The Return of the COSS newsletter

New Faculty
Four new tenure track faculty joined our ranks this fall, enhancing the Departments of Sociology, Women’s Studies, and History.

Jennifer Randles (SOC)
Jennifer Randles moved to Fresno in early June and shortly thereafter married her partner, Craig, an environmental scientist for the California Department of Fish & Wildlife. As an avid yogi and hiker, she has particularly enjoyed visiting numerous yoga studios in Fresno and Clovis, as well as the many hiking opportunities afforded by Fresno’s proximity to Yosemite, Kings Canyon, and Sequoia National Parks. Two of her favorite new Fresno-based hobbies are eating at the amazing Italian restaurant, Veni Vidi Vici (appropriately named after an Italian expression meaning “I came, I saw, I conquered”), and playing Wednesday night pub trivia at the Landmark restaurant located in the heart of the Tower District.

Sarah Whitley (SOC)
Sarah Whitley accompanied by her husband Josh and dog Flower are settling into Fresno nicely. One thing they really like about Fresno is not having to shovel snow! They’ve really enjoyed learning about all the unique aspects of the central valley and exploring around the valley. They’ve had opportunities to explore the mountains and (continued on page 2)
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cost and look forward to taking
backpacking adventures this coming spring
and summer. They are still in the process
of exploring the large variety of restaurants
around Fresno, but one in particular that
they already frequent is The Phoenixian
Garden. They also enjoy hitting up the
local farmers markets. Besides spending
time with each other in the outdoors they
are also looking forward to starting a
beautiful garden and figuring out the
growing season here in the valley. With the
weather being so mild in the valley during
the fall, winter, and spring, they spend time
together hiking, fishing, biking, running, and
enjoying the various dog parks.

Larissa M. Mercado-López (WS)

I am new to Fresno
and California,
having spent the
past 11 years in
San Antonio, TX,
where I earned my
degrees. I'm
originally from
Gregory, TX, a
small agricultural
town along the
coast of Texas, so Fresno feels quite
familiar and homey to me! My husband is
a math teacher at San Joaquin Memorial
High School, and my three daughters,
ages 9, 8, and 5, attend school in the
Central Unified School District and dance
ballet folklorico under the direction of
Fresno State professor Victor Torres. We
absolutely love the farmer’s markets and
farms, and hope to do more traveling
around this beautiful state. I am very
happy to be at Fresno State, and already
have been supported in so many ways by
my colleagues and the administration in
the College of Social Sciences!

Frederik Vermote (HIST)

Frederik Vermote
hails from Belgium
and did his doctoral
work at the Uni-
versity of British
Columbia. As he
has settled in to the
History Department
as the resident
world historian, he has enjoyed the hiking
opportunities that the Fresno area affords.
He and his family love the mountains and
have frequented the state and national
parks surrounding the Central Valley.

New Staff

A new Department Administrative
Coordinator joined the Departments of
Chicano-Latin American Studies and
Sociology this fall.

Melissa Perez

Melissa Perez comes from the Office of
International Student Services, where she
served as an ASC I for six years. She has
enjoyed working with the faculty of
Chicano Latin American Studies and
Sociology, and is making the transition
from OISS to the academic environment of
COSS.

New Lecturers

Tania Pacheco-Werner

Pacheco-Werner is a sociology doctoral
candidate at University of
California, San
Francisco, and
consultant with
VISIONS, Inc., a
501c3 training and consulting
organization, specializing in diversity and
inclusion. She has worked on numerous
community-based participatory research
projects including her own pilot research
with Mexican immigrant elder patients of
Golden Valley Health Centers and enjoys
working on projects to improve the well-
being of elder Mexican immigrants living
in the Central Valley. Tania will soon
become the first in her family to earn a
doctoral degree and current serves as a
lecturer in both the Sociology Department
and Women's Studies Program at Fresno
State. Family is an essential component
of Tania's life, but she is also a modern
art, world music, and public radio
enthusiast.

Karina Reynaga

Karina Reynaga
joins the Sociology
Department as a
lecturer this spring,
having attained her
BA in Sociology at
Yale, and masters
degrees in Sociology
and Education Counseling at CSU
Bakersfield.

Faculty and Staff News

Tenured and Promoted
Faculty 2013

Cristina Herrera (CLAS)
Andrew Jones (SOC)
Ethan Kytle (HIST)
Blain Roberts (HIST)
Ramon Sanchez (CLAS)

Promoted Faculty 2013

Yishaiya Abosch (PLSI)

Faculty on Sabbatical Spring
2014

Bradley Jones (HIST)
Maria Lopes (CLAS)
Melanie Ram (PLSI)

…more Faculty and Staff news on
page 4.

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 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 cherrera@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.
Pub. Crawl

In this section of The COSS Herald, we highlight faculty accomplishments in scholarship from the past year and provide an opportunity to showcase future publications on the verge of acceptance.

Accepted Works


Journal Article, "Uncovering the Confederacy of the Mind, Or How I Became a Belle of the Ball in Denmark Vesey's Church," Southern Cultures 19 (Fall 2013): 6-25. Blain Roberts.


Research Roundup

Cristina Herrera is currently working on two new projects, one on food service in Chicana literature, and the other that examines sisterhood in Chicana/Latina literature. Larissa Mercado-López is working on a book manuscript, Mestiza Mat(t)ers: On the Corporeal Contours of Maternal Knowledge.

Frederik Vermote is currently preparing a book manuscript on the Jesuit financial networks between China and Europe during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. He is also preparing a book chapter for the "Empire in Asia: A New Global History" project at the National University of Singapore, in which he will examine the role of the Jesuits in the Nerchinsk Treaty (1689) between the Qing and the Muscovite empires.

Jennifer Randles is currently preparing a book manuscript on relationship and marriage education policies for low-income families.

Blain Roberts is currently writing a book about the memory of slavery in Charleston, South Carolina from the end of the Civil War to the present with her colleague Ethan J. Kytle.
Provost Awards 2013

From Fresno State News by Shirley Armbruster (May 2, 2013)

Faculty Service Award

Henry Delcore, who joined the Fresno State faculty in 2000, has been instrumental in leading the El Dorado Park Community Development Corporation, tasked with supporting the revitalization of one of the most distressed neighborhoods in the City of Fresno, and he has been the president of the board since its incorporation. On campus, he has been involved in the International Task Force, using his skills as a qualitative researcher to provide data and evidence about international student experiences on campus. He is also currently conducting a campus-based ethnography that will inform Fresno State Administrative leadership about how students use technology at Fresno State. He is co-author of The Library Study, a design anthropology report for Administrative leadership on how Fresno State’s Henry Madden Library might better adapt its services to student practices while still accomplishing the educational mission of an academic library. Finally, he has integrated fieldwork training for cultural anthropology students with numerous local organizations, helping students learn by using ethnography to solve real world problems.

Promising New Faculty

T. Hasan Johnson has been at Fresno State since 2008. He uses social media and the Internet to enhance his teaching, such as his Black Masculinities website, an online source that drives his student’s interviews with community-based senior citizens. In 2010, he created Africana Studies’ Annual Hip-Hop Research and Interview Project to bring significant artist-activists to campus.

Student Activities


Berty Arreguin, BA Sociology ’11, presented her research, “Distal Causes that Influence Self-Reported Health,” for a session on bioethics, health and medical sociology at the 2013 California Sociological Association conference.

Maria Ortega-Reyes, who is double majoring in Sociology and Political Science, won the Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Program Award, one of two students to attain the award at Fresno State for 2013.
Throughout the fall 2013 semester, a group of dedicated undergraduates concerned about the issues of food security, hunger, and food waste established an official Food Recovery Network chapter at Fresno State. The Fresno State Food Recovery Network chapter (FRN@FresnoState) is part of the national Food Recovery Network that encourages students to recover surplus perishable food from their campus and surrounding community that would typically be thrown away and donate the recovered food to people in need. FRN@FresnoState was officially launched in December 2013 and became the first CSU campus with a chapter. The student leadership team and chapter will be working closely during the spring 2014 semester with university dining services to recover food and donate the food to a hot meal program taking place at St. Paul Catholic Newman Center located on Barstow Ave. every Friday evening. To learn more about the Fresno State FRN chapter check out the following articles http://collegian.csufresno.edu/2013/12/04/student-group-to-fight-campus-food-waste/ http://www.fresnostatenews.com/2013/12/students-recover-food-to-feed-campus-neighbors/ or contact the student leadership team at: frnfresnostate@gmail.com.


Larissa M. Mercado-Lopez has put out a Call for Papers for a new anthology: Decolonizing Fitness: Women of Color, Feminism, and the Politics of “Fit” Bodies.

Last April, Melanie Ram was invited to give a talk to World Bank staff in Washington, DC on “Finding a Path to Social and Economic Inclusion of Europe’s Roma Population.” She was also an invited speaker on Roma at a University of Texas at Austin conference on “Identity Politics: The New World versus New (and Old) Europe” (March 2013). She spent last summer in Accra, Ghana, teaching an international human rights course at the University of Ghana, Legon as a Visiting Professor through the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC).

Andrea Johnson, working with Grace Point of Oroville, California, wrote, received, and will serve as project director for their NEH grant Created Equal. http://createdequal.neh.gov

Faculty and Staff News continued from page 2

**NEA grant funded**

Alex Espinoza, interim Chair of Chicano and Latin American Studies, attained a Creative Writing Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

**Faculty Transitions**

Colleges and their respective Departments are subject to periods of equilibrium and moments of transition when it comes to the people who make up the faculty and staff. The College of Social Sciences experienced such a transition in 2013 with the retirement of one faculty member and the departure of two others.

**Ed Nelson**

Ed Nelson joined the faculty of the Department of Sociology in 1973, and at the end of the 2012-13 academic year, after FERPing for five years, fully retired with a send-off from his colleagues at the Shepherd’s Inn restaurant. In addition to enjoying the benefits of retirement, Nelson continues to teach courses for the Sociology Department.

**Margaret Gonsoulin**

With eight years of service to the Department of Sociology, Margaret Gonsoulin concluded her tenure as a faculty member of the College of Social Sciences, and accepted a position in Chicago, Illinois.

**David Schecter**

After serving on the faculty in the Department of Political Science for 12 years, with five as Chair, David Schecter accepted an administrative position at California State University, Bakersfield. He begins his administrative duties at the start of the Spring 2014 semester.
Paparazzi

(Above left) An evening with Delroy Lindo. Hasan Johnson interviewed actor Derloy Lindo on September 25, 2013, as part of Africana Studies’ ongoing Black Popular Culture Lecture Series.

(Above right) Department of Sociology Halloween Party at the home of Andrew Jones, October 26, 2013. Pictured from left to right: Matt Jendian, Tamara Lane, Ann Strahm (CSU Stanislaus), Tamara Sneizek (CSU Stanislaus), Andrew Jones, Robin Huigen, Victoria and Tim Kubal.

(Right) James Mullooly (in the blond wig) shows art patrons of Fresno that he is not only an Anthropologist, but also a performer in his role as Mother Ginger at the Central California Ballet production of “The Nutcracker.” December 14, 2013

(Left) Why is this image here? Because we did not get enough photographs submitted by people within the College of Social Sciences, showing off their skills... bragging about their social lives... documenting their talents!