MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

We have passed the halfway point of our busy Spring semester!

This semester about half of our classes have an on-campus component (and we look forward to moving back toward “normal” in the Fall). We have a healthy number of Arts & Humanities students making good progress in their majors and we continue to provide critically important General Education classes for the university.

As the pandemic is receding, we are offering many cultural events this Spring semester (some of which you can read about in the next few pages). The Theatre program produced “Shakespeare Unmasked: Celebrating Shakespeare’s Women” (conceived and directed by our own Mendy McMasters) in early March. I am looking forward to the Chamber Music Event and the Opera Scenes Event toward the end of the semester (May 7th- May 9th). The Visiting Artist Lectures (funded by the Dorothy Florence Zaninovich fund) is bringing a series of artists to campus and the Todd Madigan Gallery has two exhibits until May 7: “Fourteen Views of Bakersfield” and “Time Stamps: Revisiting California Through the Postcards of Merle Porter” (which I found fascinating). The Public History Institute hosted Tyree Body-Pates (from the Autry Museum of the American West) on “Remixing the Archive: Making Black History Contemporary” on March 24. The Lectures in Language and Linguistics series hosted Dr. Megha Sundara (from UCLA) on “When and How Do Babies Learn the Morphological Suffixes of English?” on March 22.

Go to our “Event Calendar” (by clicking above) and see what’s coming up next in the School of Arts & Humanities at CSUB!

In these challenging times, let’s all try to stay flexible and committed to our academic goals!
The Institute for Basque Studies will present *Picasso Presents Gernika* on May 27, 2022, which is a historical docudrama written by Begoña Echeverría, Ph.D. (UC Riverside) about the child refugee crisis resulting from Hitler's 1937 bombing of the Basque town Gernika and Picasso's artistic response to the bombing (Guernica).

The script weaves primary source material and documentation with imaginative fiction. Echeverría partnered with theatre scholar, Dr. Annika Speer, to develop and produce a staged reading of the play followed by a film. This presentation focuses on the artistic craft of staging history.

Details of the event are forthcoming.
CSUB School of Arts and Humanities

AH HIGHLIGHTS

CSUB Runner Journalism Students Win 12 Awards

In early March, the staff of The Runner student news organization at CSUB brought home 12 awards from their trip to Long Beach, including recognitions at the state and national levels for college journalism.

The six student staff members traveled to California for the Associated Collegiate Press Spring National College Media Conference, where they attended workshops and met with industry professionals for skills building and career development. As part of the conference, they won national recognition in the Best of Show competition for the website The Runner Online and for the magazine Converge.

Also at the conference, The Runner received 10 statewide honors in the California College Media Association's annual student journalism contest. Despite the challenges of operating virtually, The Runner was honored with two first places for design - cover page and overall design.

"Even though the newspaper hasn't printed an issue in two years, the students still strive to create the best publication possible every two weeks," said Jennifer Burger, faculty adviser to The Runner and a lecturer in the Department of Communications at CSUB. Also notable are the awards received for social justice coverage and sexual assault awareness – two issues the student staff focused on in 2021 while also covering the impacts of COVID-19 at CSUB and in the community.

Read The Runner: https://therunneronline.com/

CSUB Thearerest Presents

Shakespeare Unmasked

Celebrating Shakespeare's Women

Conceived and Directed by Mendy McMasters

Thursday-Saturday March 4 & 5 at 7:30pm

Sunday March 6 at 2pm

CSUB DOME THEATRE

At the beginning of March, the Theatre Program presented their spring show Shakespeare Unmasked: Celebrating Shakespeare's Women which was written and directed by Theatre professor Mendy McMasters.

Divyang Motavar, Maya Blackstone, Vanessa Beltran, Oliver Love, Charlotte Smith, Kamala Boeck, Molly Jiron, Gissela Zelaya, Jan Mateo Tugab

Vanessa Beltran, Divyang Motavar, Maya Blackstone, Jan Mateo Tugab, Charlotte Smith, Oliver Love, Molly Jiron, Kamala Boeck, Gissela Zelaya

From left: Kiara Zabala, Vada Hepner, Haydee Barahona, Ellice Richman, Graciela Aguilar, Sydney Williams.

Top row, from left: Sydney Williams, Ellice Richman, Laura Widmer, Graciela Aguilar, Vada Hepner. Bottom row, from left: Kiara Zabala, Haydee Barahona.
Postcards and other forms of distributed media can inform the ways in which we perceive, understand, and remember landscapes. Like television, film, magazines, and social media, they can function as a medium for the perpetuation and circulation of idealized imagery. Postcards are mass produced, affordable, and are readily available at souvenir shops, and can be seen as a precursor to contemporary forms of visual correspondence such as Instagram, TikTok, and text messages.

Looking at postcards as record, and as a form of communication, that can shape our understanding of a place, fourteen artists present fourteen distinct postcard perspectives of Bakersfield, today. Informed by Merle Porter's postcards, each artist selected, mapped, photographed, and described twelve places of local and/or personal significance.

This exhibition is the culmination of the course Art 4020, Visiting Artist and Exhibition, Fall 2021, with Aurora Tang of the Center for Land Use Interpretation, led by Art professor Jesse Sugarmann.

Merle Porter was a one-man postcard production company, based out of Colton, California. He produced and distributed millions of cards over a 50-year career, which ended when he passed away in 1988. Nearly always about places, his cards celebrated ordinary landscapes, including highways and small town downtowns in the western states—especially California. He took the photographs, and wrote descriptive captions for the back of each card, full of historical facts and local lore, sometimes filling up more than half of the card's writing space with his text.

Comparing these old postcard views with current views of the same location shows the changes we make to the places we inhabit. Studying them side by side, we span the gap between then and now, and unearth surprising, subtle, and revealing patterns of change and stasis.

This exhibition features a selection of Merle Porter's California postcards, along with contemporary photographs of the depicted scenes, taken by members of the Center for Land Use Interpretation, a non-profit research organization interested in understanding and exploring the built landscape of the United States.
Since 2016, English professor Matthew Woodman has edited an annual themed anthology featuring work by writers in and around Kern County. The first anthology was *Writing the Drought*, followed by *Writing Work, Writing Flora/Fauna, Writing Sound*, and *Writing Fields*. A grant by the CSUB Pandemic Research Group has made it possible for another edition to be published.

Woodman is in the process of soliciting submissions for the 2022 anthology, *Writing Covid*, inspired by our range of experiences during these uncertain times. It is open to faculty, staff, students and members of the community. All participants will receive a copy of the anthology and will be invited to participate in a community reading after publication.

In February, Modern Language and Literatures Administrative Assistant Milissa Ackerley, was appointed and sworn in as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). CASA is a program that works to facilitate the best interest of abused and neglected children in the juvenile court process. Ackerley has been trained to advocate for children's safety and well-being in the courts, schools, and community and will work an average of 10 to 18 hours per month on each case she is assigned. She has also volunteered to work in the Family Connections Program which uses many resources to find a relative who is willing to become a member of the child's support network.

If anyone is interested in learning more go to kerncasa.org for more information.

On March 11, Dean Robert Frakes was invited back to present on "The Budget and the University" at the Faculty Leadership Academy at California State University, Bakersfield. Frakes relayed “While I presented on the topic last year via Zoom, this year we were able to do it in person. I am grateful to the organizers of the event and the great questions and comments of the participants (as well as for their forgiveness for me packing in a short history of American higher education at the beginning of the talk).”
FACULTY NEWS

English Composition Instructors Brooke Hughes and Randi Brummett de Leon's textbook Write Here: Developing Writing Skills in a Media-Driven World was featured in a review in the February edition of "Technical Communication".

Phil Chang, Art Professor

M+B a Los Angeles, CA based gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of new works by Art Professor Phil Chang. This is the Chang’s third solo show with the gallery, the exhibition opened March 5, 2022 and will run through April 2, 2022.

On January 13, 2022, Chang participated in a conversation with Brandon Lattu, a Professor at UC Riverside. The conversation focused on Lattu's survey exhibition at the California Museum of Photography. Listen to the conversation here.

Chang received his MFA from the California Institute of the Arts and his BA from the University of California, Irvine. His works are in the collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the California Museum of Photography, Riverside.

Pictures, Pigment, and Canvas, 2021

English professor Matthew Woodman’s essay on Rufino Tamayo’s painting Prometheus Bringing Fire to Mankind was published in UNESCO’s “Art Collection, Selected Works”, in celebration of UNESCO’s 75th anniversary.

On March 10, Philosophy professor Jackie Kegley was invited to give a paper entitled “Josiah Royce: Advocate for Academic Freedom” at the annual conference of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy in Florida.

Author Tony Kashani, a senior fellow at FHDA Center for Applied Humanities, interviews History Professor, Mustafah Dhada. The dialogue examines the integral role that history plays in shaping the human condition and Dhada discusses the ways in which a historian should approach his work. Watch here.
FACULTY NEWS

During the month of February, Art professor Joyce Kohl exhibited her Glass Tapestries at Gallery 417 in Los Angeles, CA.

Kohl has worked as a ceramic artist and sculptor for over forty-five years, often combining the two mediums in assemblages. In planning public artwork for the Claremont Metro Gold Line Station, she became interested in the expressive potential of glass.

This was her first exhibit in fused glass and the exhibit plays with the interactions of different types of glass, often giving the illusion of being woven. The rounded pieces have been made by putting pressure on stacked glass as it is being fired. This process, akin to raku in ceramic, often yields unexpected and exciting results.

ADD LINK HERE

Modern Languages and Literatures professor Teresa Fernandez Ulloa will be attending several conferences this summer and during one in particular she will present “Ecocrítica, justicia social e igualdad de género a través de la música en Hispanoamérica. Cómo llevarlo a la clase de lengua y cultura” (“Ecocriticism, social justice and gender equality through music in Latin America. How to take it to the language and culture class.”) at the University of Valencia (Spain).

During the past year Fernandez Ulloa has published several articles and has two books in the process of publication. She also presented papers at several international conferences.
FACULTY NEWS

Philosophy Professor Tiffany Tsantsoulas was interviewed by Engaged Philosophy in December 2021 about her experience doing public philosophy with underserved and marginalized communities and her role as a board member of the Public Philosophy Network. Engaged Philosophy is a not-for-profit group that aims to help philosophers and their students take part in civic engagement projects. Their interview series highlights the work of professional philosophers who do public and/or civic-oriented work.

Read the interview here.  ADD LINK HERE

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FACULTY AT CSUBAHA.COM

English professor and chair Steve Frye, discusses the book The Road by American writer, Cormac McCarthy on the AOM site “Cormac McCarthy, The Road, and Carrying the Fire” (podcast #760).

Listen to the podcast at ADD LINK HERE

The Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) has invited Liora Gubkin, Associate Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities and Director of the Institute for Religion, Education, and Public Policy to serve as a presenter and consultant for the Institute on Teaching and Learning for Campus-wide Interfaith Excellence, a partnership with the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U).

The Institute on Teaching and Learning for Campus-wide Interfaith Excellence is designed to prepare college and university leaders to transform their campuses into environments for interfaith cooperation. Intended for administrators, faculty, and staff at both public and private colleges and universities, campuses are invited to bring teams of five people from a diverse set of campus positions to the Institute.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FACULTY AT CSUBAHA.COM
What is your field of study?
Art Education

What is your favorite class to teach?
It's difficult to choose as it fluctuates between two different courses each semester. I like Art 3100 Art in the Elementary Classroom and Art 4100 Crafts in the Classroom.

What are you reading this semester?
“How to Win Friends and Influence People in the Digital Age”

What do you do for fun and relaxation?
I have fun with dog shows and with dog performance activities with my Irish Red and White Setter, “Z”. He was discovered on his breeder’s Social Media page as a show dog when he was younger. I decided to try to show him and he went to #1 in his breed in 2020 and has won many accolades. I never knew anything about showing and decided to try it for fun. Z went on to win the AKC National Championship in Orlando for his breed. Thanks to Z’s renowned handler, Elizabeth Jordan-Nelson for handling him in shows across the USA. Also thank you to his trainer located in Bakersfield, Tina Mendiola, for helping prepare for his shows.

Long before Z became a show dog, he was a “surprise” guest at the 2015 CSUB Children’s Art Institute Summer Art Camp. When studying about the artists that worked during the Wild West we studied how certain breeds of dogs depicted in paintings in the Wild West were a help to folks in everyday life. He was only six months old at the time and had a blast with the over 60 children in the camp. Z served as an example of the breed of dog that was helpful to people back then, and the Art Institute children made “oil” paintings (using oil based clay) depicting dogs helping people during the Old West era. This experience at the CSUB Children’s Art Institute helped prep Z for the interactions with numerous people for his future in dog shows. It also enlightened the children to learn about the role of working dogs during the times of the Wild West depicted in paintings.

Do you have any advice or thoughts for our students?
Always follow your passion, and listen to whatever your intuition tells you.

Dianne Turner, Ph.D.
Art Education

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FACULTY AT 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 Stern 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. Liora Gubkin serves as the Director with Dr. Joseph Florez, Katy Hanson, and Dr. Jonathan Young forming the Faculty Advisory Committee.
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

Matt Harris
1991 CSUB Alumnus

Harris graduated with a B.A. in English from CSUB and went on to earn a M.A. in American Literature from San Diego State University. He is a screenwriter and recently wrote the screenplay for the comedy-drama *The Starling* which is streaming on Netflix.

Tyree Boyd-Pates
2012 CSUB Alumnus

Boyd-Pates graduated with a B.A. in Communications and a minor in Black Studies from CSUB. He is currently serving as the Associate Curator of western history at the Autry Museum of the American West in Los Angeles, CA.

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.

Mail to:
CSUB Foundation
9001 Stockdale Highway, 19 AW
Bakersfield, CA 93311-1022