



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**BAKERSFIELD**  
School of Arts and Humanities

# AHA!

## Arts and Humanities Alive!

# NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022 VOL. 5, ISSUE 2

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

### Summer Reflections



**ROBERT FRAKES, Ph.D.**

The 2021/2022 Academic Year was a challenging but successful year for the School of Arts & Humanities at CSUB. A large number of students are pursuing majors in the programs in our School (and we were able to slowly build the number of classes with on-campus components over the course of the year). We had great art exhibitions as well as music and theatre performances. Arts & Humanities students had successful Undergraduate Research presentations. Students were invited to join honor societies in their disciplines and an impressive group of seniors won awards at the Arts & Humanities Honors Ceremony. And it was great to end the year with both the School Honors Ceremony and Commencement as face-to-face events.

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Fall semester of 2022 has a larger number of on-campus courses scheduled and we are in the planning stages for several on-campus events.

I thank our community partners who made generous donations to support the students in the School of Arts & Humanities. And, of course, I thank the faculty, students, and staff for all their work during a challenging, but successful year.

I wish everyone a great summer!



# 2022 AH HONORS CONVOCATION

The School of Arts and Humanities held their 2022 Honors Convocation on May 11, 2022, in the Walter Stiern Library, Dezember Reading Room with opening remarks from CSUB President **Lynnette Zelezny** and a keynote address by CSUB History alumnus **Jamal Wright**.



Congratulations to the Outstanding M.A. and B.A. graduates of the School of Arts and Humanities. **Hannah McKinzie** and **Ian Tash** were named the overall Outstanding M.A. and B.A. students of the School of Arts and Humanities.



**Hannah McKinzie**  
Master of Arts in History



**Ian Tash**  
Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies



**Lynnette Zelezny, Ph.D.**  
Opening Remarks



**Jamal Wright, Ph.D.**  
Keynote Address



# 2022 AH HONORS CONVOCATION AWARDS

## DEPARTMENTAL OUTSTANDING M.A. GRADUATES

These exceptional students were nominated for their respective award by faculty in each department and chosen by the Chairs Council and the Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities.



**CYNTHIA ZAVALA**  
Master of Arts in English



**HANNAH MCKINZIE**  
Master of Arts in History



**OLGA MELIKOVA**  
Master of Arts in Spanish

## DEPARTMENTAL OUTSTANDING B.A. GRADUATES

These exceptional students were nominated for their respective award by faculty in each department and chosen by the Chairs Council and the Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities.



**LUCIA GUZMAN**  
Art & Art History



**JESSICA ALBERTO**  
Communications



**JULIA ANNA RINALDI**  
English



**EMMA BARNES**  
History



**MELISSA PETTIT**  
Interdisciplinary Studies



**GISELLE CARREON**  
Modern Languages &  
Literatures



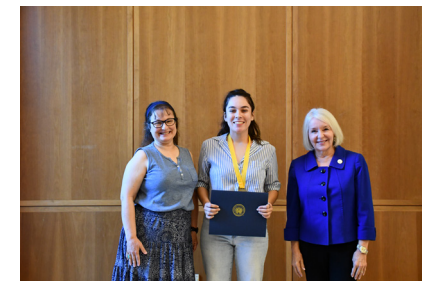
**BRADEN UNRUH**  
Music



**HELMUT YAMIR LOPEZ**  
Philosophy



**IAN TASH**  
Religious Studies



**MAYA BLACKSTONE**  
Theatre

Congratulations to our amazing students who have worked hard during their academic career. The School of Arts and Humanities wishes you the best of luck in your professional careers.



# 2022 DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE AND DEAN'S AWARDS

Departmental Awards of Excellence and Dean's awards were also presented during the Arts and Humanities Honors Convocation and recognized students in departmental categories and specific projects.



**SEAN KELLY**  
Charles Kegley Award in Philosophy &  
Religious Studies



**IVAN LEON**  
Clio Award in History



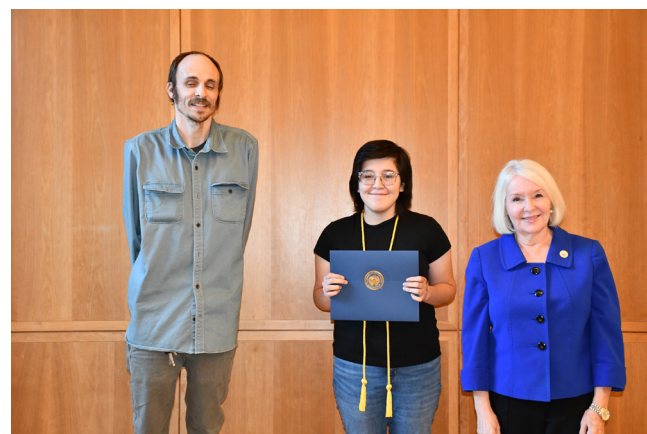
**CYNTHIA ZAVALA**  
Outstanding Graduate Paper



**ANA LUZ DOMINGUEZ**  
Li'i Pearl Award in English



**WILLIAM IRWIN**  
Outstanding Performing Arts Project



**SYDNEY SANCHEZ**  
Outstanding Visual Arts Project

Congratulations to our amazing students who have worked hard during their academic career. The School of Arts and Humanities wishes you the best of luck in your professional careers.



**RUBEN VASQUEZ**  
Outstanding Undergraduate Paper



# AH HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to Art student **Humberto Plascencia** for being awarded The George Award in 2022.

George Ketterl was a much loved founding member of the CSUB Art faculty and a prominent artist. George vowed never to retire and when he passed in 2010, he was still a member of the faculty. In his honor “The George Award” was created. The George is given each year to an art major selected from among the students who are showing in the Senior Exhibition by an impartial guest adjudicator.

This year’s adjudicator, BMoA Head Curator and CSUB alumna Rachel Wainwright, chose Humberto Plascencia’s video *The Coyote’s Wrath* as the outstanding work of the exhibition.

Wainwright remarked:

“It is a pleasure to host the CSUB 2022 Graduating Senior Exhibition at the Bakersfield Museum of Art. This continued partnership reflects the desire of BMoA, CSUB, and the Todd Madigan Gallery to ensure contemporary art is part of the community’s fabric. Congratulations to all thirty students whose dedication to their practice resulted in an impressive grouping of diverse work.

After spending time with the works on display, the video installation *The Coyote’s Wrath* (2020) by Humberto Plascencia garnered continued interest. Plascencia’s strategic combination of sound and image creates an engaging rhythm in the overt stillness depicted. The visual collage artfully acknowledges the central valley’s landscape, industry, and ecosystem with sincerity—congratulations to Humberto Plascencia, the 2022 George Award recipient.”

Honorable Mention was awarded to **Jessica Castro, Karen Ramirez, Joe Mazon, Jr., Sydney Sanchez, and Natalie Andrade.**



Humberto Plascencia  
2022 The George Award



Untitled (2022)  
Humberto Plascencia





# AH HIGHLIGHTS



**Dylan Gunner Jones**  
2022 James H. George Scholar

Dylan Gunner Jones is this academic year's James H. George Scholar. Jones is a member of Phi Alpha Theta (the History honorary society) and an ASI scholarship awardee. He graduated from Bakersfield College with a near perfect GPA and has successfully maintained that record at CSUB as a junior in history. Mr. Jones will use the James George scholarship to partially fund his summer research project on John Mulvaney, the Irish rebel painter who changed the face of historical representation of life in the West.



History Class of 2022!



Spanish Class of 2022!

CSUB's Spanish professor Anthony Nuño celebrates the end of the semester with his Senior Seminar class.

Standing: Dr. Anthony Nuño, Lizette Sotelo, Andrea Sotelo, Cecilia Cruz, Edith Durán Chávez, Lizet Suárez, Irma Bojado, Jasmín Ramos, Giselle Carreón, Jesús Hernández,

Left to Right: kneeling: María Ledesma, Yadira Zamudio, Sara Paz, Alva Aguirre and Susan Marroquín.

READ MORE NEWS ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES AT  
[CSUBAHA.com](http://CSUBAHA.com)



# FACULTY NEWS



Sean Wempe outside the Kenworthy Theatre in Moscow, Idaho

On March 22nd, 2022, History professor **Sean Wempe** gave twin talks, both entitled “Society’s Pre-Existing Conditions: Patterns of the History of Pandemics,” in Pullman, Washington and Moscow, Idaho. The public talks, sponsored by Washington State University, the Idaho Humanities Council, and the Latah County Historical Society were part of the “How It’s Going, How It Started: Exploring the Historical Roots of Contemporary Issues” speaker series hosted by these institutions. Dr. Wempe’s talks examined how pandemics have, throughout history, exacerbated existing inequalities in societies, particularly in terms of race. The talks focused on the Seven Pandemics of Cholera, the Third Pandemic of Plague, and the ongoing HIV/AIDS Pandemic as examples to help put the current racism and racial disparities associated with the COVID-19 pandemic in historical context.

Philosophy lecturer **Maria Palaiologou**, who is also a CSUB student ombudsperson, and assistant director of the Helen Hawk Honors Program, was elected last month to a two-year term as president of Region VII of the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society.



Philosophy professor **Nate Olson** and Criminal Justice professor **Kallee McCullough** wrote about the Kegley Institute of Ethics (KIE) online programming during the pandemic in “Demonstrating Ethical Leadership in a Virtual World: Accessibility, Community, and Identity,” which was published in a special issue of *Teaching Ethics* edited by Emeritus Philosophy Professor **Christopher Meyers**.



#### Teaching Ethics

ONLINE FIRST  
published on March 24, 2022  
Nate Olson, Kallee McCullough  
<https://doi.org/10.5840/tej2022323110>

#### Demonstrating Ethical Leadership in a Virtual World: Accessibility, Community, and Identity

*During the COVID-19 pandemic, ethics centers were forced to reimagine program delivery. In a tumultuous time with rampant social isolation, the need for ethics education and dialogue was also critical. The authors, members of the directorship team of the Kegley Institute of Ethics (KIE), discuss how KIE met these challenges through organizing over fifty online events during the pandemic, including webinars, pedagogy workshops, ethics bowls, intercollegiate student conversations, colloquia, film viewings, and podcasts. The article describes both the opportunities and challenges that different types of virtual events present and argues that innovation in online programming can help ethics centers show ethical leadership in their communities. As one example, we discuss how online events can both enhance and hinder accessibility for participants. We also describe how online programming presents both barriers and opportunities for community building and can prompt ethics centers to reflect on their identities and missions.*



Congratulations to our faculty who were recognized for their areas of professional achievement, service, and teaching in the following CSUB awards.

Outstanding Lecturer:  
**Jennifer Burger** (Communications)

Millie Ablin Excellence in Teaching Award.  
**Amy Ressler** (Theatre)

After several years of service as Associate Dean of Arts and Humanities, **Liora Gubkin** has accepted a position as Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences (CHABSS) at California State University, San Marcos. She will begin serving in her new role July 11, 2022.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FACULTY AT  
[CSUBAHA.COM](http://CSUBAHA.COM)

# AH INSTITUTES

## PUBLIC HISTORY INSTITUTE

Conceived in 2008 as an institute within the School of Arts and Humanities, the **Public History Institute** (PHI) seeks to collect, explore, preserve, and promote the history of our region, namely Bakersfield, Kern County, and the Southern San Joaquin Valley, through projects and programs intended to engage the campus and community. Of particular importance is our support of oral history projects, undertaken mainly by the Historical Research Center of the Walter Stiern Library, under the direction of archivist **Chris Livingston, M.A.** These have included a focus on the oral histories of Dust Bowl-era migrants, members of the CSUB community, and African Americans in our region.

## INSTITUTE FOR BASQUE STUDIES

The mission of the **Institute for Basque Studies** is to promote multidisciplinary scholarship and collaboration that examines social, cultural, historical, economic, and political aspects of Basque communities in the Diaspora and the Basque Country. Institute activities will explore definitions and cultivations of Basque identity through the study of art, image, values, and other cultural expressions through offering enrichment programs for students and special publics, and sponsoring lectures, symposia, and other events related to Basque identity.

## INSTITUTE FOR RELIGION, EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC POLICY

The **Institute for Religion, Education, and Public Policy** continues to live into its mission to promote justice and peace in a religiously-diverse world. Since its founding in 2011, the Institute has conducted trainings for faculty, staff, and students on religious and worldview pluralism, hosted numerous public dialogues, and supported student programming. **Dr. Joseph Florez, Katy Hanson, and Dr. Jonathan Young** serve as the Faculty Advisory Committee.

# EAC NEWS & INFORMATION

### CHRIS BENHAM

Benham is a graphic designer and illustrator born and raised in Bakersfield, CA.

### JIM DAMIAN

Damian is a Kern County entrepreneur and is the founder and CEO of Stria.

### ROBERT FRAKES, Ph.D.

Dean, CSUB School of Arts & Humanities.

### AMANDA FRANK

Frank is a Bakersfield native and serves as the Director of Community Relations at Dignity Health.

### NATALIE GREEN

Green owns NYFotography with a commitment to her community and the growth of downtown Bakersfield.

### ANDREA HANSEN

Hansen was born and raised in Bakersfield, CA. and is currently the President of Kern Dance Alliance and a Fox Theater Board Member.

### DAVID MILAZZO

Milazzo is a proud Bakersfield native and founded his business, Macroscopic.

### HEATH NIEMEYER

Director of Development, CSUB University Advancement.

### JON SAMPSON

Sampson is a Bakersfield native and CSUB alumnus, with Wells Fargo Advisors.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

**David Milazzo**  
Founder and Principal  
MACROSCOPIC



Greetings from the newest organization supporting the CSU, Bakersfield School of Arts and Humanities!

The Friends of Arts and Humanities — AH Friends — is an extension of the Executive Advisory Council for the School of Arts and Humanities. Our board is delighted to introduce you to the premier method to stay connected with the outstanding programs and student work making a positive impact on campus and in our community.

AH Friends is a membership-based organization with a host of member benefits. In addition to gaining early information about upcoming programs and events, members receive special invitations and complimentary tickets. Some membership levels even deliver exclusive access to unique experiences with faculty and students of the CSUB AH programs. And every membership delivers valuable impact to the students of our university.

We invite you to join AH Friends and experience a deeper connection to the pursuits underlying the human experience. Your membership greatly contributes to our students' success in discovering and defining the future of the arts and humanities.

Visit [AHfriends.org](http://AHfriends.org) or email us at [AHfriends@CSUB.edu](mailto:AHfriends@CSUB.edu) to learn more about how you can help the Friends of Arts and Humanities at CSUB.



# ALUMNI BUZZ



**Oscar Rene Lozoya II**  
2009 CSUB Alumnus

Lozoya graduated with a B.A. in Communications with an emphasis in Digital Media. He made his dictorial debut with an episode titled "Once Upon a Time in El Barrio" for *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit* which aired April 7, 2022.

CSUB creates champions of all types. CSUB alumni have gone on to be CEOs of companies, celebrities, musicians, journalists, professional athletes, politicians, scientists, and the list goes on. On this page you'll find notable alumni and their achievements, but there are countless more. Each issue we will feature two graduates from the Arts and Humanities programs.

Do you know alumni whose work should be recognized here?  
Contact us at  
[rstcroixmartinez@csub.edu](mailto:rstcroixmartinez@csub.edu)



**Carla Barrientos**  
2009 & 2014 CSUB Alumna

Barrientos graduated with a B.A. in Communications and went on to earn a M.A. in Education in 2014. She is currently the program specialist with the Kern County Superintendent of the School's office.

SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS  
MAKE YOUR PLEDGE TODAY TO THE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Contribute to the success of Arts and Humanities at CSUB by donating to the school's Foundation account!

Donations are tax deductible and help support programs and activities. You can contribute [online](#) or by going to CSUBAHA.com to find the link "Support Arts & Humanities" on the right-hand side of the page. To contribute by check, please make your check out to "CSUB Foundation" and write "A&H Fund" on the memo line of the check.

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Bakersfield, CA 93311-1022