Introduction by Jackie Trischman, Interim Dean

It’s hard to believe that COVID-19 has changed our lives so drastically since March of 2020 when it feels like our entire lives went virtual.

Yet we have met the challenge! We’ve learned a lot about ourselves, how we learn, how to teach in new ways, and how to find that darn mute button. We’ve all learned new technologies that have made our work and our lives more efficient, something that we will benefit from for years to come. We have learned to communicate with students in the language of the 21st century and to support them both in person and through the use of modern technology. When we get a moment to sit back and think, we are re-imagining a college education.

We put commencements and grand openings, celebrations of students, staff, and faculty accomplishments, birthday parties, holiday celebrations, and retirement hugs on hold. Instead we gather on Zoom, Facetime, Messenger, Teams, Discord, Slack, and more. We share our challenges, our stories, our pets, our tips for success, and our memes as we support each other in new ways.

As this virtual academic year comes to a close, we look forward with optimism, hoping to gather again on the campus in the Fall. We long to be with families, to hug, laugh, and sing together, to go to the movies, and to travel again. We’ve gained a new appreciation for these things that will make them even more special when we can do them again.

This isn’t the first, nor will it be the last challenge we will face. But we have proved we can endure, grow, and succeed in tough times, and we will have the caring, courage, creativity, and resilience to succeed again, no matter what.

“Like tiny seeds with potent power to push through tough ground and become mighty trees, we hold innate reserves of unimaginable strength. We are resilient.” — Catherine DeVrye, The Gift of Nature
Outstanding Faculty-Student Collaboration Award
Awarded to Dr. Darcy Taniguchi, Alyssia Gonzalez, and Anissa Garcia

Anissa and Alyssia have made incredible and meaningful strides to control the quality and process the data used in their machine learning research in Dr. Taniguchi’s lab. Alyssia is also working on improving the accuracy of a new algorithm. Their contributions are particularly impressive given the difficulties of conducting research during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Alyssia has a GPA of 3.643 and is set to graduate in Summer 2021. After graduation, Alyssia plans to work in a microbiology laboratory before applying to a Ph.D. program. Afterward, she intends to stay in academia and continue research in microbial biology.

Anissa has a GPA of 2.789 and is on track to graduate in Fall 2021. After graduation, she intends to continue to build her laboratory and field skills before applying to a master’s program. Ultimately, she is interested in pursuing a career in marine biology.

Harry E. Brakebill Distinguished Professor Award

Awarded to Dr. Betsy Read

Dr. Read exemplifies the true spirit of the Brakebill Award; she is an extraordinary faculty member who has made outstanding contributions to her students, to her academic discipline, and to our campus community. In every aspect of her 27-year career at CSUSM, she has shown tremendous dedication in academic excellence, and has been an inspiration to her students and colleagues alike.

Dr. Read is quoted to say, “My goal in the courses I teach is to cultivate curiosity and creative thinking by helping students pose questions and seek answers to the ‘whys’ and ‘hows’ of biology. At the same time, I hope to nurture the sense of ‘wow’ and the thrill of discovery that makes me excited about science.” Clearly, Dr. Read cares deeply for her students and works hard to ensure they succeed in class and later in their careers.

We are proud to have Dr. Read in the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.
**Biotechnology**

**Outstanding Faculty-Student Collaboration Award**
Awarded to Dr. Carlos Luna Lopez, Rosaline Kumar and Holly Day

Holly and Rosaline joined Dr. Luna Lopez’ lab during their freshman year and stayed for four years. Holly and Rosaline collaborated on a project developing microfluidic devices to study cancer cell research. They developed a device that allows you to separate two different cell types: a cancer cell type, and a non-cancer cell type. This device allows you to measure cancer cell migration towards or against the other cell type. By doing this, we can analyze what cell types (e.g. stem cells) increase cancer metastasis and/or contribute to tumor growth.

Holly and Rosaline have presented at 12 different conferences, including the Biophysical Society, American Physics Society, CSUPERB Biotechnology Symposium, and at CSUSM.

Holly has a GPA of 3.499 and graduates in May. She will go on to graduate school for Biomedical Engineering in the School of Medicine at the Oregon Health & Science University. Her future goals are to become a research professor.

Rosaline has a GPA of 3.15 and also graduates in May. She is going to a Ph.D. program at the Medical Sciences Program at Texas A&M University. Her future goals are to become a researcher in pediatrics and study cancer development.

**CSU Trustee’s Award**
Awarded to Kayla Nguyen

Kayla received the California State University’s highest recognition of student accomplishment. The CSU recognizes 23 students every year – one from each CSU campus. Kayla received a scholarship of $9,000 for being named a Hampton Scholar, bestowed upon the Trustee scholar who scored the third highest among all applicants. Kayla will graduate this semester with a 3.83 GPA. She will join the Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. Program at Oregon Health & Sciences University in the fall.

**Special Recognition**
Kristin Dalrymple, First Edison Scholar to Graduate in the Wildfire Science and Urban Interface Program

**CSUPERB President’s Commission Scholar Award**
The California State University Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology (CSUPERB) recognizes that research experience is critical to engaging and graduating students interested in biotechnology careers. The focus of this program is to increase the number of lower-division undergraduate students who have access to a full-time research experience.

Awarded to Gilda Castellano

Gilda received one of just six Presidents’ Scholar awards given this year. She will be working with Dr. Luna Lopez on bioprinting using human cells and extra cellular “bioink” to create 3D models that will better represent the physiology and drug response of breast cancer tumors. She is completing her sophomore year at CSUSM majoring in Biotechnology and Computer Science. Gilda is on the CSUSM golf team and also plays soccer.

Gilda has a 3.295 GPA and plans to work towards a Ph.D. in Bioengineering after she graduates.

**COAST Research Award**
The CSU Council on Ocean Affairs, Science & Technology (COAST) is the CSU system-wide affinity group for marine- and coastal-related activities. COAST promotes interdisciplinary, multi-campus collaborations to advance our knowledge of California’s natural coastal and marine resources and the processes that affect them. The projects are selected through a competitive application process.

Awarded to David Reis and Mackenzie Pylant

Mackenzie’s project was to determine the sources of taxonomic and antibiotic resistance changes to coastal microbiomes in response to rainstorm runoffs. Using the meta-SourceTracker software developed in the SDSU Kelley lab (with whom the Becket lab is collaborating), Mackenzie was able to estimate the types and proportions that various microbial sources contribute to a given coastal sample.

Mackenzie has a GPA of 3.445 and will graduate May 2021. She will be going on to graduate to obtain a Ph.D. on the path to becoming a professor.

David worked with Dr. Christina Simkov, in conjunction with the Escondido Creek Conservancy, to compile a literature review on regimes, disturbances, practices, etc., within Coastal Sage Scrub. The aim of the study is to examine the impact that fire and fire (brush) management of Coastal Sage Scrub has on the air and water quality in the Escondido Creek coastal watershed.

David has a GPA of 3.93 and plans to graduate in December of 2021.
**Computer Science and Information Systems**

**Outstanding Faculty-Student Collaboration Award**
Awarded to Dr. Yanyan Li and Eric Levas

Eric Levas was selected for this award because of his outstanding performance in the development of a class chatbot, which led to a paper publication at the First Annual Computer Science Conference for CSU undergraduates (CSCSU). Eric quickly demonstrated his strong learning capabilities with active involvement in class discussion in Dr. Li’s networking class. Eric’s course project led to a continuing collaboration on a project that was to develop a messaging application. It was later expanded to create a class chatbot that can handle user questions. Eric met many challenges in the process, such as question learning and understanding. However, his dedication, problem-solving, and communication skills led to an innovative design that integrates Slack and Google Dialogflow, a cloud service for natural language processing, for the class chatbot creation.

Eric’s overall GPA is 3.86 and will graduate in May. His career goal is to become a software product manager that can fully utilize his knowledge in technique and in business.

**Chemistry and Biochemistry**

**Outstanding Faculty-Student Collaboration Award**
Awarded to Dr. Robert Iafe and Amanda Melanese

Amanda and Dr. Iafe have discovered and investigated a novel gold-catalyzed substitution reaction protocol where pharmaceutically relevant compounds can be prepared in one step from a benzylic alcohol. Amanda performed both kinetic and isotopic studies to get a better understanding of the mechanism of reaction. Her contributions led to a publication in the European Journal of Organic Chemistry with Amanda as a major contributing author. To date, this method has been used in the Iafe Lab to prepare over 30 novel compounds that have potential bioactivity against many fungal species.

Amanda has a GPA of 3.72 and will graduate in May 2021. She plans on attending graduate school to obtain a PhD. She hopes to teach chemistry to aspiring students at an R1 institution, with additional broader prospects to introduce and excite underprivileged students and spread awareness about the importance of chemistry in our lives across the next generation.

**Special Recognition**

Dr. Robert Iafe and Dr. Paul Jasien

NSF Grant of nearly $1 million to support the retention and graduation of high achieving, low income students in chemistry and biochemistry.

**American Chemical Society Student Chapter**
The Student Affiliate Chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS) at CSU San Marcos was selected to receive an Outstanding Chapter Award, the highest recognition by the ACS for a student club, for its activities conducted during the 2019-20 academic year. The CSUSM chapter was selected from among 400 chapters nationwide.

The club is mentored by Drs. Iafe and Trischman. This year due to restrictions from COVID-19, the ACS Club went out of their way to take an active role in STEM outreach by developing virtual events like Saturday STEMinars with Princeton University and a Magic Show for Super STEM Saturday. Members of the ACS student chapter present research projects as posters and oral presentations at national conferences. The chapter also takes an active part in preparing students for graduate school and the chemical workforce.

**Mathematics**

**Outstanding Faculty-Student Collaboration Award**
Awarded to Dr. Shahed Sharif and Nicholas Hollander

Nicholas, alongside Dr. Sharif, worked to give a formal treatment of an algorithm for finding intersection numbers on products of elliptic curves. In algebraic geometry, the intersection number of two curves on a surface is the number of intersection points, up to multiplicity. Efficient computation of intersection numbers is one step in an attack on the SIDH quantum-safe cryptosystem, among other applications. Directly counting points of intersection is very difficult; instead, Nicholas used the theory of Hilbert Series. As part of the thesis, Nicholas implemented the algorithm in the computer algebra package SAGE.

Nicholas has a GPA of 3.857, and will graduate with a Master’s degree in Mathematics in Spring 2021.
Outstanding Faculty-Student Collaboration Award
Awarded to Dr. Gerardo Dominguez and Paul Hoffman

Since entering CSUSM, Paul has been interested in Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM). For his first project with Dr. Dominguez, he learned how to use an education grade AFM to see if they could use it to measure the nano to micro vibrations present in a building. Paul took to the project immediately, independently and painstakingly collecting data. Paul’s data collection and analysis, which involved carrying out hundreds of Fourier Transforms on data and thousands of lines of code, allowed Dr. Dominguez to identify rooms within Science Hall 2 that would be suitable for a new state-of-the-art nanomapping system that was installed during the Fall of 2020. Paul is currently working on a manuscript to share the methods he developed, which could be of use to researchers and educators with education grade AFMs looking for unconventional ways of using them.

Paul Hoffman is being inducted into the Sigma Pi Sigma National Honor Society. He will graduate in spring 2021 with a 3.572 GPA overall and 3.672 at CSUSM. He will go on to pursue a Master’s degree. Paul hopes to someday work in Computer Vision or Machine Learning for a major corporation.

Special Recognition
The physics department is among the recipients of INSIGHT Into Diversity’s 2020 Inspiring Programs in STEM Award, which recognizes unique and innovative efforts for improving access to science, technology, engineering, and math for underrepresented students. Among the areas highlighted by INSIGHT Into Diversity was the department’s ranking for being sixth in the nation among undergraduate-only programs in awarding physics degrees to students from underrepresented groups.

Sigma Pi Sigma National Honor Society Inductees
Sigma Pi Sigma exists to honor outstanding scholarship in physics, to encourage interest in physics among students at all levels, to promote an attitude of service, and to provide a fellowship of persons who have excelled in physics.

Andrej Zezelj
Sylvia Munson
Daria Bonds
Paul Hoffmann
Dehao Meng
Alejandro Villa
Joseph McKissock
Danielle Sensem
Edgar Garcia
Madusudhan Alla
Sergio Gonzalez
Raymond Nelson
Xiongzhang Xu
Victoria Dominguez
This year, the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics has chosen to recognize the many campus partners who have helped us achieve our goals through their outstanding service and support. They are our heroes.

Anthony Law, Information Technology Consultant, ITS
Doug Goss, Lab and Learning Spaces Lead, ITS
Elmer Blakie, Classroom Support Technician, ITS
Damon Adams, Media Services Engineer, ITS Academic Technology Services
Tasos Lazarides, Director, Academic Innovation & Strategic Solutions, ITS
John Segoria, and Ben Towns, Disability Support Services
David Rodriguez, Supervising Building Service Engineer, FAS Energy Management & Utility Services
Denis Quiroga, Maintenance Mechanics, Facility Services
Isidro Alvarez, Lead Groundsworker, Facility Services
Jayce Yardley, Facilities Project Supervisor, Facility Services
John Adams and Michael Guty, Locksmiths, Facility Services
Justin Turk and Michael Rosales, Electricians, Facility Services
Valissa Middleton, and Debbie Russo, Distribution Services
Jerry Sullivan, Bart Westbrook, and Symeon Martinez, Distribution Services
Lindsay Swensen, Interim Manager, Strategic Sourcing and Contracts, Procurement Operations
Regina Frasca, Director, Safety, Health, and Sustainability
Elinne Becket, Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences
Denise Garcia, Professor, Biological Sciences
Daun Everforest, Chair, Lecturer Advisory Committee; Pre-health Programs
Andre Kundgen, Professor of Mathematics
Jennifer Brich, Director of the STEM Success Center
Julia Garcia-Medina, STEM Success Center Coordinator
Trevor Ryback, Math Lab Coordinator
Farideh Farheidar, CSTEM Instructional Support Technician

Recent addition: Diane Gephart-Mitchell returns
Promoted to another Department: Courtney Dow, OGSR
Recent departures: Luis Arrioja, Jesse Gonzales

Faculty, Staff Making Positive Impact During Pandemic

These members of the CSTEM community were recognized by their peers and received campus-wide recognition.

Denise Garcia, Professor, Biological Sciences
Elinne Becket, Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences
Daun Everforest, Chair, Lecturer Advisory Committee; Pre-health Programs
Andre Kundgen, Professor of Mathematics
Jennifer Brich, Director of the STEM Success Center
Julia Garcia-Medina, STEM Success Center Coordinator
Trevor Ryback, Math Lab Coordinator
Farideh Farheidar, CSTEM Instructional Support Technician
CSTEM Finalists at the Symposium on Student Research, Creativity and Innovation

These students were selected at our campus symposium to represent California State University San Marcos at the Annual CSU Student Research Competition. The competition is held to promote excellence in undergraduate and graduate scholarly research and creative activity by recognizing outstanding student accomplishments throughout the twenty-three campuses of the California State University.

Clarisa Garcia, Biological Sciences
“Investigating the Relationship Between Intron Length and Gene Expression in S. cerevisiae”

Yoselis Hogan, Biological Sciences
“Using publicly available RNA sequence data, reanalyzed differential gene expression in skin of alopecia areata patients after treatment with JAK/STAT signaling pathway blocker drug, tofacitinib”

Christian Lopezguerra, Elizabeth Murguia, Mackenzie Pylant – Biological Sciences
“Taxonomic and antibiotic resistance changes to coastal microbiomes in response to rainstorm runoff”

Anay Ochoa, Biological Sciences
“The effects of egg mass, hatching size, and clutch on the size of young female American alligators within three distinct years were examined.

Jaida Osman, Biochemistry
“Traditional Medicine and its Connection to Modern Medicine”

Dani Rodea, Biochemistry
“Molecular Dynamics Simulations of Membrane Transition in Cyclic Hexa-peptides Using All-Atom and Coarse-Grained Models”

University Library Award for Undergraduate Research

Michael McDermott, Computer Science
“ESAC: An Energetic, Sustainable Adaptive Clustering Protocol for Heterogenous Wireless Ad Hoc Networks (HANET)”

Anay Ochoa, Biological Sciences
“Effects of Egg Mass, Hatching Size, and Clutch on Body Masses and Lengths of Female American Alligators (Alligator Mississippian)”

CSTEM Dean’s Outstanding Graduate Award

This award is given to one student each academic year and is selected from the entire graduating class in the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics for their outstanding achievement and contributions to the campus community.

Awarded to Zsuzsanna Dianovic

Zsuzsanna’s was named for this prestigious award based on her outstanding academic record, research experience, leadership, peer support, and community outreach. Through these she demonstrated her analytical skills, intellect, and her commitment to and awareness of the need for more inclusion in the field of computer science. Her enthusiasm and commitment to the field, her peers, and her community service demonstrate her impressive and inspiring leadership skills.

Zsuzsanna put her career on hold to raise a family and came back to study computer science with a focus on cybersecurity. Her understanding that support and confidence are critical in overcoming challenges led her to provide this foundation to her peers at CSUSM and to young girls who may not have otherwise thought about becoming a computer scientist. Zsuzsanna accomplished this, in part, through her participation in the STREAM festival, Girls Code events at Mira Costa College, the High School Girl’s Hackathon, and the Mountain Shadows Outreach Project through the Tukwut Leadership Circle. CSUSM will reap the benefits of her efforts for years to come.

Zsuzsanna’s research focused on Blockchain Technology and she excelled in cryptography and network security, which has paved the way for her to enter a field that has few women.

Zsuzsanna graduates in May 2021 with a GPA of 3.78. Zsuzsanna’s next step will be to attend the SANS Diversity Cyber Academy. We are confident that she will continue to inspire women, not just in computer science, but across all fields to take on challenges with courage and confidence.
Dean's Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award

This award is given to one student each academic year and is selected from the entire graduating class in the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics for their outstanding achievement and peer mentoring in research.

Awarded to Matthew Cope

Matt worked in Dr. Elinne Becket’s lab before even coming to CSUSM. While he was a Bridges to the Future Scholar at Mira Costa College, he fully joined her research team when he transferred to CSUSM in 2019. Matt has continually demonstrated his motivation to innovate and collaborate towards scientific discovery. His academic record, undergraduate research, presentation experiences, independence in the lab, and passion for science are all factors that contributed to him being selected as the inaugural recipient of this award.

Matt’s first major project was to find a cost-efficient way to analyze large mobile genetic elements in microbial communities using pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE). Matt independently designed a PFGE instrument that can be printed on any 3D printer using AutoCAD, and he collaborated with the CSUSM Electrical Engineering program to design the wiring setup, with the goal of making these designs publicly available to any lab interested in performing these methods. Later, Matt leveraged skills learned in his NSF REU experience at SJU to lead fluorescence microscopy efforts in the lab. He developed protocols for accurate cell counting for the coastal microbial community standard the lab is working towards. Matt’s skill led to the Becket lab securing a CSU COAST GDP award to implement these technologies to analyze stormwater runoff microbiome samples. He is looking forward to expanding these microbial genomics foundations into plant biology applications, which partners well with his personal passion for horticulture and sustainable agriculture.

Matt has a GPA of 4.00 at CSUSM and is a TRIO McNair Scholar. He will graduate with a bachelor’s degree in Biological Sciences in May 2021, and he will be going on to pursue a Ph.D. at UC Davis in Fall 2021.

Dean's Outstanding Undergraduate Award

College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences

This award is given to one student each academic year and is selected from the entire graduating class in the College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences for their outstanding achievement and contributions to the campus community.

Awarded to Kodie Gerritsen

Kodie said that they were supposed to be an artist, but partway through earning their art degree they found that their penchant for objective thinking and facts obtained via the scientific method excited them, and so they dove into the deep end of math and science and added Applied Physics as their second major. Then, they discovered their love for geography and added it as a minor. Kodie not only went above and beyond with earning their degrees, but also with their contributions to research, and campus and community involvement throughout their time at CSUSM.

As a STEAM Ambassador, which designs and delivers curriculum on science and art to K-12 students, Kodie brought craft, sculpture, color theory, and the science of rainbows together in an engaging hands-on activity. Kodie also was a key member of the team that designed the Data Stacks exhibition space for CSUSM’s Kellogg Library that features art around issues of sustainability, climate change and climate justice. Kodie’s passion for physics led them to volunteer as president of CSUSM’s Women in Physics (WiP) student organization. During a time when stay-at-home orders caused many student organizations to suspend or disband, Kodie and their fellow officers pushed forward with WiP. In addition to WiP, Kodie has served as the social media manager for the Society of Physics student organization.

Kodie’s academic perseverance and thirst for research led them to apply to and be accepted into CSUSM’s TRIO McNair Scholars Program, a campus program dedicated to help low income/first-generation students to better prepare and for graduate school.

Kodie will graduate in May with a B.S. in Physics, a B.A. in Visual and Performing Arts, and minor in Geography. Their CSUSM GPA is 3.823. Kodie plans to continue their education and has applied to several grad school programs both nationally and internationally to study geography, environmental/science policy, and science communication.
CSTEM Community Engaged Scholar
Awarded to Emily Lyon and Alma Avila

Emily and Alma brought their laboratory skills, passion for chemistry, and leadership to the community through events at multiple levels during one of the most difficult times in anyone’s academic careers: during a pandemic! Through their work with the student American Chemical Society Club, the STEMinar Series across reached beyond CSUSM the Fall semester. It reached more than 100 undergraduates across Southern California, forming a student-helping-student connection that we would not have been able to do outside of the virtual environment. The highly approachable YouTube setting was an excellent experiment that I hope will be continued into the future.

Emily and Alma stepped up as volunteers to really make the magic happen for the “Better Than Magic” Chemistry Show on SuperSTEM Saturday. This show is always a highlight of SuperSTEM Saturday: a point of pride for our campus. With the challenge to move to virtual delivery, they modelled safe experimentation with fun at-home experiments and showed off other great experiments that our K-12 friends could not do at home.

Emily has a GPA of 3.442 and will graduate in May. After graduation Emily plans on working for a year and then applying to graduate school with professional experience. She aspires to be a lead scientist at a biotechnology or pharmaceutical company.

Alma will also graduate in May and has a GPA of 3.040. Alma aspires to be a forensic toxicologist. In the fall, Alma will apply to a Ph.D. program and after completion sees her self working in a crime laboratory.

CSTEM Minerva Award

The College of Science and Mathematics Minerva Award recognizes outstanding graduate student teaching. The award celebrates effective teaching practices.

Awarded to Alicia Tovar

Alicia has been an exceptional master’s student and mentor to undergraduate students in the Sethuraman lab. Very early on, Alicia identified that her thesis project was going to involve a species of parasitoid wasp (Dinocampus coccinellae) that parasitizes more than 50 different species of ladybug beetles. Her thesis has since evolved into not just one, but THREE independent projects that have led to (1) the development of the first high quality assembly and annotation of the D. coccinellae genome, (2) a series of behavioral assays using a common-garden/reciprocal transplant setup to assess heritability, phenotypic plasticity, and host-wasp covariance in morphology, (3) and a population genomic assessment of D. coccinellae from individuals collected across the country.

When our campus went into the COVID shutdown, she immediately took the initiative to “move” our entire lab and greenhouse operation to her garage, where we continued to socially distance and conduct experiments all of Spring, Summer, and Fall 2020. She taught undergraduates how to conduct behavioral and morphological assays and trained them to conduct statistical analyses of these data. Alicia’s mentoring and exceptional teaching skills allowed us to continue to be productive.

Alicia has been a Course Embedded Learning Support (CELS) facilitator for core genetics course for the last three semesters, which included the challenges of transitioning to online teaching and learning. Her teaching style comes from her own experience in learning, while at the same time “prioritizing the whimsical curiosity that underlies important concepts”.

Alicia will graduate during the summer of 2021 with a GPA of 3.94. She plans to continue teaching undergraduate biology courses at the community college level.
The 2021 CSTEM Outstanding Lecturer Award
Awarded to Robyn Araiza

Robyn has been a lecturer faculty in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry since 2008, and has taught 6 different courses from non-science majors first-year to senior-level majors’ courses. Robyn describes her teaching philosophy as “being there for her students”, encouraging them to answer questions and doing her best to give each student the amount of attention they need to thrive. Robyn’s willingness to help students has been a consistent comment in her student evaluations of teaching. Students clearly agree that Robyn genuinely cares about their learning and success.

Robyn has also played an instrumental role in updating the laboratory manual for CHEM 105L. In response to the current pandemic CHEM 105L laboratories were converted to experiments that could be conducted by students at home. This necessitated that Robyn think creatively to update the laboratories so that they could be completed using items found in the student’s household. Her efforts have helped the department quickly adapt CHEM 105L laboratories to the realities of remote teaching and the lab manual she developed has become a valuable resource that other institutions can use. Robyn also became the most experienced user on an important piece of equipment and taught students how to use it in Chem 416 with an experiment she developed. She helped research students to continue their lab work using this and other instruments so they could graduate on time.

Robyn did not just get by throughout the pandemic, she helped moved the Department and the College forward with her work in offering a global experience. After hours spent on logistics and planning, she partnered with a faculty member in Ecuador to teach students in CHEM 316 Chocolate: A Chemical Investigation about the science of chocolate fermentation and in return the Sustainability Director at Republica del Cacao discussed how they think about and apply sustainable practices on a chocolate plantation and processing facility. Robyn was also involved in leading our campus to sign the Green Chemistry Commitment, the first CSU campus to do so, and she is part of the group that hopes to bring a STEM professional mentoring program to the College in the Fall. We celebrate the many achievements of the past year that led to Robyn being honored with this award.

The 2021 CSTEM Gonfaloniere
Awarded to COVID-19

Each year, our College faculty select one faculty member, based on a distinguished record of teaching, research and service at the University, to carry the gonfalon and lead us in procession at Commencement.

This year, as there will not be a procession, no gonfaloniere was selected. We are looking forward to next year when we can hold commencement with the full pomp and ceremony the event deserves.

Graduating Veterans
Brandon Courtney
Libyarrna Abarca
Viviana Villagomez
Richard Villareal
Julian Geske
Jacob Norenberg
Travis Vensel
Yoko Peters
Students Graduating with Honors

Giselle Maree Abalos
Juan Aceves
Abigail Acoba
Antonio Aguayo
Jasmine Ahmed
Igor Belka
Charlotte Beltran
Rachel Bock
Jeffrey Brandon
Theresa Buck
Tyler Burdick
Jason Burley
Sophia Carpinelli
Ronalyn Castilla
Diamond Centeno
Carlos Chavez
Chloe Cheek
Anayeli Cisneros
Cameron Collver
Emily Criollo
Israel Del Real
Ryan Defmures
October Deyoung
Zsuzsanna Dianovics
Christopher Do
Melanie Dominguez
Matthew Dooley
Ariel Duran
Carly Durutovic
Christopher Eoff
Dominic Erpelo
Tiffany Farr
Marco Flores
James Foerster
Emily Fox
Jeremy Ganac
Eric Gelvin
Kodie Gerritsen
Erica Gerthom
Hayley Glass
John Godoy
David Gonzalez
Alyssia Gonzalez
Logan Good
Sean Gow
Elisa Hadweh
Danny Harthun
Tianna Head
Paul Hoffmann
Brooke Holloway
Jonathan Hua
Thi Huynh
Ashley Imoto
Mary Flor Jacobo
Ashley Jacobs
Amani Jahri
Steven Jelinek
Neman Kalanawe
Suchi Kapur
Karishma Kapur
Sara Kim
Kaven Konda
Melissa Kovar
David Kuch
Katelynn Lam
Luke Landan
Eric Levas
Ralph Lira
Quoc Trong Luu
Myriah Maasch
Christopher Martin
Gisselle Martinez
Amanda Melanese
Sandra Morcos
Sylvia Munson
Kaleb Newsom
Karen Ngo
Mary Nguyen
Camille Nosewicz
Victoria Oleson
Diego Orea
Samuel Pak
Anthony Palermo
Joshua Palmer
Akshit Panapuzha
Hailey Parker Trice
Melody Paulus
Ashley Penny
Jeremy Pierson
Joshua Pino
Alexander Priest
Siddharaj Rathod
Renad Rawas
Ranim Rawas
Iryna Razhkova
Scott Reed
Kai Rensberry
Robert Reyes
Nicholas Reyes
Paolo Miguel Rimando
Ravyn Rowlett
Ian Rysdale
Shahdokht Sabernia
Jake Schwab
Kaylee Shoemaker
Gabriela Shunnarah
Timothy Skaggs
Megan Slama
Alyssa Spiers
Eric Sy
Mane Telpian
Dianna Torres
Trang Bao Minh Tran
Jacob Turull
Kaitlyn Vuong
Corinn Walker
Noah White
Jessica Wright

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