



California State University  
SAN MARCOS

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES,  
ARTS, BEHAVIORAL &  
SOCIAL SCIENCES

*We are the College of opportunity and excellence.*



2015-2016  
**CHABSS**  
*Annual Report*



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# A Message from CHABSS Interim Dean Rider

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In its sixth year, the College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences (CHABSS) continues to provide a high-quality liberal arts education in an environment that is inclusive, equitable, and innovative. I thank all of you—faculty, staff, community partners, and students—for your dedication and hard work that make this possible. Your successes and accomplishments are revealed in the annual report that follows. I highlight just a few below.

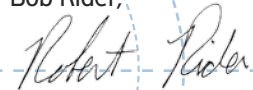
Four of our faculty and one of our staff were recognized and awarded prestigious honors, including the CSU Wang Family Excellence Award and Harry E. Brakebill Distinguished Professor Award. Faculty published ten books, 71 refereed journal articles, and 26 book chapters; produced 51 juried creative works and performances; and received 63 contracts or grants totaling nearly five million dollars. Three faculty were granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor. Four faculty were promoted to Full Professor. The new Music major was launched in Academic Year 2015 – 2016. Majors in American Indian Studies, Art, Media and Design, Ethnic Studies, and Philosophy are in final stages of development. The CHABSS strategic initiatives (CRI, GCI, CHABSS Diversity Working Group) continued to grow and profoundly affect our community of faculty, staff, and students. The Arts & Lectures series provided us with thought-provoking and stimulating events.

We said farewell to Vivienne Bennett, Margaret Crowdes, Karin Filijan Colleen Moss, Vincent Pham, and Yolanda Weedon. We thank them for their outstanding service and wish them well. At the same, though, we welcome eight new tenure track faculty for the coming academic year.

Our students continued to astound us. Upwards of 250 students graduated with academic honors; 78 percent of whom were women, 37 percent African-American, Latino, Native American or Pacific Islander, and 45 percent first-generation students. Petrona Gregorio-Pascual (the CHABSS Dean's Award winner), whose life began in a small town in Guatemala herding goats as a child, inspired us. We are the College of opportunity and excellence.

We remain a college in transition, but one with a very promising future. It has been my privilege to have served you over these last few months. Thank you.

Bob Rider,



Interim Dean,  
College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral & Social Sciences



*Alumni  
Spotlight*



## Alumnus Jayson Sack, UC San Diego Chief Resident of Neurosurgery

I remember feeling like (CSUSM) was a place, with small class sizes and plenty of opportunities to get involved, where you wouldn't be treated like a number—where professors would care about you and provide individual attention," said Dr. Jayson Sack, Chief Resident of Neurosurgery at UC San Diego Medical Center.

Initially Jayson majored in psychology, thinking that his career would lead him to psychiatry, but a neurobiology course sparked his imagination and interest in neuroscience. With classmate Andy Mauldin and under the guidance of Psychology professor and Health Professions Advisor Joanne Pederson, Jayson co-founded the CSUSM Pre-Health Society and became a double major in psychology and biology with a minor in chemistry.



# Student Success

## 2016 CHABSS Dean's Award



**P**etrona Gregorio-Pascual was awarded the CHABSS Dean's Award for 2016. Petrona is an outstanding Psychology student whose achievements exemplify the values, mission, and promise that CHABSS has made to students.

Petrona was born in Aldea Ixnanconop in Guatemala. Her parents brought her to the United States at the age of five years, in search of an education and to have a better life. When she was enrolled at school at the age of seven years she had to learn Spanish and English since her first language is Q'anjob'al (Mayan language), and she was promoted to all English courses in the fourth grade. Upon finishing high school, she went into the workforce in order to help support her family. Several years later, she got married and her husband Mario supported her decision to return to get an education. At CSUSM she

## Spring 2016 Dean's List Mixer



CHABSS students celebrated their successes and were acquainted with other high-achieving students and CHABSS Dean's Office staff at the Spring 2016 CHABSS Dean's List Mixer in February.

met her mentor (now her advisor) Dr. Heike I. M. Mahler and applied to work in Dr. Mahler's social and health laboratory. Dr. Mahler has been critical to Petrona's academic success.

Another important factor to her academic success was being selected into the RISE program in Fall 2014. This program has been vital into preparing her for graduate school. Petrona is the first in her family to pursue a graduate level degree. In Fall 2016, she will continue her education as a graduate student in the Master's Degree Program in Experimental Psychology at CSUSM.

"What I value the most is helping out those in need and encouraging young children and adults to pursue a higher education," she said.

## Inter-College Senior Experience with CHABSS & CoBA

**C**HABSS joined the College of Business Administration (CoBA) for an innovative collaboration of students, faculty, and the community that built bridges across Colleges and disciplines. Ash Fogle (Communication) and Lucy HG Solomon (School of Arts) each co-led a student team with a CoBA colleague. Ash oversaw Mass Media majors Russell Breckenridge and Christopher Jimenez and three CoBA students who created an integrated marketing plan for Food Prep, Inc., a project of local businessman Vishal Shah which aims to provide healthy, affordable prepared meals for fitness-conscious North County residents. Lucy worked with Arts students Spencer Aldrich and Logan Fidler along with three CoBA students on branding and marketing strategies for Creative-ivē, an environmentally conscious lifestyle brand created by CoBA student Erik De La Cruz.

Senior Experience is a required culminating experience for CoBA students, but 2015 – 2016 is the first year for Inter-College projects. The results are exciting.



Notably, Lucy's team project not only delighted the sponsor, but also won the top three awards at a CYPHER International competition for creative ideas and projects that are environmentally friendly, the Sustainable Earth Decathlon (SED) to discover climate innovators and entrepreneurs. From Ash's perspective, "It was a truly rewarding experience to help my top-notch academic students put their learned knowledge into practice in a real-world setting. I am grateful to CoBA for bringing CSUSM's commitment to cross-disciplinary collaboration into practice and joining together with CHABSS and me in this experiment."



Creative-ivē (l-r): Christopher Jimenez, Amanda Fitzjerrells, Sara Kamiab, Ashley Zuniga, Russell Breckenridge

CYPHER Award Winners photographed (l-r): Kory Smith (2nd runner up / CHABSS SofA student), Ryan Kisgan (1st runner up / Environmental Studies), Chase Clark (1st runner up / Environmental Studies), Tianna Koch (1st runner up / Environmental Studies), Erik De La Cruz (Grand Prize Winners / CoBA Senior Experience Inter-College team), Katharine Kealing (Grand Prize Winners / CoBA Senior Experience Inter-College team), Guillermo Hermosillo (Grand Prize Winners / CoBA Senior Experience Inter-College team)

# Faculty & Staff

## Outstanding Faculty Awards

The President of California State University San Marcos recognizes faculty members each year who significantly contribute to student learning, advance the university mission of educational excellence, and demonstrate dedication to our diverse student community.

CHABSS faculty are committed to meaningful collaborations and enriching our college community through active scholarship and creativity. At the President's Awards in January, four faculty and one staff member were recognized for their outstanding commitment and contributions to the classroom and the campus-wide community.

President Karen Haynes named Sharon Hamill (Psychology) as the recipient for the Harry E. Brakebill Distinguished Professor Award. Carmen Nava (History) was presented with the Outstanding Faculty Award for Service Leadership. Kendra Rivera (Communication) was honored with the Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching Innovation & Excellence. Oneita Billings (Modern Language Studies) was recognized as the Employee of the Year. At the awards ceremony, President Haynes also announced that Kristine Diekman (School of Arts) received the CSU Wang Family Excellence Award.

Interim Dean Rider said, "It has been an honor for me to have worked with these exemplary faculty and staff both as their Interim Dean for these past eight months and now again as a faculty colleague."



2015 – 2016 President's Awards – Top row (l-r): President Haynes, Sharon Hamill, Kristine Diekman, Interim Dean Rider; Second row (l-r): Kendra Rivera, Carmen Nava, Oneita Billings

## Employee of the Year, Oneita Billings

Congratulations to Oneita Billings, Administrative Support Coordinator for Modern Language Studies, who received the President's Outstanding Award 2015 – 2016 for Employee of the Year. Please take a moment to recognize our colleague, Oneita, who has served with professionalism for 13 years at the University.



Oneita hails from Kansas City, Missouri. Her proudest personal and professional accomplishments are helping to shape the life of her son, Sekou T. Billings,—who turned out to be a great son—and obtaining an MBA, respectively.

Sekou has achieved two Master's degrees: A Master's in Business Administration and a Master's in Military Operational Art and Science. Next month, Sekou starts a new position as an F-35 Requirements Manager. He and his lovely wife have two children (girl and boy) and they live in Norfolk, Virginia.

Oneita's favorite thing about working at California State University San Marcos is the people. She is happiest being with family, friends and supporting our Veterans and their families. We encourage you to reach out to Oneita throughout the school year to recognize her contributions to the College and University.

## Welcome CHABSS Diversity Working Group

The CHABSS Diversity Working Group (CDWG) is charged with helping to carry out the CHABSS Strategic Plan goals by continuing to find new ways to promote diversity in our classrooms, in the curriculum, and across our college community. The CDWG will continue to develop a response to the 2015 Diversity Mapping Report in ways that are unique to the college and that complement the many Diversity-related activities already underway on campus.



Goals for the CDWG include developing and promoting strategies to encourage diversity as a priority in the hiring and retention of faculty, staff, and administrators; working to strengthen and complement existing collaborations across campus; and sustaining the important foundational work of the EDDI. This will include a signature Engaging Diverse Dialogues Initiative event in Spring 2017.

Please welcome members of the CDWG: Sharon Elise (Sociology), Katherine Hajar (History), Rebecca Lush (Literature & Writing Studies), Dreama Moon (Communication), Kristin Moss (School of Arts), Krista Thomas (*The Cougar Chronicle*), and Anna Woodcock (Psychology).



# Arts & Technology Professor Wins CSU Wang Family Excellence Award



**A**rts and Technology Professor Kristine Diekman received the California State University's Wang Family Excellence Award early this year.

The Wang Family Excellence Award recognizes and celebrates four outstanding CSU faculty members and one outstanding staff member who, through extraordinary commitment and dedication, have distinguished themselves by exemplary contributions and achievements. The awards for faculty are given to members of four groups of academic disciplines – Visual and Performing Arts and Letters; Natural Sciences, Mathematical and Computer Science and Engineering; Social and Behavioral Sciences and Public Service; and Education and Professional Applied Sciences.

A media artist and leader of collaborative vision and social change, Diekman has more than 30 years of experience producing, directing

and editing award-winning films and videos. She founded Video in the Community, engaging students, faculty and the community in completing more than 50 films and videos that serve non-profit organizations.

As a professional media artist dedicated to socially engaged films and videos, she has produced large-scale projects that serve the public. Amongst these is her current project, *Run Dry*, funded by the California Humanities and the CSU Water Resources and Policy Initiative grant. *Run Dry* is an eBook that depicts the stories of families living in the Central Valley without water and contextualizes them within themes of poverty, equity, migration and water rights.

"Kristine is an internationally known video and new media artist whose experimental videos, documentary films and new media installations are interview-based and give voice to populations and individuals whose life experiences might not otherwise be heard," said President Karen Haynes. "Her works cover such crucial social issues as gang prevention, reproductive health and intergenerational communication. She clearly exemplifies the highest values of Cal State San Marcos and the CSU, and embodies what it means to be a faculty member committed to sustained excellence in teaching, research, student learning and community engagement."

"This award is not just something that I have earned, but something that every student and every community member who has taken part in media projects has also earned," added Diekman. "It is recognition of the work that we have done as a community at CSUSM, a reflection of the support that faculty and the staff have provided for so many years, and the importance of social engagement and inclusion at our university."

The Wang Award was established in 1998 when then—CSU Trustee Stanley Wang gave \$1 million to recognize remarkable contributions of faculty and administrators over 10 years. Trustee Emeritus Wang reinstated the award with a \$300,000 gift to provide the \$20,000 awards to each of the honorees annually for three years, beginning in 2015.

## CHABSS BY THE NUMBERS

2015 – 2016

Books: 10

Journal Articles: 71

Contracts or Grants: 63

New Major: Music

Academic Honors: Upwards of 250 students graduated with honors  
– 78% women; 37% African-American, Latino, Native American or Pacific Islander; 45% first-generation students

CRI: Career Mentoring Program

– Grew to 25 mentees / 25 mentors

GCI: Community Service & Volunteer Fair (2nd Annual)

– GCI hosted 29 organizations and nearly 300 students

## President Obama Named Professor to National Advisory Council on Indian Education

**O**n Friday, February 19, 2016, President Barack Obama named Joely Proudfit, Ph.D., — chair of the Department of American Indian Studies and director of the California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center at CSUSM — to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education.

"I am honored that these talented individuals have decided to serve our country," said President Obama. "They bring their years of experience and expertise to the Administration, and I look forward to working with them."

The council is tasked with advising the Secretary of Education and Congress on the administration and funding of Alaska Native and American Indian education programs.



# Career Readiness

## An Exciting Year Ahead

As we begin a new academic year, it's a pleasure to share some highlights from last year in the CHABSS Career Readiness Initiative (CRI) and to preview activities of the exciting year ahead.

In Spring 2016, a college-wide Career Readiness and Professional Communication course enrolled 25 students and was offered as an interdisciplinary special topics course (ID-401). Dr. Laura Hoeger taught the first offering of this innovative course serving students from several majors with different needs and career goals and offering students the opportunity to enroll for 1-3 units. The course was effective and well received and there is hope to see it offered again in Spring 2017.

Academic Year (A/Y) 2015 – 2016 also saw a doubling of participants in our Career Mentoring network to 50 mentees and mentors. Our career mentor corps includes local professionals and alumni from diverse backgrounds and career fields with highly varied career experiences. For A/Y 2016 – 2017, we received a smaller number of mentee applications than last year, but we are still hoping to serve more students. All student applicants are already matched for the next A/Y and several great mentors are still available and ready to work with our students. To that end, we have opened a second application period for mentees: July 29 through September 9. Please send students our way before September 9, 2016.

CRI held several Career Readiness events last year, including a "Mentor Program Mixer" in January 2016. Also, CHABSS Dean's Council member Melinda Del Toro hosted a "speed interviewing" event for CHABSS students on-site at ViaSat (a global telecommunication/technology company in North County) in October 2015. In addition, Katherine Brown has enjoyed giving multiple invited presentations related to Career Readiness to classes and clubs. Katherine sends her thanks to all who have invited her and she welcomes any invitations in the year to come.

On the institutional level, Katherine is happy to see the development and adoption of a new campus Internship policy and to see the Office of Internships up and running under the leadership of Dr. Cynthia Chavez Metoyer and Jill Litschewski within the Division of Community Engagement. This new office will provide crucial year-round support and information to faculty, students and community partners who are interested in internships. The CSUSM Career Center continues to be a strong partner for our efforts, with Josh Galea'i and Heather Starr serving as our CHABSS liaisons. If you have not met Josh or Heather, they bring great energy to career center presentations and work effectively with students.

You may recall CHABSS CRI led the effort to bring the AAUW "Start Smart" Salary negotiation/wage-gap workshop back to campus. We sought to institutionalize this resource outside of the college, see more facilitators trained, and expand access to this opportunity for the larger campus community. The Office of Diversity, Educational Equity and Inclusion, the Career Center, and CHABSS CRI contributed to securing the AAUW salary negotiation workshop



site license for 3 years. Karin Iwasaka from the Career Center is now the AAUW Start Smart campus point of contact. Two workshops were held on campus in March and April 2016. A CHABSS faculty member, Dr. Catherine Matsumoto, received the AAUW Start Smart facilitator training and will offer one of the workshops planned for A/Y 2016 – 2017. The Fall workshop schedule will be publicized soon.

In other resource news, CHABSS colleagues who teach students with interests in media arts and entertainment are encouraged to apply for funds that can be used toward activities and events related to preparing students to succeed in internships, networking, and employment in California's sizable Entertainment Industries sector via the CSU Entertainment Industries Initiative website. Professor Vincent Pham secured funding from that program for a speaker event and workshops ("On the Margins of Media in Hollywood") for the CSUSM Communication Department's annual "Media And Communication Days" in April 2016.

As we look ahead to this year, the CRI team is excited to offer a "Soft Skills" workshop series for CHABSS students this fall semester on Wednesday, October 26 from 11:30 am to 12:45 pm; Tuesday, November 1 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm; and Wednesday, November 9 from 5:00 to 6:00 pm in SBSB 4111. Please mark your calendars, include in your syllabi, and watch for additional publicity. Katherine also remains ready to connect with interested faculty and students to share career readiness strategies, information, and resources. Contact Katherine at [kbrown@csusm.edu](mailto:kbrown@csusm.edu) with your questions and ideas or to suggest a CRI event. Meanwhile, please encourage students who would benefit from networking and working with a career mentor to apply to our mentoring program before Friday, September 9, 2016.

Finally, Katherine thanks the College Initiatives support team and everyone in the CHABSS Dean's Office for their roles in advancing the goals of this initiative. For more information on any and all of our activities and opportunities mentioned above, please visit the CRI website.

[www.csusm.edu/chabss/cri](http://www.csusm.edu/chabss/cri)



# Thinking Globally

## Global Commitment Initiative Education and Engagement

The CHABSS Global Commitment Initiative (GCI) is heading into its third year and is designed to educate and engage the college, campus, and the broader community in a discussion about global issues, trends, and events. In each fall semester, we focus our efforts on raising the awareness of our students on global issues and in the spring semester we encourage them to put that knowledge into action.

In each fall semester, the GCI hosts a Global Film Series. The theme for Academic Year (A/Y) 2015 – 2016 was on human trafficking. The first film screening was of “Not My Life,” which is the first film to depict the cruel and dehumanizing practices of human trafficking and modern slavery on a global scale. The film was followed by a discussion about prevention and prosecution with Chief Deputy District Attorney Summer Stephan and Danny F. Santiago Task Force Commander, California Department of Justice, Bureau of Investigation, San Diego Human Trafficking Task Force. There were over 400 students, faculty, and staff in attendance. The second film screening was of “Not For Sale,” which focuses on people who are trying to end human trafficking. The film was followed by a panel discussion with Mayra Aguilar (North County Lifeline), Anthony DeGuzman (Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition), Crystal Isle (survivor of human trafficking; Freedom From Exploitation), and Tom Jones (survivor of human trafficking; “The Healing, Outreach and Peer Empowerment (H.O.P.E.) Project”).



There were 400 students, faculty, and staff in attendance. The panel discussed ways to combat human trafficking and students were exposed to the myriad of ways they can help address this global issue that is happening in their own backyards. Students were also exposed to volunteer opportunities with these organizations.

Each spring semester, the GCI hosts a Community Service and Volunteer Fair. On March 1, 2016, twenty-nine organizations, who all work locally but who have a global impact, attended. Organizational foci included education, health, veterans' services, assisting children, refugee services, environmental protection, border issues, combating human trafficking, and community improvements. Nearly 300 students attended and this provided a terrific opportunity for students to put their global knowledge into action locally by identifying volunteer organizations allowing them to give back to their communities. It was also a chance for them to learn valuable skills, show leadership in their communities, build their resumes, and make potential employment contacts.

Also in Spring 2016, GCI held a kick-off for the Fall 2016 film series. The theme for Fall 2016 is borders, and we began by screening the film “Purgatorio” in March. “Purgatorio” exposes the politics of and around the US-Mexico border not so much by explicitly addressing the technical intricacies of migration regimes, but by capturing experiences in the border region on a human scale. The film was followed by a panel discussion with filmmaker Rodrigo Reyes and CSUSM faculty Rebecca Lush, Cynthia Meléndrez, and Richard Schultz. Approximately 300 students, faculty, and staff were in attendance.

The Fall 2016 film series will continue the theme of borders. We will be screening “Llévame Mis Amores” (“All of Me”) followed by a panel discussion on Wednesday, September 28 from 5:30 – 8:00 pm in the USU Ballroom. The documentary tells the stories of the women who live in La Patrona, a Mexican village that is situated by the tracks of a train from Central America that brings many migrants north to the United States. “The Beast” – as the train is called – passes through the village. Since 1995, the women in La Patrona have been feeding the stowaways onboard by throwing bags of cooked food and bottles of water onto the moving train as it passes through their village. Both the women and the migrants face physical injury or death, as well as the legal consequences of their actions. GCI's second film, “Evaporating Borders” will be screened and discussed on Wednesday, November 2 from 5:30 – 8:00 pm in the USU Ballroom. This film offers a series of vignettes, poetically guided by the filmmaker's curious eye and personal reflections. Through the people she encounters along the way, the film dissects the experience of asylum seekers in Cyprus: A PLO activist and exile from Iraq is denied asylum within 15 minutes; neo-nazi fundamentalists roam the streets in an attack on Muslim migrants; activists and academics organize an antifascist rally and clash with the neo-nazis; 195 migrants drown in the Mediterranean.

GCI will hold its 3rd Annual Community Service and Volunteer Fair on March 2, 2017 and, in collaboration with the Ethnic Studies Program and the new CHABSS Diversity Work Group, screen the film “Precious Knowledge” on April 4, 2017. The members of GCI greatly appreciate the enthusiastic reception by faculty and staff in CHABSS for our programming, and we plan to continue providing events and activities that can be used to engage our students.

[www.csusm.edu/chabss/gci](http://www.csusm.edu/chabss/gci)

# Memory of Lucas Dunn Lives on in French Study Abroad Scholarship



A rock-climbing trip that turned tragic for California State University San Marcos student Lucas Dunn led Veronica Anover, CSUSM professor of French and Spanish, on a three-year long journey to keep his memory alive while supporting other students at the same time.

In May 2013 while rappelling on the west face of Taquitz Rock in Idylwild, California, Lucas fell 150 feet to the ground. The fatal accident was likely caused by loose rock, and he died almost instantly.

"I was so perplexed and so devastated by Lucas' death that I had to make sense of that loss—somehow I had to," said Anover. "I also had to make sense of Lucas who did not get to go to France after all his hard work and his excitement. The only way I could make a little sense of his loss was to honor his memory with a scholarship."

To Anover, endowing the Lucas Dunn Memorial Scholarship gave her the ability to ensure that his memory would be permanently honored and remembered, allowing his peers to accomplish the dream of traveling abroad that Lucas could not.

"I decided with this scholarship that Lucas was going to help his peers go to Aix-en-Provence," said Anover, referring to the city-commune in the south of France. "He could not go to Aix, but he was going to help others go and live out his dream."

Anover worked endlessly to find donors in order to reach the \$25,000 needed to endow the scholarship. She met that goal last May, describing it as being one of the best days of her life.



"I was so determined and focused that I did not encounter any struggles to start the scholarship," said Anover. "I wrote massive amounts of emails and sent numerous letters soliciting donations. I told Lucas' story and what he would accomplish with his scholarship, that I received many gifts right away."

She raised money from friends, family and companies, such as Hewlett-Packard, which matched her donations.

"It gives me some solace to know that Lucas' energy is still with us through his scholarship," Said Anover.

The scholarship, which will be awarded as early as next year, will offer financial aid to one CSUSM French student per year who wishes to study abroad in Aix-en-Provence. All French students are eligible if minimum academic standards are met.

"I hope that students who study abroad—thanks to this scholarship—will embrace the French culture and language as much as Lucas did in his 'virtual French life' while he was in my class," said Anover. "I hope that they will be thankful to Lucas for giving them the opportunity to open up their horizons, to live the present fully, and to come back fluent in French and wanting to go back."

Lucas is described as a kind and warm person with a magnetic personality and sense of humor.

His peers have also found other ways to live out his legacy and cope with the emptiness he left behind.

Samuel Taylor, another CSUSM French student inspired by his story, made a coin out of glass with the inscription: Lucas Dunn: I

made it. Taylor took the coin to the top of Mont Sainte Victoire - the mountain that Lucas planned to climb while in Aix - and left it at the top of the peak.

"Lucas continues to inspire and to touch his peers even in his death," said Anover. "That is how wonderful Lucas was and continues to be."



## Partnerships & Giving

Support from our friends and community enables the College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences to offer more life-changing educational experiences for students, to recruit and retain world-class faculty, and to deliver innovative programs. There are a myriad of programs in need of support and many options for investment or partnership.

Learn more: [www.csusm.edu/chabss/partnership](http://www.csusm.edu/chabss/partnership)

*Donors Make A Difference*