

# The Unseen, Rich DIVERSITY

Students sit with their books open in a classroom, getting ready to take notes as their professor addresses the subject of that day. But there are other students, not in classrooms but at home, unseen, behind their computers learning the coursework and earning their social science BA degrees online. These students add to the rich diversity of the campus, completing their coursework while maintaining their activities in their distant home communities. Three students illustrate how the online program can accommodate those who cannot physically be on campus.



▲ Ellen Yuen

## ELLEN YUEN

One student is Ellen Yuen, a part-time actress and full-time mother, who graduated magna cum laude with her BA in social science at the age of 49. Chico State was the best choice for her as it was the only university in the country to offer an accredited online degree in social science. “I pursue education for learning,” said Yuen. “I truly believe in learning for the sake of learning and have not walked away from furthering my education.”

## PHIL RUCKRICH

Another student is Phil Ruckrich, a father and an intern with International Rescue Committee (IRC), who is grateful he can get a degree through the online social science program. Ruckrich's IRC internship involves picking up refugees who have gained a one-way ticket to America from the airport and shuttling them around to help them with social services including setting up a bank account and getting their social security cards. It's so rewarding, he said. “I love it.”