

# VANGUARD

CSU, Chico College of Behavioral and Social Sciences | 2016 | Volume 12



California State University, Chico

## Distinguished Alumnus Helps to Heal the World With Solar Power

Matt Petersen continues to educate the global community about the multiple benefits that solar power provides.

## dean's message

It is difficult to find examples of higher education scholarship, opinion pieces, or comments that do not, in some way, reference the importance of diversity, and rightly so. Empowerment, inclusion, and social activism are cited as important ends that result from diversity enabling activities, but diversity is sine qua non to the core mission of the academy.

The university plays a fundamental role in creating new knowledge and fostering intellectual progress. The broad range of problems we face in the 21st century include long-standing issues, but they also include challenges never before encountered. The academy must be ready to meet these challenges. Supporting, promoting, and infusing diversity is more crucial now than ever. We must be nimble and intentional to bring as many minds as possible to the table, the interaction of which is necessary to create synergies, insights, and creativity less hampered by homogeneity of thought and narrow cultural perspective.

California State University, Chico does value diversity. A recent campus survey reveals the majority of campus constituents agree, and the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences is proud of its long history and commitment to instantiate those values. There is so much good work being done by our students, staff, and faculty. In this issue of *Vanguard*, we highlight examples of that

work and reiterate our commitment to diversity. I am confident you will find the stories interesting, compelling, and pleasantly surprising. I hope you will agree the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences is well situated to be the vanguard in our collective diversity efforts.

In this issue, we also welcome new department chairs and say goodbye to cherished colleagues. Turhon Murad, Willis Geer, and Conner Trebra each leave a legacy and an indelible mark in the lives of their students and colleagues, and they will be missed. Finally I want to acknowledge and thank Jody Prusia for her work in the college office and especially for her work in overseeing and bringing *Vanguard* to fruition. She has been the creative force behind every issue and though we are happy that she and her husband Dan will be able to enjoy retirement together, she will be sorely missed.

Eddie Vela, Dean  
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences



**Dr. Eddie Vela, Dean**  
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*and more*

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# Anthropology Welcomes New Department Chair

Typically, one would not view French literature as a segue into the world of anthropology, but for Jesse Dizard, newly named department chair, that is exactly how he became interested in anthropology.

“I went to Africa to interview people who publish in French, but I realized that I was more interested in the people than the stories. I experienced being part of a minority by spending two years in French-speaking Africa.”

After completing some time in Africa as well as a PhD from UC Berkeley, Dizard ventured to Alaska to work as the chief social scientist for Alaska’s Department of Fish and Game. He worked in applied anthropology by documenting wild food use and, in doing so, developed many relationships with native people throughout the state. But this was just one of the many experiences of Dizard that have led him to Chico State, where he is proud to be a part of the anthropology department.

“Our department emphasizes cross-cultural and international study of customs, institutions, bodies, persons, families, nations, gender, language, religion, and foodways, all in their social, cultural, and ecological contexts. It prepares students for opportunities and responsibilities in cross-cultural and international studies, including economics, media, engineering and energy policy, education, and government, with emphasis also on ecological dimensions of these issues.”

“By educating people about our differences (be they skin color, eye shape, nose shape, hair texture, religion, food preferences, language) we gain an understanding of how we can communicate and move forward in diverse relationships,”

said Brian Brazeal, professor of anthropology. “I think what sets us apart from other disciplines is that, instead of arguing that we are ‘all the same’ anthropologists seek to understand and explain the differences that we do have as evolutionary adaptations.”

While the department recognizes that diversity is a daily part of our world by offering courses such as Human Cultural Diversity and Human Variation, Dizard and his colleagues note that it is the department as a whole that makes an effort toward diversity by seeing through the eyes of others and working to integrate new understanding into the Chico State community. ■



◀ Jesse Dizard, new anthropology department chair

*“Diversity is the opposite of intolerance and the best defense against extinction.”*

*In Memory of*

# Turhon Murad



**T**urhon Murad passed away peacefully at home in Chico on August 15, 2015. Murad joined the Department of Anthropology at Chico State in 1972. He served as department chair (1991–1997, 2004–2006), as the director of the Human Identification Laboratory (1972–1991, 1997–2006), and developed and coordinated the Certificate in Forensic Identification until his retirement. In 1989, he was certified as a diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Anthropology. For 40 years, Murad assisted local and federal law enforcement in forensic casework, taught courses to law enforcement throughout California as an instructor through Peace Officers Standards and Training, and mentored hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students. Following retirement, he remained active in the field and recently taught a popular course on forensic science for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute through Chico State. Turhon is sorely missed in the department and on campus by all who knew him. ■

*For 40 years, Murad assisted local and federal law enforcement in forensic casework, taught courses to law enforcement throughout California as an instructor through Peace Officers Standards and Training, and mentored hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students.*



◀ Turhon Murad  
with Jesse Dizard



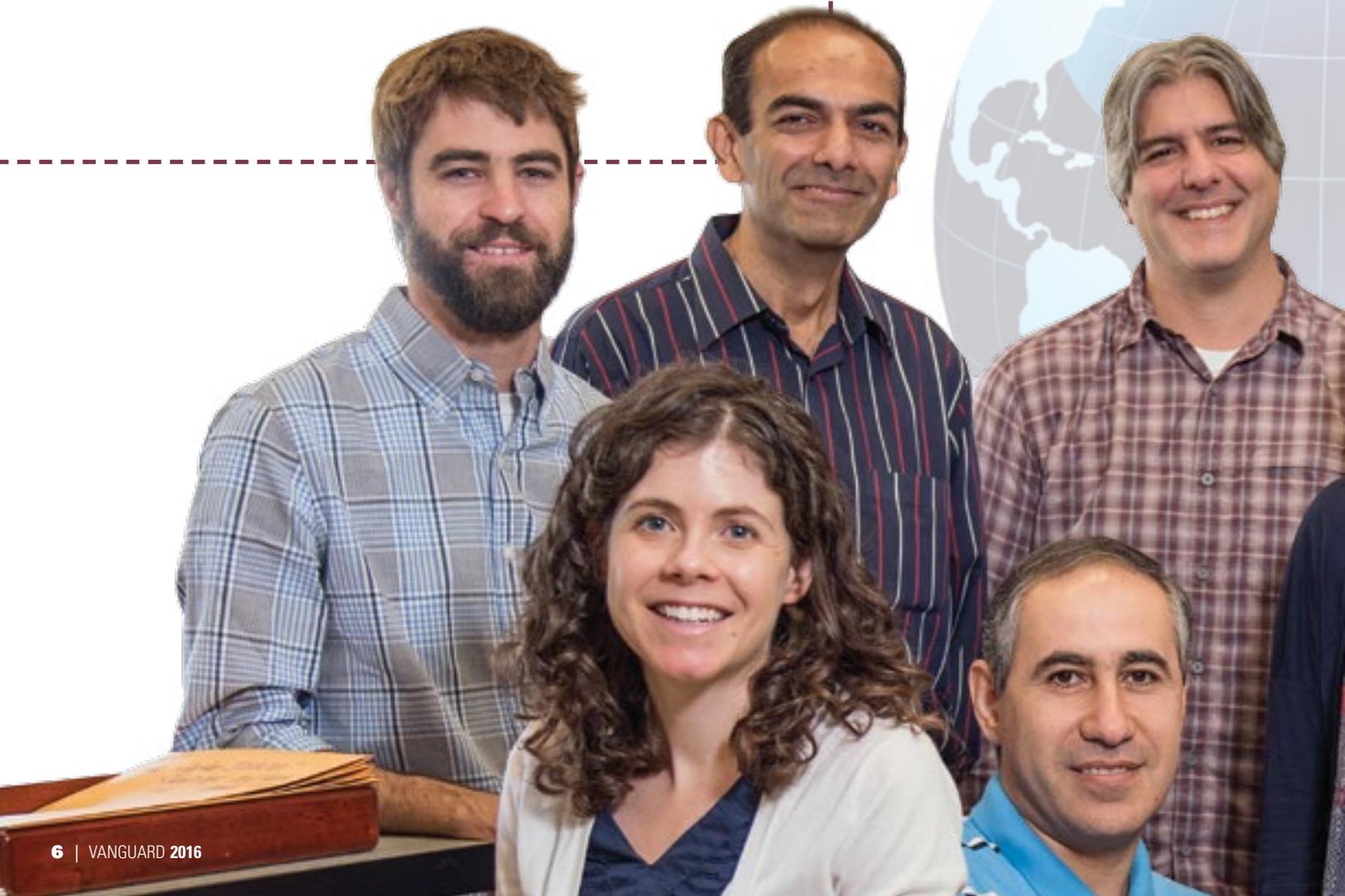
◀ Peter Tsournos,  
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department chair

Economics Department Brings

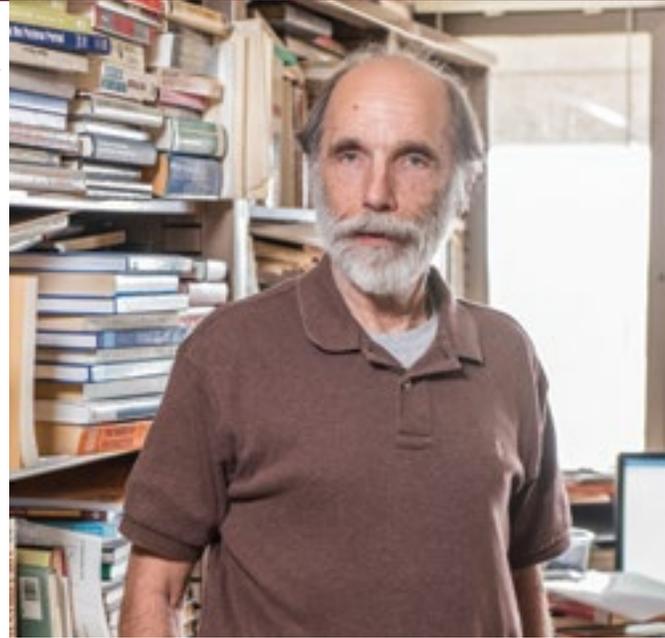
# DIVERSITY

to an International Audience

*“Freethinkers are those who are willing to use their minds without prejudice and without fearing to understand things that clash with their own customs, privilegism, or beliefs.”—Leo Tolstoy*



Dr. Michael Perelman, ▶  
professor of economics



“The diversity in the Chico State economics department has happened organically,” says Peter Tsournos, 15-year faculty member and new chair for the Department of Economics. “It’s the nature of economics. We have students who come from all over the world.”

Currently, the economics department is home to four female tenure-track professors and one female instructor, and is home to faculty from Pakistan, Lithuania, India, and Armenia—a very different scene from the not-too-distant past, when the department was made up of mostly white men who were United States born.

“It wasn’t explicit, but we have benefitted from it,” said Tsournos, on the changing diversity of the department. “Students and professors have a strong knowledge of economics here but also know how it’s done other places.”

Michael Perelman, a sponsor for the scholars in the Chinese International Recruitment program, is continually working to expand the diversity of the department through a recruitment program. “This semester there will be five or six scholars coming over, mostly professors,” Perelman said. “When they are here, they come to my classes, contribute to the courses, and work on their own research. Many of them come from Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, which is ranked highly in that field, but they want to come here.”

Tsournos attributes the success of the program to Perelman’s efforts in international outreach, as well as his international network. ■

“Diversity makes things more interesting.”

◀ The economics faculty



## COURSE SPOTLIGHT

Priti Kalsi, assistant professor of economics

### ECON 375: The Developing Countries

Priti Kalsi has only been on the Chico State campus for one year, but already she has noticed the diversity throughout our campus and community.

“We are much more diverse than we give ourselves credit for,” she said. “We are diverse in our cultures and socioeconomic status. There are so many first-generation students here and it’s great to be a part of something that you don’t get at every university.”

Embracing diversity of education and socioeconomic status is not something new for Kalsi. Recently, she has been researching the deportation of gangs from the United States

back to El Salvador. She notes that, while dangerous American gangs didn’t exist in that country, through deportation they now do.

“We are creating a shifting culture of gangs in other countries, and ultimately that has an effect on their education.”

Currently, Kalsi is bringing her interests of other countries’ economics into the classroom with the ECON 375 course, The Developing Countries. The course works to survey the problems of development and underdevelopment in various countries while also looking at the effects of foreign aid and industrial development.



*“Diversity: the art of thinking independently together.”*  
—Malcolm Forbes

“We are learning about the poorer populations and learning about diversity in regards to socioeconomic status,” she said. “It’s also important to understand the psychology of being poor and that there is a need for sensitivity in regards to culture and society in designing policy.” ■

## MULTICULTURAL AND GENDER STUDIES

## COURSE SPOTLIGHT

Tray Robinson, lecturer for the multicultural and gender studies (MCGS) program

### MCGS 310: LGBTQ Issues and Identities

While women’s studies and multicultural and gender studies have had courses in catalogs for years, schools like Chico State have added courses on LGBTQ issues as well. These courses, such as LGBTQ Issues and Identities, explore the diversity of these communities including historical and cultural aspects of the LGBTQ experience.

Tray Robinson, lecturer for the multicultural and gender studies (MCGS) program, uses this course to expose populations to the various experiences of the LGBTQ community while discussing historical and current topics.

“There are experiences that are unique to the gay community and it’s important to learn about new perspectives and experiences,” he said.

Robinson has worked hard to keep the course current, updating the syllabus to include issues of the transgender community and supplemental articles based on each week’s lessons. Those who participate in the course also receive a Safe Zone Ally certification.

“The course is a great way for students to learn about other experiences and walk away with new information,” Robinson said. ■



*“You cannot make yourself feel something you do not feel, but you can make yourself do right in spite of your feelings.”*—Pearl S. Buck

# ICV Program Starts New Chapter

This year, Chico State is getting ready to write the next chapter of one of its many unique graduate programs: the International Cognitive Visualization Program (ICV). The program has been funded for five years, with a sixth year extension, through the U.S. Department of Education and the European Commission, which also supported the Atlantis Project—a grant scheme under FIPSE for student exchange and international curriculum development.

Now the ICV Program is getting ready for its next phase. “We will have 22 total graduates by the end of this year,” said Neil Schwartz, professor in the ICV program. “The students have worked with various companies, involving animation, publishing, healthcare, and even court litigations.”

Cognitive visualization is a field of study that focuses on how visual displays and the cognitive process of the human mind are involved with problem solving, meaning creation, and behavior.

“Students specialize on how humans process diagrams, animation, and pictures, for example, in ads, education, law, etc, and have

a deep understanding of cognitive psychology,” Schwartz said.

Students involved in the program experience a curriculum unique to ICV, spending the first year split between France and Germany and the second year in Chico.

Schwartz describes the program as socially invigorating and intellectually stimulating.

*“We have no hope of solving our problems without harnessing the diversity, the energy, and the creativity of all our people.”*  
—Roger Wilkins

“Since the students are accepted into the program from both the United States and Europe, they learn a lot about working with international students whose first language is not English. The students have to adjust to different cultures, languages, and each other to work together as a cohort. We encouraged cultural differences and selected students for their individual strengths,” he said. Students have been inspired by the program.

“The ICV program influenced my thinking both in and out of the classroom,” said Simone Simpson, a 2013 graduate of the ICV program. “Inside, I experienced the powerful influence of culture and context on learning and research. Outside, I developed an incredibly strong bond with my peers and professors. The experiences we shared together, the jokes, the tears, made us into our own ICV family. Looking back, we all grew so much as researchers, more so than I think we realized while the whirlwind was happening. I feel lucky to have spent the two short ICV years surrounded by such incredible people. Hands down, I’d do it all over again.”

Currently, seven students are finishing up the program. Of those who finished, eleven went on to secure doctoral positions at major universities in the U.S. and Europe. Schwartz is working to gain new funding for the program to make a return in the 2017–2018 school year. We wish Schwartz and the rest of the ICV students the best of luck. ■



ICV  
Grads

# Fighting for a Voice Across Borders

Chico State Student Helps the Women of North Korea

Katrina Brymer with Open Radio in North Korea

When someone brings up North Korea, it is hardly ever in a positive light. There are usually conversations of war, nuclear weapons, and the tension between the country and the rest of the world. When Katrina Brymer thinks about North Korea, she thinks about the women and children trapped just across the border from the Buddhist temples and shining lights of Seoul.

Brymer started her college career as a psychology major, that is, until she was invited to join a small group of students on a trip to South Korea where she stayed for 30 days in Seoul at the Buddhist temple with Chico State professor, Kui-Hee Song.

“I worked with underprivileged children and taught them the book of Genesis. The children taught me Korean and I taught them English. But while I was there I also became involved with Open Radio for North Korea,” Brymer said.

Open Radio is an organization that supports a reconciliation between North and South Korea and delivers positive messages to North Korean citizens.

Brymer also worked with Voices for Voiceless and other organizations who work to establish positive relationships with women and children of North Korea through letters and messages on YouTube. She has also



become an activist for the rights of women and children in North Korea, including voting rights and the right to education.

“Women [in North Korea] don’t vote, they rarely have an education, and citizens can be publicly executed if they try to leave. So many people think it’s their choice to stay in North Korea, but it’s not. It only takes one person to make a difference, so I always try to do what I can do.”

*“It’s time for parents to teach young people early on that in diversity there is beauty and there is strength.”—Maya Angelou*



## Diversity Through Local Experience

Vince Ornelas, professor in the School of Social Work, lives in Chapmantown. Where is Chapmantown? It is a small, unincorporated community within Chico; complete with an elementary school and a family owned and operated market. The community itself has fewer infrastructure improvements compared to the rest of Chico, resulting in a more rural environment and nature, with cheaper real estate and more diverse neighborhoods than most of the city of Chico.

For the last six years, Ornelas has been a part of the Chapmantown Coalition, serving as the vice-chair and working to make improvements to the community of Chapmantown with items such as new sidewalks and bike paths to make the community safer for its residents.

However, Ornelas doesn't stop there. As the result of the SWRK 305 course, Community and Organizational Change, Chico State students too have become involved in the community improvement of Chapmantown.

"Students talk with families about perceptions of safety and help complete needs assessments for

*"We need to help students and parents cherish and preserve the ethnic and cultural diversity that nourishes and strengthens this community—and this nation."—Cesar Chavez*



▲ Vincent Ornelas, BSW director of the school of social work

the community," which will help Chapmantown to achieve its annexed status within the next five years.

Students have also volunteered to help out with various events within the community, such as Chapmantown Night Out, which occurs every September.

"Students help to solicit for donations, and the event itself helps to expose the residents to each other while establishing a sense of community," Ornelas said. "They have also worked to establish 'little libraries' throughout the community by designing and building little libraries as well as collecting donations from local establishments such as Lyon Books and Friends of the Libraries."

Ornelas believes that incorporating student experiences with community organizing, current topics, and diversity, while bringing in a local impact, creates a more lasting connection with the material and makes the concepts "come alive."

"It's important to provide students with opportunities to volunteer their time, create connections, and localize experiences. Students who learn about community, learn about themselves." ■

## Graduate Student Uses Her Own Experiences to Help Others

Anna Flores has had an experience that seems abnormal to many incoming freshmen students at Chico State. She didn't live in the dorms and have a meal plan. Instead, Flores came to Chico after 23 years of work experience at the J.M. Smuckers Company.

"I was part of a small group of people who were offered the opportunity to transfer to the office in Ohio but only if I got a degree. My daughter encouraged me to go back to school at Chico since my family was here," she said.

But of all the things that Flores could have been concerned about, her biggest concern was ageism. "I really quickly realized that ageism did not exist at Butte College. I was always asked if it was my daughter or me that was the student, but at Chico State everyone assumed I was the parent. I realized that I could make a difference and that I could have a voice."

Since attending Chico State as an undergraduate,

and now a graduate student in the Masters of Social Work program, Flores has joined several clubs and activities on campus to show younger students that older students have the same, if not similar, struggles as their younger student peers.

"Ageism should not be a factor in someone wanting to continue their education. I applaud those that go back to school. It's hard to develop a relationship with students as a peer and not be viewed as 'mom,'" she said.

With this thought in mind, Flores is dedicating her career to helping students like her as an academic advisor focusing on transfer students. She has even begun her career interests as an intern with programs and services such as academic advising and REACH, where she is a mentee relations intern helping students with their mental health and academic and family concerns.

"I think Audrey Hepburn says it best: 'nothing is impossible the word itself says 'I'm Possible!'". ■

Anna Flores, academic advisor



*"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm Possible!'"—Audrey Hepburn*

# Professor Advocates for Prisoners Through Education



▲  
Nandi Crosby at the High Desert State Prison

It is not uncommon for professors to wear many hats, but Nandi Crosby has taken on a new role unique to BSS, teaching inmates through a new program at Feather River College.

The Incarcerated Students Program currently operates through three different colleges in California and offers a variety of associates degrees to all state of California prisoners through correspondence. Currently, Crosby is working with those seeking an AA in sociology by teaching SOCI 100, Introduction to Sociology.

“I desire to be an advocate for prisoners and prisoners’ rights,” Crosby said.

Crosby’s work and interests in the prison system stem from childhood and appear in her published work as well as in her classes.

“SOCI 487 is provocative and heartbreaking,” said Crosby about her popular sociology course. “We discuss issues of race, violence, gender, and social class.”

The course discusses gang activity in the United States, racial and ethnic differences, as well as perceptions of gangs. The course also takes its top 20 performing students to Mule Creek State Prison, a level three and four men’s facility in Ione, California, to speak with prisoners who are involved in the Juvenile Diversion Program.

“We don’t usually think about diversity in terms of prisoners, but when the inmates tell their stories, I listen. One inmate tells the story of committing a murder after buying diapers for his young daughter. He cries, the teens who visit through the juvenile diversion program cry; it’s powerful to hear their stories.”

Crosby can also be found teaching courses in the multicultural and gender studies program, including Introduction to Multicultural and Gender Studies, Introduction to Women’s Studies, and Sociology of Gender. ■

*“Never forget that justice is what*

## Diversity In Representation Past and Present

# A Professor's Journey Into The American South

A rainbow—This is how Dana Williams thinks of diversity. It's a union of colors, where no one color is more important than the other, and no one color stands out more than another.

"It's a really nice thing," Dr. Williams said. "A really modern thing, but it can easily move into the realm of tokenism. Think about what it really means to be diverse—how do you define it? Is it different by state, by region, by city?"

Williams is a proud member of the sociology department on campus, which he believes is one of the strongest grounds for the study of diversity.

"Inequality is the bread and butter of sociology. All of our classes focus on or incorporate diversity," said Williams, whose interests focus on social inequalities such as class, race, and gender.

Williams considers his department a key player in the diversity education on campus, and he does note that a diverse faculty is an important part of education and one that we all could benefit from.

"It is important for students and the community to see themselves in the faculty and reflect the people that live here....Mentors and mentees have to be like each other; it's voluntary and more rich in their experience."

Currently, Williams is finishing up editing his film *Southern Discomfort* which is due to be completed this year. The film highlights the Civil War reenactors and citizens in Olustee, Florida, which is home to one of the clearest victories for the Confederacy, focusing on both those that participate in and support, as well as those who oppose the reenactments.

Through his research, Williams discovered that the majority of the reenactors were white, middle-class citizens, even though 37 percent of the city's population is African-American.

"It's theatre almost exclusively consumed by white people," he said. "The few black people that are in attendance say 'we are here to remind people that we are a part of this and it is about us too.' It's important to our college and community because it's at the heart of debate around our country's history of slavery and enduring racist attitudes."

Williams is hoping to bring his film to theatre audiences not only in Chico, but up and down the West Coast in the upcoming months. Check your local independent theatre for possible show times. ■



▲ Mark Patrick George is a Civil War re-enactor, whose great-great-grandfather fought in the Civil War and was wounded at the Battle of Olustee in 1864. He says, "At the end of the Civil War, the society-at-large erased the memory of black soldiers and the important part they played in the Civil War."

*love looks like in public.*—Cornel West



**“IT IS OUR DUTY TO FIGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM.  
IT IS OUR DUTY TO WIN.  
WE MUST LOVE EACH OTHER AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER.  
WE MUST HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT OUR CHAINS.”  
—ASSATA SHAKUR**

# ACTIVISM FROM EAST COAST TO WEST COAST

◀ Kory Masen in  
the White House

**K**ory Masen's resume is long. From the numerous scholarships, to the positions in student government, to the successful advocacy for the University's new gender-inclusive restrooms. Masen seems to have done it all and created a well-rounded college experience. This summer, Masen added one more title to his resume, as a congressional intern for the Office of Congressman Lowenthal in Washington, D.C.

Masen took advantage of the opportunities in Washington, D.C., learning as much about legislation as possible, attending the equality caucus, and working with organizations that headed the equality act.

"I gained access to knowledge of opportunities available and really learned how government works. It helped me gain a larger scope of what I can do. I saw my mentors, my activist friends, and the chain of activism all working together in their own way."

Masen also dedicated his time to the National Center for Transgender Equality as a volunteer, where he hopes to take what he has learned back to Chico State. He will spend his final year as the Transgender Program Development intern for the Gender and Sexual Equity Center on campus.

Now, with all of his experience, tours of the White House, and scholarships, Masen works even harder for progress through activism and diversity. "Before D.C., I thought activism was a grassroots thing. Now activism is a spectrum. Everyone is needed. It's going to have a ripple effect to the federal government."

Once Masen graduates with a double major in sociology and multicultural and gender studies in May 2016, he has plans to continue activism through fellowships in legislation in Washington, D.C., or perhaps in the U.S. Department of State. ■

**"KNOWLEDGE OF OTHER PEOPLE'S BELIEFS AND WAYS OF THINKING  
MUST BE USED TO BUILD BRIDGES, NOT TO CREATE CONFLICTS."  
—KJELL MAGNE BONDEVIK**

# Diverse Bodies and Better Sex

Sex is a controversial topic, even on a college campus, but one professor is making the conversation happen both inside and out of the classroom.



◀ Lindsay Briggs poses for the NOH8 campaign

*"In our work and in our living, we must recognize that difference is a reason for celebration and growth, rather than a reason for destruction."  
—Audre Lorde*

“Feeling bad about your body usually means that you aren’t taking care of your body [through sexual health]. Body image and self-esteem varies and it’s not by size,” said Lindsay Briggs, professor of the department of health and community services.

The translation from self-esteem to sexual health has fueled Briggs’ research. She is currently conducting a study with Chico State students to determine how body image is influencing their sexual health and sexual success, with particular nods to how media and the creation of the “ideal” body influences our sexual self-esteem.

“When we feel better about our bodies, no matter our size, we have better sex,” said Briggs, who is readying her study to launch campus-wide and complete within this school year.

Currently Dr. Briggs is also teaching HCSV 265 Human Sexuality, which she believes is the second-most important course that you will take in your life, next to reading.

“We interact with sexuality on a daily basis, even if we don’t realize it,” said Briggs. “We don’t want to talk about it like adults, but we need engaged, critical thinking about sex...”

The course allows students to explore different aspects of sex, including gender privilege.

“There is an idea that sexuality is privileged,” said Briggs. “If a man has an orgasm, the sexual encounter is a success. If a woman does as well, then it’s a bonus. But the reverse isn’t true. I want to change that. Why isn’t there equality within a sexual experience?”

When Briggs isn’t helping us all have better sex, she is working hard on expanding the diversity of the campus through her work as an ally and diversity advocate.

“The biggest issue around diversity right now is our inability to drop our egos. People are not open to critique or help, and as a result, they get defensive. It’s okay to make mistakes! We all make mistakes, but we should not use that as an excuse to not act. Be happy someone cares enough about your activism to help you improve it. The word “ally” is not a noun, it’s a verb. We always have more to learn.” ■



# Performance Activism for Cultural Understanding

Performance activism is using theater to bring about social change. Theater can be a powerful change agent. While it engages our emotions, it challenges our current views and inspires transformation. Every year, 50–60 high school and college students take the Leaders for a Lifetime (L4L) pledge and commit countless hours to performance activism with the aim of educating people about the Hmong culture and thus creating understanding, acceptance, and respect.

L4L is directed by Mary Portis with the assistance of four Chico State students who act as mentors. The program is free and meets every week of the school year. Students are welcome to participate as long as they are in school. Most of the students participate every year of their high school career with about 15 percent of the students continuing to participate through their college years. Unlike most youth programs, L4L has no recruitment or marketing plan, no literature, no office, and no parent volunteers. In spite of this, the students show up and stay involved for years. The staff of L4L is often asked why the students come. Mai Kue Her, a mentor

and an eight-year veteran of the group, answered, “Being Hmong in America means belonging to an especially small, misunderstood minority. Hearing comments like ‘Where is Hmongland?’ and ‘Why do you Hmong always stick together and don’t do anything with anyone else?’ and ‘Why can’t you be more American?’ are daily occurrences as is being the only Hmong student in class. L4L gives me a place to celebrate my culture and an opportunity to educate others.” High school members listed the following reasons for being in L4L: They can speak Hmong here; it’s fun and

*“Be the type of person that makes everyone you come across feel perfectly okay with being exactly who they are.”*

they make a lot of friends; they like learning more about the Hmong culture and how to tell others about it; it makes them proud of their culture; it is like having another family; they do important work for the community; and it is the one place during their school day that they can relax and be who they are.

During the weekly sessions, students work together to create educational programs that are performed as formal theater productions and as informal presentations at community events. Each



production is original and incorporates drama, comedy, singing, traditional dance, storytelling and multimedia. All topics related to Hmong history and culture are explored as content for discussion in the group and for possible performance material. This fall, L4L performed a dramatization of the Hmong genocide and relocation after the Vietnam War to the song “Yim Khiav Yim Plhis” at the dedication of the General Vang Pao memorial statue in downtown Chico. Last spring, in a two-hour production, L4L tackled a wide range of topics from Shamanism to traditional marriage practices to life in a refugee camp.

Since 1997 L4L has been producing performances to enhance cultural understanding, but there is still work to do. Fortunately, every year brings new students with new talents and new ideas to help people understand the Hmong culture, and in a larger sense, be more sensitive and understanding of all the diversity around us. Look for the next L4L performance in a theater near you. ■



## LEADERS FOR A LIFETIME PLEDGE

- I pledge to develop the knowledge, skills, and qualities needed for cross-cultural leadership.
- I pledge to educate others about the Hmong culture, appreciate the culture of others, and promote cross-cultural leadership.
- I pledge to commit time, energy, and talents to meaningful community service.



## *Creating Activism Through Awareness*

# The Diversity of Childhood

◀ Dr. Diana Shepherd, associate professor of the child development department

With the images of war, abuse, and poverty throughout the media, it is difficult to picture that these things are daily occurrences in the lives of many children throughout the world. One unique Chico State course works toward educating students about the lives of children through awareness and activism.

Diana Shepherd of the child development department teaches CHLD 272, Children in a Changing World, a course which aims to address the challenges that influence the lives of children globally. While the course was originally developed by a previous professor, Shepard has truly developed the course into her own piece of diversity within education. Incorporating documentaries, nonfiction text, and a drive

for activism, Shepherd states that she believes the course opens students' eyes to how diverse childhood experiences are.

"Children can experience marriage, sex trafficking, and labor, all at such a young age. The course really gives you a change of perspective of the world, and of yourself," she said.

While the course is considered a general education course and falls under the Global Development Studies Pathway, it also provides students with so much more than a notch in their G.E.

"The course helps students understand how diverse childhood can be," said Dr. Shepherd. "It allows them to gain perspective and appreciation of their own childhood and motivates them to do more to help others."

*"Diversity exists because we use our mind to think. But when we stop thinking, we will understand that we are united in this whole universe."—Ati Paramita*

Following the course model of information creating awareness and activism, Shepherd believes in the importance of teaching students the art of advocacy and that their voices can make a difference in this world.

Recently, Shepherd has continued her research on topics in diversity through a partnership with recent graduate and Chico State honors student Hanna Price, where the two compared attitudes toward racism and sexism, awareness of cultural differences, openness to diversity, and plans to advocate between two undergraduate courses: PSYC 261, Research Methods in Psychology, and CHLD 272. The completed research was presented to the Developmental Science Teaching Institute, and the presentation was submitted to be published in the *Manual of Diversity in Higher Education* with hope to be published this year.

“We found that learning about these topics [in the 272 course] have had a positive influence of diversity,” Shepherd said. “Child development is all about inclusion. Our department works hard to incorporate developmental context within our courses and broaden developmental context for our students.”

While working toward a diverse campus is a constant task, Shepherd believes that, with courses and faculty taking on and promoting diversity, we can succeed.

“Diversity is ever-present, it’s all around us. We run into problems when we categorize diversity. Instead we work towards diversity with inclusion.” ■

## COURSE SPOTLIGHT

### CHLD 333Z: Children’s Gender and Sexuality Development

Gail Walton, assistant professor of the child development department

Students at Chico State are offered a variety of interesting courses; however, every once in a while there is a course with a title that makes you take a second look. Children’s Gender and Sexuality Development is one of those courses.

Gail Walton, a child development associate professor, offers this unique general education online course as a writing intensive capstone in the Gender and Sexuality Pathway.

The course begins with theories of gender development, followed by psychological, social, cultural, and biological influences, with a

spotlight on the development of transgender children. The final focus is on social policy regarding children and families.

The course combines academic content with videos and websites to educate students. Although the course is offered entirely online, Walton still views it as an influential course in the Chico State catalogue.

Walton thinks it is important to be informed about the childhood origins of gender and sexuality development. ■



*“The creatures that inhabit this earth—be they human beings or animals—are here to contribute, each in its own particular way, to the beauty and prosperity of the world.”*

*—the Dalai Lama*

## Distinguished Alumnus Helps to Heal the World With

# SOLAR

In a word, Matt Petersen is multi-sustainable, or at least that is what Chico State professor Mark Stemen calls him. Matt is currently working as the City of Los Angeles' chief sustainability officer for Mayor Eric Garcetti, where he is focused on implementing the Sustainable City Plan to improve the region's environment, economy, and equity. Peterson works to reduce the environmental footprint of Los Angeles, but it is his ability to look at the issue of sustainability through different lenses that makes him truly unique.

As a Chico State student, Petersen worked hard to develop diversity within the Chico State campus, starting programs such as "The New Commute," an alternative transportation program, and Diversity Month, which later became the "Celebration of People" month. In 1990, he graduated with a degree in political science with minors in public administration and business administration before moving onto a long

list of positions including senior fellow to the Sir Edmund Hilary Institute, advisor to the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, member of the Santa Monica Task Force on the Environment, and Global Green CEO, president and board member.

Through his position with Global Green, Petersen pioneered the idea of greening affordable housing, including putting solar on low-income developments to make them truly affordable places for low-income residents. Petersen helped create innovative federal and state policies that have resulted in creating apartments for tens of thousands of families that are now powered by the sun. He has also had the opportunity to bring climate-resilient and solar solutions to some of the most remote parts of the world including Russia, Haiti, the Arctic Circle, and the City of Joy located in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Matt Petersen gives a speech at Global Green USA



# POWER

The City of Joy, a place whose mantra is “Turning pain into power”, is a leadership community of 92 women survivors of brutal violence. The community works to heal women from their past trauma while providing them with the opportunity to move forward through their lives with therapy and life-skill programs. Here, Petersen, alongside of *Vagina Monologues* creator Eve Ensler, taught the community to use solar power to fuel various projects, including community farms.

“The two trips there were life changing,” Petersen said. “I danced for hours with women who had more joy than most anyone I have met, yet

*“He came from a mono-sustainable culture to a place that is multi-sustainable. His past has allowed for him to communicate with those all around the world.”  
— Mark Stemen*

their lives had been destroyed. Now they are turning pain into solar power.”

Petersen’s connection with Ensler dates back to the months and years after Hurricane Katrina, where the two met while helping the people of New Orleans. Petersen worked with other prominent leaders such as President Bill Clinton—via the Bush Clinton Katrina Fund—to green the reconstruction of schools in New Orleans, and Brad Pitt through a design competition to help the New Orleans’ Holy Cross neighborhood build a sustainable, resilient, and solar powered community as an example for the rest of the city and nation.



◀ Petersen, far right, with Eve Ensler, center, and Dylan McDermott, second from right



▲  
Matt Petersen (Class of 1990)  
2015 distinguished Alumnus  
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

*“One strength of multiculturalism is the ability to see a situation from many perspectives. Sustainability looks different in Haiti, South Africa, Russia, the Southern U.S. and the Western U.S.”—Mark Stemen*

“My involvement with Hurricane Katrina rebuilding started while watching the news coverage. We failed our own citizens and I tried to think what I could do to help. I formulated an idea that we could help the city rebuild a green city. Its schools and homes and buildings could be rebuilt to be climate and disaster resilient while reducing emissions and their footprint,” said Petersen. “It was a humbling experience to help the people of the Lower Ninth Ward, many of whom were left behind. My great inspiration was Pam Dashiell, a community activist who, after the storm, put forth her own vision for the Holy Cross community in the

Lower 9 to be the first carbon-neutral neighborhood in America.”

Petersen similarly responded to the Haiti earthquake and the devastation of Hurricane Sandy on the eastern seaboard by helping to create solar-powered, climate-resilient community evacuation centers and schools. Petersen remains involved with Global Green, Habitat for Humanity LA, and the Hilary Institute, in addition to his position with the City of Los Angeles. He continues to educate the global community about the multiple benefits that solar power provides to create a healthier, more sustainable world. ■



▲  
Petersen in the City of Joy

## City of Joy

# 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Like all communities, the City of Joy has its own culture, one that is grounded in love and respect for each other and the unique experiences each woman brings to the table. The 10 guiding principles of the City of Joy are

1. Tell the truth.
2. Stop waiting to be rescued; take initiative.
3. Know your rights.
4. Raise your voice.
5. Share what you’ve learned.
6. Give what you want the most.
7. Feel and tell the truth about what you’ve been through.
8. Use it to fuel a revolution.
9. Practice kindness.
10. Treat your sister’s life as if it were your own.



## COMMITMENT OF SUPPORT

I am proud to announce the newly established Tower Society, which recognizes donors who provide significant and reliable support for our students, faculty, and community. Members make an annual gift of \$1,500 or more to fund programs and initiatives across campus.

With 11 departments, the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences is the largest college on campus, providing nearly 3,500 students with meaningful experiential learning opportunities, including applied labs, fieldwork, service learning, internships, and community engagement; abundant advising and mentoring; and scholarships—all made possible by our alumni, faculty, and friends.

The Tower Society is named after Trinity Hall and its bell tower, and, like our most loyal and generous donors, it stands at the very core of our campus. For more information, please give me a call at 530-898-3641 or visit [www.csuchico.edu/tower](http://www.csuchico.edu/tower).

We invite you to support these deserving programs at the Tower Society level today by

- Funding recruitment scholarships to attract top students to our college.
- Contributing to the endowment for the Community Legal Information Center (CLIC), serving more than 16,000 people each year and providing undergraduates with unparalleled legal training.
- Helping us renovate our forensics Human Identification Lab—one of the few of its kind in the Western United States—which assists government agencies across the country.
- Funding the Interdisciplinary Center on Aging (ICOA).
- Providing additional resources to the Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology to support museum study and administration students, create new exhibits, and fund K-12 classroom tours.
- Giving to your favorite department to fund scholarships, research, special projects, and conference travel.

Best,  
 Lise Smith-Peters  
 Advancement Associate  
 College of Behavioral and Social Sciences  
[www.csuchico.edu/bss](http://www.csuchico.edu/bss)  
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 530-898-3641

# Political Science Department Welcomes New Chair



◀ Mahalley Allen, new political science department chair

Mahalley Allen says she was an accidental PhD who fell in love with teaching.

“I wanted to be a legal counsel for a non-profit on the East Coast,” says the new chair of the political science department, “but it gave me a natural high being in the classroom.”

The University of Kansas graduate applied to positions all over the country but landed two offers within the California State University system. Though she misses the thunderstorms, lightning bugs, and beautiful cardinals of the Midwest, she loves the proximity that Chico has to the Bay Area and Lake Tahoe, as well as working with the students, faculty, and staff of Chico State.

“We have around 1,000 majors in our seven programs, making us one of the largest departments on campus, and our criminal justice major is a significant contributor to our size and diversity,” Allen said.

The department offers several organizations

for students outside of their courses to enhance their educational experiences at Chico State while providing real-world experience. One of the most known among students is the Community Legal Information Center (CLIC), which celebrated its 45th anniversary in April 2015.

“CLIC students assisted 14,993 clients in 2014–2015 and work with a diverse population of people, including individuals the students might not otherwise encounter during their college educations,” Allen said.

Chico State is proud to say that experiences, such as those at CLIC are only some of the ways that the political science department provides a unique educational experience for students that also allows them to assist in the needs of others within our community. ■

*“... [I]n the view of the constitution, in the eye of the law, there is in this country no superior, dominant, ruling class of citizens. There is no caste here.”—Justin John Marshall Harlan’s dissent in Plessy v. Ferguson, 1896*

# In Memory of Willis Geer

**W**illis Geer, our beloved colleague in political science, died of natural causes on March 2, 2015. Willis came to Chico State in 2007 after a long career as an attorney, prosecutor, and justice of the peace in Wyoming and New York. Willis taught a dizzying variety of courses, especially in criminal justice and legal studies, for the department. He was known by students and colleagues alike for his intelligence, humility, dedication, concern for students, and his contributions as a union organizer and spokesman for the California Faculty Association. Willis was a quiet, gentle, and deeply reflective man who spoke with clarity and authority on a wide range of issues. He was also a political activist who fought for student and faculty rights and interests because he believed in justice and the power of education to change lives and create opportunities,

especially for women and minorities. Willis' interests outside the University included cooking, running marathons and ultra-marathons, hiking and camping, and being with his friends and family. Willis is survived by his wife, LaDona Knigge, associate professor in the geography and planning department, his son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He is deeply missed by his colleagues in the political science department, the campus community, and the numerous students that he taught and inspired. A scholarship fund for criminal justice majors has been set up in memory of Willis.

Donations can be made by either contacting Knigge at [lknigge@csuchico.edu](mailto:lknigge@csuchico.edu) or by visiting [www.csuchico.edu/giving](http://www.csuchico.edu/giving) and clicking "Give Now". Please designate "The Willis Clay Geer Memorial Scholarship #17075." ■



*Willis was a quiet, gentle, and deeply reflective man who spoke with clarity and authority on a wide range of issues.*

Professors Willis Geer, Ed Bronson, and LaDona Knigge



Vietnam veteran Larry Fournier, right, with Bella, his terrier mix trained rescue dog



## Chico Students Assist with Canines for Veterans Program

Chico State criminal justice students are making strides not only in the classroom, but also in the high-impact practice of experiential learning with the new Canines for Veterans Program, who proudly matches canine partners with veterans and their families. The criminal justice students are helping the Consortium for Public Safety Research conduct an evaluation of the Canines for Veterans Program.

The Canines for Veterans Program is run through the Butte County Sheriff's Office and its Alternative Custody Supervision (ACS). ACS supervises offenders released from jail and places them in the community with the help of Sentinel Offender Services who provides rehabilitative and educational programs. Specially selected offenders involved in the ACS program train the rescued dogs to function as service animals for military veterans.

"The first round of offenders selected to participate were those who were reliable and out of jail long enough to be established in the ACS program . . . people who showed a real desire to change their lives," said Sarah Messer, a Chico State criminal justice alumna, current Masters of Public Administration candidate, and manager for Sentinel Offender Services. "I ask around in their cognitive behavior therapy classes to get

a list of interested candidates then discuss the selections with the ACS sergeant and a leading correctional deputy."

The ACS offenders are not the only ones getting a second chance with the canine program. "The dogs are rescued from being euthanized at animal shelters," said Kaley Sullivan, a Chico State criminal justice student assisting with the program. "We use small and large dogs as the companion animals in training, and the offenders are supervised by professional dog trainers. Ultimately, the goal is to get dogs to veterans, but also to rehabilitate the offenders."

To apply for a companion, veterans must first have their homes checked for suitability. Once the process is complete, they are able to pick out a dog with their families, similar to the adoption process at most shelters.

Currently, there are three offenders training for the program; however, there will be between two and three trainers at any given time. The College of Behavioral and Social Sciences is proud of the work that these students and the Sheriff's Office are doing and looks forward to seeing the program's future success. ■



*"Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved through understanding."  
—Albert Einstein*

*In Memory of*

# Connor Trebra



It is with great sadness that the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences informs you of the passing of multicultural and gender studies instructor Connor Trebra, who lost his battle with cancer in spring 2015.

A Connecticut native, Connor moved to the Bay Area around 1968 where he was an activist for the then-emerging gay and lesbian movement and was present at the White Night Riots. Connor returned to higher education in 2002 after a career as a medical transcriptionist.

Connor was an alumnus of Chico State, with a BA in multicultural and gender studies and a minor in English. He also received an MA in English literature. Connor then continued his education with a PhD in English literature from the University of Connecticut, concentrating on Golden Age masculinities, especially dandies and fops represented in the theater. As a professor at Chico State and at the University of Connecticut at Storrs, Connor taught courses in literature, composition, and LGBTQ studies.

Connor loved reading, birding, films, cats, and his Jack Russell terrier, Cyrus. His passion for the LGBTQ community and his students will be missed. ■

Connor, third from left, with his groomsmen on his wedding day



# Advocating for Re-Entry Students

Denise Ramsour  
and Danielle Casey,  
secretary of Encore  
▼



The social science program at Chico State has a long history of supporting and advocating for re-entry students. In the early 1990s, the program was home to the course SOSC 061, Re-Entry Experience. The course did not make it into the 21st century, but support of the re-entry community did. In 2013, Encore Re-Entry Organization was founded with social science graduate student Sarah Dimick as president and social science undergraduate Danielle Casey as secretary. Both women are re-entry students and passionate about providing a community for students like themselves.

A re-entry student is anyone 25 years or older, or anyone who has been out of school for at least five years. One may be surprised to learn that re-entry students make up 12 percent of Chico State's student population. "Re-entry students are not always easy to spot. Some of us can 'pass' as traditional college students. We can be an invisible population, but we're here," Dimick said. The club was founded to help

students find one another, which has proved to be harder than expected. This is a difficult group to organize, as many re-entry students are juggling the responsibilities that come with being older, like full-time jobs, spouses, and children, as well as their homework. Many students want to be involved but simply don't have time to add another commitment. The club is still trying to figure out the best way to operate.

Dimick partnered with staff advisor Jenn Duggan to start the organization. Duggan has been interested in re-entry students for many years, as she was one herself and currently works in Student Services. "What I learned most from researching the history of services at CSU, Chico is that there is a need to have the re-entry students, themselves, be active participants in

establishing and maintaining services for the population. This will allow for the services to continue if the faculty or staff support shifts or disbands," Duggan said. In the past, there were more services for re-entry students, like a re-entry lounge and a support organization, Encore Society. The society operated from 1974–2005, until the longterm staff advisor retired. Encore Re-Entry Organization was named after its

*"We all live with the objective of being happy; our lives are all different and yet the same."  
—Anne Frank*

predecessor and hopes to provide some of the same services that the original society offered. The club is struggling to grow, but club members are hopeful that they will find and recruit new members. For more information about Encore Re-Entry Organization, please look for the club in WildCatSync through the Student Life and Leadership office. ■

# Decoding Ageism

## and Encouraging Generational Diversity on Campus and in the Workplace

Lee Walker spends her days in the classroom teaching college students about family relations, social science, and career development. When she isn't teaching, she is researching, usually more than one topic at a time. Most recently, she has been researching the topic of generational diversity on college campuses and in the workplace.

"I started researching the demographics of college students and discovered that if a student is over 26, he or she is most likely being discriminated against," Walker said. "This is because most college campuses are set up to meet the needs of 'typical' students who are single, live on campus, and are between the ages of 19 and 25. There are actually more college attendees over the age of 30 than students who are considered typical."

"I started thinking about the experiences of students who aren't considered 'traditional' and the fact that we should have programs, activities, and classes that are sensitive to the needs of older students. These students might include veterans, single parents, students who are 30 or older who are studying at a distance or who are starting a new career."

"Campuses should be certain that volunteer opportunities, internships, scholarships, and campus services are available to students of all ages. Currently, there are four generations of students on college campuses, and we need to get out of the mode that one generation can only work with the same generation."

Walker presented her research at the National Career Development Association conference in Denver, Colorado, where the theme was focusing on encore careers. She found that many colleges are still geared toward serving the current misconception of the typical college student.

Walker encourages campuses to conduct ageism audits on their own campuses to determine where the ageism exists and where generational diversity is most common so that all students can be better served throughout their educational experience. But the research does not stop there. She also encourages employers to examine how different generations are getting along within the workplace.

"I hope to take my research on the road to other conferences and to help change how campuses and workplaces are treating people of various generations. It's important to me." ■



▲  
Lee Walker with  
Teresa Hirschbein

*"College campuses are a melting pot of generational diversity. What better place to practice appreciation of people from every age group."*



▲  
Olivia VanDamme, Chico State Alumna, during Public Outreach Day at the Smithsonian's Natural Museum, summer 2015

----- Exploring -----

# History

with

# Diversity

One Alumni's Post-Graduate Life Includes Appreciating, Researching, and Being an Activist for Diversity

Recent human geography and Latin American studies graduate Olivia VanDamme has always had an interest in diversity, as she has stated it plays an extremely important role in her life. While an undergraduate at Chico State, she lived through the motto, "It is the little things that make a difference." Whether that be talking to complete strangers in line at the bookstore, meeting with faculty, sharing a smile, or giving a fellow peer a compliment, Olivia believed this was the way she could show her appreciation for people from all walks of life. Olivia stated in an interview, "A major challenge in bringing diversity to the campus is closed mindedness. We need to go beyond just tolerating one another. That is where it stops for a lot of people. It is about embracing and appreciating your neighbor, and seeing each other as equal, getting rid of the hierarchy that may not be truly institutionalized here in the U.S. but definitely exists." VanDamme identifies as a Latina and is a proud woman of color. Her passion for diversity does not stop at the workplace or her college campus; as a geographer, she learned a great deal about the importance of biodiversity in our natural world which intrigued her to the natural sciences. In

some of her Latin American studies classes, she was intrigued by indigenous peoples of Latin America, including the importance of language diversity and cultural anthropology.

This past summer, Olivia accepted a prestigious summer internship with a National Science Foundation-funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates site at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. She was one of 17 students chosen out of 450 applicants, with about a 3 percent acceptance rate; this was more competitive than getting accepted to Harvard. Working under the mentorship of Gabriela Perez-Baez, an anthropologist, and Vicki Funk, a botanist, VanDamme focused on a language revitalization project for the indigenous Zapotec-speaking community of La Ventosa in Oaxaca, Mexico. Olivia's background in interdisciplinary studies while at Chico gave her strengths and skills that were transferrable to this project across two departments. "I did research

on the ethnobotanical side of the project. The main goal of this project was to help sustain language and cultural diversity as well as biodiversity. I analyzed the plant specimens collected, studied the plant names in Zapotec, the culturally relevant uses of

*"I know there is strength in the differences between us. I know there is comfort in where we overlap."—Ani DiFranco*

the plants, and found out that the Fabaceae plant family has the most diverse number of uses from medicine to ornamentation. It is possible that the Fabaceae plant family is the most important to this Zapotec-speaking indigenous group.” Olivia created a poster with her results for a symposium. She also set up ‘Zapotec bingo’ during a public outreach day in the museum, where she got to interact and share her research with children and parents who were visiting the Smithsonian.

VanDamme is passionate about studying and sustaining diversity in our society and natural world. She believes that “Diversity is so powerful because it brings variety, excitement, and many different experiences to one place. All species or people have an important role, and all should not just be ‘tolerated’ but embraced, appreciated, and celebrated. When this happens, a more peaceful and cooperative environment is created.” One of Olivia’s favorite quotes on diversity is from Eduardo Galeano, who said, “I don’t believe in charity. I believe in solidarity. Charity is

vertical, so it’s humiliating. It goes from the top to the bottom. Solidarity is horizontal. It respects the other and learns from the other. I have a lot to learn from other people.”

In addition to her work in diversity, VanDamme is also an activist for ending sexual assault and domestic violence as a previous speaker at Chico State’s Take Back the Night and by making thoughtful and purposeful changes every day. She instills the belief that activism is about the day to day changes you can make. She has started a platform called The Radiant Hour that showcases her writing through a blog, activism through social

media on Instagram and Facebook, and her original watercolor artwork to shed light on these issues in our families and communities.

Olivia hopes that her future career is in civic and social organization, and she is pursuing careers in the non-profit sector. She hopes to one day open up a wilderness therapy non-profit of her own to help survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence heal through the outdoors and art. ■

*“I don’t believe in charity. I believe in solidarity. Charity is vertical, so it’s humiliating. It goes from the top to the bottom. Solidarity is horizontal. It respects the other and learns from the other. I have a lot to learn from other people.”*  
— Eduardo Galeano

## Creating New Diversity Through Exposure

Diversity is a common topic among college campuses and students alike. Often discussed as a topic of race or gender, one Chico State student is approaching diversity as an issue of exposure, experience, and education.

Oscar Rodriguez, a physical and environmental geography student who recently transferred to Chico State, began his exposure to citizen science programs such as Los Angeles Waterkeeper and Audubon Society while living and attending school in Los Angeles. He quickly understood their importance in exposing those immersed in city-living to more diverse experiences.

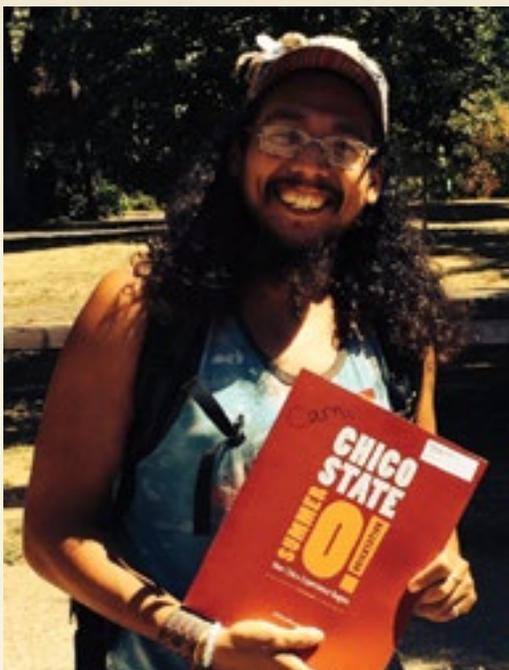
“The programs allowed me to share my interest and appreciation of nature and the environment, to really teach people, especially kids, that things come from the environment,” Rodriguez said. “These types of experiences are unfortunately reserved for a more affluent population.”

Rodriguez understands too well the lack of experiences and opportunities that many are without. As a former foster child himself, he considered dropping out of school to work, stating that this is a common scene for many hispanic students in Los Angeles.

“Often, we don’t see the immediate benefits of a diverse education,” he said. “The programs that I have been a part of and my major have taught me that it is important for society to understand that the world around them is always changing. It is something that we have to have an appreciation for.”

Rodriguez hopes to use his experiences and education to teach children the importance of the environment and give back to his native Los Angeles.

“Diversity is about perspective. Kids need to diversify themselves and better our world, expand their horizons, and better the earth. I feel like our generation wants to help others, and by helping others we better the world and ourselves.” ■



◀ Oscar Rodriguez visits the Chico campus for Summer Orientation.

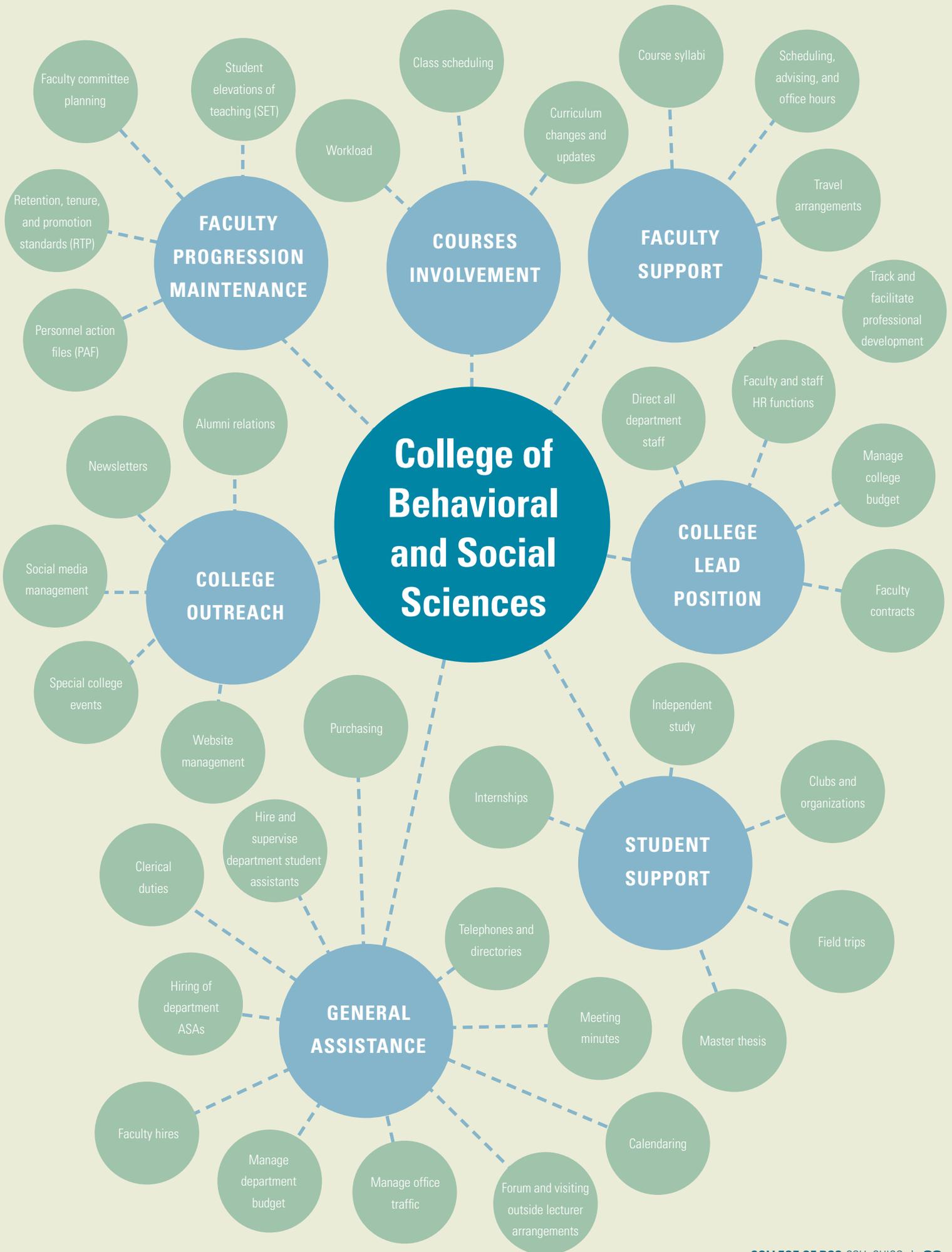
*“Our celebration of cultural diversity is essential to human survival just as the ecosystem diversity is essential to the survival of all species”—William Selby*

# The College of Behavioral and Social Sciences staff members wear many hats...

Whether it is student and faculty support or college outreach, the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences staff works diligently to ensure support is present and always available, no matter the task. They are a proud team comprised of one Administrative Analyst/Specialist, twelve Administrative Support Coordinators, nine Administrative Support Assistants, five lab technicians, one Curator and one media production specialist. With the multitude of responsibilities required of staff, Stephanie Rose the Admin Analyst/Specialist, provides instrumental support by offering staff a monthly 'meeting of the minds', orchestrates semi-annual College staff retreats, and encourages attendance of the annual Academic Resource Conference; all focused to ensure appropriate training and knowledge of the most current resources available. As the largest College on campus, consisting of eight departments, two programs, and one school, the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences serves a student body population of approximately 4,000 and 250 faculty members. In this capacity, staff plays a crucial and integral role in the success of the College. ■

BSS staff are committed to supporting student learning and higher education. - - - - - ➔









# BSS

## Scholarship Ceremony

The sixth annual BSS Scholarship Award Ceremony held on October 21, 2015, highlighted our students' achievements and offered them the opportunity to say a personal "thank you" to the donors who supported their scholarships. The assistance to students translates into opportunities to broaden their higher education experiences through research, travel, or defraying school expenses. This year, the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences awarded over \$60,000 (52 scholarships to 57 students) to help support the students' academic progress. Give a gift today to continue student support at [www.csuchico.edu/giving](http://www.csuchico.edu/giving).

The college sincerely thanks all of the donors for recognizing how much a scholarship can mean to a student and congratulates all recipients on their academic successes.

# Incoming Associate Dean

# Ryan Patten

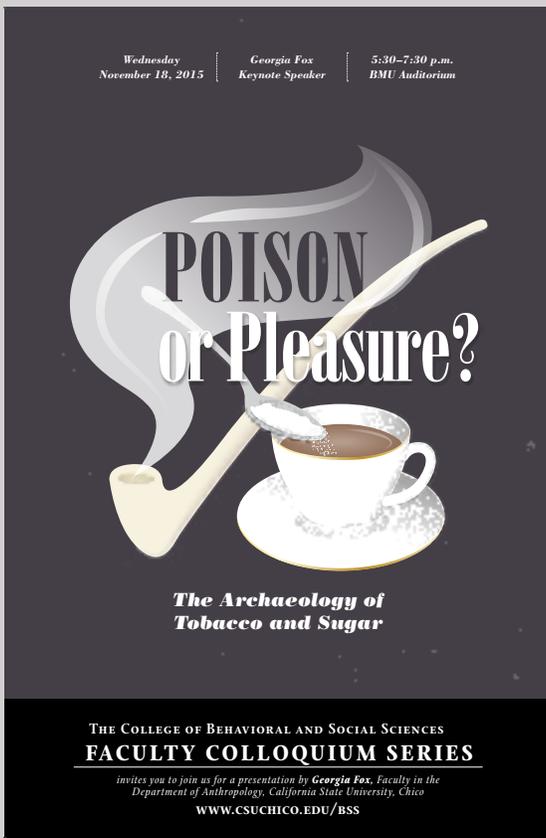
**R**yan Patten is the new associate dean for the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences. In 2007, Patten came to Chico State as an assistant professor in the criminal justice program and the political science department. Since his arrival on campus, Patten has served in a variety of administrative positions, including coordinator of the criminal justice program; associate chair of the political science department; and chair of the political science department. Public safety is a key component to Patten's expertise, and he has served as chair of the Chico State Public Safety Advisory Committee and the Chico Police Community Advisory

Board, and is also one of the co-founders for the Consortium for Public Safety Research. In 2012, Patten earned accelerated tenure and promotion to associate professor, and in 2015 he earned accelerated promotion to full professor. In 2014, Patten was also the BSS Faculty Colloquium keynote speaker.

Patten is a native of the Puget Sound region and earned his bachelor's degree in environmental policy from the prestigious Huxley College at Western Washington University. He also holds a master's degree and PhD in criminal justice from Washington State University. Patten has professional experience as a land use planner, a police officer recruit, and a United States Peace Corps trainee. While serving as an intern for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office for Law Enforcement, Ryan spent most of one summer on Puget Sound documenting enforcement activities related to the Marine Mammal Protection Act. In his spare time, Ryan enjoys athletic pursuits, especially golf, basketball, and weightlifting. ■



Ryan Patten  
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Georgia Fox during her “Poison or Pleasure?” speech  
held on October 18, 2015

## BSS Faculty Colloquium Series

# Poison or Pleasure?

## The Archaeology of Tobacco and Sugar

This year, the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences Faculty Colloquium Series congratulates Georgia Fox, Department of Anthropology, for being selected as this year’s honored scholar and keynote speaker. Fox’s speech, titled “Poison or Pleasure? The Archaeology of Tobacco and Sugar,” is an extension of her recently published book *The Archaeology of Tobacco and Smoking* (2015) and her forthcoming book *Plowing Paradise: Betty’s Hope and the British Plantation System in the Eastern Caribbean, 1632-1944*. Her keynote speech addressed British colonialism in relation to world systems theory and the environmental devastation caused by the sugar plantocracy, as well as how tobacco use has influenced the evolution of an American cultural identity, including perceptions of glamour, individuality, patriotism, class, gender, ethnicity, and worldliness.

Fox’s professional interests also include archaeological and ethnographic conservation, as well as being former curator of the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum and current director of the Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology on the CSU, Chico campus. In 2014, Fox received the Lantis University Endowed Chair Award and produced an Emmy award-winning ethnographic documentary film, *Impact of the Frolic*, based upon an archaeological mystery involving a shipwreck off the Mendocino coast. The film’s trailer can be viewed here: [www.csuchico.edu/alva/projects/2013/impact-of-the-frolic.shtml](http://www.csuchico.edu/alva/projects/2013/impact-of-the-frolic.shtml).



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Left to right: Kaley Sullivan, Kory Masen, Amber Morley, Walter Sipple and Hortensia Llamas

## BSS Student Ambassadors

# Learning through Leading

The best way to tell students' stories about their education experiences here in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences is to have students tell it themselves. Eight years ago, the Student Ambassador Program was developed for three reasons; to connect the college dean with students in a way that allowed the dean to hear about student success and challenges, to engage students in the study of leadership through readings, discussion, and community service, and to

provide students with an opportunity to serve as college ambassadors to prospective students, alumni, and benefactors.

The Student Ambassador Program brings together high-achieving students from each of the 11 departments in the college. The selection process is highly competitive. Students with a minimum GPA of 3.0 are encouraged to submit an application to his/her department chairperson who may or may not recommend the applicant to the college dean for further consideration.

Successful applicants join a student ambassador online learning/networking community, engage discussions about leadership, provide feedback on a variety of college and/or University-related issues, participate in and/or lead monthly ambassador meetings, and serve as distinguished student representatives at a number of college, University, and community events.

The College of Behavioral and Social Sciences greatly appreciates our student ambassadors and their willingness to serve as goodwill diplomats.

### MEMBERS:

- Walter Sipple, Anthropology
- Allison Ruanto, Child Development
- Hortensia Llamas, Economics
- Charlie Winter, Geography and Planning
- Adan Osoria, Health and Community Services
- Kaley Sullivan, Political Science
- Debbie Friedrichsen, Psychology
- Mackenzie Lovie, Social Work
- Kory Masen, Sociology and Multicultural and Gender Studies
- Amber Morley, Social Science

# Chico STANDS UP for DIVERSITY

While the topic of diversity is often discussed in classrooms throughout the Chico State campus, there are also campus wide programs and services that are available to bring the Chico State staff deeper into the conversation.

Tray Robinson, the director for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, works hard to bring diversity to campus faculty and staff as well as students.

“We have developed several programs for our staff,” Robinson said. “We have a diversity certificate that takes six months and has trainings on different areas. We also have a two-week academy. They really focus on race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality.”

The center also offers trainings to students such as the Student Employment Diversity Training and the Safe Zone Ally Training, which is open to faculty, staff, and students. This training aims to reduce homophobia and heterosexism on the Chico State campus while making a safer environment for all students. Those who

complete this training are identified as allies, and a person to come to with problems, questions, concerns, or need for services.

“As a campus and a community it is important to understand the issues that stem from a lack of knowledge and exposure. We are privileged to be in college and to be able to learn about these topics,” Robinson said.

While issues of race, sexuality, and ethnicity are the most commonly discussed, Robinson believes that it is important to remember the other forms of diversity within a community and the world, such as age and size.

“Unfortunately, unless we each experience it or are each affected by it, we don’t stand up,” said Robinson. “We need to translate the experiences of a college campus into the community.”

For more information about the programs and services available to the Chico State students, faculty, and staff, as well as the Chico community, visit the Office of Diversity and Inclusion in Kendall Hall 110, or visit [www.csuchico.edu/diversity](http://www.csuchico.edu/diversity). ■

## List of Campus Support Offices

### Office of Diversity and Inclusion (DIVR)

Kendall Hall 118  
530-898-6831

### Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)

Student Service Center 310  
530-898-0710

### Counseling and Wellness Center

Student Service Center 430  
530-898-6345





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# VANGUARD

## AMBER MORLEY—CONTENT WRITER

Amber Morley graduated from Chico State with a degree in journalism and public relations in 2008. During her time as an undergraduate, she spent two semesters with *The Orion*, as both a photographer and a staff writer, and completed several internships, including one with the Chico State Museum of Anthropology. Currently, she is finishing her MA in social science with an option in career and life

planning. When she is not working with the College of Behavioral and Social Science, she can be found working at the Chico State Career Center. Her experience working with *Vanguard* has been truly enriching, and she is glad to have had the opportunity to network with such interesting faculty and staff during this project.



## ALYCIA JONES—GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Alycia Jones is a senior graphic design major at Chico State. She also works on campus as a design intern at CMT design. During her time there, she has greatly increased her knowledge in design, communication, and pre-press operations. Jones' interest in design stems from her passion for art. She spends much of her free time drawing and painting. She recently landed a job as an artist/instructor at Paint Nite's paint and sip

parties, which she will begin hosting in spring. Her internship has helped her utilize her artistic abilities and transfer them into refined designs, and has been the most valuable experience in her college career. Working for *Vanguard* has strengthened her publication skills considerably, and she is appreciative for such an enriching experience while working with great people in the process.

