



# COMMUniqué

## May, 2018

Co-Editors:

Dr. Michelle A. Holling, Dept. Chair

Beau Danan, Dept. Student Intern

Danielle C. Biss, Dept. Student Intern

Editorial Assistant: Josie K. Rosas

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IN THIS ISSUE

## Notes from the Chair

By: Michelle A. Holling, Ph.D.

I hope that with the close of another semester and academic year that both students and faculty feel a sense of accomplishment and relief. And, many wishes to graduating seniors as they embark on the next phase of life! The list of graduates who will earn a B.A. in Communication or Mass Media or a minor in Communication, along with those earning academic honors are detailed on pp. 16-17. Also noteworthy is the "Academic Activism and Community Engagement Award" created by Dean Johnson and awarded to Louis Adamsel, Communication major. Wooo hooo!

Meanwhile, there are so many wonderful stories in this newsletter that make me proud to be part of and serve as chair of this department. Stories about alumni convey their fond recollections of particular courses and faculty, and role of their bachelor's degrees in their current professions.

Stories about faculty highlight the important educational work they do outside of the classroom such as in the disability panel (p. 2) or in their scholarship and service (p. 14) and inside the classroom as with Mike Sperla. His exercise earned him the 2017-2018 GIFT award (see p. 4). Faculty are also excited to reveal programmatic changes to what has been the Mass Media major to what will be the Media Studies major effective fall 2018.

There are several individuals who I must acknowledge. Many thanks to Danielle Biss who interned for the past 1.5 years. We'll miss having you in the department as you move onto SDSU. Next, appreciation to Beau Danan for his work as intern this semester. In addition, farewell to Dr. Ashley Fogle and Dr. Yashu Chen. Each has lent her knowledge and expertise to teach and mentor students with care, diligence, and commitment that is most appreciated. Thank-you for being our colleagues!

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## Department Student Organizations Promote Disability Advocacy

By: Danielle C. Biss

On April 9, 2018, student organizations Lambda Pi Eta and Communication Society co-sponsored the panel “Disability and Voice: Communication and Intersectional Identities in Ability Advocacy,” which received funding support from the Office of Inclusive Excellence. The panel featured three disability advocates and activists, including Dr. Kurt Lindemann, Physical Disability Advocate; Dr. Andrew Spieldenner, HIV Activist; and Cheryl Berry, Mental Health Advocate at CSUSM. The panel centered on different forms of disability advocacy through panelists’ unique expertise. Importantly, discussion focused on how communication can empower and bring about social justice in the area of disability advocacy. The ways that abilities intersect with other aspects of identities - such as race, class, gender, and sexual orientation- was also an integral part of the discussion.

Cheryl Berry, Mental Health Advocate at the H.O.P.E. and Wellness Center at CSUSM, started the program. Before joining the campus community at CSUSM, Cheryl had oversight for policy, programs, and budget(s) for various federal and state health agencies. Her professional career includes experience in public health at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA); and behavioral health at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), where she managed prevention and early-intervention grant programs focused on minority health. In her presentation, she discussed how she became involved in mental health advocacy, beginning with her work for HIV advocacy. She



*Audience members viewing Murderball during Dr. Kurt Lindemann’s presentation.*

said, “I watched the activists, and I watched their passion; they inspired me to take my own initiatives for HIV prevention among teenage African American girls.” She finds importance in educating others about the reality of the experience of living with HIV, a stigmatized and silenced topic. Since her work with HIV advocacy, she has transitioned to more diverse mental health advocacy with a core focus on intersectionality. At the H.O.P.E. and Wellness Center, many of the projects she has been involved with explore intersectional challenges regarding eating disorders, suicide prevention, and stigma reduction. Importantly, through her presentation, she shared that at the forefront of her work is how an individual’s culture shapes their mental health. To further this idea, she highlighted student projects done for the H.O.P.E. and Wellness Center, including mental health and stigma, mental health and white privilege, and sexuality and the complexities of stigma, among others. She encouraged audience members to recognize how their mental health is no different from their physical health and inspired audience members to share their mental health challenges openly as they would with a physical impairment.

Dr. Andrew Spieldenner brought his expertise in HIV advocacy and health policy next in the program. Not only is Dr. Spieldenner an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication, he is also the Research Director of the domestic implementation of the HIV Stigma Index for the Global Network of People with HIV/AIDS-North America, and Chair of the US People Living with HIV Caucus. His presentation historicized the HIV movement and his activism in the San Diego area. In 1987, President Ronald Reagan said the words “AIDS” for the first time in public even after, as Dr. Spieldenner shared, by that point, thousands of people had died in the U.S. from the disease. He juxtaposed two marketing campaigns to highlight how the differing messages inform how the public perceives people living with HIV/AIDS. For instance, one of the photos depicted a father saying goodbye to his dying son in a hospital and the other framed a Black male with his hands in the air, filled with excitement, optimism, and joy. In addition to sharing how media frames people living with HIV, Dr. Spieldenner shared his recent HIV activism as Chair of the US People Living with HIV Caucus.



Many of the activists he highlighted were diverse, including Bré Anne Campbell, a Black Trans woman and director of Detroit, Michigan's Trans Sistas of Color Project; and Daniel Griffin, who started an organization as a Facebook group for Black gay men living with HIV in Georgia; among others. In addition to sharing what others in HIV activism are doing, he disclosed his experiences being diagnosed with HIV and its impact on him as he delved into a career in the academy. He says, "not everyone who is diagnosed with HIV goes off to get their Ph.D." Dr. Spieldenner focused his talk on how communication tools are used in two initiatives that he was part of: AIDSWatch, the largest HIV federal lobbying day in the US, and the movement to reform HIV criminalization laws in California. He believes, "it's vital to keep the conversation open and going about the impact of disability in our university as well as in the wider society. Students need to understand how their view of ability and disability use problematic ideas of 'normal' that no individual can fit into. In addition, students can play a role in supporting and implementing advocacy efforts in their personal life, in the university and in the community." Dr. Spieldenner brought a sensitive issue to the panel in a lively and humorous way.

The third panelist in the conversation was Dr. Kurt Lindemann from the School of Communication at San Diego State University, where he serves as Professor and Director of Graduate Studies. He teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in organizational communication, qualitative methods, and performance studies. Dr. Lindemann's presentation shared

his research on disability, gender, and sport through a critical qualitative approach. To begin, he played the trailer of the documentary *Murderball* which features men with paraplegia who play wheelchair rugby. Dr. Lindemann shared his ethnographic research on physical disability and wheelchair rugby. He did not *solely* watch the players; rather, he strapped himself in a wheelchair and participated in a game with the other paraplegic male athletes. Through ethnography, Dr. Lindemann was able to recognize his privilege as an able-bodied man and importantly, learn of the diverse masculine experiences of male athletes with paraplegia. Dr. Lindemann grew up immersed in a culture of disability because his father became quadriplegic due to a motorcycle accident when Dr. Lindemann was seven years old; consequently, his father's disability shaped how Dr. Lindemann viewed the world. A takeaway from his presentation was for audience members to think of how they conceptualize an "ideal" man. In the context of sport, Dr. Lindemann left audience members questioning who they think of as "athletic" by demonstrating how disabled men may too be hypermasculine. As Dr.

Lindemann shared, "being disabled or thinking of disability depends on the context and the ways in which you interact." Ultimately, his presentation conveyed the pervasive nature of masculinity in the context of sport and the culture of conquest – whether sexual or through sport - and how athletic men with disabilities reinforce heteronormative

conceptions of masculinity. Approximately 75 Communication and Mass Media students as well as other members of the CSUSM community attended the 90-minute panel discussion. Dr. Kendra Rivera, Communication Society Co-Advisor, noted the panel was an "opportunity to hear three unique perspectives and experiences on the important role of communication in disability advocacy. I was particularly impacted by the personal stories of the panelists, and why they are so passionate about this important work. The overall message was clear: We can *all* help advocate for disability rights and equality!" I served as a moderator for discussion. Many questions that emerged centered on intersectionality and alliance building opportunities in terms of disability advocacy. Further, conversation circulated on the ways privileged individuals may become better allies to marginalized individuals, whether that be in terms of disability, race, gender, class, among other possibilities. Dr. Spieldenner suggests potential allies "know [their] space." He further prompted audience members to recognize the importance of self-reflexivity; and acknowledge when an individual speaks from a place of



*Dr. Andrew Spieldenner delivering an engaging presentation on HIV activism*

privilege, s/he needs to understand the implications of his/her voice in that sociocultural place. For instance, a white individual speaking on behalf of Black Lives Matter, an able-bodied person speaking on behalf of the disability community, or even a cis-gender heterosexual speaking on behalf of LGBTQ necessitates recognizing one's

privilege. Autumn Destarac-Saldana, Lambda Pi Eta member, states, "One aspect that stood out to me is when Dr. Spieldenner emphasized that people with disabilities are not 'victims;' because to be a victim means to accept defeat and not fight back. Overall, this panel displayed how disability is not the end to one's life, but rather a challenge

one lives with." Ultimately, attendees left the session better equipped with the tools and knowledge to be a better ally to their peers in the disability community, and other marginalized groups, and mindfulness of the diversity of experiences brought about through disability.

## Mike Sperla: The GIFT that Keeps on Giving

By: Beau Danan

Mike Sperla is an instructor of GEO 102 in the Department of Communication. He works hard to build the oral communication skill set in all his students. Recently, Mike was the recipient of the GIFT award which recognizes innovative ways of teaching and ideas in the realm of GEO, general education oral communication courses.

Mike is a lecturer who strives to connect with his students. Understanding that Oral Communication is no easy feat, Mike reminds his students that even as a lecturer he makes mistakes in his own presentations. Mike once colorfully proclaimed to his students, "If I had a dollar for every mistake I have made since I started teaching, I could go on a world cruise taking expensive tours at each stop." As Mike's students keep his advice in mind, they work together to assess their strengths as well as weaknesses in speech delivery. Mike champions his students to perform their very best through the duration of his course. He conveys his support by saying, "The best part of my job is when I see success from my students, or just a genuine improvement in speaking skills and overall confidence level." The joy in seeing students succeed comes along with having patience and hard work. The challenging part



*Mike Sperla with Perpetual Plaque*

of Mike's GEO sections is that he explains he is strict in the research of his students. Mike spends much time checking sources on projects delivered to him. During the course of projects, Mike explains, "Students must turn in their research in its original form highlighting any passage that went into their outlines, and I check every single one of these." The strict research requirements set by Mike are meant for his students to become "better and well-rounded college students" as he puts it. As the semester progresses, Mike understands that his course requirements become tougher. However, he conveys to his students, "I am always on their side. I am rooting for them, and I am always willing to help."

Mike received the GIFT award for an assignment he created called "What's My Culture Bag?" This project, according to Mike is designed to "incorporate more diversity-enriched assignments and lectures to the curriculum" He developed this project

for his students to understand other cultures beyond their frames of reference. As to what he hopes to accomplish with this assignment, Mike explains, "I wish to bring the language of culture into the shared classroom space, significantly reducing the prejudices/stereotyping that our mass media (and current president) can sometimes foster. Also this dispels the myth that mainstream students of European descent do not have culture. The lecture on culture gets this point across. Mike hopes his assignments aid students in "recognizing that they are not as different from each other as they previously believed and in retrospect that they actually have much in common." The passion for teaching and wanting to bring students together is a strong ideal for Mike Sperla. As an instructor, he never settles for teaching the same way year after year.

In order to progress as an instructor, he explains, "It takes all of my abilities to recognize where improvement is needed in regards to reaching this current unique generation to get the material across to them." The GIFT award marks a milestone for Mike, one in which he not only enriched his course, but also the lives of students who were miles apart culturally. As Mike continues his journey instructing the oral communication course, he also continues to grow as the best instructor that he can be.



## Louis Adamsel: Recipient of the Inaugural CHABSS Academic Activism and Community Engagement Award

By: Danielle C. Biss and Beau Danan

Louis Adamsel will leave a legacy as he graduates this coming May with a B.A. in Communication and minor in Ethnic Studies. In addition to his many accomplishments, he is the inaugural recipient of the CHABSS Academic Activism and Community Engagement Award. What distinguishes Louis as a strong leader with a social justice mindset are initiatives he supported in his roles as Representative of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Behavioral Social Sciences (2016-2017) and President/CEO of Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) (2017-2018).

Dean Johnson created the CHABSS Academic Activism and Community Engagement Award to recognize students who bridge academic work with engagements outside of the classroom. In the coming years, Dean Johnson hopes to use the award to recognize students in the College who find new, different, and even similar ways to support social justice and community engagement. As she says, “activisms and community engagement are integral to our mission as a College. CHABSS students are taught to examine the connections between theory and practical applications and activism and community engagement bridge course content in applying knowledge inside and outside of the classroom.” As CHABSS representative and ASI President, Louis demonstrated such commitments to the College and University. Dean Johnson commented, “Louis has distinguished himself in a variety of ways during his time at CSUSM. His work through ASI, coupled

with his additional work to bring a historically Black fraternity to campus, his work to help establish a food pantry for students - to name only a few of his accomplishments - is an exemplar of how to be an engaged intellectual.”

Louis leaves a lasting impression both inside and outside of the classroom. Many of his professors believe his performance in the classroom indicates his passion to help others and commitment to social justice. During an interview, Louis shared why he believes he is receiving this award, “professors may like the work that they may have seen me do on campus. The work I do plays a part from the lessons I learn in the classroom.” For example, this past year, Louis was behind the Cougar Pantry to prevent food insecurity for the University’s diverse student body.

In the nomination letter written on Louis’ behalf, Dr. Kendra Rivera shared her insight on Louis’ performance in the classroom, “Louis has developed excellent skills in networking that allow him to connect different stakeholders who can help each other.”

In the same nomination letter, Dr. Michelle Holling wrote “Louis’ path to becoming and tenure in serving as ASI President reflects his ethos and commitment to serving others via leadership roles. When he campaigned, Louis’ motto ‘#for the culture’ was emblematic of his commitment to diversity and community in that it conveyed his desire to do something for and on behalf of others.” As both CHABSS Representative and President of ASI, Louis maintained his commitment to advancing diversity- both a University and College value. Dr. Dreama Moon is proud of Louis for his role in instituting a chapter of

Omega Psi Phi, a long standing and prestigious historically Black fraternity on campus. As one of its charter members, Louis was key to the fraternity’s success. Louis received two highly coveted awards, the Xi Gamma Gamma chapter undergraduate Man of the Year award in 2016, and the following year, recipient of the undergraduate Omega Man of the Year award by his fraternity’s 12th district. Dr. Moon wrote, Louis’ “willingness to serve others is most clearly exemplified in Louis’ approach to the world whether he is serving as a Peer Mentor, in the National Guard, as a student activist, ASI President or simply as a colleague to his fellow students.”

Upon receiving notice as recipient of the inaugural award, Louis shared with us “it truly meant a lot. Some of the folks who were supportive of me played a huge role. Seeing my professors acknowledge the work I have done for the campus community meant a lot.”

*L-R: Dr. Michelle A. Holling, Louis Adamsel, Dr. Dreama Moon*





### *Dean Julia Johnson & Louis Adamsel*

However, he wants everyone to recognize that a lot of the initiatives he took part in were not just his; rather, they were team collaborations of ASI executives, where he serves as a representative at large. He highlighted that he is proud to see the progress of ASI from team efforts. He shared, “it isn’t just me alone... We can’t put everyone’s name on the ballot.” After graduation, Louis will “miss being able to be the bridge internal relations.” Importantly, much of the work Louis

accomplished came from his ability to communicate with diverse populations. As his mentors Dr’s. Holling, Rivera, and Moon asserted in their nomination letter, “few students can leave CSUSM knowing that they changed the entire campus and the greater North County for the better. Louis is one such student.” He received the inaugural *CHABSS Academic Activism and Community Engagement Award* at the CHABSS Honors Ceremony on April 28, 2018. On behalf of the Department of Communication, we applaud Louis and his many accomplishments.

## Taking Control of Your Imminent Salary

By: Danielle C. Biss

Finding an ideal job after graduation may seem daunting for graduating seniors; however, often times what they may not know is that they are able to negotiate their salary. In hopes of spreading awareness on this matter, Dr. Matsumoto delivers Salary Negotiation Workshops in collaboration with the Career Center. Dr. Matsumoto is one of three individuals trained with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to present such workshops. She has delivered workshops for the past five semesters and will do so in the future. She provides attendees with knowledge and awareness about what to expect during salary negotiations. She offers the following six tips to help with students generally, and graduating seniors specifically, in future salary negotiations.

1. Don’t be afraid to negotiate salary *after* offered the position;
2. Know what the competitive salary range is for the position relative to its specific geographical location. For instance, a cost of living may range depending upon the location of position;
3. Don’t let any factors of one’s identity (e.g., race, gender, or sexuality) interfere with asking for what one deserves along with a rationale for expected salary;
4. Once s/he has hears the words, “we’d like to offer you the position,” a response might be “Wonderful. I am interested in learning more about the offer.” Seek a discussion about salary and benefits such as health insurance, dental insurance, life insurance, vacation time, sick leave, tuition reimbursement, etc. These benefits may play a factor in determining whether an individual accepts or rejects an offer;
5. Know his/her “resistance point”; in other words, what factors need to be met to accept a position; and
6. Accept a position where staying at least two years is possible and foreseeable. In so doing, questions to ask oneself include will the position lead to the desired career path? What are the reasons for accepting the position? While it may be easier to get a job while you have a job, it is also vital that you take a job you can foresee staying in for at least two years. For instance, if you want to work with special needs children, taking a sales job would not be optimal. Keeping a job for at least two years demonstrates reliability and stability, which are both optimal qualities compared to jumping around from job to job, which does not look good on a resume.

### GRADUATE SCHOOL BOUND!

Congratulations to the following students who were accepted into graduate school!

- 🏠 **Danielle C. Biss** will attend San Diego State University in pursuit of a master’s degree in Communication.
- 🏠 **Dakota DeLuca** will pursue a master’s of secondary education at Grand Canyon University
- 🏠 **Marissa McShane** will attend Chapman University to pursue a combined teaching credential and master’s degree in teaching with an emphasis in elementary.

## What's in a Name Change? From MASS to MDIA

By: Beau Danan & Cecilia Uy-Tioco, Ph.D.

Beginning fall 2018, the major known as Mass Media will become Media Studies. Why the name change? The terms “mass media” and “mass communication” reflect the media developed in the 20th century—where media such as radio, television, film, and print were created by companies and distributed to a “mass” audience. With the development of digital technologies such as the Internet and other digital media, audiences are also creators of media and not simply passive consumers. Media Studies makes connections between texts and contexts, media industries and technologies, politics and economics, and producers and audiences/users. It provides a framework for understanding the role of media in contemporary society and everyday life, particularly regarding politics, economics, and culture.

“The name change to Media Studies has been a long time coming,” says Dr. Joonseong Lee, “it reflects what we do in our program since the revisions that were implemented in fall 2014.” While there are no changes to the degree requirements, students will notice that the courses listed under Media Studies will be under the new abbreviation “MDIA” instead of its previous “MASS.” This will not affect existing BA Mass Media students because, as Dr. Katherine Brown explains, “Students are protected by catalog rights when they declared their major. As such their work done prior to the change will not be affected.” New students starting fall 2018, however, will be BA Media Studies majors.

Although the degree requirements remain the same, students in recent years have noticed a number of new elective courses that have been added to the curriculum. Dr. Brown explains new elective courses in a colorful analogy; “Picture Media Studies like a tree. The trunk of the tree represents the core curriculum while the growing branches represent the new elective courses.” One notable example of such a branch will be Dr. Brian Dolber’s special topics course: MDIA 470-1: Digital Policy in the U.S. which will be first taught in fall 2018. Other special topics courses are Dr. Dolber’s Media Policy and the Struggle for U.S. Democracy 1776-1996 and Dr. Lee’s Media and Mixed Reality. Additional developed by Dr. Cecilia Uy-Tioco include MDIA 365, New Media & Everyday Life, MDIA 366, Mobile Media Cultures, and MDIA 403 Critical Approaches to Children’s Media. Students should keep an eye out for

new MDIA courses as well as new COMM courses that are media-related.

According to Dr. Uy-Tioco, “Media Studies emerged from the larger discipline of Communication but has become its own field with its own canon or foundational texts and history.” This is why some Communication courses apply to the Media Studies degree. She explains, “Media Studies courses encompass three areas: industry and policy, text and content, and audience and users. Thus, for a course to be counted as Media Studies, it should clearly cover one, two, or all of these three. For example, COMM 465: Communication and Pop Culture looks at representation in popular media texts, so it counts as a Media Studies course, even if it has a COMM name and number.” Another example is Dr. Barry Saferstein’s COMM 370, World Wide Web as a Mass Medium where students examine the social and cultural aspects of the web as well as create their own websites.

Dr. Brown sees the relationship between the Media Studies major and the Communication major in our department as both distinct and complementary. She explains that this means while students in each program are required to take combinations of courses unique to their (COMM or MDIA) major, the curricula complement each other in how they support the mission of the Communication Department, i.e. advancing “students’ development of critical and analytical abilities, proficiency with multiple levels of analysis of media, engagement with collaborative and dialogic relationships and connections with communities.” Through these two majors, students are offered different approaches to becoming “culturally aware, astute, civic minded individuals able to understand and act upon structures of inequity, poised for success in their endeavors as community members, citizens and leaders in their chosen careers” (Communication Dept. Mission Statement).

Dr. Uy-Tioco offers two important pieces of advice for current students. First, she reminds students to “Look for courses under MDIA and pass the word to others. Remember, all MDIA courses count as electives for COMM majors too!” Second, she suggests that MDIA majors “Consult with faculty advisors to see if particular media-related courses from other departments can be applied toward your Media Studies degree.” A list of faculty advisors and their office hours can be found on the Communication Department website: <http://www.csusm.edu/communication/advising.html>



In an age where media is everywhere and impacts all aspects of our lives, a degree in Media Studies becomes more important. As Dr. Dolber points out, “There is widespread discussion today about the crisis in journalism and politics, the role of the entertainment industries in either promoting or challenging forms of oppression, and dramatic shifts in privacy and surveillance. Media Studies majors will be able to understand and contribute thoughtfully to these discussions. Students will be better prepared to engage professionally and civically by getting a critical perspective on our dynamic media landscape.”

## B.A. Media Studies FAQ

By: Cecilia Uy-Tioco, Ph.D.

### What is the BA Media Studies degree?

The BA Media Studies degree examines how knowledge, values, and beliefs are shared through radio, television, film, print, and digital media; as well as ownership, structures and systems of power, and the laws and policies that shape media industries. Through our courses, Media Studies students explore the role of media in politics, economics, popular culture, society, and everyday life; developing critical thinking, problem solving, and creative skills.

### Why the name change?

The term “mass media” was developed in the mid-twentieth century. It reflected the nature of the media industries at that point, when a handful of newspapers, radio and television networks, and film studios created standardized content to appeal to wide audiences—“the masses.”

While the ideas that the early scholars, observers, and critics of media still inform and shape our contemporary understandings, they are insufficient in thinking about the role of media in today's society. Economic imperatives have led to the creation of niche, rather than mass, audiences. Digital technologies enable audiences to act not as simply passive consumers, but as active “prosumers.” Globalization has transformed the ways culture and commodities are produced and distributed.

Thus, “media studies” allows for a broader conceptualization of the role media play in our contemporary society. It more accurately reflects the scholarship of our faculty <http://www.csusm.edu/communication/faculty/index.html> and it better frames the questions and debates that are relevant to CSUSM students as they develop media literacy skills necessary for 21st century employment and citizenship.

### ATTENTION COMM & MDIA MAJORS!

Do you know you have two advisors? You have both a faculty and academic advisor.



To learn about your faculty advisor, and the distinction between academic advisor, check out the department website at

<http://www.csusm.edu/communication/advising.html>

or view the following video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzHhKCSNt3E>

### Are there changes to my degree requirements?

Nope. Your requirements remain the same. The only difference is courses are now called “MDIA.” And on Degree Planner, they are listed under “Media Studies.”

### If I started at CSUSM and declared my major before fall 2018, what degree will I have?

You will graduate with a BA in Mass Media because the university respects your catalog rights. This means any changes made to the program after you declared your major will not affect your requirements to graduate. The only change will be that any media courses you take starting fall 2018 will have a “MDIA” prefix.

#### *Courses Composing Media Studies Curriculum*

- MDIA 301 -- Media Theory
- MDIA 303 -- Histories of Media Technologies
- MDIA 304 -- Global Media
- MDIA 365 -- New Media and Everyday Life
- MDIA 403 -- Critical Approaches to Children's Media
- MDIA 451 -- Media, Religion, Popular Culture
- MDIA 452 -- Media Ethics
- MDIA 460 -- Political Economy of the Media
- MDIA 470-1 -- ST: Digital Policy in the U.S.
- MDIA 495 -- Media Studies Internship

## Catching Up With Alumni

### *Marlino Bitanga, Class of 2002*

By: Danielle C. Biss

In the years since Marlino graduated from CSUSM, he finds his time in the Department to be part of his fondest memories. He wrote, “Growing up, I had my heart set on doing advertising. Prior to going to college, I was actually working at a major radio station. I chose Communication as a major because I felt it really fit my career goals.” Currently, he is the founder and CEO of Huemanly, a human engagement company that empowers high achieving entrepreneurs to grow purpose-centric brands. He believes knowledge of communication practices and phenomena “allows us to not only be a resource for companies who need clarity in who they are and what they do, but it gives us the opportunity to bring out the best in people so that they bring out the best in others. The theories I learned, allow me to quickly identify the challenges companies face and how to resolve them.”

During his undergraduate studies, Marlino found COMM 440, Organizational Communication, with Dr. Katherine Brown to be most advantageous to his career. His company specializes in branding and creativity, and he highlights that COMM 440 provided him with experience to learn about company culture and workplace aesthetics that have been extremely valuable to his career and current position. He strongly recommends that COMM and MASS majors take as many classes as they can with Dr. Dreama Moon. He shares, “because of her Communication classes, I was able to challenge myself, expand my critical thinking, think beyond the box, [which all are] the essentials you need to survive in the workplace today.”

### *Jasmine Demers, Class of 2016*

By: Danielle C. Biss

From the moment Jasmine transferred to CSUSM from a junior college, she hoped to pursue a career in journalism. To do so, she felt pursuing a bachelor’s degree in communication would strengthen her writing and academic voice. One such course provided the opportunity, COMM 390, Research Methods and Design, with Dr. Kendra Rivera. In this course, she conducted original ethnographic research to advocate for transgender students through a service learning opportunity with the Gender Equity Center. She emerged herself in her research by participating in a campaign and petition for transgender folks, which she and the Gender Equity Center later sent to the President of the University, for example. She believes her experiences in COMM 390 prepared her well for her master’s.

Currently, she is pursuing a master’s degree in journalism at the University of Arizona. Jasmine believes that her B.A. in Communication prepared her well, as communication is very much theory and audience based and is very much applicable with journalism. Not only is she a graduate student at the University of Arizona, she is also a Communication Specialist for the Department of Soil, Water, and Environmental Science and Editor in Chief for the *Daily Wildcat*, campus newspaper. She wants to thank the amazing faculty and staff in the Communication Department at CSUSM whose mentorship enabled her success in graduate school. For students pondering graduate school,

Jasmine suggests they “search through their options and decide what opportunities are best fit for them.”

### *Amanda Guse, Class of 2016*

By: Danielle C. Biss

Amanda graduated in 2016 with a B.A. in Communication. During her time in the department, she found COMM 445, Communication Portfolio; COMM 340, Interview Principles and Practices; and COMM 426, Dialogic Communication, the most applicable to her career as an Executive Assistant & Brand Strategist. She believes she “gained the skills to approach business and personal situations to be an active listener, know how to carefully digest and consider ideas and opinions of others in a respectful way.”

In the two years since her graduation, she has made headway for Huemanly, a human engagement company that specializes in branding. Her company lends assistance to high achieving entrepreneurs so they may grow purpose-centric brands. In her current position, she believes she uses dialogic communication everyday. Amanda wrote, dialogic communication is “essential in understanding the goals and purpose behind the actions of business owners, working with my team, and building relationships.” She learned of Huemanly during an alumni presentation in Dr. Katherine Brown’s COMM 445, Communication Portfolio. Upon graduation, she started working for the company. She is well prepared for her career thanks to strengthening her interviewing skills, active listening, project planning, and strategy skills through department courses. Amanda advises Communication and

Media majors to “start researching what s/he may want to do for a career as soon as possible and start interviewing people within that career path. Once s/he finds a potential opportunity, try finding internships as early into your college career as possible. This is a huge way to save time, money, and learn more about yourself and what interests you.”

***Nicholas B. Lacy, Class of 2015***

By: Beau Danan

Nicholas B. Lacy graduated in 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. Today, Nicholas takes his knowledge of communication and applies it to his own writing as well as his services for others. Nicholas cites COMM 300, Communication Theory with Dr. Michael Huspek as helping him understand language from different viewpoints other than his own. The dense reading material of Dr. Michelle Holling’s COMM 401, Rhetorical Theory class prepared him to better analyze the readings of law literature. Dr. Kendra Rivera’s COMM 390, Approaches to Research Methods and Design course was an opportunity for Nicholas to strengthen his researching skills by conducting a study on the benefits of afterschool programs for the youth.

As a Communication undergraduate, Nicholas pursued higher education when he attended McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento CA. Afterwards, Nicholas made the decision to redirect his focus back to the study of communication by applying to PhD programs to become a professor of Communication. All the while, Nicholas uses his degree to help students with their writing

in the Lake Elsinore school district and recently became a student accounts advisor for Cal Baptist University where he works with students and their financial matters. In his work, Nicholas explains, “My knowledge of communication gives me a chance to hone my skills in both writing and as an orator when helping others.” For CSUSM graduates unsure of what their next moves will be after they leave campus, Nicholas conveys, “The world is cyclical and always changing. Always be patient and prepared when opportunities come to you.”

***Alexandra (AJ) Jackson Nevis, Class of 2011***

By: Danielle C. Biss

AJ graduated in 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and minor in Ethnic Studies. She shares “I really fell in love with the major when I took COMM 402 with Dr. Holling.” In this course, AJ conducted her first rhetorical criticism “It’s Funny Because It’s True: The Therapeutic Rhetoric of American Individualism and Reflections of Nothingness,” which she later presented at the National Communication Association in November 2010. In the eight years of undergraduate studies, she learned that “you only get out of your education what you put into it.” Many of the courses she enrolled in spurred her interest in rhetoric and touched on sociocultural issues she cared about. Ultimately, such courses encouraged her to dedicate all her time and energy into her studies.

After graduating from CSUSM, AJ furthered her education at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where she earned a master’s degree in Communication and

graduate certificate in Ethnic Studies. She felt well prepared for her master’s because of her undergraduate experience conducting original research and reading primary sources. Little did AJ know that she would teach in the same department where she fell in love with the discipline. Currently, she is a lecturer in the Department where she teaches various introductory Communication courses, including GEO 102, General Education Oral Communication, and COMM 200, Argumentation & Dialogue. For AJ, teaching provides the opportunity to be exposed to new ideas, think critically, and question things. For graduating seniors, she suggests, “Be flexible, be creative, and be willing to say yes to opportunities.”

***Niko Rodriguez, Class of 2014***

By: Beau Danan

Niko Rodriguez graduated in 2014 with a Bachelors of Arts in Mass Media. Since then, Niko has improved upon his skills of making visual media and communication when working as both a city government employee and a photographer. The two courses Niko found to be the most impactful during his studies were MASS 304, Global Media with Dr. Barry Saferstein and Mass 452, Media Ethics with Dr. Joonseong Lee. In the Global Media course, Niko explains, “Understanding the international media market along with the suppliers and consumers is important when working in the Social Media/Creative/Marketing field. This allows you to study trends, be resourceful, and stay up to date with culture.” In discussing the Media Ethics course, Niko explains, “in the midst of listening to a variety of perspectives, there were times when discussions became



heated. However, I learned how to hold my tongue and both respect and acknowledge people's mindsets."

Today, Niko works for the city of San Francisco as both an emergency planner and security operations analyst. As a government employee, Niko uses his communication skills to build professional relationships with employees and implement security protocols for the city. In addition, Niko has his own media imprint "Technical Basis" where he produces film projects that reflect current pop culture (music and fashion) and his travels across the U.S. Niko attributes his accomplishments by his ability to network. For the CSUSM graduates entering the work force, Niko confidently tells them, "Network equals net worth!"

### *Jovanna Vellone, Class of 2013*

By: Beau Danan

Jovanna Vellone graduated from CSUSM in 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Media. When asked about her time on campus, she recalled Mass 324, Media Effects, with Dr. Fredi Avalos helped her become well-educated in analyzing media messages and their effects on society. Dr. Katherine Brown's Mass 303, Mass Media and Technology, provided Jovanna the background knowledge of history's effects on modern technology. Jovanna also reminisced about morning classes

with Dr. Joonseong Lee and the Communication department faculty overall saying, "They really challenged me to think before I create my arguments, I didn't appreciate it as much then as I do now."

Using her communication and media analysis skills, Jovanna works as an acquisitions editor for Kendall Hunt publishing company where she helps professors create affordable and custom education materials for their students. Jovanna shares, "My major in Mass Media helped me conduct research effectively. In the same way I have learned to analyze media messages, I analyze and work with authors to find ways of making affordable education resources." Jovanna encourages future graduates of CSUSM to "build their brands" by taking advantage of mentor opportunities, strengthening their work experiences, networking through groups on campus, social media, and local industry events. She hopes to see future graduates of CSUSM establish confidence and trust in themselves and throughout their studies. Most of all, Jovanna wishes success for the class of 2018.

### *Alana Villemez, Class of 2016*

By: Beau Danan

Alana Villemez graduated in 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. Alana has a love of both storytelling and marketing, which drives her to accelerate those skills into her job as an account

coordinator for a marketing company focused on higher education. Drawing from her experiences in COMM 426, Dialogic Communication, with Dr. Liliana Rossmann, Alana explains, "I was able to collaborate in groups and learned how to schedule priorities. This class also helped me with dialogue and conflicts in my personal life." She believes COMM 445, Communication Portfolio, with Dr. Katherine Brown attributed to her work now as she explains, "I have gained experience in writing memos and reports and also how to negotiate salaries." Currently, Alana works in higher education as an accounting coordinator for Interact Communications, a company focused on marketing two-year colleges across the nation. Alana's job has a spectrum of duties including data entry, client relations, and making newsletters, just to name a few. When asked how she applies her knowledge of communication to her work, Alana explains, "It helps to know the language you're using when making projects for a specific client." For coming CSUSM graduates, Alana encourages them to maintain a strong network. Helpful tips from Alana include "You should send thank you notes to people you do business with." Also, "Build off from your contacts so they may lead to where you want to be."

Calling all Alumni!

Are you interested in being featured in the next "Catching Up with Alumni?" If so, please email us at

[deptofcomm@csusm.edu](mailto:deptofcomm@csusm.edu) or message us on social media.

## Congratulations to Our Award-Winning Service Learning Students

By: Danielle C. Biss & Kendra Dyanne Rivera

This semester, both [Jaclyn Bailey](#) and [Stephen "Vee" Vandereb](#) fulfilled the service-learning requirement for COMM 435, Communication and Gender, with Dr. Kendra

Rivera. And both students went above and beyond course expectations for their service, and have been recognized as some of the top service learning students on our campus. Service learning is a learning tool that requires students to work with non-profit organizations outside of the classroom in order to better learn course concepts. Jaclyn and Vee demonstrated leadership in the community and in the classroom by fully integrating their learning and service.

**Jaclyn** received the Outstanding Service Learning Student Award from the Division of Community Engagement for her work as a football coach for Project LIKE and NFL Play 60, an organization offering low-income kids an opportunity to play football. Ever since she was young, sports have been her passion. Jaclyn was a competitive cheerleader for over 10 years, winning a national title with Palomar College, and at California State University Northridge, prior to attending CSUSM. This semester, she decided to take a different position on the football field: Jaclyn was the only female head coach amongst over 50 coaches in North County.

Fully incorporating concepts learned in her Communication and Gender class, Jaclyn embraced her gender (she identifies as a woman) in the male dominated environment, and conveys, “I think the only thing that differed from male coaches and myself was my nurturing tendency. I am stern on the football field but I believe (and hope) I brought a certain level of compassion to my players that they wouldn’t have found within another coach.” Jaclyn loved her service learning experience. She shares, “my love for football caught my interest but the opportunity to impact young children positively sealed the deal.” Although the class required 20 hours of service learning, Jaclyn exceeded that time commitment, serving over 70 hours in one semester. A takeaway from her service learning experience is that Jaclyn believes coaching provided the opportunity for her to step out of her comfort zone, and inspire other women to step out of theirs. She will miss her young athletes the most, especially “their little hands held high waiting for a high five after a good play, their hilarious jokes, killer celebration dances, and their unapologetic ways in which they are themselves.” Jaclyn’s dedication, courage, and outreach are what set her apart from other service learning students, and earned her this year’s Outstanding Service Learning Student Award.

**Vee’s** service learning was recognized with the Tukwut Leadership Senior Award, from Student Life and Leadership. He worked with the CSUSM HOPE and Wellness Center on a variety of programming and events throughout the semester. In particular, He personally planned, promoted, and delivered an event called “Amp Up, Just Breathe.” This educational campaign focused on the importance of holistic wellness and mindfulness by using breathing techniques. As such, Vee’s programming fit within the overarching goal of the HOPE and Wellness Center to raise awareness and reduce stigma about mental health and wellness. The event also challenged notions



*Jaclyn Bailey, head coach, with her football team*

of masculinity and mental health, demonstrating ways in which men also need time for personal reflection, breathing, and wellness.

According to Vee, “I learned a lot about stigmas and stereotypes that I was not aware of. I was able to connect what I learned in my service learning with the material that I was learning in class.” He goes on to note, “These connections made me excited and passionate in my role as a public educator.” As a veteran and a dad, Vee understands that taking a service learning course is challenging, but he insists that he loved working with the HOPE & Wellness center, because they inspired him to be part of something bigger than just himself. “I

would definitely advise people to take a service learning course,” he states. “Working in the field not only have you learned more, but it also helps you share what you learn with your community and improve our world.” Cheryl Berry, the Mental Health Educator with whom Vee worked, shared that Vee was particularly good at leading and building alliances. When asked why she nominated him



*Stephen “Vee” Vandereb, with his TLAN Award*

for the TLAN Award, she said, “Vee led and at the same time he was willing to learn from the interns who have program experience that he lacked.” She added that his “exceptional warmth, enthusiasm, and smile made it easy for him to gain access to the GEC, Pride Center, Black Student and Cross Cultural Centers in order to

engage a broad community in this event. His legacy to the campus community is his commitment to mental health promotion.” Giving back to the community and integrating course learning is what service learning is all about. Dr. Rivera is proud of Jaelyn and Vee for their leadership, engagement and service to our communities.

## Keeping Up With Communication Society

By: Yazmin Horta

Communication Society is a Communication and Mass Media based organization that focuses on networking on and off campus. Networking is our priority because we feel that it is important for students to be prepared after graduation. We have had a variety of guests in the past from social services, public relations, marketing, non-profits, who want to appeal to students so you could become part of their team in the future. Information on internship opportunities and workshops are also available and incredibly helpful especially if you're still trying to figure out what field you'd like to go into after graduation. Join us fall 2018! For more information on officer positions and about how to become a member please contact Gaby Flores at [flore248@cougars.csusm.edu](mailto:flore248@cougars.csusm.edu).



*Communication Society Officers Fundraising*

### GRADUATION INFO:

Student organizations Communication Society, Lambda Pi Eta, and the Department of Communication will host the Department of **Communication Graduation Celebration on May 17, 2018 from 4:30-7:00PM in the USU B&D.**

Commencement for all Communication and Mass Media Graduates is May 18, 2018 during the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHABSS) Commencement Ceremony in Mangrum Stadium at 9:00am. Congratulations once again to our Communication and Mass Media 2018 graduates!

### CALLING COMM & MEDIA MAJORS!

Looking for an internship opportunity in Fall 2018? Want to conceive, develop content, and monitor social media platforms? Strengthen your written and oral communication? Work closely with department faculty?

#### **Intern for the Department of Communication!**

Check out information on the internship database <http://www.csusm.edu/community/internships/student/index.html>. To apply, submit a cover letter and resume to Dr. Holling at [mholling@csusm.edu](mailto:mholling@csusm.edu)



## Lambda Pi Eta

By: Danielle C. Biss, Co-President

As the official honor society of the Department of Communication and National Communication Association, Lambda Pi Eta (LPE) is proud to be going strong. Our name embodies Aristotle's components of rhetorical persuasion: logos (Lambda), pathos (Pi), and ethos (Eta). This is representative of the organization's goal to elevate student learning by encouraging interest in Communication. Through their involvement, students are encouraged to elevate that interest to graduate, as well as professional levels. Our mission is to stimulate further interest in Communication and foster achievement within the field of Communication.

This year we recruited 40+ new members! With so many new faces, we are excited to engage with one another and cultivate new relationships. Our student members maintain a cumulative GPA of a 3.0 or higher, and a GPA of 3.25 within their Communication or Media major. We will begin collecting applications next fall.



*Lambda Pi Eta Members AY 2017-2018*

In the coming weeks, we will induct our new members at the Department of Communication Graduation Celebration. Being inducted to Lambda Pi Eta is a prestigious honor. The induction will take place on May 17, 2018. We are looking forward to seeing you all there! Congratulations, once again to all of our LPE Graduates! We wish you success in your future!

## Faculty Accomplishments

### *Published Scholarship or Creative Works*

**Dr. Katherine Brown** – She published the article “LCHC: the evolution of a hybrid collaborator” in *Digital Technology, Culture and Society*. This article may be found at <https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/zzvK9ycs2T4ZZuYjSslz/full>

**Dr. Brian Dolber** -- He, alongside co-author Dr. Andrew O'Baoill at the National University of Ireland, Galway, published the article “Pressing Pause: Critical Reflections from the History of Media Studies” in *triple-C: Communication, Capitalism & Critique*. The article examines the history of the fraught relationship between the fields of media and journalism studies and the media industries in the US and UK contexts, and argues that a historical, political economic orientation demonstrates that media studies faculty and students are subject to many of the same institutional pressures, providing fertile ground for new pedagogical approaches. The article may be found at <https://doi.org/10.31269/triplec.v16i1.927>

**Dr. Cecilia Uy-Tioco** -- She received a \$6000 Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (RSCA) grant from CSUSM's Office of Graduate Studies and Research) for AY 2018-19 to work on her co-edited book *Mobile Media and Asian Social Intimacies* (anticipated release Spring 2019).

### *Conferences and Campus presentations*

**Dr. Dreama Moon** -- She served as a panelist for the TESS Talks event: “Times Up and Me Too in Higher Education,” at CSUSM with the American Council on Education (ACE) Women's Network, April 23, 2018.

She also presented “Sharing (Inequitable) Burdens: Intersectional Emotional Labor in Institutional Spaces” at the University Leadership Conference on April 27, 2018.

## Conferences and Campus presentations, cont'd

**Dr. Cecilia Uy-Tioco** -- She will present a paper entitled: "Gradations of Access: Mobile Phones and the Digital Divide in the Philippines" at the International Communication Association (ICA) conference in Prague, Czech Republic, May 24-28, 2018.

## Professional Service

**Dr. Antonio De La Garza** -- He was nominated for Advisor of the year by the Associated Students Inc. Although not winning the title, he was proud to be one of two people nominated.

**Dr. Michelle A. Holling** completed her term as President of the Western States Communication Association. Her presidential address is published in the *Western Journal of Communication* with video on her faculty page.

## Congratulations to the Class of 2018!

### Communication Majors

Andrea Kelly Abbott  
 Gale Donovan Abille  
 Louis F. Adamsel\*\*  
 Nasser Alzowaid  
 Alexis T. Anaya  
 Daejah Ha'anne Anderson  
 Taylor Chanel Andrade  
 Blanca Esthela Anguiano  
 Meg Mercado Arcinue  
 Emily Gabriela Arias Perez  
 Courtney Elizabeth Arnold  
 Chase Ryon Babajko  
 Ashle Janee Baker  
 Brenda Y. Barniga  
 Dane Joseph Barry  
 Monique N. Barthes  
 Sabrina Kaylah Belknap  
 Marisa Audriana Benavides-Claudio  
 Naomi Benitez  
 Aaron Bernard Berkowitz  
 Danielle Caprice Biss  
 Julia Del Pilar Bowen  
 Shayd Marie Bowers  
 Kyle Ian Brown  
 Jalen Ranier Brown  
 Andrea Nicole Carlisi  
 Brizeida Xiomara Castaneda  
 Luis Alfredo Castaneda Saavedra  
 Ian Alexander Caster\*  
 Alexandria Catherine Cernuto\*  
 Regitta Jasmine Chairul  
 Anisa Rebecca Chaudry

Dylan Christopher Chavez  
 Jeana M. Christianson  
 Jake William Collins  
 Alondra Krystal Colon  
 Sarah Lauren Connolly  
 Kody Neil Cowell  
 Cheryl Alison Davis  
 Logan James Jeary Dearborn  
 Peter Edwin Delacruz  
 Dakota Patricia DeLuca  
 Paul Emmanuel B. Diaz  
 Brooke Taylor Dischler  
 Allyson Cathleen Donovan  
 Kathryn Elizabeth Doria  
 Kathleen Nita Douangsanith  
 Emily Kristine Doughty  
 Chris Durso  
 Bub Vidal Elliot  
 Haley S. Embry  
 Megan Nicole Escobar  
 Clara Feria  
 Christina Nicole Fleming\*  
 Bryana Elaine Garcia  
 Edgar Garcia  
 Evan Michael Gaspari  
 Amelia Grace Genaway  
 Shervin Ghannadian  
 Nancy Janet Gomez  
 Jaime Moises Gomez  
 Chloe Grogan\*  
 Victoria Maryam Hakamian  
 Simone M. Hamilton Ruffin\*  
 Erin Marie Hanley  
 Timothy James Harrington

Tyler W. Hartford  
 Keith Alan Hassett  
 Amy Marie Hayashi  
 Kylie Hayes  
 Antonette L. Herndon  
 Janie Alexandra Heyer  
 Devin Joy Highland  
 Yazmin Beatriz Horta  
 Collin Lee Host  
 Jesse Iniguez Gil  
 Dalton Blane Iwasaki  
 Russell Alan Jackson  
 Ashley M. Jenkins  
 Elise Jorgensen  
 Haley Marie Joslin  
 Colin Taylor Joy  
 Alyssa Jane Kalacas\*  
 Miranda Annelise Kalman  
 Cory D. Kay\*  
 Tyler Westin-Sinoeh Keck  
 Josh Leo Kedzior  
 Michelina Beth Kelley  
 Samantha Catherine Kimberlin  
 Olivia Noelle Kincaid  
 Ryan Michael Kincaid  
 Sidney Elizabeth Knudsen  
 Kylie Alexandra Kugler\*  
 Elizabeth Adelaide Lantz  
 Joshua Patrick Larr  
 Chelsea Rena Lawrence  
 Jaime Ceasar Lazcano  
 Emmett Jesse Lichtenberg  
 Satchel S. Lieberman  
 Tanner James Long

Henry A. Lopez  
 Aundrea M. Lopez  
 Julieta Agustina Lopez-Ozores  
 Kathleen Ruth Love  
 Brett Layman Maack\*  
 Riley Michael Manquen  
 Samuel Caylin Mason  
 Lindsay Marie McClure  
 Tara Leah McKinnon  
 Marissa Ann McShane  
 Nathan David Menard  
 Marissa Ann Messina  
 Robert Gordon Miller  
 Ashleigh L. Mitchell  
 Miguel Angel Mondragon  
 Jocelin Monge  
 Tiffany Nichole Montoya  
 Marilyn Moreno  
 James Ludwig Nash\*  
 Ashley Kaitlyn Nelson  
 Ashley A. Nelson  
 Virginia Anne Netwig  
 Denise Thuy Vy Nguyen  
 Joshua A. Noz\*  
 Vilde E. S. Nyseth\*  
 Nicole Louise Olson  
 Stephanie Mae Omelich  
 Christopher Alexandre Orbe  
 Ashley Ortega  
 Bradley Keith Perkett  
 Allison Linda Perlin  
 Blake Seigi Peterson  
 Allison Leigh Piccione  
 Katrina Fernando Pineda  
 Nicolas Joseph Pollino  
 Madeline Rae Proctor  
 Christopher Steven Pulse  
 Adam Tyler Quigley  
 Logan Lee Randolph  
 Sarah Paul Rasmussen  
 Katelynn Rose Rentner\*  
 Aaron M. Rivera  
 Hailey Michelle Rosen  
 Heather Nicole Row  
 Brianna N. Ruddle  
 Andrew Xavier Rumps  
 Erika Lyn Salazar  
 Bernadette Cruz San Diego\*  
 Robert Adam Save'  
 Jamie Nicole Schaefer  
 Shane William Siemsen  
 Keenan Van Skelton  
 Susannah Irene Slater\*  
 Timothy O'neal Smart

Timothy O'neal Smart  
 Brett Alan Smith  
 Carmen O'Licia Smith  
 Jadan Patrick Smithers  
 Erica Soria  
 Tyler J. Steffe  
 Victoria Lena Steffen  
 Stephanie L. Strand\*  
 Kyle Norrgard Stroud\*  
 Jessica Agnes Tabor  
 Jeffrey Joseph Targgart  
 Tyletha Shatoria Tate  
 Julia Dela Luz Tenchavez  
 Leikyn Ryanne Toledo  
 Jeremy Scott Townsend  
 Ronald Scott Tranbarger  
 Kristen A. Troutman  
 Julia Irene Tunnell  
 Victoria Vazquez  
 Alicia Vicencio  
 John Jacob Virissimo  
 Abigail Vivas-Orozco  
 Lauren Elizabeth Walker  
 Sarapia J. Walker  
 Suzanne Marie Ward\*  
 Samuel Taylor Warren\*  
 Garrett Roddy Weathers\*  
 Candice G. Westby  
 Alex Michael Wick  
 Aaron Ethan Russell Wofford  
 Keani K. Wolfe  
 Kyle Timothy Womack  
 Michael Anthony Wood  
 Jonathan Michael Wood  
 Kaylei Elizabeth Wright-Hogan  
 Casey Rae Young\*  
 Jenise C. Young

#### *Mass Media Majors*

Katherine E. Agner  
 Angeleck Diane Allen  
 Josue Avalos  
 Christopher Ryan Buettner  
 Kelley Marie Cantos  
 Zion Jospeh Cisneros\*  
 Mackenzie Taylor Clark  
 Cody James Cook  
 John Robert Cooley  
 Sarah Elizabeth Dickey  
 Kyra Tyler Doone\*  
 Kevin Jay A. Fernandez  
 Cassandra Marie Gannon  
 Una Valgerdur Gisladdottir

Ana E. Gomez  
 Troy Hermosillo  
 Micaela Josefina Johansson  
 Yoshinori Kondoh  
 Kevin Mel Kreger  
 Bradley J. Kremer  
 Thilana Louise Lamy  
 Jason Van Luu  
 Hayley Kristin Marsch  
 Vanessa Meraz  
 Erika Miura\*  
 Rebecca Michelle Nieto  
 Alexis Shaniece Rendon  
 Kailyn Mae Stahl\*  
 Jay Vidal  
 Allison Jane Ward  
 Brianna Renee Williams\*  
 Jessica A. Yochem

#### *Communication Minors*

Jose De Jesus Decena  
 Melissa Flores  
 Valerie Eva Gorbushin  
 Micaela Josefina Johansson  
 Kevin Mel Kreger  
 Terra LeeAnn McGinnis  
 Tailor R. McKay  
 Victoria Ursula McNeill  
 Noraliza Morales  
 Naomi Anne Nguyen  
 David Ortuno  
 Jackson F. Rodewald  
 Nathan Daniel Serrato  
 Amelia Ann Smith  
 Karneshia Rashaun Taylor  
 Christina Trujillo

#### *\*2018 Undergraduate Academic Honors*

**\*\* Recipient of the CHABSS Academic Achievement in Activism and Community Engagement Award**

Happy summer break, everyone!  
 Until the next issue...

If you're interested in  
 contributing to the coming  
 newsletter, please contact Dr.  
 Michelle Holling at  
[mholling@csusm.edu](mailto:mholling@csusm.edu)