



A Note From The Dean ...

May is the month of student celebrations. Having attended the AIS Second Annual Research Symposium, CSUSM Library Award for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity, President's Outstanding Graduate Award Ceremony & Dinner, and 30th Annual CSUSM Psychology Student Research Conference, in the past few weeks, I am truly humbled by the research and creative activities of our students. Having taught at various institutions of more than 25 years, I know the faculty commitment that undergirds our students' academic success.

TONIGHT, we will celebrate the students whom faculty have nominated for Dean's Awards. If you played a role in supporting any of these amazing graduating students on their path here in CHABBS, I invite you to join us in the celebratory Annual Student recognition in the



USU Ballroom 7-8:30.

Priscilla Al-Rayes,
Criminology & Justice Studies

William Brumbach,
Music

Isaiah Chantaca,
Social Sciences

Megan Hosfield,
Sociology

Milly Lopez,
Psychological Science

Shyane Masters,
Environmental Studies

Hugo Peralta-Ramirez,
History

Jordan Rose,
Geography

Cheyenne Smith,
Social Sciences

Karissa Tran,
Psychological Science

Helayna Walton,
Anthropology

Best regards and best wishes for the
summer,

Liora

Student Success



CHABSS Sweeps Library Awards

The University Library announced the 2023-24 CSUSM Library Award for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity recipients, and CHABSS pulled off the sweep. All seven winners came from CHABSS. Each received a \$500 cash prize and an were invited to attend an award reception last week. The library award recognizes undergraduate students who demonstrate sophistication and originality in research projects and creative works, and reflection upon the research and creation process. Students can submit work in three categories: Creative Works, Empirical Research, or Interpretive Analysis.

2023-24 Library Award Winners:

Creative Works

- Mary Elizabeth Handler, Art, Media and Design, "MET"
- Kayla Lankford, Psychological Science, "Exploring Mental Health Stigmatization within AAPI Communities"

Empirical Research

- Colleen Janey, Social Sciences, "Community Cultural Wealth: The Care and Resilience of Mothers in Poverty"
- Shyane Masters, Environmental Studies, "Best Practices for Sharing Photovoice Research Outcomes"
- Natalie Cailey Salas, Sociology, "'I Don't Belong Here': A Qualitative Study on the Experiences of Latinx First-Generation College Students"

Interpretive Analysis

- Hugo Daniel Peralta-Ramirez, History, "From Mexicas to Ancient Aztecs, Classical Nahuas, and Modern Indios/as: Early Modern Criollo/a Constructions and Understandings of Indigenous New Spain"
- Emilio Serrano, Communication Studies, "Howard the Duck vs. the Modernity of Man: A Critical Analysis on the attitudes, and Metaphors in Howard the Duck"

Faculty Highlights



Goals Achieved, Dreams Fulfilled --

Commencement 2024

CSUSM's annual spring commencement celebration will be held on the Mangrum Track and Field over two days – Friday, May 17 and Saturday, May 18. Both CHABSS ceremonies will be Friday. Commencement is the most important event in the University's calendar and represents the attainment of a significant goal in our students' lives. The students' accomplishments are honored when the members of the University community who have contributed to their academic career and success are present to witness their big day and join in their celebration. The graduates and their families appreciate having the faculty present to celebrate with them. You honor our students' accomplishments by witnessing their big day and by taking the opportunity to shake hands or join a photo group after the ceremony.

If you plan to participate in commencement or would be willing to serve as a marshal, please register via the online form by Wednesday, May 8th. This will inform planning by commencement staff relative to reserved faculty seating at the venue, catering count, and other logistics.

Staff members who work the event perform key duties, and your contributions are essential to ensuring the success of the ceremonies. Please work with your manager to arrange a shift in your schedule to allow for your participation.

The CHABSS 2 ceremony is 6-8 p.m. and includes the following majors: Child and Adolescent Development, BA; Criminology and Justice Studies, BA; Sociological Practice, MA; and Sociology, BA. The CHABSS 1 ceremony is 1:30-3:30 p.m. and includes every other major.

[Link for faculty and staff participation sign-up form](#)



Proudfit Pens Earth Day Opinion Piece

Joely Proudfit (Payómkawichum and Tongva), chair of the American Indian Studies Department and director of the California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center recently wrote an opinion article in the San Diego Union-Tribune in honor of Earth Day. Proudfit penned, "In San Diego, where the beauty and biodiversity of our environment are as integral to our identity as the cityscape itself, this day provides an opportunity not just for celebration, but for deep reflection and learning — especially from the Native communities who have inhabited these lands for millennia."

AIS chair authors Union-Tribune opinion article

Alumni Achievements



MLS Alumnus Awarded With Oceanside Teacher of the Year Award

Luis Casillas, a CSUSM alumnus in Modern Language Studies, was recently honored as Oceanside Unified School District Teacher of the Year. A Spanish teacher at César Chávez Middle School, he is one of only a few teachers in the state to teach AP Spanish to eighth grade students. Since his first class took the test in 2022, 65 percent of his students scored a 3 or higher. In 2023, 80 percent of his students scored a 3 or higher on the exam.

Casillas wins prestigious award



AMD Alumna Comes Full Circle as Curator of President's Art Exhibit

sarah bricke was a student entering her final year when Ellen Neufeldt was hired as president in the summer of 2019. They first connected a few months later. Bricke, an art, media and design major, was the co-curator of a student art exhibition titled “Juncture,” and Neufeldt dropped in on the opening event to express her admiration. Neufeldt, it turned out, was an art lover, to the extent that she converted a room in her Escondido home into a gallery space. And when, during her first year at CSUSM, she decided to display student art in that space, sure enough, it was Bricke’s art that was chosen. In January, the art created by Bricke the student was removed from Neufeldt’s home gallery. In its place was installed art by two current or recent CSUSM students that was selected by Bricke, now a professional artist and curator.

bricke's journey comes full circle

Save the Date



May 7 – **Crafty Cougars:** USU 2310 Meeting Rooms 4-6 p.m.

May 7 – **Annual Student Recognition Event:** USU Ballroom 7-8:30 p.m.

May 9 – **Pause for Paws:** KEL TERRACE, KEL BREEZEWAY, KEL PLAZA 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

May 9 – **ACE Graduation Celebration:** Dome Plaza, Dome Terrace, Tukwut Courtyard 4-6 p.m.

May 9 – **Service Learning Showcase and Award Celebration:** USU 2310 Meeting Rooms 4-5:30 p.m.

May 9 – **CHABSS Year-End Celebration:** SBSB 4115 3:30-5:30 p.m.

May 17 – **Commencement:** Mangrum Track & Field 1:30-3:30 p.m. (CHABSS 1); 6-8 p.m. (CHABSS 2)

June 12 – **Transfer Student A.M. Orientation:** TBD 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

June 12 – **Transfer Student P.M. Orientation:** TBD 12-5 p.m.

June 13 – **Transfer Student A.M. Orientation:** TBD 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

June 13 – **Transfer Student P.M. Orientation:** TBD 12-5 p.m.

June 20 – **Transfer Student A.M. Orientation:** TBD 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

June 20 – **Transfer Student P.M. Orientation:** TBD 12-5 p.m.

June 21 – **Transfer Student A.M. Orientation:** TBD 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

June 21 – **Transfer Student P.M. Orientation:** TBD 12-5 p.m.



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COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS,
BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES

The CHABSS newsletter is produced by the dean's office communications team. It's published the first Tuesday of every month during the fall and spring semesters. Submissions for consideration in the newsletter can be sent directly to tmeehan@csusm.edu or dropped off to SBSB 4115. The deadline for submission is the Friday prior to publication.