



A Note From The Dean ...

Welcome to the revised CHABSS newsletter, “The View From 4111,” where each month we’ll feature students, faculty, staff, and alumni. For events, subscribe to our CHABSS [Instagram](#) to be in the know at the moment! Each spring we celebrate our graduating seniors. The [link](#) is now open for you to nominate a student. Last spring, we honored 15 amazing students and wished them and their guests well as they prepared for the next step in their life journey. This year our celebration will be in the ballroom, and we have the capacity to welcome twice as many students and their supporters. I know we have many worthy students who would find affirmation from their professors extremely meaningful. For up-and-coming students, connecting with [Learning and Tutoring Services](#) can keep them on the path to success. The new [LAEP](#) program provides funding for students to conduct research in their area of study or the



exploration of career objectives. Thanks to all who submitted their strategic plan objective implementation for 2023-2024. We are in good stead in our alignment with the university plan and our focused approach. Watch your email for more information on how we are moving forward at the College level through faculty leadership development, faculty retention support, student career readiness, and comprehensive campaign priorities.

Student Success



Call for Dean's Awards Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2024 CHABSS Dean's Awards for graduating students. More information, including criteria, for each award can be found [here](#). You will also see last year's award recipients there. The winners will be honored at the Annual Student Recognition event in May. Please submit nominations to the CHABSS Dean's office (SBSB 4115) or via email to lmelena@csusm.edu no later than Wednesday, March 15, 2024. Thank you for your help in recognizing our many student achievements.



Fall Commencement a Rousing Success

CSUSM became the first public university in San Diego County to hold a fall commencement this past December. Fall commencement offered mid-year graduates the opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments with families and friends.

[Collection of some photos from fall commencement](#)

Faculty Highlights



Event Discusses Intersection of Art, Compassion and Cybersecurity

When Merryl Goldberg met Jen Easterly a few years ago at a cybersecurity convention, it signified a simple coming together of two professionals who have spent a portion of their adult lives protecting nations of people. But perhaps it was serendipitous for another reason. For how do you explain a random meeting between an American national security expert and a music professor that would eventually become a lifelong connection?

Cybersecurity experts visit campus to discuss art & compassion in their work

2023-24 President's
Outstanding Faculty
and Staff Awards

President's Outstanding Faculty Award
for Scholarship & Creative Activity
Andy Spieldenner
Communication



Employee of the Year
Leo Melena, Director of
Student Success

2023-24 President's Outstanding Faculty and Staff Awards

President's Outstanding
Faculty Award for Service
Leadership

Cecilia "Lia" Uy-Tioco



President's Award for Inclusive
Excellence and Diversity

Joely Proudfit

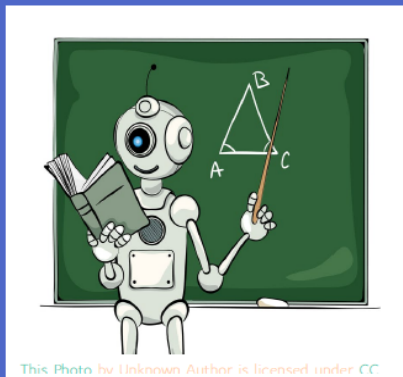
CHABSS Shines in President's Awards

Three faculty members and one staff member were recently honored at the 2023-24 President's Outstanding Faculty and Staff Awards. Communication associate professor Andy Spieldenner was awarded the President's Outstanding Faculty Award for Scholarship and Creative Activity. Another member of the communication faculty, associate professor Cecilia "Lia" Uy-Tioco, was honored with the Faculty Award for Service Leadership. American Indian Studies professor and chair Joely Proudfit received the award for Inclusive Excellence and Diversity. Leo Melena, the director of student success, was honored as Employee of the Year.

[Link to all 2023-24 President's Awards](#)

Special Event
for CHABSS
Faculty!

AI and Course
Student Learning
Outcomes Assessment
Workshop



- Are you concerned that AI has upended your tried-and-true approaches to teaching and assignment design?
- Do you need a starting point for strategically thinking about curriculum development in a world with AI?

In this activity-based workshop faculty will consider the impact of AI on their current classes and assignments. Using the principles of an "AI Course Retrofit" as defined by Zach Justus at CSU Chico, in this guided session you will consider your current course level learning outcomes, assignments, and activities and how AI has changed the way your students might experience them and where there may be opportunity and/or need to reimagine student work.

This workshop is not about catching students using AI or how to prevent them from using AI, but rather provides tools for starting the ongoing process of reimagining your course and field in a world where AI tools will be an ongoing reality.

Feb 13th

12:00-1:30 PM

KE L 2413

(Faculty Center Conference Room)

AI Workshop Slated for Faculty

The Faculty Center is hosting an activity-based workshop for CHABSS faculty on AI and Course Student Learning Outcomes. If you are finding that AI has upended your traditional approaches to teaching and you need a starting point for strategically thinking about curriculum development in the world of AI, please plan to attend. The event is Feb. 13 12-1:30 p.m. in the Faculty Center Conference Room. RSVP at the link below.

[RSVP here](#)

Recent CHABSS Grant Recipients

Congratulations to several CHABSS faculty members who are recent recipients of grants:

* Drs. Theresa Suarez, Madeline Lee and Christina Holub | Sociology | Catalyst subaward, California Department of Social Services | Stop she Hate | *CSUSM and community partners form Unifying APIDA Communities Together (U-ACT)*

* Dr. Carmen Nava | Dean's Office | CSU Office of the Chancellor, Subaward Lumina Foundation | Building Transformational Cultures | *Building Transformational Cultures of Data Use for Student Success*

Alumni Achievements



Better Mental Health Through Better Cuts

John W. Edwards III operates a small barber studio in San Diego, rotating about 25 clients through his single chair. That's half of Edwards' career track. It's the other half, though, that elevates his story from merely intriguing to truly unique. Edwards studied psychology at CSUSM, and it was at the university that he dreamed up the idea of melding his longtime practice of barbering with his fledgling research on mental health treatment. Before graduating last May, he became the first student in the state (according to some digging he did on the topic) and possibly the nation to conduct a preliminary study on a college campus in which barbering is used as a tool for trauma-informed advocacy.

Psychology alumnus cuts hair with a side of therapy



Alumna Receives Health Justice Award

Deysi Merino-Gonzalez has worked in the Migrant Health department at Vista Community Clinic for three years, providing critical support to the migrant and immigrant community of San Diego County. Merino-Gonzalez uses her unique

perspective, background of understanding and empathetic nature to provide her community with the best care possible.

Social sciences alumna honored by Migrant Clinicians Network

Staff Spotlight



Q&A with Leo Melena, CHABSS director of student success, who was recently honored as CSUSM Employee of the Year by President Neufeldt.

1.) **How did it feel to win the award?** I feel very honored to be recognized with this award, especially knowing so many colleagues across campus who are equally deserving doing amazing work.

2.) **What's your favorite part of working in CHABSS?** My colleagues, no question about it! From department staff and faculty to the Dean's Office. I consider them more than colleagues, they are my family!

3.) **How many students would you estimate you've had direct contact with in your CSUSM career?** Good question! More than a few, I would wager. What I can say is that the students in CHABSS are amazing and they have had a profound impact on me and the work that I do. Over the years I have learned a lot from our students. I looking forward to learning more in the future!

Save the Date

aRts LECTURES SPRING 2024 LINEUP

FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
 <p>THURSDAY, FEB. 8 Our Work, Our Dignity: Socially Engaged Performance Practice for Community Organizing With Andreina Maldonado Arts III @ 6:30 p.m.</p>	 <p>MONDAY, MARCH 4 Ed Kornhauser Quartet Arts III @ 7:30 p.m.</p>	 <p>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3 SIGNATURE EVENT An Evening With George M. Johnson, Author of "All Boys Aren't Blue" USU Ballroom @ 6 p.m.</p>
 <p>SATURDAY, FEB. 17 Tian Ying Arts III @ 7 p.m.</p>	 <p>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6 Nature-Driven Design: How to Survive Plastics Innovation Hub (ELB 102) @ Noon</p>	 <p>MONDAY, APRIL 15 Jason Magabo Perez USU Ballroom @ 6 p.m.</p>
 <p>SCAN HERE OR RESERVE YOUR TICKETS ONLINE AT CSUSM.EDU/AL</p>		 <p>THURSDAY, MARCH 7 Landa Lakes: Two-Spirit Storytelling Arts III @ 7:30 p.m.</p>

Author Sharing Value of Diverse Stories Highlights Spring Arts & Lectures

A presentation by an author who champions for black and queer voices highlights the spring lineup of the longstanding Arts & Lectures series. This season boasts a diverse selection of seven events as the university hosts renowned guest speakers and performances. Attendees can reserve tickets online via the Arts & Lectures website.

Diverse and entertaining A&L series for spring



Our Work, Our Dignity
Feb. 8, 6:30 p.m., Arts 111



Tian Ying
Feb. 12, 7 p.m., Arts 111

Feb. 7 – **Summer in Spain Teacher Education** 4-5 p.m. Zoom Meeting:
<https://csusm.zoom.us/j/86592657065>

Feb. 8 – **Summer in Spain Language Info Session** 12-12:50 p.m. Mark 209

Feb. 8 – **Summer in Spain Teacher Education** 4-5 p.m. Zoom:
<https://csusm.zoom.us/j/86592657065>

Feb. 8 – **Our Work/Our Dignity** 6:30-8 p.m. CSUSM Arts 111

Feb. 9 – **Summer in Spain Language Info Session** 9-9:50 a.m. Zoom:
<https://csusm.zoom.us/j/88160283672>

Feb 13. – **Study Abroad Info Session** 12-12:50 p.m. SBSB 1111

Feb. 15 – **Summer in Italy Health Predeparture** 12-12:50 p.m. UNIV 440

Feb. 17 – **Tian Ying** 7-9 p.m. CSUSM Arts 111

Feb. 27 – **Study Abroad Info Session** 12-12:50 p.m. SBSB 1111

Mar. 1 – **Symposium on Student Research, Creative Activity, & Innovation** 2-5:30 p.m. Markstein Hall

Mar. 4 – **Ed Kornhauser Quartet** 7:30-9 p.m. CSUSM Arts Building



California State University
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COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS,
BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES

The CHABSS newsletter is produced by the dean's office communications team. It's published the first Tuesday of every month during the fall and spring semesters. Submissions for consideration in the newsletter can be sent directly to tmeehan@csusm.edu or dropped off to SBSB 4111. The deadline for submission is the Friday prior to publication.