

A Note From The Dean ...



Welcome back to the start of another academic year. It's hard to believe that it was one year ago that almost 100 faculty responded to the survey regarding CHABSS programming at CSUSM Temecula. Interest was high with more than 50 faculty expressing interest in developing curriculum or teaching courses. Following that survey,

This fall we are taking the next steps to launch classes in Temecula this spring. We will be expanding the program for cross-college participation and renaming the "special major" as "integrative studies" to align with LAMP recommendations. This spring classes will be open to current students as well as to students at MSJC who want a head start on the cohort program which will begin fall 2026.

As we continue to build in Temecula in close partnership with MSJC, we are simultaneously turning our attention to Chula Vista and CSUSM's collaboration with Southwestern College. Faculty, please take a look at the white paper to see information about potential unmet needs in Chula Vista. Keep an eye out for an email sharing Chula Vista's curricular request for workforce development along with a survey to submit your interest.

With appreciation,
Liora

faculty from sociology, dance studies, psychology, history, communication and media studies, and WGSS partnered to develop a completion degree on Public Service and Community Engagement. It currently includes courses from those six disciplines as well as anthropology.



CHABSS Podcast Relaunches

With Innovation Episode

After debuting our podcast in the spring with an episode on Career Readiness and another Beyond the Classroom episode with KUSI-TV anchor Paul Rudy, CHABSS is launching this year's version with an episode entitled Innovation. Our guests include Kimmie Vanderbilt, a psychological science professor; Matt Atherton, a social sciences professor; and Scott Gross, the associate vice president for industry partnerships at the Innovation Hub.

Episode 2: Innovation





Career Week 2025 Gearing Up For October Series of Events

The middle of October will feature the 2025 offering of CHABSS Career Week. Oct. 13-17 will feature department events, career and grad school prep information, Career

Center and Innovation Hub events and opportunity basket prizes. The signature event hosted by the Dean's Office will be "Networking Night: Arts, Entertainment, & Culture," which will feature a panel and ensuing networking event with professionals in those industries. The event is Wednesday, Oct. 15 with the panel event in Arts 111 and the networking portion spilling out into Chavez Plaza with music, snacks and mocktails. Please encourage your students to attend. Departments are encouraged to host events all week, in particular Tuesday during U-hour.

Check here for continuously updated list of events

Student Success



Staples Foundation Investment Supports Art Internships

Thanks to a generous three-year investment from the David T. and Dorris E. Staples Foundation, CSUSM students are turning creative passions into career pathways

through paid academic internships. In partnership with CCAE Theatricals, CHABSS launched Pathways to Purpose, a career readiness program that provides structured, paid internships for students in arts education and theater arts. Future educators gain experience designing curriculum and teaching in Escondido elementary schools, while theater students gain an introduction to administration, performance opportunities and invaluable production experience through set design, prop creation and behind-the-scenes work on live performances.

Generous three-year investment to benefit CSUSM arts



Annual Student Recognition Features CHABSS' Best

The spring semester concluded with a handful of amazing CHABSS students being honored with inclusion in the Annual Student Recognition. The event, held at the McMahon House in May, featured an inspiring guest speaker and the recognizing of the amazing work our students do with the help of dedicated faculty. The call will go out soon for departments to nominate students for several categories, including one outstanding graduate from each dea

CHABSS Champions

All student awardees



CSUSM Adds New Master's in Clinical Counseling Psych

CSUSM has a new master’s degree program in clinical counseling psychology that has been approved by the CSU Chancellor’s Office to accept applications this fall. The first cohort is set to start in fall 2026 with 25-30 students, said Aleksandria Perez Grabow, an assistant professor of psychological science. The clinical counseling psychology

program becomes the sixth master's degree offered by CHABSS. It will be housed in CHABSS and run though Extended Learning.

Link to program

Faculty Highlights



New CHABSS TT Faculty Have Unique Paths to CSUSM

Teaching in a student population environment of around 2,500 and then moving to one with 17,000+ is one of the many challenges Roni Kay O'Dell has faced this semester. While the numbers can be overwhelming to the first-year assistant professor in the

newly formed political science and global affairs department, the challenges are exactly what she signed up for. O’Dell is one of four newly hired tenure-track faculty in CHABSS.







Meet the new TT faculty









CHABSS Emeriti Leave Legacy Through Teaching, Service

Congratulations and thank you to the seven faculty members who retired with emeriti status:

Karen Schaffman, Dance Studies, 24 years of service

Dr. Schaffman developed an astounding 24 courses during her tenure at CSUSM. She has reached thousands of students through her courses and choreographed performances on campus and off.

Robert (Bob) Roberts, Sociology, 33 years of service

Dr. Roberts contributed to the founding and growth of multiple undergraduate degree programs during his lengthy career at CSUSM, including sociology, criminology and justice studies, and human development.

Jonathan Berman, Visual Arts, 21 years of service

Dr. Berman developed curricula for two-degree programs across two different departments and has taught specialized courses as well as a survey of world cinema general education course reaching thousands of students throughout his career.

Salah Moukhlis, Literature & Writing Studies, 23 years of service

Dr. Moukhlis has brought his expertise in Middle Eastern Studies and postcolonial theory to thousands of students through 20 distinct courses for undergraduate majors, general education, and master's students.

Staci Beavers, Political Science, 29 years of service

Not only did Dr. Beavers teach 13 distinct courses as a faculty member, she also developed important curriculum for students by developing a capstone internship experience and also served multiple terms as the campus pre-law advisor.

Michelle Holling, Communication, 18 years of service

Dr. Holling played an essential role in curriculum development, implementing AB 1460 ethnic studies requirement for Area F and creating the minor and major in ethnic studies.

Nancy Caine, Psychological Science, 33 years of service

Dr. Caine taught a wide range of undergraduate and graduate courses over her tenure

and brought dozens of students into her lab focused on the study of nonhuman primates. A generous scholar, she mentored many students into Ph.D. programs.





Proudfit, Lush Selected For AI Innovation Challenge

Two proposals from CHABSS faculty have been selected for funding through the inaugural CSU Artificial Intelligence Educational Innovations Challenge – a highly competitive opportunity that drew more than 400 submissions systemwide. The following principal investigators and their teams were selected:
Rebecca Lush – “Innovative Teaching with GenAI: Designing Curriculum for the Future”
Joely Proudfit – “Critical Futures: Bridging Indigenous Knowledge and Innovation to Transform Teaching and Student Learning with AI in American Indian Studies”



Faculty Earns PATR Funds

The Professional Advancement Travel Resource (PATR) program received numerous applications, making the selection process challenging. Due to limited funds, those with the highest rankings were able to be supported. A special shout-out to University Advancement for providing this incredible opportunity. Faculty below were selected to travel this year:

Judit Hersko, AMD, Svalbard
Allison Jobin, Psychological Science, New York
Suzanna Krivulskaya, History, New York
Allison Merrick, Philosophy, Belfast, UK
Laurette McGuire, Anthropology, New Mexico
Gloria Pindi Nziba, Communication & Media Studies, Tennessee
Seth Shafer, Music, New York
Brooke Soles, CEHHS, Los Angeles
Jon Spenard, Anthropology, San Francisco

Julia Steinberg, Psychological Science (student), United Kingdom
Lia Uy-Tioco, Communication & Media Studies, Colorado
Kaitlyn Woltz, Economics, Virginia

Alumni Achievements



MLS Brings Back Alumni

Last spring, Modern Language Studies brought together its alumni and current students for an event that included a panel and networking with support from a CHABSS mini-grant. The alumni panel consisted of Dr. Charlotte Vega (Class of 1997, BA in Spanish) and Professor Karla Lemari (Class of 2015, MA in Spanish). They also had a number of alumni who attended, some with their families (to foster a college-going mindset in their own children), and who were on hand to speak more informally about their career paths, the challenges along the way, and their suggestions for current students. There is a wide variety of careers available to students who study languages, and this event brought that message home.

Save the Date





Sept. 3 — **January in Rome Info Session**, Zoom Meeting, 2:30-3:30 p.m.
Sept. 4 — **January in Rome Info Session**, Zoom Meeting, 12-1 p.m.
Sept. 8 — **January in Rome Info Session**, Zoom Meeting, 1-2 p.m.
Sept. 9 — **January in Rome Info Session**, MARK 421, 12-1 p.m.
Sept. 9 — **Study Abroad Info Session**, ELB 542, 12-12:45 p.m.
Sept. 16 — **Study Abroad Info Session**, ELB 542, 12-12:45 p.m.
Sept. 17 — **January in Rome Info Session**, Zoom Meeting, 1-2 p.m.
Sept. 18 — **January in Rome Info Session**, Zoom Meeting, 12-1 p.m.
Sept. 19 — **January in Paris**—SOCIOLOGY Info Session, SBSB 4221, 1-1:50 p.m.
Sept. 19 — **Mestizaje**, ARTS 111, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Sept. 23 — **CA Indian Day**, USU Arcade (13), USU Arcade (14), Forum Plaza (3), 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sept. 23 — **January in Rome Info Session**, MARK 421, 12-1 p.m.
Sept. 30 — **Study Abroad Info Session**, ELB 542, 12-12:45 p.m.
Sept. 30 — **Movie Screening Jim Thorpe Documentary**, USU 2300 Full Ballroom, 3-10 p.m.
Oct. 1 — **Nuestro Camino**, USU 2300 Full Ballroom, 6-8 p.m.

Oct. 7 — **College Motivation Day**, Forum Plaza, USU Arcade, USU Amphitheatre, USU 2300 Full Ballroom, 10-2 p.m.
Oct. 7 — **Chow on Deck: CHABSS**, Epstein Family Veterans Center Deck, 12-1 p.m.
Oct. 7 — **Study Abroad Info Session**, ELB 542, 12-12:45 p.m.





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.