

# A&S NEWSLETTER



## CONTENTS

---

*Faculty Excellence Awards 22-23*  
*Spotlight on Research Seed Grants*  
*23-24*  
*Dean's Award for Collaborative*  
*Achievement*  
*Faculty Awards & Honors*  
*Student Achievements*  
*Select Faculty Publications*  
*Select Faculty Conference Activity*  
*Announcements*  
*Media Spotlight*  
*Upcoming Events*  
*Community and Service Learning*  
*Highlights*

---

## Dean's Welcome

Hello faculty, staff, students, and community partners. Welcome to Fall 2023 and the beginning of the new academic year. I want to start the year by thanking Dr. Phil Hampton, Associate Dean, for providing continuous coverage to the school for the two weeks I was away in India. Phil presided over the Welcome Back event in August and awarded the Faculty Excellence, Collaborative Achievement, and Spotlight on Research Awards! We were able to fund thirteen faculty excellence awards this year thanks to the IDC we received from faculty grants! Much gratitude goes to the selection committee members - Caryl Ann Becerra, Katie Elder, Stacey Anderson, Rachel Soper, Raquel Baker, Melissa Soenke, and José Castro-Sotomayor - for volunteering their time to review proposals and select awardees. This newsletter provides more details on each recipient's achievements.

As always, in this newsletter we have included a small subset of faculty publications, conference and media presentations, and community engaged service activities to keep everyone informed. Even a cursory glance through this newsletter is sufficient to evoke a real sense of pride for Arts & Sciences as the center of intellectual activity, which is recognized internally as well as by organizations outside of CSUCI. Just take a look at the Honors page and you'll see what I mean! Here you will also read about our students - they have completed post-baccalaureate degrees, coauthored scholarly journal articles, and championed grants and research projects - and by doing so have reminded us all that the daily work we do at CI centers on achieving excellence for students and their future. I hope you'll enjoy this Summer '23 edition and [keep sending news items](#) to our fantastic editor, Katie Elder.

# Faculty Excellence Awards 2022-2023

## Excellence in Teaching

**Tom Clobes** (Assistant Professor, Health Science) is dedicated to the scholarly and professional growth of Health Science students, both inside and outside the classroom. He coordinates mental health and wellness retreats as well as Healthcare Leadership Symposia that connect students to real-world experiences in the field.

**Jasmine Delgado's** (Associate Professor, Art) versatility and commitment as an artist-teacher are demonstrated in the classroom, the studio, the gallery, and the community of Art students she nurtures and sustains. She has been instrumental in advising efforts that empower Art students to pursue their academic and professional goals and in developing innovative curricula.

## Excellence in Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities

**Ahmed Awad** (Associate Professor, Chemistry) has published numerous articles with 28 different undergraduate students in journals with high impact factors. His many contributions to the study of pancreatic cancer demonstrates his efforts to incorporate undergraduate students in his work.

**Lydia Dixon's** (Associate Professor, Health Science) scholarship largely draws from her decades-long research focusing on midwifery in Mexico. Her work has provided greater insight into a community and helped to determine how lives can be improved.

**Cynthia Flores** (Associate Professor, Math) has published several articles in high impact journals, in addition to three publications with student co-authors. She also has an extensive history of research collaborations with other CI faculty, evidenced by her involvement in a number of successful grant applications.

## Excellence in Service

**Nancy Deans** (Lecturer, Chemistry) is recognized for her exceptional service to the CI campus as a Lecturer Representative, Senator and member of the Executive Board, faculty advisor for the Chemistry Department, member of the President's Planning and Policy Council, Faculty Development Committee, and Faculty Affairs Committee. She has been a tireless advocate for faculty interests as the Faculty Rights Chair for the CI Chapter of the CFA.

## Inclusive Excellence

**Tiina Itkonen** (Professor, Education & Political Science) has been an advocate for disability inclusion on campus and recently championed many initiatives such as the timely adoption of instructional materials, an accommodations portal, and accessibility/inclusivity protocols with the CIA and CCE.

## Excellence in Mentoring Faculty Colleagues

**Dennis Downey** (Sociology) mentors new Sociology tenure-track and lecture faculty, and encourages them to apply for campus opportunities. He is known to go above and beyond to guide and support faculty at all levels as they navigate their careers at CI.



Left: Faculty Excellence Awardees. Right: Catherine Burriss and Gareth Harris.

## Spotlight on Research Seed Grants 2023-2024

**Catherine Burriss'** (Performing Arts) seed grant will support the development of a solo performance, currently titled "Watchmen and Whiteness," which explores what is left out of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. This project uses an analytical lens and embodied storytelling to reflect on her family history and journey into anti-racism, and to interrogate inequitable legacies of whiteness, patriarchy, and power.

**Karina Chavarria's** (Sociology) seed grant examines the challenges and opportunities low-income Oxnard youth encounter as they transition into adulthood. This mixed-method, community-engaged study investigates the social conditions shaping the educational trajectories and employment prospects of Oxnard's youth, with a focus on those whose families work in agriculture and other low-wage industries.

**Gareth Harris'** (Biology) research examines mood disorders and uses the worm, *C. elegans*, to investigate the effects of serotonin on behavior. The aim of his work is to further characterize these behavioral differences across both species and sex of the worm, and to understand how known serotonin targeting drugs used to treat depression may differ dependent on sex and species of the worm.

**Rachael Jordan's** (English) seed grant will help support research that addresses a gap in technical communication scholarship around Terms of Services, Community Guidelines, and sexual content moderation. She addresses how we (mis)understand and (mis)use ethical frameworks for upholding Terms of Service and Community Guidelines in online social media spaces through moderating "sexual content" and what impacts that has on the inclusion/exclusion of hypermarginalized communities.

## Dean's Award for Collaborative Achievement - Math Department's Building Student Success

The Mathematics Department is being recognized with the Dean's Award for Collaborative Achievement for its extensive efforts in building student success. In particular, the department is recognized for developing faculty to implement culturally-relevant pedagogy in lower-division math courses. This work was started under Project ACESSO and continued under Project AYUDAS, both Title III Hispanic-Serving Institution STEM grants from the U.S. Department of Education. These grants have not only built faculty knowledge of culturally-relevant pedagogy at CSUCI, but also in the math departments at our regional community college partners.

The Mathematics Department is also to be acknowledged for work with the Provost's Office and the Learning Resource Center to ensure that there are Embedded Peer Educators (EPEs) in each first year math course, along with professional development training for mathematics instructors on how to utilize the EPEs in their classrooms.

In addition to this work, Dean Kohli recognizes their work on numerous other creative initiatives, including:

- Mind Minds, a project that helps foster self-belief and self-efficacy among first year math students in need of additional support
- Mind the Gap Mondays, a project that is designed to support students in Calculus 1 courses and to address learning loss among students due to the pandemic
- Early Success Modules in Calculus 1, Pre-Calculus, and Introductory Statistics, which are Canvas modules used to gauge student engagement
- Coordinated First Year Math, a project that ensures a common educational experience across all sections to better support student and instructors



## Faculty Awards & Honors



*Maricela Becerra Garcia (Spanish), Caryl Ann Becerra (Biology), and Hanni Jalil (History) won the campus Exceptional Service to Students Award*

- Shanté Morgan (Communication and University Studies) was the recipient of the Claremont Graduate University Dissertation Award 2023-2024 for her dissertation: “In Search of Empowerment: The Genealogical Roots of Womanism.”
- Luis Sánchez (Sociology) was selected as Faculty Speaker for CI’s New Student Convocation held on August 25.
- LaSonya Davis (Nursing) was awarded the Excellence in Scholarship Award from Western University of Health Sciences.
- Britnee Veldman (Chemistry) received the 2023 Ventura County Office of Education Impact II Award, “COVID-19: Coping and Resiliency,” with Danna Lomax (Education) and Tess Potchen (Los Primeros).
- Rachael Jordan (English) received the Hayhoe Fellow Award at IEEE ProComm 2023.
- Ariel Vaughn (Chemistry) received a project AYUDAS grant to redesign the first semester of general chemistry. Ariel was also accepted into the CSU AGEP as an Early Career Faculty Member, and was one of 20 accepted nationwide to participate in the Linton-Poodry SACNAS Leadership Institute.
- Cynthia Flores (Math) is an invited speaker at an upcoming conference at the Institute for Computational and Experimental Research in Mathematics.



## Student Achievements

- *Note: We neglected to include the 2023 Anthropology Honors awardees in our last newsletter! They are Cecilia Alonso and Kayla Doornbos.*
- Eli Lew presented a poster at the Southern California Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Conference in April.
- Trent Ruiz (Physics) received the President’s Innovation Award. Trent is also PI and student lead on the NASA Undergraduate Research Challenge, competing against four other universities.
- Max Roberts (Sociology, 2015) received his PhD in Sociology at Utah State University and recently won a Best Practices Presentation Award at the Association of Traffic Safety Information Professionals Traffic Record Forum.
- Three recent Spanish program graduates (Erika Casillas ‘22, Estela Terra ‘22, and Isabel Palomera ‘21) were awarded their master’s degree in Spanish from Middlebury College - recently named the top college in the U.S. for language learning by FluentU.
- Kylee George, Israel Perez-Pena, Natalie Leon, and Elizabeth Rodriguez had abstracts accepted at SACNAS.
- Psychology students Alexis Hermosillo and Alexander Arviso presented twice this spring, at the 48th Social Science Student Symposium and the 15th CSUCI Student Research Conference.
- Three Communication students (pictured left), Kayla Gerardo, Sophia Banuelos, and Sarah Cortez, participated in a SASEI-sponsored summer research project, creating podcasts on “First Generation Professionals.”

# Select Faculty Publications

## Journal Articles

- Tom Clobes (Health Science) co-authored “Young Latina college students’ perspectives on mask-wearing post lifting of mask mandates,” published in *Qualitative Research in Medicine and Healthcare*
- José Luis Collazo Jr. (Sociology) co-authored “Mi familia quiere que regrese: Retired Latine immigrants’ families’ expectations to return to their country of origin,” published in *The International Journal of Aging and Human Development*
- José Castro-Sotomayor (Communication) co-authored “Contributions to the pluriverse from indigenous women professors of intercultural universities,” published in *Globalizations*. He also co-authored “Toward critical reflexivity through critical intercultural communication pedagogy: Student discourse in an intercultural conflict course,” published in *Western Journal of Communication*
- Rachael Jordan (English) published “Online access: Grant writing as reciprocal service-learning at a Hispanic-Serving Institution” in *Open Words: Access and English Studies*
- Kevin Kayakawa (Physics) co-authored “Debris rings from extrasolar irregular satellites,” published in *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*
- Isaac Quintanilla Salinas (Math) co-authored “Challenges and Successes of Emergency Online Teaching in Statistics Courses,” published in *Journal of Statistics and Data Science Education*
- Scott Feister (Computer Science) co-authored “Control systems and data management for high-power laser facilities,” published in *High Power Laser Science and Engineering*

Kevin Volkan (Psychology) published *How the Mind Works: Cases and Concepts in Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy*

### HOW THE MIND WORKS



Concepts and Cases in  
Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy

KEVIN VOLKAN and VAMIK VOLKAN



## Edited Books

- Irina Costache (Art History) co-edited *Historical Narratives of Global Modern Art*
- Oliver Boyd-Barrett (Communication) co-edited *RussiaGate Revisited: Aftermath of a Hoax*

## Select Faculty Publications cont'd

### Book Chapters and Conference Proceedings

- Lydia Dixon (Health Science) co-authored “On risk and responsibility: Contextualizing practice among Mexican obstetricians” in *Cognition, Risk, and Responsibility in Obstetrics: Anthropological Analyses and Critiques of Obstetricians' Practices*
- Georgia Guzmán (English) authored “Sandra Cisneros: Rebel mentor for generations of hijas de la mala vida with a social consciousness” in *Chicana Portraits: Critical Autobiographies of Twelve Chicana Writers*
- José Castro-Sotomayor co-authored “Ecocultural identity and media” in *Routledge Handbook of Ecomedia Studies* and “Cultivating postdevelopment from pluriversal transitions and radical spaces of engagement” in *Challenging Global Development: Towards Decoloniality and Justice*
- Cynthia Wyels (Math) authored “Reach as you climb: Searching for meaning and purpose in academia” in *Aspiring and Inspiring: Tenure and Leadership in Academic Mathematics*, and co-authored “Creating a counterculture: The CSU Channel Islands Mathematics REU” in *Expanding Undergraduate Research in Mathematics: Making UR More Inclusive*
- Tom Clobes (Health Science) co-authored “Artificial intelligence for accessibility and inclusion” in *Era of Artificial Intelligence*
- Rachael Jordan (English) published “Shifting dynamics in online work: A pilot analysis of ‘sexual content’ in terms of service” in proceedings of the annual IEEE ProComm Conference

## Select Faculty Conference Activity

- Rachael Jordan (English) presented “Hybrid Concealment & Safety: Digital Sex Work Guides” at the Computers & Writing Annual Conference at UC Davis (June), and “‘Queer Use’ & Terms of Service: Queer Potential in Technical and Professional Communication” at the Association of Teachers of Technical Writing Annual Conference (June).
- Rachel Soper (Sociology) presented “From the Mexican Countryside to the California Coast: What Immigrant Latino Farmers Think of Organic” at the Rural Sociological Society conference in Vermont (August).
- Rainer Buschmann (History) will present “The Anthropology of ‘Colonial Hoarding’: History, Repatriation, and the Future of Colonial Institutions” at the American Anthropological Association Meeting in Toronto (November).
- Francisco Magdaleno (Psychology) presented “Vocal Functional Flexibility in a Vocal Learning Species” at the Western Psychological Association Conference, and led a workshop called “Increasing Video Competency Among Educators” at the Collaborative International Learning Conference.
- Tiina Itkonen (Education and Political Science) co-presented “Higher Education Students with Disabilities: An Organizational Analysis” at the American Political Science Association conference in Los Angeles (August), “The Effect of Translator Use in Special Education Hearing Outcomes” at the American Educational Research Association in Chicago (April), and “Coming Together and Moving Beyond: Magnifying the ‘Silent A’ in DEI” at the Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity in Honolulu (March).

# Announcements

- Francisco Magdaleno (Psychology) created a website released this summer that provides training for educators who wish to enhance their video editing skills.
- Luis Sánchez (Sociology) is partnering with the UC Davis Center for Poverty & Inequality's Doctoral Diversity Initiative to promote UC Davis social science graduate school opportunities for CSU students.
- To support a NASA grant, check out the "Cracking the Secrets of Math Podcast!" (Cynthia Flores, Math)
- Tiina Itkonen (Education & Political Science) is serving as guest editor on a special issue of the Nordic Studies of Education Policy on "The inclusion of historically underrepresented students in higher education." She is also an editorial board member of the Journal of Disability Policy Studies.
- The Italian translation of Alison Perchuk's (Art) recent book has been published: *Il monastero medievale di Sant'Elia: una storia in pittura e pietra*.
- Scott Feister (Computer Science) is working with students to develop a CSUCI Artificial Intelligence Club to explore AI's impacts, host discussions, and conduct workshops to educate students on how to harness AI as a tool.

LAUSD (in collaboration with the Anthropology Program) has donated a set of Miocene age (8.6 million years) marine fossils to the campus, as well as \$25,000. The fossils are still embedded in dolomite. Contact Colleen Delaney if you are interested in using the materials in classes!

## Media Spotlight

Colleen Delaney (Anthropology) appeared in several local news outlets this summer to discuss her recent book: *Rancho Guadaluca: Last Ranch of California's Central Coast*. This includes an article in the *Ventura County Star* and appearances on the KCLU and KZSB radio stations.



## Upcoming Events



- The Plot-a-Thon Data Visualization Festival aims to boost students' confidence in data literacy, expand their skills in plotting and visualizing data, and introduce them to ways professionals use data visualizations. The competition will be held in February, and students can RSVP for events here.
- An exhibit about "Rancho Guadaluca" will run in the Broome Library until December 15 (Colleen Delaney, Anthropology).

## Community and Service Learning Highlights

José Castro-Sotomayor (Communication) is engaged in two projects: 1) Youth climate activism, in collaboration with Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas and its Environmental Voices Academic, and 2) Ecocultural Pedagogy: Fostering ecocultural regenerative practices in high school students, in collaboration with the Farm-to-School Program of the Oxnard Union High School District.

Chris Scholl (Political Science & Global Studies) participated in the Peace Corps Prep Coordinators' Conference in Tacoma, Washington in September. CI collaborates with the US Peace Corps to offer our Peace Corps Prep Program, which equips students with the knowledge needed to join the Peace Corps and increases students' competitiveness in the job market by expanding global awareness and providing experiences and professional skill development.