

A Note From The Dean ...



This week I had the opportunity to attend the 4th Annual HSI Summit. What a wonderful gathering of faculty, staff, students, and community partners! The planning committee, including our very own **Leo Melena** and **Carmen Nava**, brought joy to a difficult moment as we learned together and affirmed the value of the work we do in servingness

We understand the why. More than half our students identify as Latina/o/x, and attention to particularity in creating conditions for student success serves all our students. Throughout the day, there were several helpful presentations to explore concretely the what and the how of a culture of servingness. I would be happy to collaborate with our faculty experts to continue this conversation within CHABSS.

The closing session included an art project (!) led by Communication professor Robert Gutierrez Perez who left us empowered with six modes of advocacy: reflexivity, dialogue, listening, critical literacy, speaking up, and alliance building. It was an important reminder that, together, we can create with purpose and with delight.

With appreciation,
Liora

to all our students.

California State University SAN MARCOS

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES

NETWORKING NIGHT

"ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, & CULTURE"



Zara Baker
Anchor and Journalist



Steve Barsotti
Audio Artist



Maya Sofía Enciso
Actress



Luke Harmon
Performing Artist

OCT. 15 •
5-7 P.M. •
ARTS 111



Anissa Ocansey
Journalist and Host



Andrea Lujan
Recreation Specialist

PART OF
CHABSS
CAREER
WEEK 2025



David Pradel
Photojournalist

California State University SAN MARCOS

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES

CHABSS CAREER WEEK

OCT. 13-17, 2025

MON.	TUE.	WED.	THU.	FRI.
• Pizza & prizes, Chavez Plaza, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.	• Department major events, U-hour • Navigating road to academic internships, career center 1 p.m.	• Nail your interview, career center, 1 p.m. • Career panel & networking, Arts 111, 5-7 p.m.	• Department major events, U-hour	• State careers, 2 p.m. (virtual; handshake) • Opportunity basket winners announced, 4 p.m.

- Check the website for department-specific events
- University's Job & Internship Fair is Tuesday, Oct. 21, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the USU Ballroom
- University's Graduate and Professional School Fair is Tuesday, Oct. 28, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the USU Ballroom

Networking Night Highlights CHABSS Career Week 2025

CHABSS will host its annual Career Week the week of Oct. 13-17. There are many events and opportunities for students throughout the week. The signature event is "Networking Night: Arts, Entertainment, & Culture," which features a panel of industry professionals followed by networking. The event kicks off at 5 p.m. in Arts

111 and will continue with networking in the courtyard behind SBSB. Other events include department panels, Career Center events and opportunity baskets.

Follow for updated events

Student Success



LTWR Scholarship Contender

With Cystic Fibrosis Thriving

Literature and writing studies major Lola Ferguson was a regular at the hospital as a child. She was used to taking 50 pills a day, undergoing hours of treatments and numerous doctors' appointments for cystic fibrosis. CF is a genetic disorder that affects the body's mucus-producing glands, causing damage to the lungs, digestive system and other organs. Ferguson still takes medication and has treatments, but medical advances allow her to live a relatively normal life as a college student in her second year in CHABSS. In fact, Ferguson is doing so well that she is among the candidates for the AbbVie CF Scholarship, which honors students who are thriving with cystic fibrosis.

Ferguson thriving despite CF diagnosis



CHABSS Highlighted in Hidden Film Festival

Four people with CSUSM connections recently screened their films at the inaugural Hidden City Film Festival (HCFF) in Escondido. A part of the programming at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido, the festival partnered with CHABSS to

provide opportunities for students to participate in the wider arts community. Leslie Foster, an art, media and design faculty member was involved in the planning of HCFF. Alumni Kate Clark, Adriana Carmen Alfaro and Paul Bacaj and current student Amara Abaquin-Brown screened their films.

Preview story to HCFF

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



Student Success Fund Grant

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

ATTENDANCE AT PROFESSIONAL EVENTS

GRADUATE SCHOOL THEATRE & MUSIC AUDITIONS



AMANDAH ALTAMIRANO
CHABSS Double Alumna
First-generation Graduate

"Through the CHABSS Student Success Fund, I gained vital experience in my field, developed relationships with scholars who are now helping me pursue a doctoral degree, and have opportunities that were otherwise unavailable to me."

Professors may nominate CHABSS undergraduate or graduate students who have demonstrated exceptional academic skills/performance to receive a grant to help the student present and/or attend conferences, workshops, or seminars. Professors may nominate students who wish to receive training in a particular field of study and/or enhance particular academic or professional skills. Grants will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis while funds are available.

#1 Largest college at CSUSM

Top 1% CollegeNET's 2024 Social Mobility Index

48% of CSUSM's 67,542 alumni since 1990

$1,000 Average funding request

We are **CHABSS** American Indian Studies Anthropology Art, Media & Design Child & Adolescent Development Communication Criminology & Justice Studies Dance Studies Economics Environmental Studies Ethnic Studies Geography Global Studies History Liberal Studies Linguistics Literature & Writing Studies Media Studies Music Philosophy Political Science Psychological Science Social Sciences Sociology Spanish Theatre Arts Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Student Success Fund Grants Back & Open For Nominations

Faculty nominations are once again open for CHABSS Student Success Fund grants. CHABSS students can develop career readiness skills and build networks through opportunities such as: conference presentations, attendance at professional events

and graduate school theatre and music auditions. These experiences build real-world skills, strengthen resumes, learn about possible career paths, expand networks and grow in confidence.

Information, nomination form

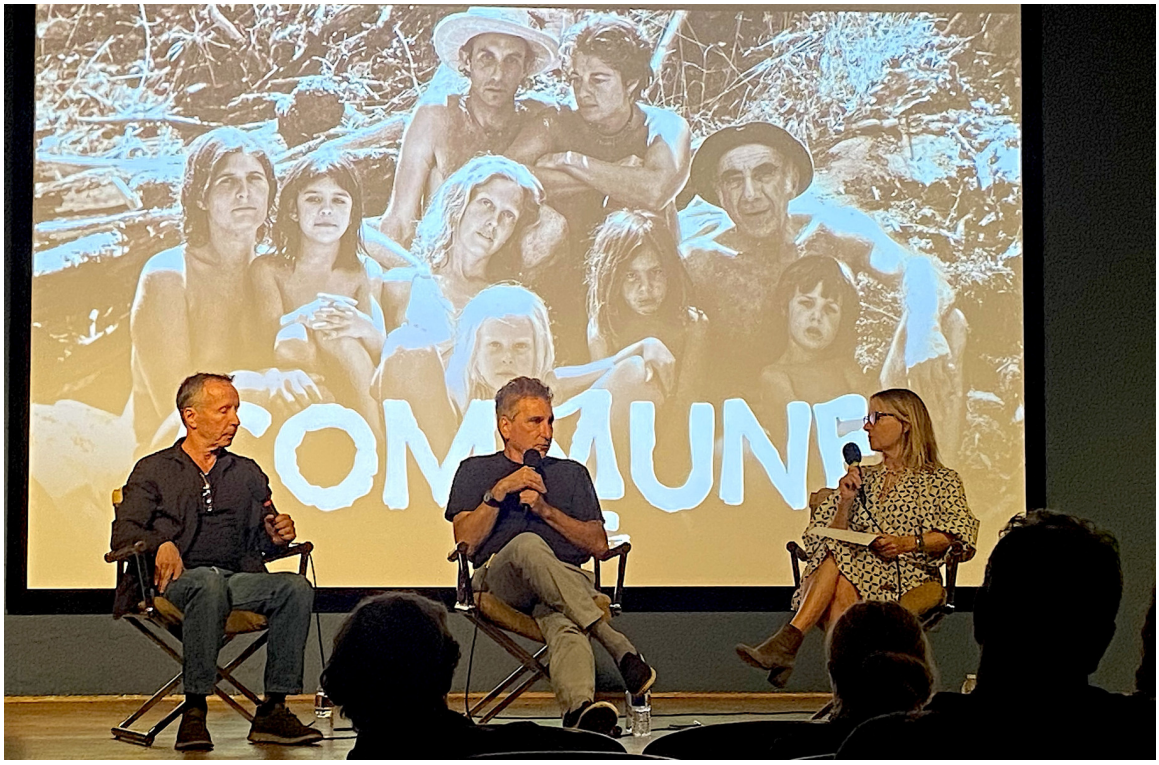
Faculty Highlights



Mural Unveiling Highlights Ties to Native Community

After giving a presentation at a local conference about equity in education in 2023, American Indian studies Professor Eric Tippeconnic was approached by a middle school teacher from Bonsall. Tippeconnic had spoken to the audience about one of his specialties: the use of murals to portray land acknowledgements visually. Having been inspired by the talk, the teacher, Domingo Anguiano, wanted Tippeconnic to bring a visual land acknowledgement to his school, Sullivan Middle in Bonsall. Two years later, the vision that was born that day has become a reality. Last spring, Tippeconnic was among a crowd of about 250 people who watched the unveiling of his mural – which doubles as a land acknowledgment – in the courtyard between Sullivan Middle and Bonsall High School.

Tippeconnic unveils mural at local school

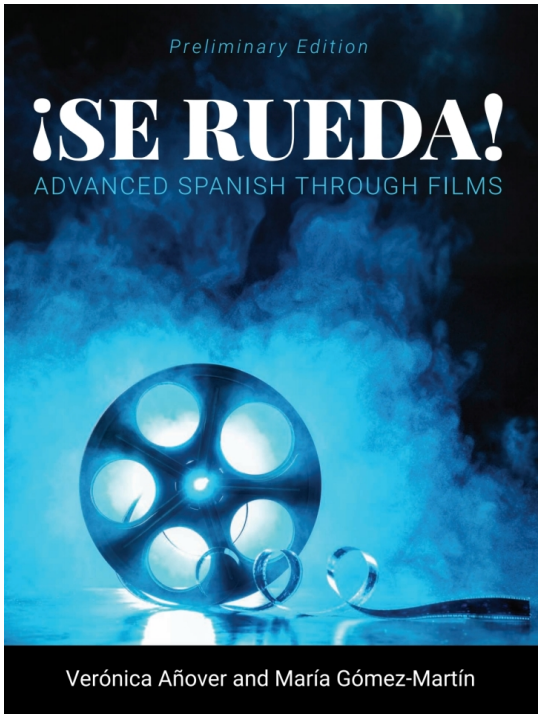


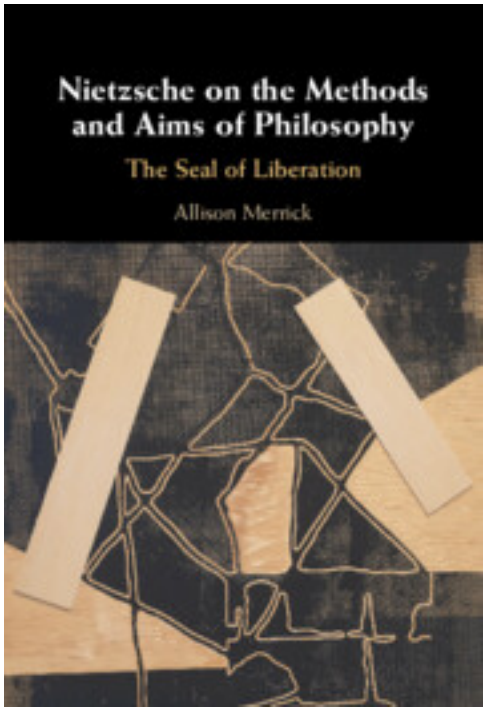
Professor Goes on Tour For 20th Anniversary of Film

When Jonathan Berman came to CSUSM as a film professor in 2004, he was close to finishing a documentary about a Northern California commune during the counterculture era. The documentary was released the following year. Now, 20 years later, the faculty emeritus is marking the anniversary of the film with a new digital restoration and a national tour of screenings and interviews.

Berman on national tour to promote film

Faculty Achievements & Publications





American Indian Studies

- **Dina Gilio-Whitaker**, lecturer:
  Authored *Who Gets to Be Indian? Ethnic Fraud, Disenrollment, and Other Difficult Conversations About Native American Identity* (Penguin Random House, Oct. 7 release).
  Book Launch: Oct. 13, 6–8:30 p.m., Kellogg 5400.

Anthropology

- **Jon Spenard**, associate professor:
  Published *Between a Rock and a Harder Rock* in *Research Reports in Belizean Archaeology*, Vol. 19. Also submitted a book-length report on his 2024 field season to the Belize Institute of Archaeology and Forest Department.

Arts, Media, & Design

- **Tatiana Sizonenko**, lecturer:
  Editor and contributing author of five chapters in *Helen and Newton Harrison: California Work* (Deutscher Kunstverlag/Walter de Gruyter, 2024). Also peer-reviewed *California Work. Ecopoiesis: Eco-Human Theory and Practice*.

Communication & Media Studies

- **Brian Dolber**, associate professor:
  Authored *Notes Towards a Digital Worker Inquiry* (Common Notions Press, Nov. 2025), part of the Capacitor Collective's research on labor organizing in digital capitalism.
- **Andy Spieldenner**, associate professor:
  Featured on *The Caftan Chronicles* podcast in February, discussing LGBTQ health policy and advocacy in the U.S. as head of MPACT Global Action for Gay Men's Health and Rights.

History

- **Alan Malfavon**, assistant professor:
  Contributing writer in *Afro-Mexican Lives in the Long Nineteenth Century: Slavery, Freedom, and the Writing of History* (Nov. 2025). His chapter explores the life of José Antonio Martínez in Veracruz's independence movement.
  Upcoming Presentation: American Historical Association Conference, Chicago, Jan. 8–11, 2026.

Literature and Writing Studies

- **Oliver Berghof**, professor:
  Translated *The Terrible Children of Modernity* by German philosopher Peter Sloterdijk, published June 2025.
- **Susie Lan Cassel**, professor: Gave talk at the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum on her research on three generations of early Chinese leaders and their families in San Diego.

Modern Language Studies

- **Veronica Anover**, professor, and **María Gómez-Martín**, associate professor:
  Co-authored *¡Se rueda!, Advanced Spanish Through Films*, with the preliminary edition now available. Full publication expected February 2026 (Cognella Academic Publishing).

Music

- **Aaron Humble**, associate professor & co-chair, music; program director, dance studies:

Performed on the Grammy-nominated album *A Dream So Bright: Choral Music of Jake Runestad* by True Concord.

Philosophy

- **Allison Merrick**, professor:
  Authored *Nietzsche on the Methods and Aims of Philosophy*.

Political Science & Global Affairs

- **Dino Bozonelos**, lecturer:
  - Co-authored *Amokokupai and the Alleluia Penumbra: A Spiritual Geography of an Indigenous Christian Landscape* in *Geography of Religious Spaces* (Edward Elgar).
  - Authored *Religious-Political Narratives and Contemporary Greek-Russian Relations* in *Contemporary Russia and Greek-Russian Relations* (Gutenberg Press).

Psychological Science

- **Janice Phung**, associate professor, with former graduate student **Sarah Guadarrama**:
  "Family Over Everything: Understanding the Relationship between Cultural Orientation and Neurotypical-ASD Sibling Relationships in Emerging Adulthood in the United States" — published Sept. 18, 2025. This mixed-methods study explores the lived experiences of neurotypical emerging adults with autistic siblings.
- **Lisa Graves**, assistant professor:
  Co-authored two accepted publications with current and former psychology students:
  - *Apolipoprotein E e4 status predicts memory performance and daily functioning in aging Hispanic/Latino adults* (Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology).
  - *Dementia worry in ethnoracially diverse young adults* (Applied Neuropsychology: Adult).
- **Kim Pulvers**, professor:
  Mentored multiple student publications on cannabis use and mental health, including:
  - *Distress tolerance and cannabis use disorder symptoms among Hispanic and non-Hispanic Black young adults* (Addictive Behaviors Reports).
  - *Age at first cannabis use, anxiety, depressive symptoms, and cannabis dependence by sex* (Psychiatry Research Communications).
- **Shawn Rutledge**, lecturer:
  Presented two posters at the American Psychological Association conference (Aug. 7–9) and will present three more at the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (Oct. 11–14). These will be published in *Neuroscience Applied*.
- **Allison Jobin**, assistant professor, with **Kris Nelson,** lecturer:

Co-authored *Stress and mental health in parents of autistic and gender diverse adolescents* in *Research in Autism*, comparing stress and mental health across four youth groups.

Sociology

- **Roberto Rivera**, lecturer:
  Recently completed his third U.S. Fulbright Award.



Commencement Regalia Info

Faculty who do not currently own regalia have the following options:

- Purchase – Orders must be placed through Jostens by Oct. 27. Regalia takes approximately five weeks to arrive. Purchasing regalia is a personal expense and will not be reimbursed by the university.

Departments may not purchase regalia as a supply for their department. Download the Jostens Faculty Regalia Purchase Form and email the completed form to: cgcolowb@jostens.com

- Rent – Rentals are available through the CSUSM University Store. Faculty must visit the bookstore in person by Nov. 14 to arrange a rental.

Alumni Achievements



Alumna Surf Instructor Challenging State Permit Rules

Helina Beck studied psychology at CSUSM — a choice that had an unexpected impact on her love for surfing. Rather than pursue a graduate degree, Beck took the entrepreneurial route instead, starting her own surf school. But her background in psychology remained at the forefront of her mind. In 2013, Beck founded Wavehuggers. As Beck says, “Give the waves a hug and they’re going to give you a hug right back.”

Beck combines love of surfing with helping others



Grant Helps Empower Future Mental Health Leaders

Anahi Martinez Mendez spent two years during her CHABSS undergraduate studies working in CSUSM's HOPE & Wellness Center as a peer educator. The experience was life-changing, inspiring Martinez Mendez to pursue a Master of Social Work degree at CSUSM after she graduated last May as a double major in child and adolescent development and Spanish. The HOPE & Wellness Center is among several groups on campus devoted to providing mental health services for CSUSM students. Last year, the university received a $250,000 grant from the Conrad Prebys Foundation to advance those services.

CHABSS alumna aided by Prebys grant

Save the Date



Oct. 8 — **Foos in Medicine**, USU 2300 Full Ballroom, 7-9 p.m.
Oct. 9 — **January in Italy Health Meeting**, UNIV 441 & Zoom, 12-12:50 p.m.
Oct. 9 — **Summer in Spain Language Info Session**, MARK 209 & Zoom, 12-12:50 p.m.
Oct. 10 — **Summer in Spain Language Info Session**, Zoom Meeting, 12-12:50 p.m.
Oct. 13 — **Dina Gilio-Whitaker's Book Launch "Who Gets to Be Indian?"**, KEL

5400, 6-8:30 p.m.
Oct. 14 — **Study Abroad Info Session**, ELB 543, 12-12:45 p.m.
Oct. 14 — **Careers in Literature & Writing Studies Informal Q&A Session**, MARK 102, 12-12:50 p.m.
Oct. 14 — **Music Guest Panel (Career Week)**, ARTS 111, 12 p.m.
Oct. 14 — **Panel on Law and Legal Careers**, Zoom csusm.zoom.us/j/81651544591, 12-1 p.m.
Oct. 14 — **History presents, Considering Grad School?**, Mark 301, 12-12:50 p.m.
Oct. 14 — **Navigating the Road to Academic Internships**, Admin 1400, 1-2 p.m.
Oct. 15 — **Side Hustle - Intuit Bookkeeping and Tax Preparation for SOC and CJS Students**, Arts 240, 12:30-1:20 or 1:30-2:20
Oct. 15 — **Come With! Social Networking Event for the Entertainment Industry,** SBSB first floor lobby to walk over to event in Arts 111, 4:30-4:40 p.m.
Oct. 15 — **Networking Night "Arts, Entertainment, & Culture" (Career Week)**, ARTS 111, 5-7 p.m.
Oct. 16 — **International Coffee Hour**, ELB 588, 12-1 p.m.
Oct. 21 — **Job & Internship Fair**, USU **2300, 11-2 p.m.**
Oct. 21 — **Summer in Italy OM 305 Info Session**, Zoom Meeting, 12-12:50 p.m.
Oct. 23 — **Fall Piano Concert**, Arts 111, 12 p.m.
Oct. 23 — **Summer in Spain Language Info Session**, MARK 209 & Zoom, 12-12:50 p.m.
Oct. 24 — **Study Abroad Predeparture Orientation**, KEL 1106, 8-12:50 p.m.
Oct. 28 — **Valley to Coast Speaker Series**, USU 2300 Full Ballroom, 6-8 p.m.
Oct. 28 — **Graduate & Professional School Fair**, USU 2300, 11-1 p.m.

COUGAR CONNECT



"ASK A COUGAR" WITH COUGAR CONNECT!

ASK A COUGAR

What is Cougar Connect?

ABOUT OUR MENTORSHIP PLATFORM:

- Receive advice from qualified alumni & faculty right into your inbox, **no account creation or app download!**
- Ask career, academic, & life after graduation questions
- Grow your network within the 70,000+ Cougar Alumni community
- Build relationships that could lead to internships, jobs, & lifelong mentorship

SCAN THE QR CODE TO GET STARTED AND "ASK A COUGAR"!

A partnership with CSUSM Career Center and the Office of Alumni Engagement.

https://cougarconnect.csusm.edu

cougarconnect@csusm.edu



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.