

A Note From The Dean ...



This may be old news to our colleagues in the Department of Environment and Geography, and to the nature aficionados among us, but I just recently learned about the Pando aspen clone in Southern Utah. While the Pando clone appears to the naked eye as individual trees – more than 40,000 – it is actually a single organism with a root that spreads over 106 acres!

For me, it was yet another reminder of our ultimate interconnectedness. We need one another to flourish.

I want to give a special shout out to the Dean's Student Advisory Council who met with Provost Kemnitz for his Spotlight Visit. They listened generously to one another and shared their perspectives on how we can be in solidarity with each other to live up to our mission. Look for more intentional peer mentoring and educational programs on free speech in coming semesters.

It's a busy time of the semester with the last week of classes and finals quickly approaching. It's also Giving Day (scroll down for the 13 giving opportunities) and Commencement is just two weeks away. Details in links and below.

With appreciation,

Liora

Commencement will be held Monday, Dec. 15. CHABSS will share the first ceremony with CTEM beginning at 2 p.m. CEHHS and CoBA will follow at 5. The venue is Frontwave Arena in Oceanside, which allows the university to accommodate our growing number of graduates and guests without reducing ticket availability. Parking is free, and graduates, faculty and staff will be directed to park in Lot B.



Today is the Day to Support Plethora of Worthy Causes

Today, Dec. 2, is CSUSM's 11th Giving Day. The day demonstrates the power of the heart of a Cougar when we come together to support the people and programs we love at CSUSM. CHABSS is supporting 13 projects (see below). Click on the links below or the button below and scroll down to the CHABSS hub to view more details and check the progress throughout the day.

* CHABSS Career Readiness
* CHABSS Student Success
* Model United Nations
* CSUSM Theatre at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival
* Dollars for Dance
* Support Future Educators
* Anthropology Student Travel Fund
* Support the Anthropology Community Ethnobotany Garden

* Rio Frio Regional Archaeological Project
* Sustainable Food Project
* Instrument Stewardship Fund
* Literature and Writing Conference and Event Fund
* Empowered Parents in College Collective/Parenting Student Success Scholarship

Giving Day hub

Student Success

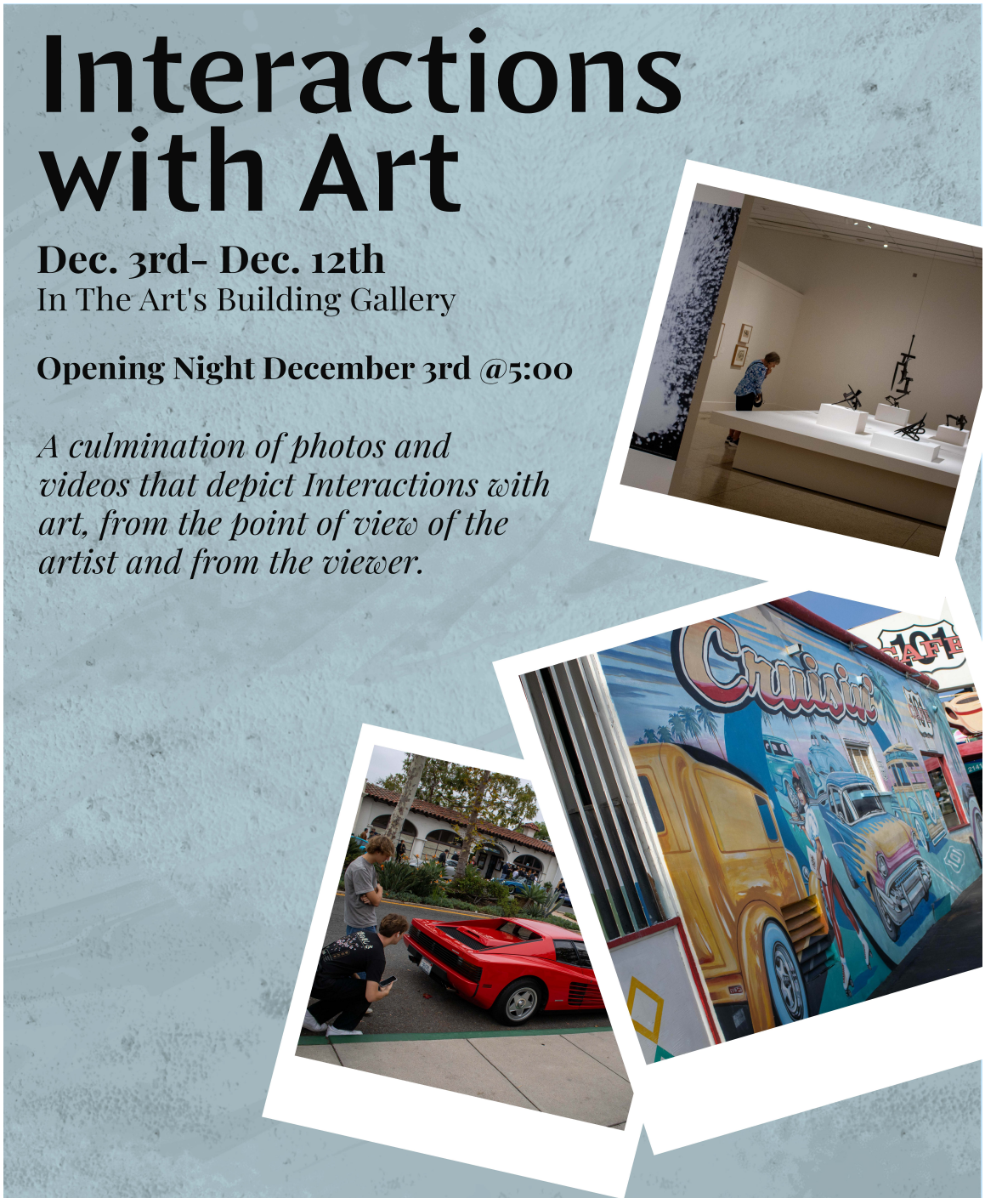


Media Studies Student Co-Produces Stories for PBS

Sitting in her homeroom class during her first year at Westview High School, Roury Fitzpatrick was captivated by the morning newscast produced by her school. She hadn't watched the news much growing up, but it was then that she decided she

wanted to pursue broadcast journalism. Fitzpatrick, now a second-year media studies student at CSUSM, has had a passion for writing ever since she was young, creating short stories and pretending she was a New York Times bestselling author. She participated in PBS News' College Climate Reporting Fellows program.

Fitzpatrick learns craft in PBS program



Artist & Viewer POV Show 'Interactions With Art' Debuts

Student Cole Esarey has been completing an independent study this semester as a photo-documentary artist. Esarey's project "Interactions with Art" will be on display in the Art building's gallery Dec. 3-12 with an opening night reception on Dec. 3. Light refreshments will be served at 5 p.m., followed by the Artist Talk at 5:30. Artist Statement: I am a multidisciplinary artist exploring the relationship between artists, the audience, and art itself. My work combines photography, videography, and graphic design to examine the interactions that occur within the art experience. I investigate how art is perceived both by those who create it and by those who view it. By blending interviews, videos, and photographs, I aim to reveal the differences in these interactions and offer viewers a chance to observe all sides of the artistic exchange. To me, art is defined by the interactions each piece creates for its audience. Through my work, I hope to bridge the gap between the artist’s intention and the viewer’s experience, highlighting how these interactions are formed, perceived, and understood.

Faculty Highlights



Grammy-Nominated Professor Still Performing and Inspiring

On a gig in Santa Fe, N.M., Aaron Humble, a CSUSM associate professor of music, was approached by a fellow tenor explaining how a group in Tucson needed another tenor for an upcoming project. About six years later, a weeklong recording session with True Concord resulted in “A Dream So Bright: Choral Music of Jake Runestad.” The recording was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Choral Performance, a realization of a lifelong dream for Humble.

Humble nominated for Grammy



Pysch Department Hosting Event Honoring Late Colleague

The psychology department will be holding a Celebration of Life for Dr. Dustin Calvillo at the beginning the spring semester. The department is inviting faculty and staff to join in remembering and honoring Dustin's life, his impact, and his many contributions to the CSUSM community, where he was an integral member for the past 18 years.
This gathering will be a space for reflection, shared memories, and connection with colleagues who knew and worked alongside him.
Location: Faculty Center Suite
Date: Friday, Jan. 16
Time: 2-4 p.m.
Coffee and light appetizers will be provided. There will be a short slideshow so the department welcomes contributions. If you would like to participate, here are a few ways to do so:
* Slideshow contributions: please send any of the following to Alex Huynh (ahuynh@csusm.edu) by Jan. 9.
* A brief reflection or memory (a few sentences) you'd like to share.
* A thought capturing what you appreciated about Dustin as a colleague.
* Photo(s) you feel comfortable sharing for the slideshow.
* Short remarks or tributes: if you are interested in offering a brief spoken tribute (~3-5 minutes) during the event, reach out to Alex.



De La Garza, Others Contribute to New Museum of Us Exhibit

Antonio De La Garza, associate professor of communication and media studies, is featured in a new exhibit at the Museum of Us in Balboa Park. The "Race: Power, Resistance and Change" exhibit was shaped through close work with artists, scholars, community members, and the museum's exhibits team, who combined research and lived experience into a shared narrative, reflecting the museum's "values and efforts to uplift community voices, histories, and knowledge," according to the museum. Presented in Spanish and English, the exhibition explores the construction of race and the ways that has shaped laws and daily life, locally and more broadly, using installation art, sculpture, photography, animation, poetry, and archival resources.

Amy Sanchez Arteaga, lecturer in art, media & design, and Misael Diaz, associate professor in AMD, are also involved in the exhibit. The partners in Cog•nate Collective put the following question at the heart of their project as an adaptation of a query posed by Walter Mignolo – "Who made me think I am, who I think I am?" – to spark dialogue on how we come to understand, define, and potentially challenge colonial borders that separate "us – here" from "them – there."

De La Garza, Arteaga and Diaz were recruited to participate by Melinda Barnadas, exhibit developer at the Museum of Us. The museum and exhibition are open Monday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission will be free every fourth Tuesday beginning in January.

Race: Power, Resistance & Change Exhibit U-T article

Alumni Achievements



How One Student Transformed Challenges Into Change

When Sol Haro first attended CSUSM, he felt isolated. Not because of the school – Haro was an active student and involved in campus clubs – but because of a struggle with his identity. As a Mexican American child of a single parent from a low-income household, he felt a level of pressure to find a place where he thought he belonged. This pressure was amplified by Haro's identity as a transgender man. Haro graduated

last spring with a degree in social sciences, and he now works on campus as a basic needs assistant for the Cougar Care Network. The impact of his work on campus earned him the President's Student Champion Award for Inclusive Excellence and Diversity this year.

Challenges into change



Alumnus Returns to Nest as Head of New AISC

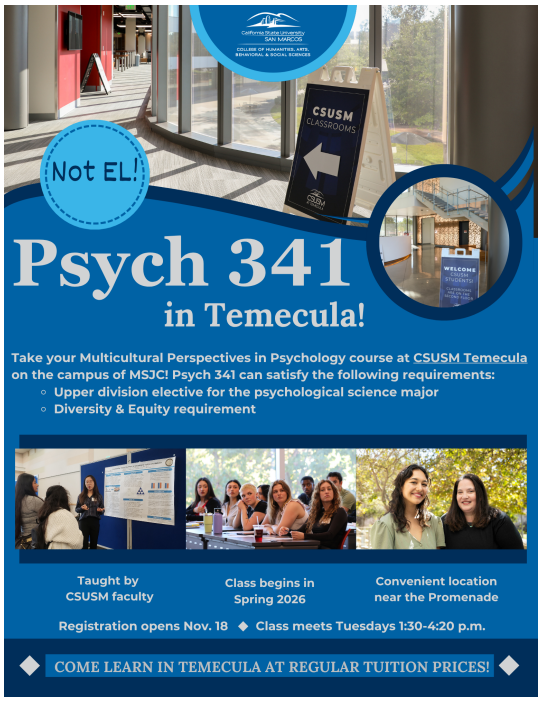
After graduating with a degree in communication in 2009, Tommy Devers went on to complete a master's program in sociological practice, bolstering his connection to CSUSM. During that time, he further immersed himself in Native studies, and even helped Professor Joely Proudfit move into the new California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center (CICSC). About a year ago, then, when a job as the first leader of a planned American Indian Student Center became available, Proudfit had the ideal candidate in mind. "Tommy," she said, "was exactly the person we needed."

Devers leading new AISC

Save the Date



Dec. 2 — **Giving Day**
Dec. 2 — **Cards & Carnations Cards for Seniors Workshop**, SBSB 3219, 12-1 p.m.
Dec. 3 — **Interactions With Art**, Arts building, 5 p.m. reception (display runs Dec. 3-12)
Dec. 4 — **January in Italy Health Predeparture Meeting (3)**, UNIV 441, 12-12:50 p.m.
Dec. 10 — **All Staff Drop-In Hot Cocoa Hour**, SBSB 4111, 10-11:15 a.m.
Dec. 15 — **Fall Commencement**, Frontwave Arena (Oceanside), 2 p.m. (CHABSS ceremony)
Dec. 16 — **January in Italy Health Predeparture Meeting** (4), UNIV 441, 12-12:50 p.m.





California State University
SAN MARCOS
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.