

The COSS Herald

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Quad renovation complete

The quad area reopened the last week of classes fall semester. The renovation, which began over the summer break, provides more walkable surface areas and additional seating areas for

students, faculty, and staff to congregate and socialize.

"It will be a gathering spot for social science faculty, staff, and students," noted Dean Michelle DenBeste. "It will

provide space for people to mingle, both formally and informally. Classes can meet there. Furniture is coming for the quad area. There will be benches and tables for everyone to use."



Where's the mural? The momentum built last spring for creating a mural between Social Science and McKee-Fisk has stalled, owing to the facilities planning committee requiring a schematic of the mural design prior to approving it. A deadline of January 31st has been given for the artist to produce a design for the committee to examine. Work on the mural will commence once this is resolved.

Some upcoming events

"All They Will Call You," Official book launch for Tim Hernandez's book. Reading, signing, guest appearances. Friday January 27th, 6:00-8:00. Whitfield Hall, Satellite Student Union.

#BlackLivesMatter and Food Justice, Friday, February 3rd, 12-1 HML 161, Free screening of Soul Food Junkies.

Friday, February 10, 2-3 PM
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Pub Crawl

Accepted

Edited anthology. *Anthropology of Los Angeles: Place and Agency in an Urban Setting*, 2017, Jenny Banh.

Forthcoming

Journal article. "IO autonomy and issue emergence: The World Bank's Roma inclusion agenda," forthcoming, 2017, *Global Governance* Melanie H. Ram.

Journal article "I Stand Here Limpiando: Maternal Knowledge, Chicana Subjectivity, and Mother-Daughter Bonding in Bárbara Renaud Gon-

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The COSS Herald

The COSS Herald is a semi-annual publication by the faculty of the College of Social Sciences, highlighting the activities of the faculty, staff, & students, and providing a venue for social bonding among members of nine departments spread over five buildings on campus. *The COSS Herald* is not an official university publication.

The COSS Herald Staff:

Cristina Herrera, Co-editor

Andrew Jones, Co-editor

Submissions for the next edition of *The COSS Herald* should be sent via email to either cherre-ra@csufresno.edu or anjones@csufresno.edu. Images should be submitted in 'jpeg' format, while text materials should be in rich text format (rtf). The editors retain the right of refusal to publish any materials they deem to be obscene, pornographic, threatening, or boring.

Faculty and Staff News

Randles receives the Bernard Feminist Scholarship Award

By Tom Uribes, Fresno State News



The National Council on Family Relations recognized Dr. Jennifer Randles, assistant

sociology professor, as the 2016 recipient of the Jessie Bernard Contribution to Feminists Scholarship Paper Award at the 2016 NCFR Annual Conference Nov. 2 through 5 in Minneapolis. Randles was recognized for her paper, "Redefining the Marital Power Struggle

through Relationship Skills: How United States Marriage Education Programs Challenge and Reproduce Gender Inequality." Her research interests include low-income families, marriage, gender, family policies and feminist qualitative research methods.

Fahrenthold wins dissertation award



Stacy Fahrenthold, while attending the Middle East Studies Association meeting in

Boston last November, discovered that her dissertation, "Making Nations, in the

Mahjar: Syrian and Lebanese Long Distance Nationalisms in Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires, and New York City" was awarded the 2016 Dissertation Prize in Syrian Studies. The award, given by the Syrian Studies Association (a subsidiary of MESA) is presented every other year for new work in the subfield.

Promotions

Angelica Miramontes, in the Department of Criminology, was recently promoted to ASC II from the ASA position.

Sabbaticals

Kathryn Forbes (WS)

Andrew Jones (SOC)

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Student News



Mock Trial team largest ever

This fall, Fresno State Mock trial has it largest team ever. Fielding five team in the fall

and six in the spring, it appears we have the largest team in the nation. We also welcomed two new volunteer coaches to the team. Brandi Snow, an attorney new to California, comes to the staff after a long run competing

and coaching at Middle Tennessee State. Thomas Beasley, a recent graduate of McGeorge School of Law and new to Fresno, practices juvenile dependency law in Fresno.

Our five Fresno State teams, all evenly skilled, faced some elite programs with their teams already weighted to have their best competitors on one team. We opted to compete all fall with teams of mixed veterans and newcomers so that the novices could learn from their veteran teammates as well as the coaches. We did not anticipate to win much in the four fall invitationals but we believe that by mixing the teams, we will have stronger teams when it counts for the

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Paparazzi

(Right) Early in the fall semester, Fresno State's student activist group the Afrikan Black Coalition (ABC) implemented new initiatives for increasing Black student retention and graduation rates. Predicated on the statistically-reinforced notion that increasing Black students' sense of belonging increases their capacity and willingness to stay in school and graduate; ABC, President Castro, Provost Lynette Zelezny, VP Frank Lamas, AVP Carolyn Coon, AVP Maxine McDonald, and Director Francine Oputa initiated the inaugural Harambee Student Retreat for incoming Black students and the Office of Black Student Success.



(Left) The next team up for a Marvel movie franchise, or faculty of the College of Social Sciences enjoying a night of socializing? Attendee's of the annual Sociology Department's Halloween party included Debbie Hesel, (as a sorcerer), Tim Cupery (as Wolverine), Chris Sullivan (as Jack Skellington), Robin Huigen (as a member of the 1%), and Andrew Jones (as Deadpool). October 29, 2016.

(Right) Larissa Mercado-López's lecture, "Doing Work That Mat(t)ers: How Empowered Mothers Make Empowered Faculty," examined the misconceptions on academic mothers and discussed her personal experiences as a mother/scholar and the impacts those aspects of self had on her teaching, and academic relationships. Her lecture from November 10, 2016, was presented by the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, as one of the final presentations for the lecture series honoring and showcasing the recipients of the 2015-2016 Provost's Awards.



The Dean's Corner



It is hard to believe that I'm already in my fourth semester serving as your dean. Time

flies! I continue to be amazed by the constant stream of news about faculty, student and staff activities that comes across my desk on a daily basis. I'm in the middle of reading WPAF files right now and I remain impressed the quality and quantity of your work with community organizations, scholarly entities, and student groups. One of the true joys of this position is the privilege of being able to attend interesting talks, read books and articles written by my colleagues, and observe the creative and important work you are doing with students. We begin spring semester with an already full calendar of films, speakers, and panel discussion on topics ranging from food justice to MLK to Conspiracy Theories. I'll be posting a full list of those events on our website. I'm hoping to announce our hire for the new COSS Communications position very soon. The goal with the Communications person will be to highlight all of the work the college is doing via social media, blogs, our website, and news agencies. Please do continue to send me any news of your own scholarly work, work with students, professional awards, and grant announcements. Part of my job as Dean is to serve as the Public Relations/town crier for the college.

I'm so pleased that new quad has been completed. I hope that we will find creative ways to use that space and that we will all enjoy the benefits of having a beautiful outdoor area between our buildings. New

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Faculty and staff news continued

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Book launch highlights importance of voluntary sector in changing prisons

By Stan Paul

Just one visit. For those whose lives are entangled in the pipeline of the juvenile and adult justice systems, the life-changing meeting might come from a family member. It could be a psychologist. Or a chaplain. Or it could never come at all.

For many, though, the visitor is a volunteer — someone who can make the difference between continuing a downward spiral through the criminal justice system and turning a life around.

"The cycle continues until someone breaks it," said Ernst Fenelon Jr., who was part of a Nov. 3 panel speaking about volunteers who help those incarcerated in America's juvenile detention centers and adult prisons. The event also launched a new book co-edited by UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs Social Welfare professor Laura Abrams.

The book, *The Voluntary Sector in Prisons: Encouraging Personal and Institutional Change*, was published "to highlight many examples of great practice, of volunteer

programs that make a real difference behind bars...and impacting not only those who take part in the programs, but the volunteers," Abrams said. She was accompanied by one of her three co-editors, Emma Hughes, Chair of the Department of Criminology at California State University, Fresno.

According to Hughes, the book is also intended to show correctional officials and policymakers how valuable this work is. "All too often volunteers are confronted with insurmountable hurdles in terms of red tape and bureaucracy when trying to access facilities."

Hughes added, however, that she is encouraged by recent changes. "I am heartened that this year, CDRC (California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation) has a mandate to establish a volunteer advisory committee at every adult prison, with the intention of better supporting volunteer-led programs," Hughes said.



Summer teaching in Thailand

Melanie Ram and Thomas Holyoke will be team-teaching a course this summer on

"People Power and Global Change" (HIST, PLSI, SOC, 3 credits) as Visiting Professors in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The course is offered through the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC), of which Fresno State is a part, and will focus on civil/women's and environmental rights movements, grassroots revolutions for democracy, and non-governmental organization advocacy campaigns to change government policies and improve people's lives. Please send any students who may be interested in studying abroad in Thailand for Fresno State credit their way! USAC and other scholarships are available.

New staff member joins departments

Jeremy Alvarez joined the staff of the College as an Administrative Staff Assistant II near the end of fall semester. Previously, Jeremy had worked in the Dean's Office as an ASA. Jeremy serves four departments, working mornings in Chicano Latin American Studies and Sociology, and afternoons in Political Science and Women's Studies.

Exercises for Integrating Quantitative Data Analysis into Classes

Ed Nelson has developed a series of exercises for integrating quantitative data analysis into social science classes. Some of these are primarily oriented towards statistics and methods classes while others are more content-oriented. These are available on the Social Science Research and Instructional Council's website (<http://ssric.org/>). "You have permission to use them in whatever way suits you best and to

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Student news continued

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spring regional qualifying tournaments. All together, our teams have faced top teams from the following schools: Brown University, Uni. Of Minnesota-Morris, Stanford, Uni. Of Washington, Hamline, Tufts, Lee, Northwestern, Uni. Of Florida, Florida State, Uni. Of Tennessee-Chattanooga, United States Air Force Academy, UC Davis, Pomona College, UC San Diego, UNLV, Kansas State, Mississippi State, Denver University, Cal Poly SLO and UC Berkeley.

At UC Berkeley Invitational: Sophomore Sebastian Wenthe won an Outstanding Attorney award (he was one of top 12 out of 180 student attorneys earning a perfect 20 ranks meaning he was ranked the top attorney in each of his trial rounds as defense counsel), Senior Kellie Hustedde won not only an Outstanding Attorney but also an Outstanding Witness award, and freshman Lauryn Flores won an Outstanding Witness award in this her first tournament. No other program but ours managed to garner four individual awards at this tournament. At the prestigious Mid-South Tournament, a 60 team tournament hosted by Middle Tennessee State University, we finished in the top 15 but not enough to win a trophy. Junior Katelyn Bourdo won an Attorney Award, and sophomore Jaycob Rouse won a Witness Award. At the Thunderbird Invitational hosted by the United States Air Force Academy, the team went 5-3 and faced stiff competition from the academy teams, as well the University of Colorado, Colorado Christian, Kansas State, Kansas, and several other schools. At UC Irvine's Anteater Invitational, we again finished 4-4 and in top 8 it appears but not enough for a trophy. Sophomore Athena

Niayesh won an Outstanding Attorney Award however.

We also congratulated former FSU mockers Craig Waters (SJCL 2016) and Marcus Cope (UCLA 2016) on passing the California Bar Exam on their first try. Craig is now giving back to the program as a coach.

McNair Scholars

The end of fall semester provided McNair Scholars within the College to present their research proposals.

Polet Campos-Melchor will explore LGBTQ Latinas in higher education under the mentorship of Larissa Mercado-López (WS).

Selena Carbajal will work with Larissa Mercado-López (WS) on researching imposter syndrome in college students.

Steven Carrisalez, under the direction of Curis Eastin and Kristi Eastin (HIST), will explore political identity and political ideology in ancient Athens.

Carlos Jimenez will engage in a content and frame analysis of race as conveyed in the 2016 presidential and primary debates under the mentorship of Andrew Jones (SOC).

Samantha Luna will be researching perceptions of compensation for those wrongfully convicted with Jenna Kieckhaefer (CRIM).

Veronica Martinez will examine domestic violence training at the Marjorie Mason Center with the assistance of Yoshiko Takahashi (CRIM).

Stacey Myers is engaged in ongoing research in the El

Dorado Park neighborhood, examining issues of habitus in terms of interactions between residents and members of service providing entities, working with Andrew Jones (SOC).

Cinthia Quesada, working with Jennifer Randles (SOC), will examine issues revolving around masculinity in policing.

Melissa Quesada, under the mentorship of Vera Kennedy (SOC), will investigate service learning as an educational tool.

Douachee Vang, working with Jenny Banh (ANTH), will do research on Hmong women and gender roles.



Alek Mechikoff, who was promoted to the Millerton Helitack Fire Fighters unit over the summer, graduated this fall with a BA in Sociology. Mechikoff is pictured above at the Soberanas fire in Big Sur, the most expensive fire (to date) in California history.

Pub Crawl continued

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zález's Golondrina, why did you leave me?" forthcoming 2017, *Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, Cristina Herrera.

Book chapter "Daughter of the Disappeared or Hija de la República: Maternal Imagery, Daughterly Identity, and Argentina's Dirty War in Carolina de Robertis's Perla," in *Mothers and Daughters*, edited by Dorsia Smith Silva, et al, forthcoming 2017, Demeter

Press, Cristina Herrera.

Book. *Esteban de Luna, Baby Rescuer/Esteban de Luna, Rescatador de Bebés!*, forthcoming May, 2017, Larissa Mercado-López.



Dean's Corner continued

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benches and tables are on their way and should arrive any day.

The College is conducting four faculty searches this year. The search for an American Indian Studies professor (a joint hire between COSS and Women's Studies) has successfully concluded with the hire of Dr. Leece Lee-Oliver, currently a visiting assistant professor at San Francisco State University and Mills College. She is excited about the possibilities of building a thriving American Indian Studies program and to continue to build on the cross disciplinary efforts which are already underway.

I'm so pleased to be able to announce that after years of work, the new B.S. degree in Geography and City and Regional Planning has been approved by the Chancellor's Office. We will be working to advertise the new program to incoming students and to build the program now that it is finally approved. Please congratulate your colleagues in Geography and City and Regional Planning. This has been a long effort and is one which has involved a great deal of community and faculty support. We will be forming an advisory board for the new program, scholarship monies have already been donated, and we are in the process of building internship and service learning projects. Additionally, the new program will be closely involved with developing a new Transportation Institute at Fresno State in cooperation with the College of Engineering and made possible due to a large grant through the County of Fresno.

I'd also like to formally announce the creation of the new Institute for Leadership and Public Policy this spring, supported by a generous donation by PG&E. Dr. Annabe-

lla España-Nájera and Dr. Jeff Cummins are serving as Co-Directors of the Institute. The institute seeks to prepare future public leaders of the Valley through an internship and fellowship program as well as to serve as an information source on a variety of regional public policy issues. The Institute will conduct annual public opinion surveys of the San Joaquin Valley on political and governance issues to help inform our local leaders on the region's priorities. The Institute will also sponsor public lectures on leadership and government.

Our COSS Student Leadership council (featured on this year's holiday card) continues to meet and to serve as liaisons between students, departments and the College. Our student organizations remain active. The Mock Trial team continues to win tournaments against top tier schools, Moot Court held their successful tournament in the fall, and Criminology students are actively planning events, including their annual career fair. Thank you to all of you for your work to ensure that COSS is a vibrant, interesting, supportive, and exciting place to work. Welcome back for Spring 2017.

Michelle

Upcoming events continued

(continued from page 1)

ED140, Dr. Breeze Haprer, "Vegan Praxis of #BlackLives-Matter"

Farmworkers and Food Justice, Farmworker Theatre Workshop featuring Lideres Campesinas,

Friday February 24th 10:00-3:00 EDU 140 and Friday March 3rd 10:00-3:00 EDU140.

Faculty and staff news continued

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revise them in whatever way works for you."

Primarily methods and statistics-oriented:

Introductory statistics for SPSS users -- <http://ssric.org/node/492>

Introductory statistics for PSPP users -- <http://ssric.org/node/559>

Introductory statistics for SDA users -- <http://ssric.org/node/597>.

Speaking engagements



Larissa Mercado-López has been invited to speak during the national Girls Gone Strong

"Women's Strength and Empowerment Weekend," in Seattle, Washington, April 14-16, 2017. Larissa has also been invited to be a guest writer on intersectional fitness for the Girls Gone Strong website, www.girlsgonestrong.com.

Mercado-López also will speak as part of the Chicana

faculty keynote panel at the annual Chicana/o Youth Conference, January 28, 2017, at Fresno State.

Anthropology Award



Jenny Banh was selected as 2016 Concha Delgado Gaitan Council of Anthropology and Education

Presidential Fellow, a national award bestowed by the American Anthropological Association.

Transitions

Toni Amezcua



The beginning of fall semester witnessed the departure of Toni Amezcua from the Dean's Office.

After years of service in that office, Amezcua decided to transition over to the office on campus for Luz Gonzalez, Dean of the Fresno State Visalia Campus.

Monday April 3rd, 12:00-1:00 HML 2206, Dr. Mario Sifuentes UC Merced, Book Talk: Of Forests and Fields: Mexican Labor in the Pacific Northwest."

"Yes...he did!: A Panel Discussion on the Legacy of President Barack Obama" Monday, February 6th in Library Room 2206.

MLK Jr./Gunnar Myrdal Lecture Series and the Organization of American Historians

(OAH) Distinguished Lecture-ship Program presents "Images of Diverse Womanhood in Late Twentieth-Century Urban America" by Dr. Brenda Stevenson Monday, February 27, 2016 Leon Peters Educational Center.

"Listen We Need to Talk." Dr. Melissa Michelson will examine changing public opinion on policy support for gay rights. April 26, 2017, HML 6:00-8:00.