

Graduate Studies Newsletter

Spring 2021





Message from the Dean & Faculty Director

As we read through the pages of our Spring 2021 issue of the Graduate Studies Newsletter, one thought springs to mind: Coyotes are unstoppable!

Despite the many challenges we've all faced this past year, our graduate students continue to garner awards. On page 2, you'll find the story of graduate student Nora Nickoel Ortega, the 2020-2021 recipient of the California State University Trustee's Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement. Nora is an outstanding scholar and community leader who overcame many obstacles to pursue both an undergraduate and master's degree at CSUSB. Our Student Spotlight shines a light on the life of Grant Horner, an MSW graduate who dedicates his time to helping others, both as a pastor and a social worker. On pages 11-12, we announce the Outstanding Graduate Student for each academic college. Their achievements include publishing in academic journals, supporting underserved populations, and taking an interdisciplinary approach to problem solving in the fields of computer science and business.

Although all campus events have been held via Zoom for over a year now, it hasn't stopped our graduate student Coyotes from building community and defining their

futures. Our annual Graduate Student Mixer encouraged students to dream big, build a vision for the future, and strengthen their networking and goalsetting skills. Our SMSU Identity Centers carried on, creating virtual safe spaces and workshops hosted by the Women's Resource Center, Cross Cultural Center, and Queer and Transgender Resource Center. And our Apply to Graduate School Campaign helped our undergraduate students navigate the graduate school application process and reach for their dreams. You can read more about all of these events in this issue.

Finally, in preparation for our return to campus in the fall, we encourage you to read April Lane's column on safely re-entering the world, complete the university's Covid-19 training, and take the daily health screening when you are planning on coming to campus.

Let's continue to support each other as we move forward toward a brighter future. Nothing can stand in our way when we stand together – not even a pandemic!

Best wishes,
Dorota Huizinga & Caroline Vickers

Apply to Graduate School Campaign 2021

In an effort to spread the word about CSUSB's excellent graduate programs, the Office of Graduate Studies once again hosted its annual Apply to Graduate School Campaign; this year's event was held April 26th through April 30th.

The campaign is designed to give undergraduate students an introduction to the graduate programs offered at CSUSB, create a space for them to meet graduate program coordinators, and provide tools to build successful and competitive applications. The sessions guided students through the process of choosing a program, funding avenues, and submitting an application.

The Apply to Graduate School sessions included:

Information on graduate programs available at CSUSB

- A meet n' greet with CSUSB graduate program coordinators
- A funding workshop to discuss opportunities to pay for graduate school
- A tutorial on how to write a personal statement and request letters of recommendation
- A step-by-step guide on submitting the Cal State Apply online application

- An office hour with the Graduate Studies staff to answer any remaining questions

The program attracted 260 participants, including CSUSB undergraduates, alumni, and community members. Application fee waivers provided an extra incentive for attending: ASI generously agreed to fund 40 application fee waivers to graduate programs at CSUSB, and the Office of Graduate Studies contributed 10 application fee waivers. Thus, 50 students in all were able to benefit from the campaign's application fee waiver program.

Feedback from the event has been largely positive, with students indicating they would love to see this information continuously offered in the academic year. While this event has been orchestrated virtually for 2020 and 2021, we are hopeful to have in-person engagement to further assist these prospective students in 2022. Missed the event? The 2021 Apply to Graduate School session recordings are available online: www.csusb.edu/graduate-studies/event-center/apply-grad-school-campaign

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Graduate Student Nora Nickoel Ortega Receives CSU's Highest Honor for Academic Success

Graduate student Nora Nickoel Ortega has been named the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation Scholar for the California State University Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement for 2020-21, the CSU's highest recognition of success. Only one student from each of the CSU system's 23 campuses is selected for this honor, which is based on superior academic performance, exemplary community service and significant personal accomplishments.

A first-generation Latina, daughter of immigrant parents, and the youngest of 10 children, Ortega grew up moving consistently between Northern and Southern California so her parents could work seasonal jobs planting and harvesting fruits and vegetables for less than minimum wage.

"I witnessed, first-hand, the labor and dedication my parents put into providing just the basic needs of our family," she said. Growing up, Ortega recognized her parents' sacrifices and also realized that they struggled because they did not have the education to get better or more stable jobs. This experience ignited her determination to obtain an education.

"Being the youngest of 10 siblings and the daughter of immigrant parents has not been easy, but it has taught me the value of sacrifice, dedication and education," she said. "Therefore, becoming an educated and well-rounded Latina has always been of the utmost importance to me.

Ortega made it into college and worked three jobs while completing her bachelor's degree in psychology at CSUSB with two minors in finance and Spanish. She was able to maintain a 3.88 GPA, make it on the Dean's

List every quarter, and earn the Presidential Letter of Recognition.

Now pursuing her master's in counseling and guidance, Ortega serves her campus and community as the president for the Counseling Graduate Student Association, a mentor for the Hope Maker Mentor program, and an advisor for the TRiO Educational Talent Search program. She has even interned at Rialto Unified School District as a counselor trainee to educate low-income and first-generation students about higher education opportunities.

Ortega, who was also awarded the CSU Sally Casanova Scholarship and Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) scholarship, aspires to pursue a doctoral degree in educational psychology to become



a professor at a Hispanic Serving Institution with hopes to inspire students from disadvantaged backgrounds to achieve their academic goals.

"My collective experiences have shaped my commitment to help foster practices in higher education that will increase access and completion for Latinx college students," she said. "I want to become the Latina professor that I did not see in classrooms throughout my college trajectory. My goal as a professor will be to

instill knowledge, hope and confidence in marginalized communities and develop future scholars and leaders. Read more about Ortega's amazing accomplishments in the [September 2020 issue of Inside CSUSB](#).

For more information and to view all of this year's CSU Trustees' Award recipients, visit the [CSU Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement](#) webpage.

Thesis Boot Camp Marches Students to Completion



Graduate Studies introduced its first Thesis Boot Camp and Writing Accountability Sessions in winter and spring terms, propelling nearly 30 students toward a timelier graduation. The program is designed for graduate students who have completed their research and are in the drafting and writing stage of their thesis, project, or dissertation; it begins with a rigorous two-day boot camp of goal setting, time management, and self-care workshops, and introduces an array of writing, research, and formatting resources.

"In these two days I have been more focused than I have in the past two weeks," said Robin Porter, a master's student in the Special Education program.

To keep students moving toward their goals, the boot camp is followed by eight weeks of writing accountability sessions. Students meet weekly for two hours of dedicated writing time, and a writing coach from the

Graduate Writing Center is on hand to offer support as needed. Faculty Director Caroline Vickers describes the sessions as "an appointment with yourself that needs to be kept, just like any other commitment."

Students have strongly expressed their appreciation for the opportunity for a structured approach to completing their work, particularly during the pandemic. Some students report that they have been struggling with focusing on their theses while working from home, since their attention is being pulled in many directions – chores, child care, and work. The dedicated writing time and the many boot camp strategies helped them make progress on what some described as a "monolithic task."

Graduate Studies plans to offer Thesis Boot Camps again next academic year. For information, contact the Office of Graduate Studies and watch for announcements in the Graduate Studies Weekly Roundup newsletter.

The Wellness Connection

Venturing Back into the World

As the final episode of my current binge-worthy Netflix show comes to an end, I realize that I'm feeling a sense of loss. I've invested a lot of time and emotional energy into watching fictitious characters live their lives. Lives that are definitely more dramatic and exciting than mine. Especially since COVID-19 happened and my life has become relatively small. Outings dedicated to taking walks around my neighborhood and trips to the grocery store, or to pick up take-out, are about all that I do now. I'm fortunate that I am able to work from home and my home has become my sanctuary; my safe place, and that is a good thing, but too much of a good thing can become unhealthy. I blame my closet for shrinking my clothes.

However, now, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Vaccines are becoming available and the rates of COVID infections and related deaths are on the decline, and states are beginning to lift restrictions. By the time you are reading this, I will be fully vaccinated and my newly formed COVID-19 antibodies will be at work helping to protect me. For this I am truly grateful, but I am also apprehensive. Now, while continuing to take the standard preventative precautions, I can slowly begin to re-enter the world to visit with friends that I've only talked to by phone, text, or Zoom for the past year. I can go out to lunch or the occasional shopping trip. I'm beginning to think about what returning to working on campus will look like, and how I will keep myself safe when I'm getting back to living my life outside of my carefully constricted bubble. What will the future look like? Will life eventually return to a pre-COVID normal? Will I ever feel comfortable being around people without a mask or hugging my friends? The questions seem endless.

At times when my head feels full of questions without answers, I eventually remember that I can't control the future and in time "all will be revealed" as a friend of

mine likes to say. In these times I stop, take a few deep breaths, and remember that there are many ways I can be in control. I know how to do the things that help keep me safe. I can choose where to go and who I go with. I can respect my comfort level, and the comfort level of others. And, finally, I can remain grateful for having made it this far through the pandemic. Being mindful that, world-wide, more than 3-million people have not been so fortunate. My heart goes out to them and their loved ones. And it is with the realization that life is precious and I have to begin venturing out into the world again, reminding myself that Netflix will always be there, but life is a finite and precious gift, and I'm not going to waste a second of it. Until next time, stay safe, stay well, and enjoy life!

As Graduate Resource Specialist, April Lane is here to help. She offers assistance navigating campus policies, locating resources, and helps answer your questions about graduate education. Contact April at alane@csusb.edu



**By April Lane,
MPH, CHES**



4th Annual Graduate Student Mixer Inspires Students to Dream Big

The 4th Annual Graduate Student Mixer brought people together (virtually) to build new connections across disciplines and share dreams and expectations for life after graduate school. Offered by the Office of Graduate Studies, this year's event was structured a little differently from previous mixers; students gathered on Tuesday, March 16th in a virtual space for networking and goal-setting, then reconvened for a resource fair on Thursday, March 18th to ensure that the time spent was beneficial and productive.

With nearly 40 graduate students from across five academic colleges signing on, the Graduate Studies Faculty Director Caroline Vickers, welcomed students to the event and formally opened the program.

After introductions, small groups gathered in break-out rooms and chatted about their graduate programs and their professional and personal goals and accomplishments. They shared tips about resources available on campus and what they would like to see offered when campus reopens. They also emphasized how important it has been for them to find support in virtual student groups where they can interact with others and stay motivated. Many students were introduced to resources they were unaware of previously.

In keeping with the slogan, "We Define the Future," students learned how to create a vision board to help them keep their goals in sight. Delesa Barnes from the Inland Empire Business Women's Center gave a presentation titled "Dream It, Design It, Do It: Creating your Vision Board." She emphasized the power of manifesting your passions and she encouraged participants to "dream big" while being as specific as possible about their goals.

She ended her presentation with a choice quote, "A dream without a plan, is just a wish".

During the March 8th Resource Fair, representatives from campus departments and graduate programs gathered on Coyote Connection to share information about the services they have to offer. Among these were representatives from the Career Center, the Recreation and Wellness Center, the Cross-Cultural Center, and more. Students were able to move freely between virtual booths, collect information, and all participants were included in an opportunity drawing to win a pair of Apple AirPods!

Throughout our virtual events, we have seen many of our graduate students continue to be engaged in programming that supports their experience at CSUSB. We hope that this trend will continue and look forward to finding ourselves back on our home campus.

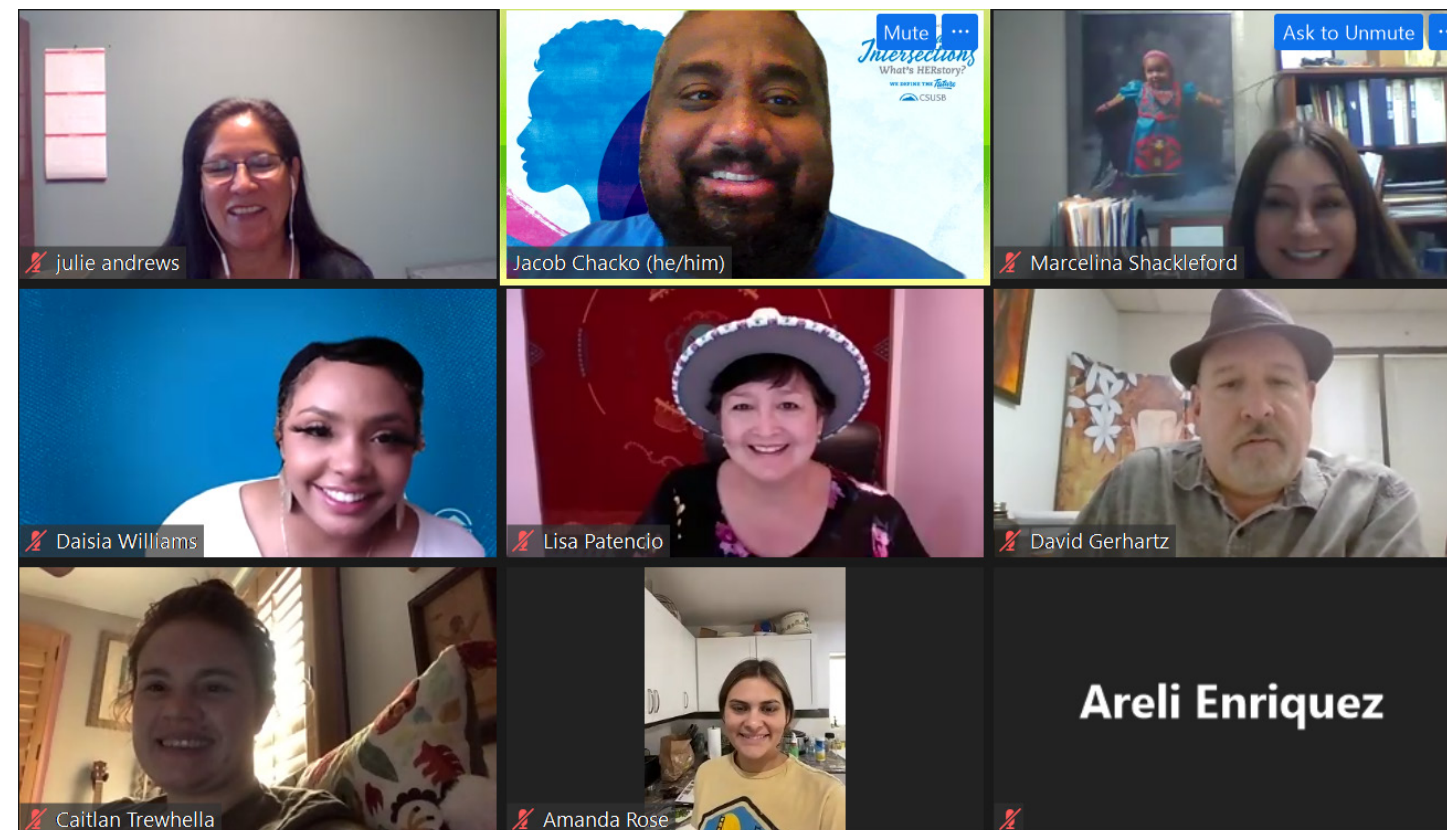
Department Spotlight: SMSU Identity Centers Build a Cohesive Community

Jacob Chacko, Assistant Director of Diversity and Inclusion, is the glue that holds together three different campus centers aimed at creating an inclusive and supportive environment for all university community members. Chacko runs the Women's Resource Center, the Queer and Transgender Resource Center, and the Cross Cultural Center, which encompasses four integrated identity centers: Latinx, First Peoples, Pan African, and Asian Pacific Islander. The centers promote diversity and inclusion, provide workshops, and serve as a safe space to relax and make connections with others. Located in the San Manuel Student Union, the centers are open to both undergraduate and graduate students.

"These spaces offer a place where folks can be their own authentic selves, while fostering a sense of belonging and community," Chacko said, "and I think that space is the major piece of what we do."

The pandemic and related campus closures have led to the temporary shuttering of these physical spaces, but this has not deterred students from getting together virtually. In fact, the virtual component has made it possible to reach students who otherwise wouldn't access the centers due to the commute, parking, or time constraints.

"We've been offering a virtual space through Discord, which is usually for gaming, but students have developed that space to create a virtual, center-like feel, where they can hang out and play games, and it also acts kind of like a discussion board," Chacko said.



Jacob Chacko speaks at the Taste of India event, Feb. 12, 2020

Programming is another key piece that continues to connect students to the centers. This year, the Cross-Cultural Center has offered a series of workshops on multi-ethnic identities, while the Women's Resource Center and Queer and Transgender Resource Center have partnered to produce a monthly series on mental health. The workshops were developed by graduate student interns in the College of Education's M.S. in Counseling program.

The centers also serve to connect students to resources both on and off campus, such as financial aid, the Undocumented Students Center, and specialized support groups and health services, as well as campus-wide affinity organizations.

Chacko's vision for the centers is one of coalition and unity. His own college experiences and his work as a graduate assistant at the Asian American Cultural Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign expanded his awareness of the experiences of marginalized people and the value of understanding

other cultures. Looking to the future, Chacko has been busy hiring coordinators for each of the centers he oversees and hopes to have the positions filled in time for campus to reopen in the fall. The coordinators will be responsible for further developing their center while building coalition.

"I want our centers to do intersectional work, not be in silos. I think visiting and learning about the other centers is how we develop understanding and coalition building, by working with different departments on campus, with staff and faculty – it needs to be an across-campus effort. My vision is that our centers are one of several safe spaces on campus, not the only one."

Learn more about the [Cross Cultural Center](#), [Women's Resource Center](#), and [Queer and Transgender Resource Center](#) by visiting their websites and Instagram pages and joining them for an upcoming workshop! Building understanding and cohesion among diverse student groups creates a better college experience for everyone in the pack.

Awards & Accolades

Dr. Cynthia Crawford Receives Wang Family Excellence Award:

The California State University Board of Trustees has awarded its prestigious Wang Family Excellence Award to Cal State San Bernardino psychology professor Cynthia Crawford. Dr. Crawford was among a handful of faculty from across the California State University system who were recognized. Dr. Crawford, who also serves as director of the CSUSB Office of Research Development, was honored with the Outstanding Faculty Innovator in Student Success award during a virtual ceremony on Jan. 26 attended by the CSU Board of Trustees, CSU presidents and others. The competitive award recognizes her dedication and commitment to providing enrichment opportunities to CSUSB students, and her work toward fulfilling the CSU's Graduation Initiative 2025.

Student-run History Journal Wins Top Honor:

History repeats itself - History in the Making: A Journal of History has been awarded first place in the 2020 [Gerald D. Nash History Graduate Journal competition](#) for the second consecutive year. The award was given by the Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society.

The award is for the 13th volume of the journal, which was published in the spring of 2020. The student-reviewed and edited journal is an annual publication of the university's [Alpha Delta Nu Chapter](#) of the Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society, and is sponsored by the CSUSB Department of History.

CSUSB Research Competition Winners

The Office of Student Research hosted the 35th Annual CSUSB Student Research Competition on February 12th, 2021, via Zoom. Participants presented their research

before a panel of judges and winners advanced to the statewide CSU Research Competition. Congratulations to our undergraduate and graduate student winners!

College of Arts and Letters:

Presenter: Alexia B. Martinez
Degree: M.A. in Communication Studies
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Thomas Corrigan
Title: *Analyzing the Body Positivity Movement Through Social Comparison*

College of Education

Presenter: MacKenzie Feeken
Degree: Ed.S. in School Psychology
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Roderick O'Handley
Title: *Systematic Review of Teacher Training Procedures for Implementing Evidence-Based Practices for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder*

College of Natural Sciences

Presenter: Sean Christopher Bonilla
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nicole Dabbs
Title: *The Effects of Body Composition on Dynamic Balance in Collegiate Athletes*

Presenter: Luz Chavez
Degree: M.S. in Earth and Environmental Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Brett Stanley
Department: Earth and Environmental Science
Title: *Investigation of Cyanide Generation During Water Sanitation*

Presenter: Andres Garcia
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kassandra Harding
Department: Public Health Education
Title: *Application of HAPA on Responsive Feeding*

Presenter: Holli Rosas
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Zhaojing Chen

Major: Kinesiology
Title: *The Mechanical Interaction of Bone and Muscle in Postmenopausal Women*
Competition Category: Health, Nutrition, and Clinical Sciences

Presenter: Miles Valencia
Degree: M.S. in Biology
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Angela Horner
Major: Biology
Title: *Exercise to Increase Stress?*
Competition Category: Health, Nutrition, and Clinical Sciences

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Presenter: Xavier Resendez

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ryan Keating
Department: History
Title: *Race and Racism in 19th Century California*

Presenter: Holly Timblin
Degree: Ed.S. in School Psychology
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jacob Jones
Department: Psychology
Title: *Cumulative Effect of Traumatic Brain Head Injuries in Parkinson's Disease*

Presenter: Edward Zakher
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Yasemin Dildar
Department: Economics
Title: *To Leave Without Leaving*

10th Annual Meeting of The Minds Features over 100 Student Researchers



Meeting of The Minds, 2019

The 10th annual Meeting of the Minds Student Research Symposium was a resounding success, featuring research presentations from more than 140 CSUSB student researchers. The April 15th virtual event included both poster and oral presentations from undergraduate and graduate students. The day-long event began with opening remarks from Dr. Dorota Huizinga, Associate Provost for Academic Research and Dean of Graduate Studies, a warm welcome from President Thomas Morales and OSR Director Ryan Keating, and a keynote address from guest speaker

Dr. Azizi Seixas, assistant professor at NYU School of Medicine. Dr. Seixas spoke on Re-imagining Healthcare for All – Technology, Inequality, and the Healthcare Gap, and encouraged the audience to “reimagine how we go about doing things.”

Some of the outstanding presenters included graduate student Rimie Marandy, whose presentation titled Republicans vs. Democrats: The Impact of COVID-19 Media Consumption on Risk Perceptions and Health Behaviors won best poster presentation for the College of Arts and Letters, and Cameron Fraser, who was among the handful of students awarded outstanding oral presentation for Generation of Feline Macrophage Cell Lines to Study Feline Coronavirus.

The Meeting of the Minds symposium is presented annually by the Office of Student Research. For more information on next year's event, please contact OSR at osr@csusb.edu. We hope to see you there!

2021 Faculty/Staff Book Launch Celebrates CSUSB Authors

The 2021 Faculty/Staff Book Launch celebrated the publication of 33 books and 38 book chapters by CSUSB faculty and staff. Authors from all five colleges, the Pfau Library, and the Staff Development Center were honored at the April 12th biennial event, which recognizes those who have published in the past two years. The Book Launch was just one of the many events that made up Research Week, a week of research-focused activities and celebrations hosted by the Office of Student Research. The Book Launch was the result of the joint effort of OSR and the Office of Graduate Studies.

This year's virtual event opened with a welcome address from Dr. Caroline Vickers, Faculty Director of Graduate Studies, and Dr. Dorota Huizinga, Associate Provost for Academic Research and Dean of Graduate Studies. President Tomás Morales, Provost Shari McMahan, and Vice President Doug Freer all gave opening remarks and expressed their appreciation of the important contributions made by the authors.

Each college dean recognized their faculty members who published since the last event and read from their abstracts. Dean Rueyling Chuang, College of Arts and Letters, Dean Lawrence Rose, College of Business and Public Administration, Dean Chinaka DomNwachukwu, College of Education, Dean Sastry Pantula, College of Natural Sciences, and Dean Rafik Mohamed, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, all shared their enthusiastic support for their faculty authors. VP Doug Freer spoke on behalf of Academic Affairs and Dean Caballero represented the Pfau Library.

The event was both an acknowledgment of the persistence, dedication, and talent it takes to publish a book or book chapter, and a demonstration of the incredible expertise of CSUSB's faculty and staff on a wide range of subjects. The books and book chapters explored art, philosophy, social sciences, politics, government, education, mathematics, and history. As President Tomas Morales mentioned in his remarks, "This academic work displays an impressive range of subject matter combined with a diversity and nuance of perspectives brought to each topic explored. It certainly is a compilation of work to be celebrated."

The event closed with a presentation by Dr. Bibiana Diaz from the Faculty Center of Excellence. Dr. Bibiana spoke

Equity Partnerships: A Culturally Proficient Guide to Family, Schools, and Community Engagement
Angela Louque, Educational Leadership and Technology

on the Faculty Showcase taking place on April 29th and encouraged all to attend. The Faculty Showcase is an annual event celebrating innovative pedagogies and learning technologies for instruction.

Graduate Studies extends its hearty congratulations to all of CSUSB's faculty and staff authors. Thank you for your important contributions to your disciplines and to your campus!

Student Spotlight: Grant Horner, MSW



Whether he finds himself serving as a pastor in Lexington, KY, a counselor at a crisis center in San Diego, or as Navy Chaplain in Kuwait, Grant Horner lives his life in service to others. A spring 2021 graduate of the Master of Social Work program, it is no surprise that he has been nominated for the Outstanding Graduate Student Award for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Horner's work as a pastor fueled his desire to increase his counseling skills. He began his career in 1998 and served in churches in Indianapolis, Lexington, and San Diego. He spearheaded programs for both young adults and senior citizens, and often found himself educating and training other pastors and lay persons in order to expand the impact of his programs. But his role as pastor often led to intense counseling sessions with those who came to him for help.

"I often found myself thrust into these crisis situations as a pastor and ended up doing a lot of counseling, but I didn't feel like I was as prepared or as effective as I could be," Horner said.

In 2013 he joined the Navy and spent six years as Chaplain for troops in the U.S. and abroad. Besides leading religious services, he spent thousands of hours counseling military personnel and their families

on everything from marital issues to combat stress, deepening his interest in social work and clinical counseling. Although he already holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, a Master of Divinity, and a Doctor of Ministry, he decided to pursue a Master of Social Work and shift his career in a new direction.

"Through the Social Work program, I have been working in the mental health field in a short-term in-patient program," Horner said. "Most of our clients are either recently released from prison or from a psychiatric hospital and are transitioning out into the world. We assess them, create some stability, and connect them to resources like housing."

In her letter of support for Horner's nomination, MSW Program Director Carolyn McAllister wrote, "Chaplains like Grant understand the importance of being well trained and prepared to serve clients with evidence-based interventions that he has been learning in this program. Combining these two professions is key to assisting faith communities to break down barriers to social services, particularly in the areas of child and family services and mental health services."

Horner says he plans to continue working in the mental health field: "Short-term, I plan to stay in the mental health field, but I would like to work with veterans because of my own background. Long term, I would like to be licensed and have a private practice as a clinical counselor."

Horner chose the online MSW Pathways program because of the flexibility it offered students juggling career and family. He says that decision has served him well: "I can't say enough about the CSUSB social work program – The student support, the internships available, the faculty - it's been phenomenal. I feel well prepared for a career in social work and I've built friendships and colleagues through the program."

Congratulations to CSUSB's Outstanding Graduate Students for 2020-2021!

Each spring, the five academic colleges names one or two students as Outstanding Graduate Student in their college. These students are recognized for their contributions to their fields and personal and academic excellence while at CSUSB.

College of Arts and Letters

Loydie Burmah is a first-generation scholar, writer, and teacher pursuing an M.A. in Communication Studies. She is led by her genius in researching diverse areas of interest such as media production, journalism, decoloniality, culture, virtual reality, and digital media. Loydie's overall goal in life is to expand her perspective, knowledge, and understanding. Ultimately, she believes that this will allow her to be of better service to many communities.

Miguel Angel Romera-Alvarez grew up in Granada, Spain and completed his undergraduate degree at the Universidad de Granada. In 2018, he began the M.A. in Spanish program at CSUSB, where he served as a TA in Spanish in 2019-20. While completing his M.A. in Spanish coursework, he also published several works of poetry in the department's literary magazine Voices. After graduating in 2021, he hopes to complete a Ph.D. in Spanish and become a university professor.

College of Business and Public Administration

Danny Chung is an MBA student with dual concentrations in supply chain management and cyber security. He has co-authored several transportation teaching cases at the Leonard Transportation Center, presented at two academic conferences, and has papers in review for publication. He is currently preparing for the CompTIA Security+ certification, plans to work at

a Fortune 500 company and to one day own his own business.

College of Education

Sussan Ortega is graduating with a doctorate in educational leadership. She is transitional bilingual teacher in Corona Norco Unified School District and serves as a teacher on assignment (TSA) for the EL and Equity Department. Being a TSA allows her to work in multiple capacities, advocating and implementing programs to meet the needs of emerging bilingual students. In addition, Sussan is a UCR Extension instructor in the Bilingual Authorization Certificated Program.

Sandra Pearson graduates this spring with an education specialist degree in school psychology. During her studies she worked with Roderick O'Handley, an assistant professor in Special Education Rehabilitation and Counseling, as a research assistant; her assignments included training school psychologists and working on social skills for children with autism. She also contributed to a recently published paper printed in Behavior Analysis in Practice.

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Holly Timblin is graduating with an M.A. in Psychological Sciences. She has two manuscripts under review and has delivered nine conference presentations. She has been working with Dr. Christina Hassija investigating whether expectations of disclosure mediate the relationship between shame and seeking mental health services among sexual assault survivors. Ms. Timblin's long-term career goal is to become a Clinical Psychologist and continue her research investigating

trauma related shame and expectations/experiences disclosing sensitive information.

College of Natural Sciences

Yue Zhou is pursuing an M.S. in Computer Science and is teaching associate at the School of Computer Science and Engineering. He obtained a master's degree in Information Systems and Network Economics at the University of Freiburg, Germany. His research interests lie in natural language processing, text mining, economics and computation, machine learning and deep learning, with particular interests in sentiment analysis and other related applications exploring and reasoning large-scaled text to solve real world problems.



Holly Timblin



Miguel Angel Romera-Alvarez



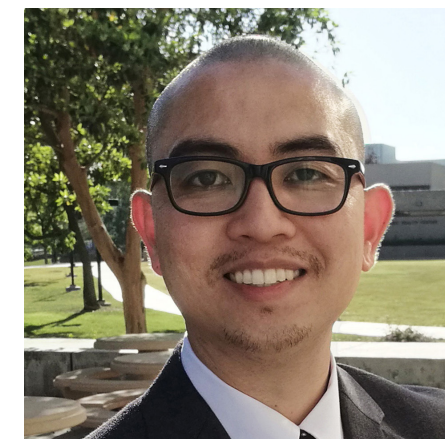
Loydie Burmah



Sandra Pearson



Sussan Ortega



Danny Chung



Yue Zhou

Calendar

June

- 1** Taco Tuesday
- 2** 10-Week Summer Session Begins
- 15** Taco Tuesday
- 24** Virtual Chat
- 29** Taco Tuesday

July

- 5** Independence Day Observed
- 12** Summer Thesis Submission Deadline
- TBD** College of Education Information Session

August

- 5** Thesis Publication Deadline
- 14** New Graduate Student Orientation
- 23** Fall Semester Begins
- TBD** Thesis Boot Camp

September

- TBD** Graduate Education Week

October

- TBD** Thesis Workshops

November

- 8** Fall Thesis Submission Deadline
- 11** Veterans Day
- 25** Thanksgiving

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