

The COSS Herald

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pub. Crawl	2
Faculty and Staff News	2
Student News	2
Paparazzi	4



Mock Trial Team wins ranking

Special points of interest:

- Takahashi examines Asian American student success (Page 3)
- Los Danzantes teaches more than dance (Page 3)
- McNair Researchers (Page 5)

The Fresno State Intercollegiate Mock Trial team ended the 2013 season in April by winning a bid to compete at the National Championship Finals in Orlando, Florida, and earning a solid top 50 national ranking. This 2014 season was to be a rebuilding year since

the team lost over half its veteran members to graduation. Instead, this year's teams have started strong and won a place among the top teams at every tournament Fresno State has entered.

The 2014 Season began with Fresno State hosting its "Dog

Pound Challenge Tournament" on campus in mid- October 2014. Teams from UCLA, Stanford, Cal, Claremont McKenna, Reno, Davis, Cal Poly SLO, UC Santa Barbara, and several others competed in representing the plaintiff (continued on page 2)

COSS Staff attend Women's Conference

The 27th annual Central California Women's Conference, held September 16th, had record attendance, including several staff members from the College of Social Sciences. Pictured at right are Amber Hornberger, Annette Gallegos, Susan Sandoval, Paulette Morrow, Linda Ragus, Toni Amezua and Fabiola Alvarez.



Pub. Crawl

Faculty and Staff News

Faculty on Sabbatical:

Dan Cady (HIST)

Ramon Sanchez (CLAS)

Staff transitions:

Nimat Davis, formerly Administrative Support Coordinator in Political Science/Women's Studies accepted a position in the Lyles College of Engineering.

Linda Ragus was promoted to Administrative Support Coordinator in Political Science/Women's Studies.

(Continued on page 5)

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.

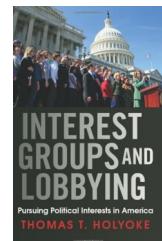
The COSS Herald Staff:

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.

Accepted Works



Book , Interest Groups and Lobbying: Pursuing Political Interests in America, Westview Press, 2015, Thomas Holyoke.

Book Chapter, "An African High Priestess of Haiku: Sonia Sanchez and the Principles of a Black Aesthetic," *Cross-Cultural Visions in African American Haiku*, edited by John Zheng, University Press of Mississippi, 2014, Meta Schettler.

Journal Article, "Tactical Decision-Making: Community Organizers Describe Ethical Considerations In Social Action Campaigns." *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*. Donna Hardina, Matthew Ari Jendian, Catherine Garoupa White.

Book Chapter, "Stories Worth Telling: How Kerry Washington Balances Brains, Beauty, and Power in Hollywood" in *Smart Chicks: Representing Women's Intellect in Film and Television*, edited by Laura M. D'Amore, Rowman & Littlefield, 2015, DeAnna Reese.

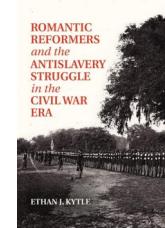
Book Chapter, "Hmong Americans." In *Asian Ameri-*

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Book, *California: The Politics of Diversity*. 8th Edition. 2015. With David G. Lawrence. Boston: Cengage Learning, Jeff Cummins.

Book, *Romantic Reformers and the Antislavery Struggle in the Civil War Era*, Cambridge University Press., 2015, Ethan Kytle.



Mock Trial wins national ranking

(Continued from page 1) and defense sides of a civil wrongful death lawsuit involving the shooting death of an 11 year old girl by her 11 yr. old best friend and neighbor. Fresno State's Blue Travel team (only 3 seniors on it) managed to take 3rd place with Stanford taking the top two trophies. However, students from Fresno State's three teams at the tournament had managed to win 2 individual awards for Outstanding Attorneys and 3 individual awards for Outstanding Witnesses.

This was followed over the weekend of November 1-2, with Fresno State's Red A and Blue B Travel teams competing at the University of Arizona's Invitational tournament. The Blue team managed to take 2nd Place, while Red took 7th amidst an impressive field of 30 Pac 12 and western states teams. Blue beat Uni.



Fresno State's Red Travel Team: L to R, Front row: Alyssa Malinoski, Madely Martinez, Kellie Hustedde, and Andrew Bunting; Back row: Denise Barnes, Gage Marchini, Monika Smart, Hailey Bonds, Coach Gordon Park

Of Arizona's A and B teams, ASU A team, and split ballots with Uni. Of Colorado A team. In addition Abi Thomason won an award as an Outstanding Witness given to only 12 out of 180 witnesses competing at the tournament.

Then, over the weekend of November 8-9, Red Travel Team competed at the prestigious Mid-South Tournament

in Nashville, Tenn., taking 4th place out of 48 SEC, ACC and Midwest teams in the tournament. They defeated Florida State, Florida, Rhoades College, and split ballots with Vanderbilt with Gage Marchini winning an Attorney award. That same weekend, Blue team won 2nd place at Air Force Academy's Invitational in Colorado Springs with Abi Thomason again winning a top witness award, and

Student News

Los Danzantes

By Tom Uribe, from Fresno State News

About 150 Fresno Unified School District students and their parents visited the Fresno State campus Saturday, Sept. 27 for The Folklórico Summit, a new cultural event designed to inspire youth to get a college education.

Members of Los Danzantes de Aztlán, the University's Mexican folkloric dance troupe in the Department of Chicano and Latin American Studies, con-



ducted dance workshops.

The event ended with a free, public performance by Los

Danzantes and workshop recitals from the Satellite Student Union.

(Continued on page 5)

Mock Trial (continued)

Simone Leighty winning an attorney award.

At Cal Berkeley's Invitational over the weekend of Nov. 15-16, Fresno State's Red and Silver teams competed with 18 teams from the Pac 12 and others such as Uni. Of Colorado, Northwestern University, Uni. Of Illinois and Uni. Of Minnesota. Red team took 4th, with Denise Barnes winning both a witness and an attorney award, and Hailey Bonds winning top ranking as an attorney at the tournament.

The Fall semester ended with Blue Team competing at Yale University's exclusive "Only-Nationally-Ranked-Teams" Invitational. Each trial was scored by a panel of three seasoned trial lawyers and judges. Frankly, with Blue having two freshmen, two sophomores and only three seniors facing a division of 28 nationally ranked elite teams, the expectations were that

Blue team would be lucky to win a few if any ballots. As coach Gordon Park said: "It was anticipated to be a character building experience for this younger travel team."

Instead, Blue performed like champions. First, they won two of three ballots from Cornell A team, then in the second trial won two ballots and tied one with Princeton's A team (the 2014 runner up at the National Championship Finals). In the third trial, they faced Harvard's All-Seniors A team (currently ranked #3 in the country!), and managed to win one ballot, while losing the other two by only a few points each. In the fourth and final round, Blue faced NYU A team, and swept all three ballots!

Their winning 8.5 out of 12 ballots meant that Fresno State's Blue (B) team, like

"David" in the Bible, had upset the giant "Goliaths" of the college mock trial community and had won 7th place out of 52 teams at the tournament. Even more incredible, sophomore attorney Daesha Brown won one of only 8 Outstanding Attorney Awards (out of over 300 students attorneys!) scoring a near perfect 29 of 30 ranks, and freshman Abi Thomason, won as the 2nd highest ranked Witness (out of 300+ witnesses!) Fresno State has already been invited to return to the Yale tournament next year, regardless of whether the team qualifies for this Season's National Finals.

The four Fresno State teams are now preparing for several tournaments in January, culminating in two Regional Tournaments in February (Fresno will be hosting one, and the other is in Los Angeles) to try to qualify at least one team to compete in the National Finals.

Grant will examine Southeast Asian-American student success



Dr. Yoshiko Takahashi, associate professor in the Department of Criminology, Gena Lew Gong, an adjunct Anthropology Department faculty member, and Hiromi Kubo, Madden Library faculty member, received \$10,5331 from the California State University Chancellor's Office to study how best to gear higher education toward Southeast Asian-American students.

"The goal of Fresno State is to become a national model of best practices as an AANAPISI (Asian American, Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution)," said Fresno State Provost Dr. Lynnette Zelezny, who is leading the grant work. The "Action Research Project" grant award will be co-led by Drs. Zelezny and Takahashi in AY 2015-16.

Previously, the team was sponsored by Fresno State's Asian Faculty and Staff Association to study "The Academic Challenges of Southeast Asians at Fresno State" and presented it at the Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education national conference. The findings of the study can be found at http://www.fresnostate.edu/academics/oie/documents/documents-research/2014/SEA%20BRIEF_FINAL.pdf.

Paparazzi



Cocktails and conversation: Andrew Jones listens to a story told by Jey Strangfeld, CSU Stanislaus, (left) along with Leontina Hormel, University of Idaho (right) at the Marxist Section reception at the Soluna Café and Lounge during the American Sociological Association conference in San Francisco, August 17, 2014.



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Above: Fresno State's Blue Travel Team; L to R, Front row: Daesha Brown, Abigail Hudson and Abi Thomason; Middle row: Gurch Dhillon, Carragan Huerta, Simone Leighty and Michael Kreins' Back row: Coaches Gordon Park and Grant Mason



Left: Fabiola Alvarez traveled to Mexico over the holiday break with her husband, Antonio Gasca, to perform their religious wedding vows, December 28, 2014.

Student News (continued)

(Continued from Page 3)

Participants were selected from folkloric dance programs in Fresno Unified middle and high schools through the district's Visual and Performing Arts manager, Allan E. Kristensen.

Dr. Victor Torres, troupe director and professor of Chicano and Latin American Studies, said the partnership with Fresno Unified is intended to use the passion and discipline required for Mexican folkloric dancing as a way to inspire students to pursue higher education.

"The goal is not simply to teach folklórico, but to use folklórico as a means to instill in the students the same passion in their academics that they have for dance," Torres said.

Torres said the workshops are designed to offer a challenging and meaningful experience by teaching basic dance techniques that the students can take back to their schools and master.

McNair Scholars

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

Sonya Acevedo will examine mental illness within the prison system under the mentorship of Peter English (CRIM).

Jaqueleine Alvarez and Vicky Cuevas will work with Kathryn Forbes (WS) and Carolyn Cusick (PHIL) in researching the LBGT Convocation at Fresno State and

its effects on the sense of student inclusion.

Kim Davidson, working with Blaine Roberts (HIST) will explore the Latter Day Saint (LDS) women in postwar period who opposed forms of second-wave feminism and women's rights.

Ryan Ditchfield will be investigating the effects of confirmation bias on the concealment of photos in police lineups under the supervision of Peter English (CRIM).

Cesar Gonzalez will be working with Sarah Whitley (SOC) in examining the effects of school funding on elementary-aged student access to school psychologists in Fresno and Clovis school districts.

Cecilia Knadler plans on comparing the experiences of gay and lesbian and heterosexual adoptive parents working with Larissa Mercado-López (WS).

Rashana Nkansah will be researching blighted neighborhoods in Fresno and how such environments affect families under the mentorship of Janine NKosi (SOC).

Juanita Perez, working with Dvera Saxton (ANTH), will be investigating the health care of Indigenous migrant farmworkers in the Central Valley who sustain work-related injuries.

Rocio Solis, under the guidance of William Skuban (HIST), will research the resistance of lay people to the enforcement of the Mexican Constitution of 1917 and the

Vatican response to the rebellion.

Jennifer Vargas, working with Andrew Jones (SOC), will travel to Vietnam to research perceptions and beliefs of Indigenous Vietnamese to the involvement and impact of the U.S. presence in the Vietnam War.

Faculty and Staff News

(Continued from page 2)



Harald Otto Schweizer delivered a paper presentation on the U.S. National Drug Control Strategy at the international meeting of police criminal investigators in Leipzig, Germany, September 10, 2014.

The two day professional conference focused on the legalization of drugs and resulting possible consequences. The conference language was attended by more than 150 officials from national and international government agencies and NGOs, among them the United Nations, Interpol, and Europol.

The presentation was published in the October 2014 issue of "Der Kriminalist" the professional journal for police criminal investigators (BdK-Bund Deutscher Kriminalbeamter) (pp.9-10).

"The dedication, discipline and passion required to be a successful dancer also make for a successful student. Therefore, the summit seeks to help the students transfer these attributes to their school work so that they can be eligible to apply to a four-year college." ~ Victor Torres