



A Note From The Dean ...



Fall is a time of new beginnings in an academic year. A special welcome to all of our new students, faculty, and staff. For those of us returning, I hope you found time for rest and rejuvenation during the summer.

As part of our new beginnings, we are trying something novel this semester with the CHABSS newsletter. We plan to publish each Tuesday with a different focus each week of the month. You can expect first Tuesdays to provide insight into the events happening at CHABSS; second Tuesdays focus on our wonderful students and their achievements; check the newsletter on third Tuesdays to keep engaged with our faculty; fourth Tuesdays are the opportunity for alumni connections. (And if there is a fifth Tuesday, our communications team will take a well-deserved break!)

With all best wishes for our upcoming year,
Dean Liora Gubkin

Student Success



Montoya Forges Ahead With Own Unique Path

Aidelen Montoya entered CSUSM as a transfer student in business. After realizing she wasn't truly happy with that path, she created her own special major, a combination of museum studies, art and art history. She earned the President's Outstanding Graduate Award in 2023.

[Click here to read about her journey](#)



From Near Death to Earning Bachelor's

Early in 2022, Rubi Duran went to the hospital with headaches and knee soreness. It turned out to be advanced kidney failure. She was within two weeks of dying. She eventually got a kidney transplant from a stranger who saw her story on social media. Duran graduated in May.

[Click here to read her story](#)



Appreciating an Untraditional Path

As part of "Voices of CSUSM," a new feature in Steps magazine, recent psychological science graduate Ilianna Ramirez shares her story of overcoming challenges. Ramirez was also honored recently as a [CHABSS Champion for Inclusive Excellence](#).

Check out Iliana's first-person account



Showing Resilience in the Face of Tragedy

Social sciences major Dean Hall has shown tremendous resilience in battling drug addiction, multiple incarcerations and the death of his twin brother. In December, he will become the first member of his family to graduate from college.

Click to read Dean's story

Award Time

At the end of the spring semester, CHABSS honored a group of students in our annual Student Recognition event. The awards represented the culmination of years of hard work and dedication to their collective pursuits. They've made an impact on CHABSS and CSUSM that will be remembered forever. Each of their accomplishments are detailed [here](#).

**Dean's Outstanding Student
Aidelen Montoya**



**Champion for Community
Service John Edwards**



**Champion for Inclusive
Excellence Ilianna Ramirez**



**Champion for Inclusive
Excellence One Reks**



**Champion for Scholarship & Creative Activities
Kennedy Caudle, Jessica Keatly, Mia Lorence & Jasmine O'Hara**



Save the Date

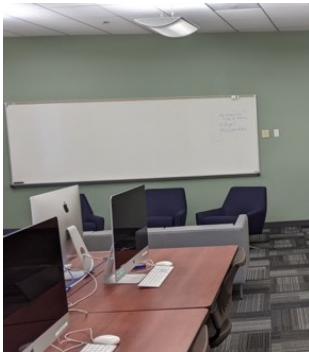
Sept. 12 — **Office of Global Education Drop-ins:** Mark 243 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
(throughout the fall every Tuesday)

Sept. 12 — **Traveling Tukwut Study Abroad Fair:** Forum Plaza USU Arcade, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Sept. 12 — **January in Paris Psychology Info Session:** ZOOM:
<https://csusm.zoom.us/j/2653678375>, 3-4 p.m.

Sept. 14 — **Global Competency Certificate** information session, SBSB 1105, 12-12:45 p.m.

Comm Lab Open For All



CHABSS students, faculty and staff are invited to celebrate the opening of the department of communication's newly refurbished Daniels Communication and Media Lab Celebration (SBSB 2207)

Oct. 5 during U-Hour. Light refreshments will be provided in SBSB 2240. Students enrolled in COMM and MDIA courses will be able to use one of the lab's 16 Macs, hold group project meetings, use the inviting social space, or attend talks and panel events hosted by the department.

