MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Turning the Corner

We finished another strange and challenging year with the Pandemic continuing to do its disruptive best. But it feels like we may have turned the corner. A growing number of people are getting vaccinations, and the positivity rate is declining (in California, anyway). Even with this obvious challenge, the 2020/2021 Academic Year proved to be a successful year in the School of Arts & Humanities at CSUB. A large number of students (over 1,000!) pursue majors in the programs in our School. We had great art exhibitions and 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 Live Virtual Ceremony. CSUB held six commencement ceremonies to try to give both the 2020 and 2021 graduates an opportunity to be recognized and to celebrate their achievements in a difficult time. We are planning on making the Fall of 2021 a transition semester, with many classes having some kind of on-campus component and we are hopeful for a fully on-campus Spring semester.

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!
Philosophy professor Senem Saner and Philosophy graduate student Jessica Manzo from CSU Long Beach presented their Philosophy for Children (P4C) program *Respect, Resourcefulness, and Empathy: What Children’s Books Can Teach Us About Environmental Ethics* during the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics conference held in February 2021. The presentation shared environmental ethics prompts that have been used in their program in Bakersfield, CA.

Philosophy for Children is a public service and community engagement program, aimed at introducing philosophical discussion and critical thinking to children while providing a service learning and practical training opportunity for CSUB students. Children, ages 7-11, participate in open-ended group discussions, in public settings, such as elementary school classrooms and public libraries, facilitated by CSUB philosophy faculty and students.

Watch the presentation on the P4C at CSUB Channel via YouTube
Watch here: https://youtu.be/YSTH8LZzp9o
The Alpha Chi National Convention was held on April 8th-10th, 2021, and the chapter’s Research Collaborative Project Team won First Prize of $5,000. The team was composed of Carson Vollmer, Kinesiology major, Jennifer Hart, Psychology major and Elizabeth Wood, English major. Their project title was The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on access to mental healthcare.

Also during the convention, Hunter Selbach, a Music major performed an original piece called “Sure Never Till My Latest Breath: A Composition’s Story”.

Philosophy professor, Jackie Kegley was elected Secretary-Treasurer of Region VII and as a member of the National Board for Alpha Chi.
AH held a virtual Honors Convocation this spring with a speech by CSUB President Lynnette Zelezny and AH Dean Bob Frakes celebrating our students’ academic achievements.

Congratulations to the Outstanding M.A. and B.A. Graduates of the School of Arts & Humanities!

Kenneth Jacobs and Madelynne Heiss have been named the overall Outstanding M.A. and B.A. students of the School of Arts Humanities.

Departmental Outstanding M.A. Graduates

Congratulations to our 2021 Outstanding M.A. Graduates!
These exceptional students were nominated for this award by the faculty in each department and chosen by the Chairs Council of the School of Arts & Humanities.

Alicia Chavez
Master of Arts in English

Kenneth Jacobs
Master of Arts in History

Alondra Moreno
Master of Arts in Spanish
Departmental Outstanding B.A. Graduates

Congratulations to our 2021 Outstanding B.A. Graduates!

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

Izua Banuelos
Art & Art History

Nesrine Annan
Communications

Grace VanKirk
English

Ana Noemi Ramirez
History

Rebecca St Croix Martinez
Interdisciplinary Studies

Gabriela Martin Del Campo
Modern Languages & Literatures

Madelynne Heiss
Music

James Alexander
Philosophy

Cameron Jackson
Religious Studies

Michael Grant
Theatre
Congratulations to the awardees of the 2021 Departmental Awards of Excellence and Dean’s Awards.

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

- Kayla Hinkle, Clio Award in History
- Brittany Johnson, Charles Kegley Award in Philosophy & Religious Studies
- Rosa Rascon, Li’i Pearl Award in English
- Erica Zamora, The George Award in Art (2021)
- Drew Upton, The George Award in Art (2020)
Awards

Nestor “Danny” Martinez
Outstanding Media Arts Project

Jimmie Taliaferro
Outstanding Performing Arts Project

Bat Ami “Tammy” Gordin
Outstanding Graduate Paper

Chelsea Geronimo
Outstanding Visual Arts Project

James Alexander
Outstanding Undergraduate Paper
Congratulations to our amazing students who have worked hard during their academic career. The School of Arts & Humanities wishes you the best of luck in your professional careers.
Congratulations to Art student **Erica Zamora** for being awarded The George Award in 2021.

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.

By using ceramics, Zamora hand builds ambiguous forms or vessels as a stand in for the body with the intention to explore the many different feelings a person may go through. Zamora's work presents the feeling of being in an unwanted space, physically or mentally, not knowing where you are, or want to be, or simply being exactly where you want to be. Each piece is never identical due to the process, flexibility, wetness, and also the type of clay. This gives Zamora the opportunity to manipulate the shape and form of each sculpture in order to express each feeling or situation uniquely. As she works on each piece, she also allows gravity to take some control over the form of the sculpture to enhance the singularity of her sculptures. Zamora aims for each piece to be unique unlike any other just as humans are: one of one.

Zamora states “throughout my body of work, I primarily stick to neutral, organic like colored glazes in order to keep a tight relation between myself being a brown woman, my pieces, the material, and earth itself. When the works are successful, the colors tied together with these unique moments throughout the surfaces, provide me relief-tranquility over chaos, good over bad, like an oasis of peace.”
We end this year with the debut of a new Religious Holiday calendar thanks in large part to the efforts of Religious Studies professor Joseph Florez and Religious Studies Outstanding Graduate Cameron Jackson who worked in partnership with the office of Equity, Inclusion, and Compliance. We are happy to offer this resource for faculty as an inclusive planning tool as they create their course assignment calendar. In addition to the dates and “commonly used accommodations,” the calendar provides a great resource for our community to learn a bit more about our wonderous, religiously diverse world. Imagine the opportunities to learn about one another – and to celebrate! Visit the Holiday Calendar at https://bit.ly/36ZfbCw.

The Institute for Religion, Education, and Public Policy would like to host a series of educational celebrations throughout the next year. Our aspirational mission is to promote justice and peace in a religiously diverse world. Providing occasions for people to gather, share stories, and take joy in each other’s happiness is one small way we contribute to bringing those aspirations into reality. We are looking for sponsors of this series of informal drop-in gatherings celebrating religious diversity. Contact Institute Director Liora Gubkin at lgubkin@csub.edu to make your contribution in support of our mission.
Greetings from the newest organization supporting the CSU, Bakersfield School of Arts & Humanities!

The Friends of Arts & Humanities — AH Friends — is an extension of the Executive Advisory Council for the School of A&H. 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 brand-new, 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 A&H 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 or email us at AHfriends@CSUB.edu to learn more about how you can help the Friends of Arts & Humanities at CSUB.

Learn more at AHfriends.org.
or email us at
AHfriends@CSUB.edu
ALUMNI BUZZ

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 & Humanities programs.

Do you know alumni whose work should be recognized here? Contact us at rstcroixmartinez@csub.edu

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

Contribute to the success of Arts & 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

Shelby Parker
2015 CSUB Alumna

Shelby Parker graduated with a B.A. in Communications with an emphasis in Journalism. She is the speciality publications editor for Bakersfield Life, a monthly published magazine focusing on lifestyle and community in Bakersfield, CA.

Priscilla Huerta
2019 CSUB Alumna

Priscilla Huerta graduated with a B.A. in Religious Studies and went on to earn a Masters of Education in School Counseling from USC in May 2021. She is currently working as a high school counselor in the Central Valley.