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Fall 2019

## Graduate Studies Newsletter (Fall 2019)

CSUSB - Office of Graduate Studies

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# Office of Graduate Studies

## Fall 2019 Newsletter



# Message from the Dean



Welcome to the 2019-2020 academic year! We've been busy here at Graduate Studies and have made some exciting new changes: we've moved our offices to a new location, our newsletter has a new look, and we're offering some new tools for professional growth.

The Office of Graduate Studies is now located in the College of Education, room 356. We're working on remodeling our new office and we plan to add a Graduate Resource Center. Equipped with computers, printers, and scanners, the Resource Center will be a space for graduate students to work, relax, and call their own. Look for upcoming announcements in winter quarter.

As you may have noticed, our newsletter has a new look as well, and we are always looking for great stories to

include. If you know of a student, faculty member, or interesting research project or program event you'd like to see featured, please let us know!

We are also developing some new workshops and tools to help you succeed in your professional and personal goals. Called Professional Resource and Engagement Programs, PREP covers seven core areas: 1) Communication and Writing; 2) Entrepreneurship; 3) Financial Wellbeing; 4) Leadership; 5) Research; 6) Teaching and Mentorship; and 7) Wellness. PREP resides on the Graduate Studies website – read more about it on page 16.

Finally, I'd like to direct your attention to our newsletter stories about a couple of our outstanding graduate students. Melissa Levy and her daughter, Lilly Maiale, are embarking on their educational journeys together, and MBA student Pablo Cervantes struck out to discover the world through Study Abroad. As we wrap up fall quarter and embark on a new year, I invite you to explore all that CSUSB has to offer and make the most of 2020!

Happy Holidays,  
Dorota Huizinga

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# Awards & Accolades

The Office of Graduate Studies would like to recognize the following faculty, students, and programs for their outstanding achievements:

**Janet Kottke:** Professor Janet Kottke was named an American Psychological Association 2019 Fellow in the Society for the Teaching of Psychology division. According to the Association, fellow status recognizes those APA members “who have shown evidence of unusual and outstanding contributions or performance in the field of psychology,” and whose work “has had a national impact on the field of psychology beyond a local, state, or regional level.”

**Jonathan Anderson:** Professor Anderson is the first CSUSB faculty member to receive the California State University's Quality in Learning and Teaching (QLT) certification for his online course, Public Administration Theory and Practice. The QLT program was developed by the CSU to assist faculty, faculty developers, and instructional designers to more effectively design and deliver online, blended, and flipped courses.

**Criminal Justice Program:** Our Criminal Justice master's program was ranked #18 in the nation by Intelligent.com, a private independent group that helps

students connect to the best resources and provide them with the best advice about education. The program was recognized for offering the best thesis option.

**Stem Cell Scholars:** The College of Natural Sciences celebrated students and alumni who participated in the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine's (CIRM) Bridges to Stem Cell Research program at the Stem Cell Scholars Symposium on November 22nd. More than 100 CSUSB students received training in stem cell laboratories across Southern California, thanks to the program's internships. Of those, more than 75 have gone on to careers as research technicians, PhD programs, or been accepted to medical, dental, and pharmacy schools.

**MSW Program:** Pathways, the MSW online program, has been named third in the nation for the Top 25 Master's in Social Work Programs Online with No GRE Requirement for 2019 ranking by Great Value Colleges. CSUSB is one of only two California State Universities to make the list, with Cal State Northridge listed at No. 10.

Congratulations to all of you on your well-deserved success!





# Pablo Cervantes Finds Path to Success Leads Around the World

Previously something of a homebody, International student Pablo Gutierrez Cervantes has developed a taste for overseas travel. In the space of six months he visited five countries, and three of his trips – South Korea, China, and Germany – included valuable academic courses. Cervantes said the first trip led to another, and then another. The trips were made possible by CSUSB’s Center for Global Management and Study Abroad offices.



Pablo Cervantes gives a presentation in Seoul

## BEGINNING THE JOURNEY

Cervantes was not always a world traveler. As an international student from Mexico, he looked for American universities that were close to relatives in the Inland Empire and describes himself as “very family oriented.” But while being away from family in Mexico is hard for him, he feels there are more opportunities in the U.S. “I am a very ambitious person, and I want to provide my mom and dad with a good life. In Mexico I could be successful, but not as much as I can be here. My main goal is to provide economic support for my parents.”

As an MBA student with a dual focus on cyber-security and marketing, Cervantes was looking for ways to give himself an edge in his fields. He felt expanding his language skills and understanding of other cultures

through international travel would help him succeed in business.

“Marketing is fun, creative, analytical. There is a lot of psychology behind it. How are you going to attract customers? Does the red can that appeals to customers in the U.S. hold a different meaning for customers in China or Russia? You have to consider differences in cultures and how things are perceived.”

But like many graduate students, Cervantes initially believed that study abroad programs were not for him. He thought the cost would be prohibitive. “When I first saw the brochure for a study abroad course in South Korea, I was very interested in the program but thought it was unaffordable for me. I put the idea aside.”

Offered through the MBA Center for Global Management and led by faculty member Dong Man Kim, *Policy Management and Doing Business in Korea: Case of the City of Seoul* included trips to the city’s municipal and historic sites as well as lectures at the University of Seoul. Cervantes couldn’t get it out of his mind, and eventually mentioned the trip to a coworker who encouraged him to apply. He was one of nine students who were chosen to attend the spring break trip. He received \$500 in funding from the President’s office to help cover his expenses.

“It was amazing!” Cervantes said of the program. “I will never forget that experience. I wanted to travel again and started looking for more opportunities.”

## IDENTIFYING FUNDING

According to Jamie Ayala, coordinator for the Center for Global Management (CGM), study abroad funding is available for those who seek it. CGM offers early bird discounts, and the President’s Office offers \$500 to all students enrolled in a study abroad course. Scholarships and field research grants are also available.

Ayala said some students have found creative ways to pay for their trips. “Many of our students have gone free of charge. They’ve applied for scholarships outside of the college, and we encourage them to reach out to community partners as well. One student went to Tanzania by raising the money herself – by campaigning, contacting groups on and off campus, asking others to assist and using her networking skills. She raised enough to pay for her entire trip.”

## EXPLORING THE WORLD

Cervantes followed up his South Korea trip with a summer trip to Xian, China. Offered through CSUSB’s Study Abroad office, the 10-day summer trip was billed as an “international summer camp for college students.” Eighty students from around the world participated in the program, which focused on increasing participants’ understanding of the region’s language and culture.

The program included field trips to the City Wall, Dayan Pagoda, and local museums, but one of the highlights for Cervantes was the friends that he made. “I met students from around the world. One of the best experiences was spending time with my new friends from China – we laughed, we cried, we joked – although we have different cultures and customs, I learned that people everywhere are much the same.”

Cervantes then spent a month at the Fulda University of Applied Sciences in Germany, thanks to a scholarship offered through CGM. The international program included courses in business, politics, German culture and language, as well as field trips to Berlin, München, Nürnberg and Weimar. Now feeling more comfortable with world travel, Cervantes took the opportunity to visit London and Paris on his own. He believes globetrotting will help him build connections and communication skills. “My experiences abroad helped me understand that because of cultural differences, communication has to be managed carefully. It’s important to be understanding of others’ backgrounds and customs.”

Ayala said study abroad gives students an advantage in their careers. “Some of our international business majors have made valuable connections during study abroad

and received job offers. Others have changed their major or added a concentration after their experience. Overall, whatever major you’re in, you’re likely to end up working with a diverse group of people. Travel helps your understanding of others.”

*Interested in study abroad? See page 6 for more information on CSUSB’s study abroad opportunities.*





# CGM's Study Abroad Programs are Ideal for Graduate Students

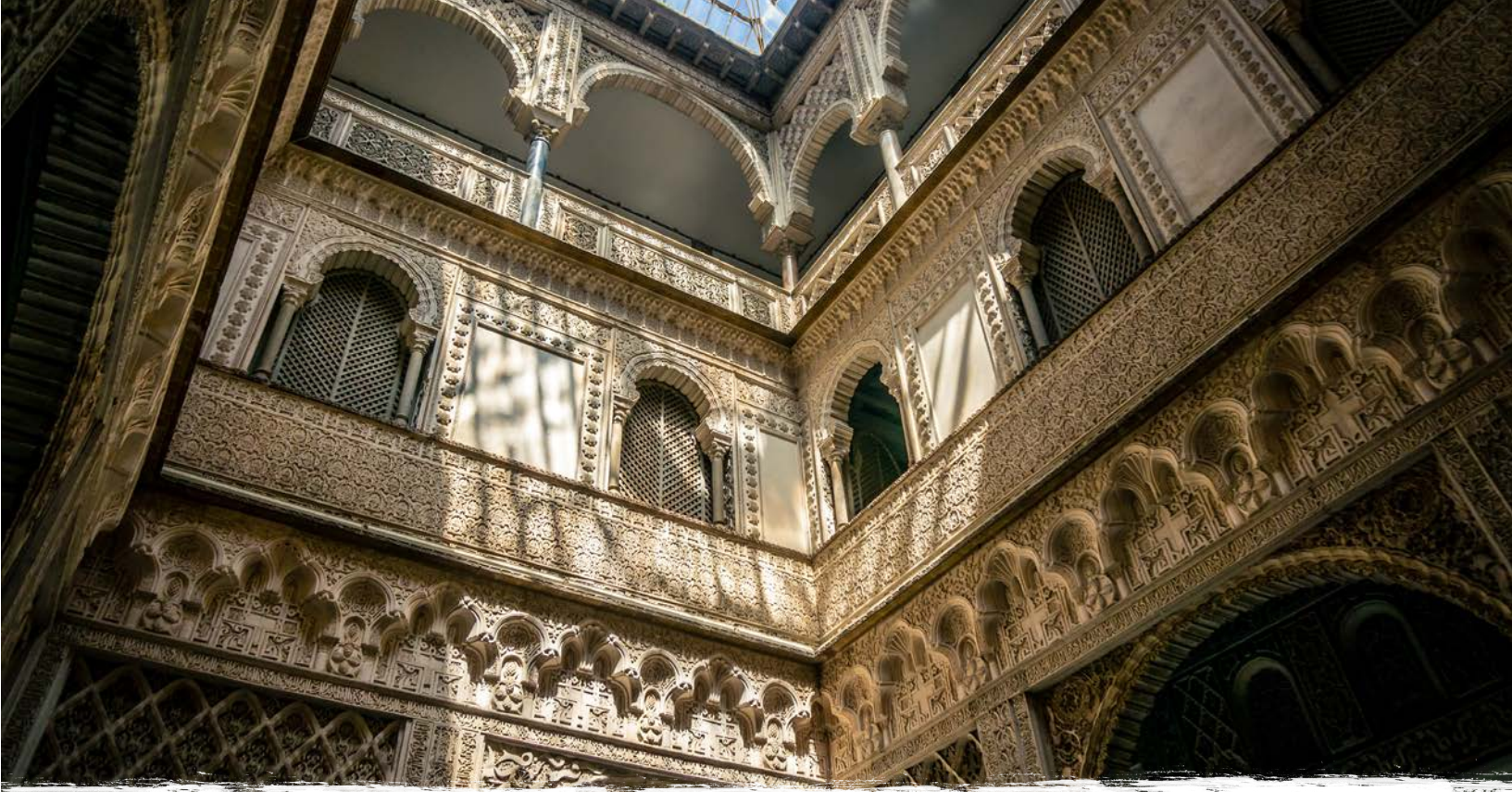
The Center for Global Management (CGM) promotes skills and experiences for those interested in a career in the global business environment, including opportunities to participate in international programs and study abroad. While some coursework may seem ideal for MBA and MPA students, many of the lessons learned – cultural sensitivity, networking, communication, and personal growth – are an asset to anyone.

Developed in partnership with CSUSB's Study Abroad office, CGM's faculty-led study abroad programs are open to all majors. Most are short-term trips held over spring break or summer, making them ideal for a graduate student's busy schedule. Study abroad courses involve lectures and assignments prior to a one- to two-week visit to particular locations. Some are specifically for graduate students. This academic year, CGM is organizing trips to South Korea (graduate students only), Italy, Ireland, Taiwan and Vietnam, Paris

and Budapest. Month-long summer trips are available through the Study Abroad office, part of the Center for International Studies and Programs.

Funding is available through a number of avenues. The President's Office awards all CSUSB study abroad students \$500, and discounts are available through CGM. Graduate students should also check with their programs for scholarship opportunities.

CGM Coordinator Jamie Ayala says study abroad programs can be a life-changing experience. "When studying abroad, first you discover yourself, then you discover whatever country you are in, then you discover the world. So many opportunities can unfold when students participate in these kinds of experiences." For more information, contact CGM at (909) 537-4362 or visit their website at [csusb.edu/global-management](http://csusb.edu/global-management). Additional opportunities can be found on the Study Abroad website: [csusb.edu/cisp/study-abroad](http://csusb.edu/cisp/study-abroad)



## CSUSB Offers New M.A. in History Degree

The CSUSB Department of History is pleased to announce that they are now offering an exciting new degree. The Masters of Arts in History is a dynamic program designed to prepare students to enhance their historical skills and knowledge as they prepare themselves for a variety of potential careers or move on to doctoral study.

The MA program in History offers students the opportunity to work one-on-one with world renowned faculty as they pursue a variety of fields of study and interests. Students will gain an overall appreciation of the historical discipline, an understanding of how the past is connected to the present, recognition of the diversity of the human experience across time and space, and realization of the historical discipline's practical contribution to our society. Students who earn an MA through this program will have the opportunity

to pursue research opportunities, present their work at regional and national conferences, and complete a thesis or public history project showcasing their work. This program is ideal for those who intend to:

- Teach at multiple levels, from kindergarten to high school and beyond
- Undertake a PhD program in history or a related field of study
- Pursue a career as a professional historian in fields such as museums, archives, historic preservation, historical research, or historic parks and homes

Interested? Contact the Program Coordinator, Dr. Ryan Keating, at [rkeating@csusb.edu](mailto:rkeating@csusb.edu) or call (909) 537-5524 for further details.





# Mother and Daughter Share College Life

Melissa and Lilly line up together for the buffet at the Graduate Education Week reception, ready to fill their plates. While waiting, they chat and share a private joke. They could easily be mistaken for sisters, or best friends. But they are mother and daughter, sharing the journey of pursuing their separate career goals at CSUSB. Melissa Levy is a graduate student in the Counseling and Guidance program. Her daughter, Lilly Maiale, is embarking on a bachelor's degree in Sociology. Both plan to become counselors, but they have their separate reasons.



Melissa Levy and Lilly Maiale

## MELISSA LEVY

"When Lilly was born, she just fit in my two hands. She was a micro-preemie – she weighed only 1 pound, 7 ounces, and was born at 25 weeks gestation. She spent the first 200 days of her life in Loma Linda Hospital. I call her my miracle baby." Melissa is eager to share this news with anyone who will listen. Like any proud parent, she can tick off the list of her daughter's achievements from birth to budding adulthood. But because of her early birth, Lilly came with extra challenges and parental worries.

"I watched her development very closely. Most of her issues were health related. A simple cold would turn into bronchitis. She got sick a lot. As a child she had challenges with lung capacity and coordination. Watching her growth and challenges made me curious. I decided to

go back to school and study child development. I initially planned to become a teacher."

While earning a B.S. in Child Development at Cal State Fullerton, Melissa had the opportunity to serve as a peer counselor. "I spoke with my academic advisor and proposed that I work as an intern for her – she loved the idea, and we created an internship program for peer advising – it was awesome! After working in that position, I knew that I wanted to be a school counselor and lecturer."

Due to life circumstances, Melissa postponed graduate school until this year. "I'm very excited about how it all worked out, because it means I get to go to school with Lilly." Now they share the daily commute from Norco to CSUSB.

"It's great because I get to see Lilly blossom into an adult. The part that's hard is that I have to remind myself not to overstep. I was a 'helicopter mom' while she was growing up. It takes a long time to undo."

## LILLY MAIALE

Lilly says she chose CSUSB both for its excellent curriculum and "because it's not in Norco." She looked forward to the opportunity to redefine herself. "I like CSUSB a lot. I know literally nobody. I feel like it's a chance to start over. People here are less judgy than they were in high school."

Lilly is enjoying college life and the opportunities that lie ahead. She is interested in gender studies and is considering becoming a counselor for LGBT youth. A musician since the 5th grade, she joined the CSUSB symphonic band and took up a new instrument, the euphonium.

While some students may balk at the thought of going to college with their mom, Lilly says it's actually kind of fun. "We have lunch together every Monday and Friday. We were always pretty close, but now we see a lot more of

each other. On the way home we talk, share our day, and support each other. The only thing I don't like is having to get up early to make the drive."

Lilly longs to live on campus and is looking into living in the dorms next year. "When I wake up, I'll be here and can go straight to class. I won't have to lug an instrument around. I can be more involved on campus, go to other ensembles and musical performances. I'm looking

forward to it." Melissa has mixed feelings about Lilly's eventual departure. "I will miss her, but I will be happy for her. It's my proof of success as a parent. If I did my job as a mom, my little bird flies away."

# 2019 Graduate Student Orientation Sets Attendance Records

Two hundred new graduate students kicked off the academic year at the 2019 Graduate Student Orientation and Resource Fair, the highest attendance recorded for the event thus far. Presented by the Office of Graduate Studies, the annual orientation welcomes new graduate students and introduces them to campus resources and university policies especially relevant to graduate education. This year's event was held on September 14th in the SMSU Events Center.

The day began with a breakfast buffet and a rousing welcome from Dean of Graduate Studies Dorota Huizinga and Faculty Director Caroline Vickers. Students juggled plates piled with eggs, fresh fruit and pastries while they listened to speakers from key departments: Kim Wobick and John Hernandez of the Pfau Library; Denise Perez-Flores from the Career Center, and Daniel Jimenez from Associated Students Incorporated.

The morning session was followed by a resource fair and a LinkedIn photo shoot. Students also had the opportunity to pick up their student ID cards at the library and purchase text books at the campus bookstore. Some graduate coordinators followed the event with their own orientation sessions focused on their programs' requirements.

The Office of Graduate Studies encourages all new graduate students to attend both their program and Graduate Studies' orientations and take advantage of the resources available. Keep in regular contact with your academic advisor or program coordinator, and remember that Graduate Resource Specialist April Lane is only a phone call away: (909) 537-5058. As you embark on your graduate journey, know that CSUSB is committed to your success.





# Graduate Student Picnic Closes Out the Summer with Family, Food, and Fun!

Graduate students gathered under a tent on the Pfau Library lawn for some end-of-summer fun and games at the 2nd annual Graduate Student Picnic. Held in the cool of the early evening on September 13th, the get-together gave graduate students a chance to relax with friends and family before the start of the academic year. Attendees munched on fried chicken, baked beans and corn bread, and washed it all down

with ice-cold lemonade. Kids of all ages tried their hand at the bean bag toss and a game of Frisbee, and a photographer was on hand to snap family photos to commemorate the event. The annual picnic is open to new and current graduate students and their families, as well as graduate program faculty. We hope to see you all at next year's event!



# English MA Faculty, Students and Staff Take the Stage at PAMLA Conference

CSUSB's MA in English was well represented at the recent Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA) conference in San Diego, November 14 – 17. Eleven CSUSB faculty, graduate students and alumni chaired panels and gave presentations at the prestigious event.

PAMLA is dedicated to the advancement and diffusion of knowledge of ancient and modern languages, cultures, and literatures; this year marked its 117th annual conference. Our CSUSB community contributed the following:

- Professor Juan Delgado chaired two panels on The Art of Teaching Creative Writing in Our Communities: SCIPP Workshop with CSUSB participants Bianca Sanchez, Daiana Rodriguez, Jennifer Pimentel, Kelly Straight Dortch, and Alex Avila. He also ran a special event exploring "San Diego's Chicano Park as Chicana/o/x Aleph."
- Professor Jessica Luck presented a paper entitled "'Vision Determines the View: Lyn Hejinian and Myopic Improvisation.'" And served as the presiding officer and chair on two panels on disability studies.
- Graduate student Alejandra Marquez presented "No Seas Payasa: The Problem with Identity Hybridity for First-Generation Latinx Women."
- Graduate students Mandy Taylor and Susan Nylander co-presented an essay entitled "Waiting for the Winchesters: Absurdism, Existentialism, and Being Academic."
- Ruby and Lilia Sanchez co-presented an essay, "Animal Exploitation in Disney's Dumbo: Re-framing Human/Non-Human Relations in Tim Burton's Dumbo (2019)."
- Melony Del Real presented her essay "Humor and the Genre Function of Death Positivity."
- MA alum Isidro Zepeda presented an essay entitled, "Transitions: Moving from Part-time to Full-time

- Faculty."
- MA alum Ed Ferrari present an essay entitled "Enduring the Ordinary: Hannah Weiner's Schizophrenic Eye."
  - MA alum and lecturer J.P. Whatford chaired a panel on Comics and Graphic Narratives and presented a paper titled "Clown Underground: V as a Model for Encouraging Independent Thought and Agency in Student Writing."

Alejandra Marquez said she enjoyed the opportunity to participate PAMLA; "It was a great learning experience to hear, and participate in, some of the most current conversations happening in the field of English."



Three Minute Thesis is a school-wide TED talk-like competition where graduate students will explain their thesis in 3 minutes or less! 3MT offers cash prizes and the opportunity to hone your communication skills and share your knowledge with a general audience in a fun, fast-paced competition.

Your presentation will be judged by a panel of community dignitaries. For nomination, please see your program coordinators.

- Information sessions held February 26 & 27. Location TBA.
- Registration Deadline: March 20.
- Workshops: April 1 & 2
- Rehearsals: April 22 & 23

Contact Graduate Studies at 537-5058 for more information.





Faculty that served as committee chairs on theses, projects, and dissertations were recognized at the Graduate Education Week brunch.

## 2nd Annual Graduate Education Week Was Packed with Activities

The second annual Graduate Education Week offered a string of events designed to support graduate students in their academic journey and introduce undergraduate students to advanced degree programs at CSUSB. Held November 4th – 8th, the week included an open house at the Office of Graduate Studies' new offices, valuable research and time management workshops, and opportunities for both graduate and undergraduate students to get together to share food and thoughts on graduate education.

***"The purpose of Graduate Education Week is to bring attention to our graduate students and alumni and the contributions they make to CSUSB and the Inland Empire."***  
- Faculty Director Caroline Vickers

**Day 1** kicked off the week with a delicious Welcome Brunch honoring our Outstanding Thesis Award winners and the faculty who dedicate of their time and expertise to chairing thesis committees. The event was followed by an Open House at Graduate Studies' new home in the College of Education. New and seasoned graduate students mingled with undergrads over tasty tostadas, chips and salsa. Students and faculty were also given a tour of the new facilities.

**Day 2** was all about stress management and relaxation. In the morning, busy students were treated to a course in meditation sponsored by the CSUSB Recreation & Wellness Center. Message Envoy offered afternoon chair messages.

**Day 3** focused on workshops for academic and personal success. Topics included thesis formatting and submissions, Institutional Review Board processes, conducting graduate-level research, and time management.

**Day 4** included a number of events for undergraduates, including an information session on CSUSB's graduate programs. To further assist undergraduates, Graduate Studies held an application workshop to walk students through the graduate application process.

**Day 5** wrapped up an industrious week with an evening reception and buffet in the College of Education Atrium. Two highly successful CSUSB alumni shared their experiences and tips for success and graduate teaching assistants were recognized for their contributions. The final celebration ended with fantastic giveaways that included two iPads.



## The Wellness Connection

By April Lane, MPH, CHES

### Financial Wellness During the Holidays

The holidays are upon us, and for many, this time of year not only brings excitement and good cheer, it may also bring on feelings of stress and anxiety. These feelings can often be attributed to the financial strain of feeling obliged to purchase gifts, special foods, and decorations to celebrate with family, friends, co-workers, and countless others you care about. In hopes of easing your anxiety, I'm offering a few tips to fill your holiday with good cheer and hopefully reduce, or eliminate, future haunting by the ghost of holiday debt.

#### Tip #1: Create a Budget and Stick to It

A budget can be a very powerful tool to help you spend and save wisely. Start by listing your fixed (rent, groceries, car payment, etc.) and variable (dining out, streaming services, etc.) monthly expenses. Then, whatever money you have left over can be used however you like, including that holiday spending list. Make a list of those you want to buy for and how much you want to spend. Remember, budgeting doesn't stop you from having fun, it helps you have fun and still pay your bills! There are several budgeting tools available, including apps, spreadsheets, and the old fashioned paper and pencil.

#### Tip #2: Pay in Cash

Ditch your plastic for the holidays...and maybe forever. According to several studies, physically handing over cash to pay for an item is more painful than using a credit card, which can help curtail spending and overall enjoyment of the item after purchase.

#### Tip #3: Give, Not Buy

Perhaps one of the greatest joys is giving, so why not give the gift of service? Have a family member who could use a night out? Offer some free child care. Cook some meals for friends or family who could use a break. Or, select a charity or nonprofit organization you care about and make a donation in lieu of buying gifts. Then, give cards to everyone on your list with information about the donation made in their honor.

#### Tip #4: Enjoy the Holiday

Focus on spending time with those you are closest to and remember that "The holiday season is a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek out ways to make life better for those around us." – Terri Marshall

Until next time, I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season!



# Congratulations to our 2018-2019 Outstanding Thesis Award Winners

Once again, it's time to recognize our annual Outstanding Thesis Award recipients! At the end of each academic year, graduate programs are called upon to nominate a project or thesis that demonstrates outstanding scholarship. Nominees are judged by a panel of CSUSB faculty for their originality, contributions to their field, outcomes, and overall quality. The 2018-2019 competition covered a wide range of topics that included art, computer science, mathematics, and biology. After careful deliberation, two particularly innovative theses were chosen. The 2018-2019 Outstanding Thesis Award winners are...

- **Bryan Castillo**, author of *Ages of Prehistoric Earthquakes on the Banning Strand of the San Andreas Fault, Near North Palm Springs, California*, written for his Master of Science in Earth and Environmental Sciences
- **Alana Muller**, author of *Neurological Correlates of the Dunning-Kruger Effect*, written for her Master of Arts in Psychological Science

### BRYAN CASTILLO

Castillo's thesis broke new ground in the field of earthquake geology. His study focuses on measuring prehistoric earthquakes on the Banning strand, one of three subparallel strands of the San Andreas Fault located within the northern Coachella Valley. His work documented eight prehistoric earthquakes in the past 7000 years, providing the first published

*"I love teaching - it's a fantastic experience. Ultimately, I plan to go back to school to get a Ph.D. and continue to teach and do research at a university."*  
-Bryan Castillo

data on the Banning strand. He estimates that the average interval between the five most recent events is 640 years, "indicating that this strand is overdue for a large earthquake." His results will be used by other scientists to update seismic hazard models for southern California.

Castillo's interest in earthquake geology began with a geology course at Cal State Northridge. After earning his B.S. in Geology, his mentor, Dr. Doug Yule, encouraged him to continue his studies under the guidance of Sally McGill at CSUSB.

"Dr. Yule encouraged me to attend graduate school to expand my experience, and recommended Sally McGill at CSUSB. She was one of the primary people I wanted to work with; she's one of the top geologists and seismologists in Southern California. I met with her when I was exploring schools, and when she told me the San Andreas Fault ran right behind the school, I was ready to sign up."



Castillo has presented his work at a number of professional conferences, including the Geological Society of America and the American Geophysical Union. He is currently working on publishing his research in a peer-reviewed journal. His work was funded by the U.S. Geological Survey. He now serves as an instructor at CSUSB.

### ALANA MULLER

Muller's thesis explores the neurological basis for the Dunning-Kruger effect - the tendency for low performers to overestimate their performance on a cognitive task and for high performers to underestimate their performance - by measuring human brain waves. Her study involved asking her research participants to take a set of memory tests and estimate their own performance while hooked up to an EEG machine that measured two memory processes called familiarity and recollection. Familiarity generates memories that are general and lack details, while recollection produces clear memories that include specific details. She was then tasked with interpreting the results.

In his letter of support, committee chair Dr. Rick Addante described Muller's thesis as "a bold endeavor better suited to a Ph.D.-level student." The study required her to undertake extensive research on electrophysiology of the Dunning-Kruger Effect, a subject area new to her. As Dr. Addante describes it, "I asked her to synthesize a highly disparate and interdisciplinary literature ranging from neurophysiology to metacognition and social psychology - using physiological methods to directly address a core question that has riddled the likes of Socrates, Confucius, Shakespeare, and Darwin." Muller proved herself up to the task, and produced a work that shows that the over- and under-estimations of low and high performing individuals correspond to distinct patterns of neurological activity, familiarity and recognition. It is the first published work to do so.

After earning more than 20 awards for scholarship during her time at CSUSB, Muller is now pursuing a Ph.D. in psychology at the University of Arizona. She hopes to join the faculty of a university where she can teach and



*"I would love to come back to [CSUSB] to teach there to try to give other students the opportunities that CSUSB gave me."*  
-Alana Muller

conduct her own research - possibly at CSUSB. "I found a passion for teaching during my time at CSUSB," she notes. "I would love to come back to teach there to try to give other students the opportunities that CSUSB gave me."

Both Castillo and Muller made original contributions that were first in their fields - a remarkable achievement for any master's thesis. As the Outstanding Thesis Award recipients, they were recognized at the Graduate Education Week welcome brunch and awarded a check for \$500. Graduate Studies extends its hearty congratulations to both recipients for their exceptional achievements!



## Funding Deadlines

- California Pre-Doctoral Program  
Application Deadline: **January 27th**
- Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program  
Application Deadline: **January 27th.**

Contact Erma Cross at Graduate Studies for more information: 537-5058.

## We've Moved!

The Office of Graduate Studies is now located in the College of Education, Room 356.

Stop by and check out our new location!

## **P** You've Defined Your **R** Future. Now **PREP** for it!

**R** The Office of Graduate Studies' Professional  
**E** Resource and Engagement Programs (PREP) is  
**P** a space for you as a CSUSB graduate student to take advantage of free workshops to develop professionally and personally. Residing on the Graduate Studies website, PREP focuses on the seven personal and professional development categories listed below:

### PREP Workshop Topics:

- 1) Communication and Writing
- 2) Entrepreneurship
- 3) Financial Well-Being
- 4) Leadership
- 5) Research
- 6) Teaching and Mentorship
- 7) Wellness

As you engage in these opportunities, we encourage you to take advantage of CSUSB's free access to the e-portfolio platform, Portfolium, to highlight your accomplishments and growth as a graduate student. To learn more about PREP and Portfolium, visit [csusb.edu/graduate-studies/prep-program](https://csusb.edu/graduate-studies/prep-program)

## Upcoming Events

### January

#### Thesis Submission & Review Process Workshop

Date & Time: Wednesday, January 22, 4:00 – 5:00

Thursday January 23, 4:00 – 5:00

Location: TBA

Contact: Graduate Studies, 537-5058

#### Graduate Equity Fellowship Information Sessions

Date & Time: Thursday, January 30th, 5:00 – 6:00

Location: CE 202

Wednesday, February 12th 5:00 – 6:00

Location: CE 202

Contact: Graduate Studies, 537-5058

### February

#### CSUSB Student Research Competition

Date & Time: Friday Feb. 7, 9:00 – 3:00

Location: College of Education

Contact: Office of Student Research, 537-3728