College of Humanities and Fine Arts student ambassador Vivian Hernandez (History) was one of 23 scholars selected for the 2021-22 CSU Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement. She also received the Lt. Rawlins Merit award in 2020-2021, was selected as a 2021-2022 Sally Casanova Pre-doctoral Scholar, and is an active Adelante student researcher.

Bruce Grelle (Comparative Religion and Humanities) was quoted in TIME article: “Donald Trump Is Promising ‘Big Action’ on School Prayer to Rally Evangelical Voters.”

Kristy Moreno (BFA ’21) received a 2021 Windgate Lamar Fellowship in the amount of $15,000 from the Center for Craft. The student Fellowship is a prestigious national award for artistic merit and contributions to their craft.

Heather Altfeld (Comparative Religion and Humanities) received the 2020-2021 Outstanding Lecturer in Bringing the Profession to the Classroom Award.

Laura Nice (Comparative Religion and Humanities) and the Book in Common Committee received the Conversations on Diversity and Inclusion’s Pulling Us Together Award.

Graduate student Jo Hooste (English) received the 2020-2021 Outstanding MA Project Award for “On Not Knowing: A Disruption.”

Kim Jaxon (English) was recognized as the 2021 Chico Rotary Educator of the Year.

Sharon DeMeyer (English) received the Staff Council 2020 Making a Difference Award. The Award is awarded to an employee who engages with students, faculty, and staff across the University or in the North State and beyond through campus or community volunteering or participation in activities outside their assigned job duties in a transformative manner.

Faculty Jason Nice (History) received the 2020-2021 Conversations on Diversity and Inclusion’s Behind the Scenes Award.

Friederike “Frieda” Fichtner (International Languages, Literatures, and Cultures) received the 2020-2021 Outstanding Early Career Faculty Award.

Sarah Anderson (International Languages, Literatures, and Cultures) received the 2020-2021 Outstanding Teacher Award.

Student Daniel Crispino (Music) was awarded the $4,000 Chris Hilbert Outstanding Chico State Friend Award at the Student Leadership Ceremony in May 2021.
The HFA Success Studio made great strides this year in identifying data-informed student success goals and creating programming to address student needs. Notable accomplishments include the virtual launch of the HFA Success Studio, formation of the HFA Liaison Team, and facilitation of the nine-part “Made in HFA” alumni panel and career preparation workshop series. The HFA College Advising and Retention Specialist, Kylee Sharp, has also been focusing on improving the advising culture in the College which has resulted in HFA being the first to have all active faculty advisors complete the Chico State 360 training, and a 24% reduction in the total number of unadvised students. HFA looks forward to the physical opening and growth of the Success Studio in fall 2021.

Philosophy students founded the Chico State chapter of Minorities and Philosophy (MAP), an international organization aimed at providing resources and advocating for the interests of marginalized groups in philosophy.

Despite the pandemic, the sudden transition to virtual teaching and learning, and our need to keep community members safe by practicing social distancing, HFA continued to provide high-quality arts and humanities cultural and educational opportunities.

Chico State Theatre presented the world premieres of Breathe and A Whole New Story: The Music of Samsel and Anderson.

Recording Arts students produced, composed, arranged, performed, edited, and mixed a collection of songs entitled Soundtrack for a Covid Fall.

Dance students performed in the inaugural CSU Dance Collective presents In [this] Space, a virtual dance concert featuring dancers from across the California State University System.

The English Department’s Writer’s Voice program hosted readings and workshops with two prominent creative writers: poet and essayist Lia Purpura, and novelist and memoirist Fred Arroyo.


The Janet Turner Print Museum hosted six virtual exhibits, including a celebration of California artist Wayne Thiebaud, emeritus faculty member Marion Epting, and social commentator and printmaker Art Hazelwood.

Kids at The Turner in conjunction with MONCA and the students in ARTE 493 provided local area schoolchildren with stay-at-home art project kits to keep students engaged in artmaking.

The Humanities Center’s theme for 2020-2021 was Art and Social Change. Events highlighted interdisciplinary humanities research and creative activity and the impact of the arts on society, locally and internationally. The focus was on intersectional issues of social justice, including systemic racism, sexism, and economic disparity, and engaged scholars, students, and the community in conversations on how art reflects and provokes social change.

The Humanities Center hosted an incredible lineup of invited lecturers, informal talks, film viewings as well as brown back and panel discussions, and included Susana Morris, “Fear of a Black Planet: Afrofuturism and the Anthropocene.”