

# A&S NEWSLETTER



## Greetings, friends!

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This March already marks two years since we moved online due to the ongoing pandemic. Although many of us are back and teaching our classes on campus (and have gotten to see the top half of our colleagues' faces), reestablishing connections with each other has taken some time. In an effort to help bridge that divide, Dean Kohli asked me to serve as editor for the Arts and Sciences newsletter. This is our first forum in an effort to **keep each other updated** on our accomplishments, media appearances, campus events, and interesting things going on with our students!

This edition of the newsletter reports what we've pieced together through email forwards and by word of mouth, but we know there's more out there! Please bookmark [this link](#) and keep us posted on anything you'd like to share, providing updates by **May 1** for the next A&S newsletter.

We look forward to hearing from you!

- Katie Elder (Assistant Professor, Health Communication)

## Faculty Publications and Achievements

- Antonio Jiménez Jiménez (Spanish) published a textbook, Introducción a la traducción (Introduction to Translation), that was **ranked number 1** in its category (translating reference) for its digital edition
- Rudolf von May (Biology) co-authored a paper published in Science Advances about interdisciplinary work that promotes the creation of new protected areas in the Amazon
- Geoffrey Buhl (Mathematics) was appointed to the President's Advisory Council on Inclusive Excellence
- Ahmed Awad (Chemistry) was awarded \$293,190 from the Parker Hannifin Corporation to support a project entitled "Redox-active Materials Synthesis and pH Measurements"
- Emily Fairfax (Environmental Science & Resource Management) was awarded \$18,000 from Ackerstein Sustainability to support a project entitled "Remote Sensing to Identify Beaver Dams in Priority Areas in Newfoundland and Labrador"
- Ahmed Awad (Chemistry) was awarded a \$1,500 CSUPERB COVID-19 Research Recovery Microgrant Program grant to support a project entitled "Design and Synthesis of Novel Nucleoside Analogues as Potent Antibacterial and Anticancer Agents"



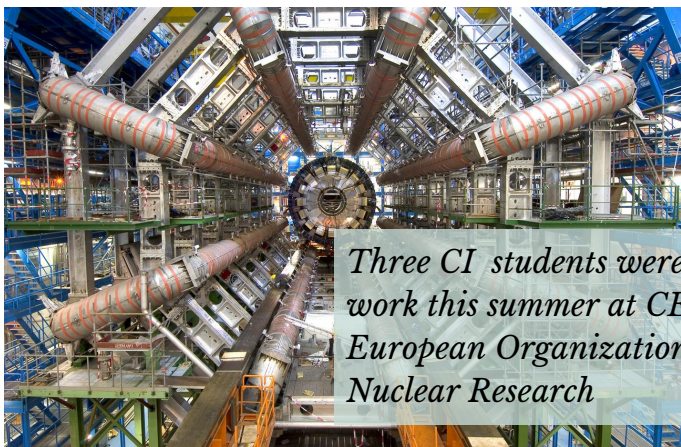
## Faculty in the Media

- Matthew Campbell (Psychology) appeared on "CBS Sunday Morning News" to discuss the science of yawning
- Jason Isaacs (Computer Science) was quoted in The Washington Post about a Pentagon-sponsored robotics competition (in which the team won \$250,000)
- Frank Barajas (History) was interviewed about his book, "Mexican Americans with Moxie," in the Los Angeles Times
- Lydia Dixon (Health Sciences) and Katie Elder (Communication) published an op-ed in the Ventura County Star about their current student-focused research

"We're kind of a small, scrappy team, but that's part of the fun in doing this. This is showing my undergrad students... how the big boys play in the top grad schools in robotics in the world. And you can do it, too."

- Jason Isaacs (Computer Science) in The Washington Post

## Student Activities



*Three CI students were selected to work this summer at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research*

- Student-led publication in *In Silico Pharmacology* (Ahmed Awad, Chemistry)
- Student-led publication in *Medicinal Chemistry Research* - two authors are now PhD students at two UC campuses, two others are in medical school, one attends physician assistant school, and others are working in industry (Ahmed Awad, Chemistry)
- Three students have been selected to travel to/work at CERN this summer, funded by NSF (Geoff Dougherty, Physics)

## Meet the MAR

### Trina Darakjy, Manager of Academic Resources

Trina Darakjy is the new Manager of Academic Resources (MAR) for the School of Arts & Sciences. She comes from our sister campus, CSU Northridge, where she worked for over 25 years. Most recently she worked in the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media & Communication. Her experiences include serving as interim MAR. Trina has managed budgets and budget reporting, as well as training and supervision of department staff. Trina holds a BS in Business Administration from Purdue University, Magna Cum Laude, and hopes to continue her education in a master's program. Trina wants to share that she is a Mexican American, and her ancestry includes the Native American Gabrielino-Tongva tribe. She has been married for 18 years, has two daughters, and enjoys event planning, traveling, attending music events, and doing anything creative. Please join us in extending Trina a warm Arts and Sciences welcome!

*Stay tuned to meet new A&S staff in future newsletters!*

## From the Dean's Desk

Hello everyone. I hope you enjoy this issue of the Arts and Sciences newsletter. I want to thank Dr. Katie Elder, Assistant Professor in Communication, for agreeing to serve as the editor, and I hope that you will continue to send information items to her for the next issue to be released in May. As most of you know, my most enduring joy as Dean is the pleasure of getting to showcase the accomplishments of Arts and Sciences faculty, staff, and students. This newsletter is one way to disseminate that information to a wide audience, both within and outside of our school. The newsletter also provides a way for all of us to stay connected. We want to use this venue to introduce new staff and faculty, to celebrate promotions, to provide useful information, and to share some light intellectual 'did you know' factoids. Katie and I have lots of plans for bringing guest editors and publishing issues of special interest (think: an issue with an exclusive focus on students). For now, we are just excited to bring you this first edition! Enjoy, and let us know how we can make this newsletter relevant and meaningful to YOU!

# Faculty Excellence Awards, 2020-2021

## *Excellence in Teaching*

**Mary Woo (ESRM).** "Dr. Woo demonstrated an outstanding commitment to community engagement with her classes. For example, she takes students on field trips to allow them to apply what they learn, a practice she adapted and continued even in the remote environment of the past year. Her nomination was submitted by five ESRM faculty, who all spoke to her value to the department and their students."

## *Excellence in Service*

**Safa Khan (Chemistry).** "Dr. Khan's CV and letters of recommendation detail her many efforts of great value to the community, such as creating over 3,000 face shields during the COVID-19 pandemic, creating an online database of science experiments for K-8th graders, and creating online labs to increase student access. We were very impressed with her commitment to service-learning and making contributions to her community."

## *Excellence in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities*

**Emily Fairfax (ESRM).** "Dr. Fairfax's research has received national recognition for her work on the relationship between beavers, wildfire, and climate adaptation. Her recent publication titled "Smokey the Beaver" generated large-scale interest from the scientific community, land management practitioners, and the general public. She has been invited to speak about this research twenty-three times since the beginning of 2020, to academic audiences, news publications, and national and local organizations such as the US Forest Service and NOAA."

## *Inclusive Excellence*

**Jennie Luna (Chicana/o Studies).** "Dr. Luna has shown a consistent commitment to inclusive excellence through her work with task forces, committees, programs, and initiatives focused on Chicana/o/x Latina/o/x students and faculty across campus. Her work in these areas is impressive, as are the impacts. A few of her notable achievements include her work with the Ethnic Studies Task Force; the Sí Se Pudo Raza Graduation Celebration; the Michele Serros Endowment, exhibit, and living learning community; and a wide array of student initiatives."

## *Excellence in Mentoring Faculty*

**Christy Teranishi-Martinez (Psychology).** "Dr. Teranishi-Martinez embodies the spirit of mentorship through her work at CSUCI. She was co-Director of the Faculty Mentorship Program, she has led Faculty Inquiry Project groups related to work-life balance and mindfulness, and she has mentored students in a variety of high-impact ways. This award recognizes her ongoing accomplishments in this area."



# Spotlight on Research Seed Grants

Dr. Baker's "Disappearing West Oakland" creative research project will produce a video essay—flash fiction short story or prose poem—related to the **gentrification of West Oakland**. Dr. Baker's A&S Spotlight on Research Seed Grant will allow her to travel to West Oakland so that she can collect stories from interviews of residents and locate images and data from area archives to be used in the creative video. The project is part of her larger book proposal on speculative fiction and race by comparing and contrasting two port cities: Cape Town, South Africa; and Oakland, California.

Dr. Nam's research examines the **experiences of international faculty** and how they "adjust and navigate the system, culture, and ideologies of US colleges and universities." Dr. Nam's A&S Spotlight on Research Seed Grant will allow her to transcribe interviews that she has conducted of 47 international faculty members from 14 different institutions. She will use the transcribed interviews as research data for a publication that examines the experiences of international faculty members.

Dr. Parmar examines how **diet can affect mutations** and changes in DNA that can lead to cancer. Dr. Parmar's A&S Spotlight on Research Seed Grant will allow her to enroll in a course on Ayurgenomics/Ayurvedic Herbology. Ayurgenomics combines the ancient Indian medical science of Ayurveda with nutritional genomics to study how "Ayurvedic principles can be utilized to make the human genome stronger." This will be a new line of research for Dr. Parmar that compliments her study of diet and cancer biology.

Dr. Soenke researches the "role of close relationships in achieving meaning in the face of existential threats" as part of her research on Terror Management Theory. She is particularly interested in examining how one's **religious beliefs influence their levels of meaning** in life. Dr. Soenke's A&S Spotlight on Research Seed Grant will allow her to establish a contract with CloudResearch for the recruitment of volunteers and subsequent data collection through Qualtrics.

This Spotlight on Research initiative has the goal of increasing the visibility of faculty scholarly and creative activities, stimulating ongoing and future faculty scholarly and creative projects, and encouraging cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary collaborations centered around scholarly and creative activities. Recipients of a Spotlight on Research Seed Grant will receive a \$500 seed grant that can be used during the summer or the subsequent academic year. Applications for an 2022-23 Spotlight on Research Seed Grant will be open through April 1, 2022.



## Test your knowledge about my field!

The New England vampire panic in the 19th century was a mass hysteria associated with a disease that claimed entire families before it was understood how infectious diseases spread. *What is this disease*, responsible for what some New Englanders considered to be vampire-like symptoms, including weight loss, ashen skin, and coughing up blood?

Answer and explanation [here](#). Submitted by Katie Elder (Health Communication). Come chat with me any time about misinformation about and the politics of health and disease.

Do you have a fun fact to share? Be sure to [send it along!](#)