CHABSS Newsletter

"The View From 4111"

September 2024 • Volume 2, Issue 1

A Note From The Dean ...



I love the start of the new academic year. The lack of parking in PS1 inspired me to up my step count and walk to SBSB from Lot B. Along the way, I overheard tidbits of students' conversations as they met one another and found their way onto campus. With almost 17,000 students, there is an energy and excitement on campus, and I am reminded how privileged I am to have a job with purpose. Thank you to the CHABSS staff and faculty who greeted hundreds of new students and their loved ones during Family Convocation.

It was a pleasure to connect with CHABSS new faculty at the New Faculty Institute and re-connect with faculty and staff at Convocation. As I mentioned then, this year is full of challenges and opportunities. One of the key opportunities is the forthcoming Comprehensive Campaign, and I encourage you to read the profile of our new Director of Development Alison Aragon. Another opportunity is developing a presence for CHABSS at

the Temecula campus. Faculty, keep an eye out for a survey of interest in teaching at the Temecula campus. Also forthcoming is a reminder of our college strategic objectives as we delve into the second year of implementation.

This newsletter will be published on the first Tuesday of the month. Feel free to share out your accomplishments and story suggestions with Tim Meehan, CHABSS communications specialist.

With best wishes for a wonderful launch of the year,
Liora

Q&A With Alison Aragon



Director of

Q: How did you end up at CSUSM?
AA: One of the reasons is Christine

Advancement Set To Make Her Mark On CHABSS

Alison Aragon has had a desire to be involved in her community ever since she was young. Seeing her parents volunteering and being involved in their community, she felt inspired to carry on the tradition. The social sciences have always been special to Aragon because she graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a degree in political science and a minor in sociology. She sat down with CHABSS communications student assistant Audrey Sperry recently to discuss her new position and the impact she hopes to make at CSUSM

Aragon was promoted to a new position recently, representing CHABSS as the director of development for the University Advancement team. Her civic engagement and nonprofit experience will come in handy as she wants to be an advocate for students. Aragon is excited to work at CSUSM because she believes receiving a college education is important and wants to be an advocate for students.

She is looking forward to building more connections, collaborating with her team and making a positive impact at CSUSM.

Q: What are your responsibilities in your new position?
AA: I help find philanthropic support for all sorts of student success initiatives on campus. And specifically on the team, we all have areas that we help support or help understand their priorities, their needs. Then how we can build relationships with folks in the community who want to support students.

Q: What from your past inspired you to Anderson, who's the director of corporate and foundation relations. I had volunteered with her through the North County Philanthropy Council, the program's committee specifically. And so I had seen and worked with her, always impressed by her professionalism, leadership style, and care for those around her. The other person is Sarah Vaz. Sara has been a mentor figure to me and welcomed me into the fundraising space when I was just getting started. She really kind of was my intro to the philanthropic world in North County and she helped with the intro to the job here.

Q: What do you like the most about your new position?
AA: I know one thing I'm going to love is just learning about what people's lives have been like and what their passions are and learning from faculty. Everyone here is so interesting and passionate about the work, I can’t wait to soak that up and share it with more people in the community.

Q: How do you find a work/life balance?
AA: When the work day is over, I like to reset and pretend the hours before bed are a whole new day. I try to do something fun like going for a swim, walking to the beach or watching the sunset, biking to find a fish taco. Sometimes action is all it takes for your brain to follow. And I've also had to teach myself — or unteach myself — I guess, that it doesn't mean that I don't care, it just means that life is about more things than what we do here at work. And it doesn't make them not important. It just makes the time that we have at home just as important, if not more, to making sure we can be the best version here too.

Q: How do you plan to make a positive impact in this position?
AA: To be someone on the development

get this job?
AA: I've always worked at small nonprofits in San Diego. I've done a lot of fundraising grant writing for the last seven years. When I got here I realized the development team is so amazing. Everyone is really kind and very open to helping, and I think they saw the time I had put into learning about and building relationships with the philanthropic community in San Diego. Working with and for people has always been a passion, especially in an effort to support youth development and access to opportunity. I have so many people in the nonprofit community to thank for supporting my growth over the past 10 years. We do nothing alone!

team who is a listening ear but also an advocate for the changes that the College wants to see or for the growth opportunities that are here already. I ultimately want to be an advocate for team CHABSS!

Aragon is hosting office hours this semester in SBSB 4107 on Tuesdays 12-2 p.m. and by appointment. Email her at aaragon@csusm.edu.



Student Success



History Student's Photo Honored

Kirra Robusto, a third-year history major and photography student assistant with university communications, was recently nominated for CSU Photo of the Yeara as the CSUSM representation. Her photo of last fall's "Detroit '67" is a powerful look at the chemistry between actors Morgan Harris, Dwann Hicks and Jaysean Ofoedu. Alumnus and lecturer Shaun Heard brought the play to campus with the goal of giving students of color an education in American history and professional theater training. “I wanted to bring that heritage in, bring that story and bring that culture to this program," Heard said.

Every CSU campus' inclusion for Photo of the Year



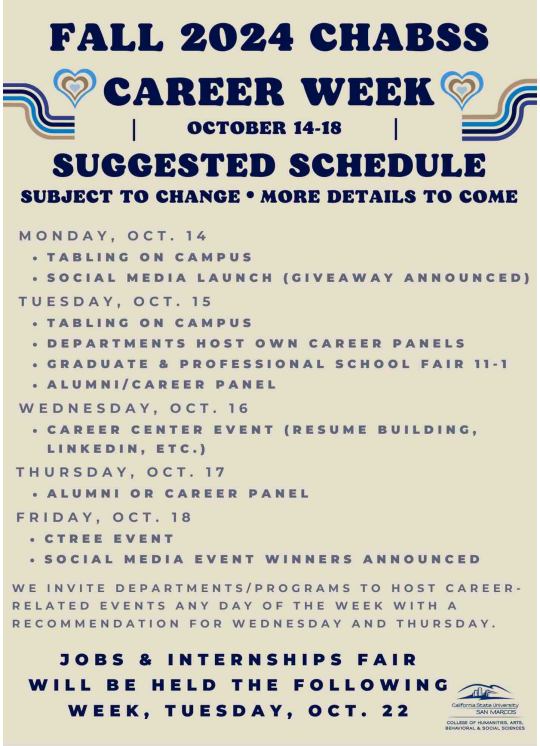
LAEP Helps Criminology Student Explore Passion For Theater

Sometimes, one's host of passions could not be further apart from the other. Criminology and justice studies student Ariadna Hernandez knows this well as she balances two vastly different interests: immigration law and theater. Hernandez discovered her passion for theater during the pandemic. It wasn't until she transferred to CSUSM and learned of the Learning Aligned Employment Program (LAEP) that Hernandez found herself faced with another opportunity to explore her love for theater while earning her bachelor's degree.

Crim transfer student takes advantage of LAEP

CHABSS Career Week Coming Soon; Mini-Grants Available For Programs





As presented in Convocation, the Dean's Office has allocated funds for two mini-grant opportunities for AY 24/25 in alignment with our priorities of enrollment and career readiness.

1) Career readiness mini-grant: Following up on feedback from our first annual Career Week, we will support department efforts to improve student competency in career readiness. Activities may include engaging with employers and community groups about regional needs, discipline-specific career-preparation training, or career-readiness curriculum development (e.g., hosting a lunch for community partners to discuss career readiness skills or providing pizza for students at an alumni or networking event). CHABSS Career Week will take place the week of October 14, 2024 and the Dean's Office will help promote department events as part of our weeklong activities, but additional Department activities could occur any time during the year.

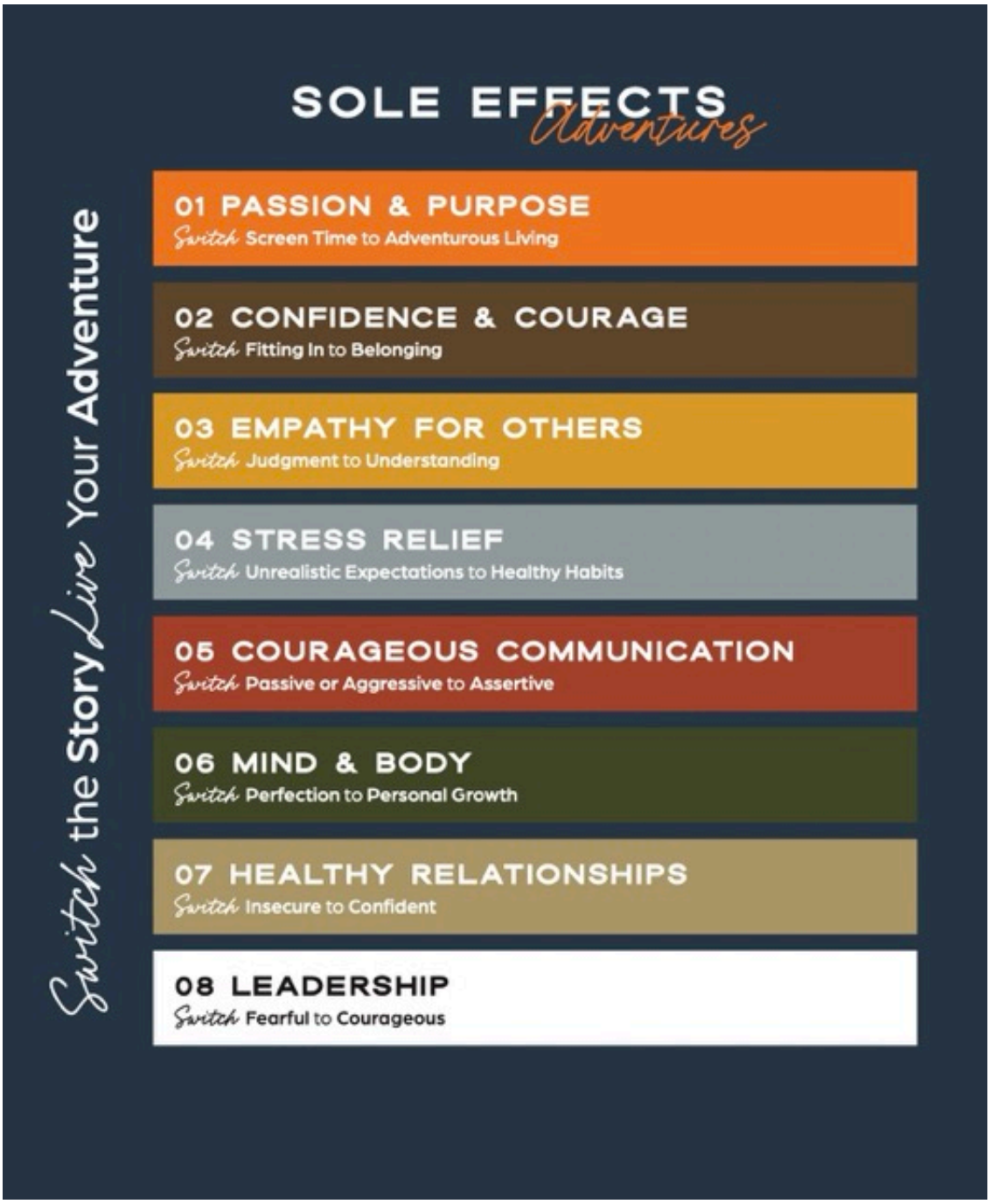
2) Outreach mini-grant: Following up on the success of the mini-outreach projects that took place last year, we have increased funding to support department efforts to connect with our primary feeder schools (community colleges and high schools) and/or engage future students directly. Our goal is to increase the visibility of CHABSS departments and majors in the community and to increase the number of students who matriculate and declare a CHABSS major.

For priority consideration submit proposal by end of day September 20, 2024. See the email from Dean Gubkin or contact Associate Dean Elisa Grant-Vallone or Dean's Fellow Antonio De La Garza if you have any questions.

Mini-Grant proposal form

Career Center a Great Student Resource





S.O.L.E. Effects Leadership Journey

The Student Leadership and Involvement Center (SLIC) has announced the opening of the S.O.L.E. Effects Leadership Journey. S.O.L.E. Effects Leadership Journey is a free nine-week leadership development program offered through SLIC. They are partnering with SOLE Effects, a nonprofit focused on providing foundational leadership skills to students, to bring their proven leadership curriculum to CSUSM. Students will be able to participate in learning more about communication, passion, healthy habits, and confidence. Meetings will be held on Tuesdays during u-hour (12-12:50 p.m.) from Sept. 17 - Nov. 12. Participants will walk away with a leadership certificate of completion, graduation recognition, peer support, and more knowledge about themselves as leaders.Students who want to join can apply at the button below by

Sept. 9.

Leadership Journey Cohort Application

Faculty Highlights



Benson Performs, Sepinwall Part of Committee at U.K. Conference

The historic conference Stories of Haitian Womanhood, Past, Present and Future at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston, United Kingdom took place last month, and two CHABSS faculty members were key contributors. France-Luce Benson, an

assistant professor in theatre, performed excerpts from some of her plays on Haitian women. Alyssa Sepinwall, a professor in history, was on the conference committee for the event that took place at the Institute for Black Atlantic Research.



Music Lecturer Honored With State of North County Award

Music lecturer Eric Weirather was recently given a North County Our Inspirational Leader Award from San Diego County Representative Jim Desmond. In addition to being part of our music faculty, Weirather is the band director for Rancho Buena Vista High School. He has been leading the band for 22 years and teaching music in public schools for 28 years. In 2024, he received the prestigious Vista Unified School District Golden Apple Award. Weirather's unwavering commitment to music education continues to inspire generations.

“Our Executive Board is filled with renewed energy and excitement as we embark on this new chapter," Coleman



New Executive Board For BFSA Announced

The Black Faculty and Staff Association has a new Executive Board effective 7/1/2024.

President: Kevane La'Marr Coleman
Vice-President: Kenya Avilez
Treasurer: Crystal Henderson

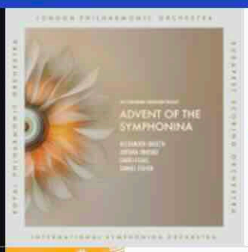
Advisors to the Board:
Emeritus Board Members: Talisha St. John & Justin Lewis
Special Advisor to the Board: Shellye Sledge

Link to BFSA

said. "One of my primary goals as president of the BFSA is to keep you well-informed about meeting dates and additional BFSA events, making it easier for you to stay connected and involved. Despite our varied roles and responsibilities, what ties us together is the shared commitment to our community. We all face demanding workloads, yet your participation in the BFSA is imperative. Personally, I have learned the importance of prioritizing my mental health alongside my professional responsibilities — a concept that is relatively new in our Black and Brown communities. The work will always be there but showing up for each other is what truly matters. My involvement with the BFSA has become a source of joy and fulfillment, and I hope it can be the same for you."

Traditional Classical Albums

WEEK OF AUGUST 31, 2024

THIS WEEK			AWARD	LAST WEEK	PEAK POS.	WKS ON CHART
1		NEW **The Symphonina Fo...** Royal Philharmonic Orchestra / London... +	★	-	1	1
2		NEW **A Dream So Bright: Choral Music Of ...** True Concord Voices & Orchestra / Eric Holtan / Jeffrey Biegel +	★	-	2	1
3		NEW **Gluck: Orfeo & Euridice** Jakub Jozef Orlinski / Elsa Dreisig / Fatma Said / Il Giardino d'Amore / Stefan Plewniak +	★	-	3	1
4		**Bruckner: Symphony No. 7 / Bates: R...** Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra / Manfred Honeck +	★	2	1	5
5		NEW **Thomas de Hartmann: Rediscovered** Joshua Bell / INSO-Lviv Symphony Orchestra / Dalia Stasevska / Matt Haimovitz / MDR Leipzig... +	★	-	5	1

Humble's Album Nearing Top of Charts

Aaron Humble, an assistant professor and interim chair of the music department, is a core member of True Concord Voices and Orchestra in Tucson. The orchestra recorded an album last year that is currently No. 2 on the Billboard Classical Charts.

Alumni Achievements



From the Baseball Diamond to 'The Bachelorette' For Alumnus

Austin Ott had never watched an episode of “The Bachelorette” when he received a DM on Instagram from the show encouraging him to apply. Ott later received news that he would travel to Los Angeles and begin filming for the 21st season of the hit ABC series. Ott felt prepared when it came to having an audience. His communication and media studies degree from CSUSM gave him a foundation to build on. Communication student Rybeccah Jahraus wrote about how Ott’s first speech in COMM 100 gave him an idea of what being in the public eye might look like.

Comm & media studies alumnus on The Bachelorette



Crafting Career on Helping Children

Craftsmanship runs in the Arceo family. While her father has been an exceptional woodcarver for decades, Tania Arceo focuses on painting. But not in the way one would expect. A childhood and adolescent development graduate last spring, Arceo spent her last year and a half at CSUSM working with Voices for Children, a nonprofit organization where volunteers are trained to become court-appointed special advocates (CASAs). Volunteers like Arceo represent juvenile dependency cases in San Diego County.

CHAD alumnae helping children

Save the Date



Sept. 3 — **Study Abroad Fair** USU Arcade, Forum Plaza 11am-2 p.m.
Sept. 3 — **January in Paris Info Session** Zoom: https://csusm.zoom.us/j/2653678375 4-4:50 p.m.
Sept. 4 — **January in Mexico Info Session** Zoom: https://csusm.zoom.us/j/82480041508 11-11:50 a.m.
Sept. 5 — **GCC Information Session** SBSB 1103 12 p.m.
Sept. 5 — **January in Mexico Info Session** MARK 421 12-12:30 p.m.
Sept. 5 — **January in Rome Info Session** Zoom: https://csusm.zoom.us/j/85474775248 12-12:50 p.m.
Sept. 5 — **OPT Workshop** (International Students) ELB 430 12-1 p.m.
Sept. 5 — **January in Paris Info Session** Zoom: https://csusm.zoom.us/j/2653678375 4-4:50 p.m.
Sept. 6 — **January in Mexico Info Session** Zoom: https://csusm.zoom.us/j/83771804853 12-12:50 p.m.
Sept. 9 — **January in Rome Info Session** MARK 322 1-2 p.m.
Sept. 9 — **January in Paris Info Session** Zoom: https://csusm.zoom.us/j/2653678375 4-4:50 p.m.
Sept. 10 — **January in Rome Info Session** Zoom: https://csusm.zoom.us/j/87912884223 12-12:50 p.m.
Sept. 10 — **January in Paris Info Session** Zoom: https://csusm.zoom.us/j/2653678375 12-12:50 p.m.
Sept. 10 — **OPT Workshop** (International Students) ELB 12-1 p.m.
Sept. 11 — **January in Mexico Info Session** Zoom:

https://csusm.zoom.us/j/81572993507 2-2:50 p.m.
Sept. 12 — **January in Rome Info Session** Zoom:
https://csusm.zoom.us/j/85474775248
12-12:50 p.m.
Sept. 17— **January in Paris Info Session** Zoom:
https://csusm.zoom.us/j/2653678375 12-12:50 p.m.
Sept. 17 — **OPT Workshop** (International Students) ELB 430 12-1 p.m.
Sept. 18 — **January in Paris Info Session** Zoom:
https://csusm.zoom.us/j/2653678375 1-1:50 p.m.
Sept. 18 — **Mexicans: Hispanic, Chicanos or Native? A Journey of Self-Identification** USU 2300 Half Ballroom B/D 6-7:30 p.m.
Sept. 26 — **OPT Workshop** (International Students) ELB 430 12-1 p.m.
Sept. 27 — **Intersections: Opera and Musical Theater** ARTS 111 7-8:30 p.m.

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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 4115. The deadline for submission is the Friday prior to publication.