. Her impact teaching HDEV 320 and beyond has been deeply felt by colleagues and students alike.

We wish her all the best in her well-earned retirement!



STUDY ABROAD SPOTLIGHT

This summer, **Dr. Lauren Heidbrink** is leading a unique 10-day study abroad program in Guatemala. Open to all majors, the program offers students a hands-on, immersive experience exploring childhoods in Latin America. We celebrate Dr. Heidbrink's dedication to providing impactful global learning opportunities for our students.





NEW COURSE SPOTLIGHT

HDEV 218: Environmental Justice, Health, & Human Development

HDEV 218 offers students a vital opportunity to explore how environmental injustices shape health and human development across diverse communities. As climate change and environmental harm increasingly affect vulnerable populations, this course equips students with the knowledge and interdisciplinary tools to critically analyze these challenges and take meaningful action. By connecting theory to real-world impact, students learn to advocate for justice, sustainability, and community well-being. HDEV 218 is scheduled for Fall 2025.

HDEV 409: Youth & Sociopolitical Development

HDEV 409 is a timely and impactful course that explores how young people develop sociopolitical identities and take action on pressing issues in their communities and beyond. Using intersectional and cross-cultural perspectives, students examine how youth engage with challenges such as racial and gender injustice, educational inequity, climate change, policing, and global conflict. This course empowers students to understand the role of youth as agents of change and to critically reflect on their own positions in movements for justice and equity. Coming Spring 2026!

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS



Partnering with Ground Education

The Human Development Department is proud to continue its partnership with Ground Education, a local nonprofit that brings garden-based learning to Long Beach elementary schools. Through this collaboration, HDEV students work directly with children in outdoor classroom settings, supporting lessons that blend environmental education, social-emotional learning, and hands-on exploration.

For many students, this experience is a first step into the world of applied child development, offering opportunities to observe and support young learners as they interact with nature and each other. In turn, students reflect on how space, community, and curriculum can intersect to support the whole child. Ground Education's mission to cultivate connection—to land, to learning, and to each other—aligns deeply with HDEV's values, making this partnership a rich and rewarding learning experience.



Learning Through Discovery at the CSULB Science Learning Center

The Human Development Department is proud to partner with the CSULB Science Learning Center, an interactive space dedicated to making science accessible, exciting, and hands-on for young learners. Through this partnership, HDEV students support visiting school groups, lead science demonstrations, and engage children in meaningful exploration of topics ranging from physics to biology.

This experiential learning opportunity allows HDEV students to observe how children process new information, ask questions, and develop confidence through curiosity-driven learning. In turn, students deepen their own understanding of cognitive and social development while gaining practical skills in education, communication, and mentorship.

The Science Learning Center exemplifies how dynamic, community-based learning can inspire the next generation of scientists—and educators. We're proud to see Human Development students contributing to this lively and impactful environment.



Supporting Mental Health with Not Alone at the Beach

Our department is also proud to partner with Not Alone at the Beach, a faculty-led mental health and suicide prevention organization dedicated to creating a more compassionate and connected campus community. Through this collaboration, HDEV students engage in meaningful outreach efforts that address mental health stigma, promote well-being, and encourage open conversations around emotional support.

Whether hosting wellness events, organizing informational campaigns, or leading peer-to-peer initiatives, students involved with Not Alone at the Beach help foster a culture of empathy and care. This partnership not only supports the mental health of our CSULB community but also empowers HDEV students to take an active role in public health advocacy and social change. It is a powerful example of how human development can extend beyond the classroom and into the heart of community support.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Sarah Barstad (Class of 2020)



Sarah graduated with a B.A. in Human Development and went on to earn her Master of Public Health in Health Management and Policy from San Diego State University. She currently serves as the Neuroanesthesiology Division Manager at the University of Washington Medical Center, where she oversees clinical operations and supports patient-centered care. Her previous roles include work at The Embrace Foundation, where she focused on healthcare data, fundraising, and access to diabetes supplies. Sarah's career reflects her commitment to advancing health equity and improving care through data, policy, and leadership.

Dr. Jacqueline Juarez (Class 2019)



Jacqueline earned her B.A. in Human Development and Psychology from CSULB in 2019 and recently completed her Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology from Pepperdine University, with a focus in Neuropsychology. She is currently a Neuropsychology Intern at Kaiser Permanente in San Diego, where she provides Spanish-language neuropsychological assessments and evidence-based therapy. Passionate about serving the Latinx community, Jacqueline's clinical work spans adult and geriatric care, crisis intervention, and youth mental health, highlighting her commitment to culturally responsive and equitable care.

Sarah Andre (Class of 2016)



Sarah earned her B.A. in Human Development, graduating with honors and receiving the College of Liberal Arts' Outstanding Student Award. She later completed a Master of Public Policy at UCLA, focusing on voting rights and education policy. She now serves as a Research Specialist in Voting and Fair Representation at Common Cause, where she leads spatial and data analysis to support redistricting advocacy and litigation nationwide. Her work bridges data, policy, and civic engagement, exemplifying the impact of an HDEV education.



Dr. Ann Kim and partner David welcomed baby Andrea who was born in January 2025 with a full head of hair!



Dr. Claudia Huang and partner Noah announced the birth of Talia, born on January 29, 2025!

GROWING THE HDEV FAMILY

We're excited to celebrate the newest additions to our HDEV family! Congratulations to our faculty members who have recently welcomed little ones—your growing families bring joy to our entire community!



LOOKING AHEAD

As we close out the year, we're excited to share what's on the horizon for the Human Development Department. From new courses to community-building initiatives, we're continuing to grow in ways that reflect our students' passions and our commitment to equity and engagement.

- Expanding our course offerings. "Recipes for Resistance" will be taught in Spring 2026 with more new courses to come.
- Welcoming new faculty and building leadership that strengthen our academic community
- Expanding research, internship, and mentorship opportunities for students
- Hosting events and speaker series that connect classroom learning with real-world issues
- Building community through New Student Orientations and growing the Human Development Student Association (HDSA)
- Deepening partnerships with campus and community organizations to enhance student experiences
- Continuing to celebrate the achievements of our faculty, students, staff, and alumni. Send us your updates (Kim.Kelly@csulb.edu) for next year's newsletter!

We look forward to another year of learning, growing, and thriving with our incredible students, faculty, staff, and alumni.