

Academic Affairs Corner

March 2022



California State University
SAN MARCOS

UPDATES

*CoBA is excited to launch the new Elevate program! Elevate will give students a platform to showcase the skills they acquire beyond the classroom in a portfolio that can be shared with employers. Learn more about the Elevate program [here!](#)

* The turnout to SuperSTEM Saturday festival on CSUSM campus this past weekend (March 12) was better than we could have imagined with some 7,000 visitors. The weather was perfect, and kids of all ages enjoyed 65 booths that included building and launching rockets, various animal activities and exhibits, the “Chemistry is better than Magic” show and a multitude of hands-on activities featuring science, technology, engineering, and math. The all-outdoor event was the first big event welcoming back the community to CSUSM since the COVID-19 shutdown. Thank you to all that worked so diligently to make it such a phenomenal success

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Provost Kemnitz and Vice Provost Oling-Sisay would like to invite you to open office hours. Stay tuned for more information and availability of appointments on the AA website.

*The University Library now provides complete digital access to The New York Times for all CSUSM students, faculty and staff. After completing a [one-time setup process](#), CSUSM users can use their @cougars.csusm.edu or @csusm.edu email address to sign directly into [nytimes.com](#) from on- or off-campus to access all New York Times articles, media, and interactive content. Follow these [instructions](#) for setting up an account. Please contact Lauren Magnuson at lmagnuson@csusm.edu if you have any problems setting up your access to The New York Times.

*The CSU Libraries are pleased to announce that California State University has successfully finalized a three-year ScienceDirect contract with Elsevier. This renewal continues our positive negotiations and agreement terms that were first put into effect March of 2020, including the waiving of article processing charges for CSU authors who opt to make their publications open access. You can find more information [here](#).

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* The Office of Academic Advising is happy to announce the hiring of 3 Academic Advisors: Please welcome

- Justin Villasenor who joins us from SDSU
- Kitsya Macias who joins us from UC Merced
- Joshua Galeai who joins us from CSUSM

These new team members help fill vacated positions which occurred over the last year.

* Help us improve the University Library's website and online services. The Library needs your input to obtain a better understanding of what our users think of the Library website usability.

Take the survey online at bit.ly/librarywebsitesurvey.

* The Office of Graduate Studies and Research hosted the Annual Symposium on Student Research, Creative Activities and Innovation on Friday, March 11. Twenty-five students participated and gave a 10 minute oral presentation to a panel of judges on their research projects. The judges in each session selected two finalists that will attend the statewide Student Research Competition virtually, hosted by San Francisco State University April 29-30.

Big Shout out to the Finalists that will be representing CSUSM:

- **Krystal Alvarez-Hernandez** : Exposure to Childhood Abuse on Symptoms of Depression Across the Perinatal Period in Mexican/Mexican American Women
- **Kasandra Balsis**: African American Voices in the U.S. Occupation of Haiti (1915-1934)
- **Gilda Castellanos**: Patterning of Concave Wells Using Monodisperse Bubbles for the Creation of Cellular Spheroids
- **Kennedy Caudle & Courtney Johnson**: Examining the impact of human presence on native insect pollinators in Coastal Sage Scrub habitat in north San Diego County
- **Serena Farrell**: Voltage-gated ion channels in the osmoregulatory epithelia of yellow fever mosquitoes *Aedes aegypti* larvae
- **Diego Gomez-Ceballos & Joshua Alvarez**: Troubleshooting Purification Methods for CsgE
- **Yosiris Hagan**: A Rare Subset of Epidermal T cells Associated with Hair Follicles Express BST2
- **Renee Laurenzana**: Changes in Behavioral Responses Following Repeated Ketamine Treatment in Adolescents: Relevance for Ketamine Addiction
- **Rachel Maddux & Hannah Rodgers**: Partisanship and Opinions Regarding the Afghanistan Troop Withdrawal: Susceptibility to Priming
- **Madison Stewart**: Defining the Relationship Between the Soil Microbiome and Crop Nutritional Content

* The Office of Graduate Studies and Research – Grants and Contracts Development is thrilled to welcome Rachel Stiehl to the Grants and Contracts Development Team as the part-time Grant Writer. Rachel comes to us with extensive research administration experience Rachel has a bachelor's in environmental science. We look forward to her start with OGSR in mid-April.

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* The School of Education and San Marcos Unified School District secured a \$250,000 Teacher Residency Capacity Grant. This is a one-year planning grant to develop a five-year Teacher Residence Capacity Program. The funding will be used to establish new teacher residency programs that support designated shortage fields including special education, bilingual education, computer science, science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), transitional kindergarten (TK), or kindergarten. We will also develop mechanisms to recruit, develop support systems for, provide outreach and communication strategies to, and retain a diverse teacher workforce that reflects the diversity of San Marcos.

EVENTS



* Save the Date: [Faculty Center Colloquium for Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity](#), April 26, 2022, 5:00-8:00pm. The Spring Colloquium speaker is Gloria Pindi, Associate Professor, Communication & Media Studies.

* [Call for proposals for the 2022 CSU Student Success Network Conference](#) centered on the theme “Sustaining Momentum for Equity and Change in the CSU.” This is an exciting opportunity for cross-campus conversations around how we sustain our equity-focused work in times of change, uncertainty, and, importantly, hope.

We are interested in presentations on 1) exemplars in the system that have achieved progress in advancing these priorities or 2) innovative efforts in the planning stages to improve DFW rates and re-enroll students who dropped out during the past two years.

[Proposals are due April 4, 2022](#)

* CSUSM's Center for Leadership Innovation & Mentorship Building (CLIMB) presents Jimmy Thai, MBA '00, in a seminar about Compassionate Leadership. Please join us on April 1st at the McMahan House from 7:30-9:30 am to hear Jimmy's extraordinary story of overcoming life's hardest challenges without losing compassion for others and achieving his dream of building schools! [Register here.](#)

* **University Library Award for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity:** Students can win \$600 for a research paper, project, or creative work that they've already done! It's a wonderful opportunity for students to be recognized for work that they're proud of.

The award is open to undergraduate students in all majors and we are awarding up to six \$600 prizes. Winners will be recognized at a reception attended by Provost Kemnitz on May 12th. **The submission deadline of April 22nd is quickly approaching.** More information and submission guidelines can be found at: bit.ly/csusmlibaward.



ACCOLADES

* Literature & Writing Studies launched a student edited journal of undergraduate creative writing called [318 Journal](#). It is edited and published by students in LTWR 318: Writing in Community, under the supervision of faculty advisor Dr. Francesco Levato.

* Three CSUSM Biochemistry alumni have found success as graduate students in the challenging field of Biophysics. Jesse Howe, PhD candidate at Oregon State University, gave an excellent platform talk at the 2022 Biophysical Society Meeting. Rosa Romero, PhD candidate at University of Michigan, presented a research poster on SMFRET of RNA riboswitches, and Karina Guadalupe, PhD candidate at UC Merced won the 2022 Student Research Achievement Award for her work. All three students did undergraduate research in Biochemistry, and we could not be more proud! Go Cougars!

* Amanda Frank (BIOL) just won a significant scholarship from [Aquarium of the Pacific, African American Scholar Program](#).

PUBLICATIONS

* Sociology and Criminal alumna Carolina Valdivia, Sociology professor Marisol Clark-Ibanez, and Ethnic Studies alumna Daniela Carreon published a journal article from the UndocuResearch Project, '[I'll be risking myself just to get an education': how local-level immigration enforcement impacts undocumented students' pathways to college](#). Valdivia is now an assistant professor at UC Irvine. Carreon recently finished her MA at CSUSM in Sociological Practice.

* Congratulations to the Fall 2021 Senior Experience team for getting their work on the San Diego Business Confidence Index report published in the San Diego Business Journal. The students reported the latest confidence levels of those surveyed in the general business category was 77.03; craft brewing 75.5; tourism 78.18; and biotech 80.13. Read the full article [here](#).

* Library Journal, a top-tier trade publication in the library and information field, has recently published a [case study on the CSUSM Library's use of course reserves](#) to promote student affordability. The case study features the work of our Reserves Coordinator, Kelly Ann Sam, and the Library's adoption of the Leganto platform and the excellent uptake from our instructional faculty to help students get free or low-cost access to their course materials.