DEAN’S MESSAGE

It’s my pleasure to welcome each of you to our bi-annual magazine featuring achievements and news of CAL students, faculty, staff, alumni, and our gracious donors.

I’d like to take a moment to appreciate and acknowledge our entire CAL community for an extremely successful academic year.

After taking on the role as interim dean this past semester, I am pleased to report that CAL remains successful and committed in its mission to engage students, scholars, alumni, and donors. As you will see, featured here, CAL is leading the way in graduating world-class students and scholars, providing valuable research opportunities, and helping solve pressing issues in our communities locally and around the world.

Our faculty secured $8.38 million in total external funding during AY2022/23 from a multitude of national public agencies and foundations to continue our important work in history, political science, Africana Studies, and sustainability among other areas.

SDSU was awarded $10M in funding for a center to foster environmental justice and two CAL inclusive climate-focused initiatives will help leverage the work: Community Climate Action Network and the Center for Regional Sustainability.

Achievements and Highlights

- First-ever SDSU/CAL student received the Truman Scholarship
- Two students received Presidential awards at the SDSU Student Symposium
- Faculty attended the National Humanities Alliance Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C.
- Faculty received grants from the National Endowment for Humanities, the National Science Foundation, and other organizations
- CAL’s Digital Humanities initiative was part of the The Digital Humanities at California State University (DH@CSU) Consortium that received a Digital Ethnic Futures Consortium (DEFCCon) award, supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, to build institutional capacity at the intersection of Digital Humanities and Ethnic Studies
- An honorary doctorate was awarded to economics alumnus Gen. Merrill A. McPeak, who served on the Pentagon’s Joint Chiefs of Staff

We truly value all our partners and CAL family. Thank you for another spectacular semester in CAL!

Sincerely,

Rhonda Schreiber
Interim Dean
College of Arts and Letters
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Mekany is the first-ever Truman Scholarship recipient from San Diego State University and the College of Arts and Letters.

Sandy Mekany, political science major, wins first-ever Truman Scholarship.

Truman Scholar Looks to a Better World for Refugee, Migrant Girls

By Jeff Ristine

Sandy Mekany, an SDSU political science senior, sees herself working to expand educational opportunities for those who’ve gone through experiences similar to hers.

There were times growing up in San Diego’s Scripps Ranch neighborhood that Sandrien “Sandy” Mekany experienced something of an identity crisis, wondering whether to consider herself Arab or American.

Mekany, who became San Diego State University’s first-ever recipient of The Harry S. Truman Foundation’s graduate scholarship for public-service leadership, is the daughter of Arabic-speaking Chaldean refugees who fled Iraq during Saddam Hussein’s regime.

She was born in San Diego but didn’t eat the same foods as her classmates: lunch was often from a Middle Eastern cuisine with kofta (a meatball dish) or lahm bi ajeen (a kind of meat pizza) for snacks. She struggled to pick up the English language and endured the anti-immigrant “terrorist” vibes of the day.

“I was too scared to speak up, because who’s going to defend me? I’m a little kid,” Mekany said. “I wanted to meet the idea of what was considered ‘American enough’ in the eyes of my peers and my community.”

The experience was a powerful influence on Mekany’s plans for where to take herself in life and her successful scholarship application.
In it, she spoke of her hope to “make a true impact on people that were once in my shoes.”

Mekany is a senior, political science major and Associated Students officer whose many extracurricular activities include mentoring and tutoring younger students for the International Rescue Committee, a nonprofit focused on refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers. She says there’s a need for many more mentors like her.

“The biggest thing that I want to do is work in a career where I’m able to advocate for minority students to ensure that they have equitable educational opportunities,” she said.

“We need to find a way especially at the state level ... to fund those opportunities,” she said. “There also needs to be more awareness of what’s happening around the world. In Afghanistan right now the Taliban has taken complete control and has dictated young girls’ lives. We should be able to collaborate at an international level to develop community-based programs for young girls across the globe.”

SDSU President Adela de la Torre presents Sandy Mekany with a cake and flowers in a surprise visit to Mekany's political science classroom.

It’s no surprise to hear Mekany particularly admires the diligence and compassion of Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani Nobel Peace Prize laureate who while still in her teens launched an internationally recognized fight for girls’ right to learn.

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L to R: Provost Hector Ochoa, Jacqueline Toy, Ronnee Schreiber, Madhavi McCall, Sandy Mekany, President Adela de la Torre, Stephen Doyle, Farid Abdel-Nour, and James Samstad.
CAL Overall Outstanding Graduating Senior: Maria Shoka, Social Science Major

In a letter of recommendation for Maria Shoka, CAL’s 2023 Overall Outstanding Graduating Senior, Brian Adams, professor of political science and social science advisor said, “Maria takes her education very seriously and is very focused on developing her skills and knowledge. She is a humble person and approaches academics with a desire for self-improvement.”

Shoka graduates *summa cum laude* with a B.A. in social science with an emphasis on political science and a minor in International Security and Conflict Resolution (ISCOR).

Shoka said, “I am humbled to have met professors and mentors in my educational career who have helped me grow into the person I am today. This gratitude is rooted in their continuous academic support, which I did not receive anywhere else.

“This positive learning experience has sparked my desire to pursue a career as a professor. I want to be able to make a positive impact on my students’ lives and help them achieve their goals and dreams. I believe that there are few professors who truly inspire and motivate their students to reach their potential, and I want to be one of them. As a professor, I aspire to be someone that students feel comfortable seeking help, advice, and guidance from.

“Inspired by the fact that many students face inequities in education due to their socioeconomic background, their race and ethnicity, or the neighborhood they live in, I have been motivated to search for ways to politically advocate for underrepresented students.”

“I believe that my purpose is to inspire and motivate others to make the world a better place.”

Shoka will enter the master’s program in political science at SDSU in the fall.

FIND A LIST OF OUTSTANDING GRADUATING SENIORS HERE >> CAL
SDSU Student Symposium (S3) CAL Winners
Kayla Solsbak and Brianna O’Boyle Win President’s Awards

The 16th annual SDSU Student Symposium (S3) took place in early March. 400 student were in attendance and more than 70 received awards for exceptional research projects and creative endeavors.

S3 is an opportunity for the students of SDSU to showcase their hard work and dedication to their passions and fields of study.

Brianna O’Boyle, first-year master’s student in the Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages won the President’s Award for her presentation: “WeChat Usage and Emoji Ratings: How usage of the social media platform WeChat influences the ratings of emojis from WeChat.”

WATCH VIDEO>>
Brianna and mentor discuss the research

Sandra Wawrytko presents the Charles Wei-Hsun Fu Foundation Award to Carlos Melendrez.

Hala Madanat presents the President’s Award to Brianna O’Boyle.
Kayla Solsbak Wins S3 President’s Award for Research that Champions the Unsung Voices of Women

Her research highlights issues of the United Farm Workers union in the 1960s and 70s

By Leslie L.J. Reilly

For Kayla Solsbak, second-year master’s student in history, interest in the United Farm Workers (UFW) is personal. Her grandmother was a farm worker as a child in Imperial Valley. “It’s something that has been on my mind for my whole childhood — I wondered what her experience was like,” Solsbak said.

She questioned historical experiences of people in her own family and when she began thinking about going to graduate school for history. “I thought that this would be a good way to pay homage to my family — to look at their experiences from an academic lens,” Solsbak said. “As I started to look into the history of the UFW, it became very clear that women were missing from the picture. They were missing from what had been written already about the UFW.”

In her work, she seeks to bring to light the importance of women in the UFW — to champion these unsung voices in the stories that may have been buried intentionally or not. When she was an undergraduate in journalism, untold stories were always at the forefront of her mind.
In her award-winning SDSU Student Symposium (S3) presentation: “The Feminine Presence: Gender Discourse in the United Farm Workers’ Newspaper,” Solsbak looked at the public presentation of gender perpetuated by the UFW in the 1960s and 70s.

“I think the greatest takeaway of this research was to see how the union’s priorities changed over time and how it affected the way gender was represented,” Solsbak said. “What people don’t know about the union is that their priorities shifted away from grassroots organizing among farm worker communities, and more toward getting mostly white supporters in urban and suburban areas to support the boycott efforts.”

That shift in UFW priorities, translated to the language and messaging in the union newspaper El Malcriado, which was the specific area of focus for this project.

Solsbak said, “We have to look at how certain people were marginalized in the union, so that we don’t repeat those same power imbalances in future movements. And so it’s a complicated legacy that as a society we haven’t been quite willing to unpack.”

To gather research on the subject, Solsbak used a grant to travel to the UFW’s main archive library in Detroit, Michigan in spring 2022. “I had never had an in-depth, archival experience like that. So it was a great growing opportunity,” she said. In fall 2022, her second research trip took her to the Yale University archives, where she completed her research. She did much of her research on El Malcriado in the digitized collection, but going to the archives offered a valuable physical perspective of the newspaper.

David Cline, history professor, and mentor to Solsbak said, “There’s nothing, and I say this as a historian, that replaces that actual experience of being in the archive. We can and we try to replicate it electronically and access things digitally, but getting to go and get your hands on the documents is priceless.”

Cline said of Solsbak, “She has this stack of awards already — the Graduate Equity Fellowship, Completion of Research Fellowship, Lionel Ridout Memorial Scholarship, Graduate Student Travel Fund, and Richard Reutten Memorial Scholarship.” All these awards have given Solsbak access and opportunities to complete her research.

The S3 gave Solsbak an opportunity to publicly share her research for the first time. “I was really really emboldened by the amount of engagement I got from jurors’ and audience questions,” she said. “It was ultimately a very validating experience, knowing that people are interested in this research, it holds some amount of weight, and that’s a really good sign.”

About the symposium, Cline said, “It is an influential and key experience — a training ground and platform. It’s a place for our students to show off their chops, and for Kayla as a graduate student, but especially for the undergraduates, having a chance to operate within a conference environment is wonderful preparation for them as they go forward in their careers — because they’ll be doing a lot of conferences. It’s a nice first step and it’s judged at a very high level.”
Involving undergraduates in research and creative inquiry is essential to our work here at SDSU.

Why? Because classroom learning is only one part of what college is all about. Research shows that one-on-one relationships — student/teacher collaborations — is key to optimizing a student’s SDSU experience.

WATCH VIDEO>> Learn about undergraduate research at CAL.
VISIT THE WEBSITE>> CAL.SDSU.edu/research/uroc
Students Participate in Foreign Affairs Competition in Washington, D.C.

Students from the Department of European Studies were among 30 collegiate teams from across the U.S. that participated in the 2023 Schuman Challenge on March 30-31.

Teams of three to four undergraduate students are invited to the competition to respond to a topic impacting transatlantic relations and present before a panel of judges.

The SDSU team featured students Ilias Benbatoul, Marek Fialkiewicz, and Hadil Salih along with faculty mentors Kristin Rebien and Kylie Sago. The students entered the competition with a proposal to establish an EU-U.S. Committee on Indigenous Land Stewardship. The committee would amplify the voices of Indigenous peoples in Northern Europe and the U.S. by including their expertise in biodiversity protection. Their proposal grew from a class project for EUROP-301, Contemporary Europe.

The team presented their proposal to three judges, including a high-ranking official of the EU Delegation to the U.S., a member of the European Parliament, and a diplomat at the U.S. embassy in Finland. The judges praised their presentation for filling a gap in current transatlantic cooperation, foregrounding fundamental human needs, and clarity of their production.
Inaugural Awards for Outstanding Scholarship, Creativity, and Impact

Humanities professors Jessica Pressman and Esme Murdock selected among nine individuals across colleges and disciplines for scholarship, creative activities, innovation, and public impact.

San Diego State University’s Division of Research and Innovation introduced a new suite of awards to recognize exceptional faculty efforts, honored annually with the Senate Excellence in Teaching Award, and research renown, rewarded by the Albert W. Johnson University Research Lectureship.

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Ronnee Schreiber and Esme Murdock.

Jessica Pressman and Mark Reed.
CAL Faculty go to Washington, D.C. to Advocate for Humanities at National Humanities Alliance Meeting

By Kristal Bivona and Kishauna Soljour

The National Humanities Alliance (NHA) is a coalition of organizations that advocates for funding and support for the humanities in the United States. Each year, the NHA holds an annual meeting to discuss current issues and trends in the field of humanities and to strategize about ways to advocate for the humanities at the national level. The NHA Annual Meeting took place in Washington D.C. this March. With support from the College of Arts and Letters Dean’s Office, Kishauna Soljour and Kristal Bivona attended the meeting and participated in Humanities Advocacy Day activities on Capitol Hill.

During the NHA meeting, we learned about the state of the humanities in the country and the overwhelming trend toward introducing legislation at the state level that threatens the academic freedom of students and faculty in both K-12 and higher education. The keynote, “Engaging Divisive Concepts Legislation at the Local and State Level,” focused on preparing humanities advocates for fielding questions about the role of the humanities in a polarized political atmosphere and how to best manage interactions with lawmakers and staff who might be dismissive about its importance to the nation.

We were disheartened to learn that 43 states are considering bills that aim to control how instructors and students discuss racism, sexism, and issues of systemic inequality in class. Additionally, several states have proposed bills that would facilitate the banning of books from school libraries and curricula while others are considering legislation that is hostile towards transgender students. The speakers, Frederick Lawrence, Jessie Brown, Janel George, and Trinidad González, offered practical advice on how advocates could get involved in efforts to oppose legislation.

The topics of breakout sessions during the NHA meeting ranged from how to advocate for humanities funding to expanding access and bolstering inclusion in the humanities. We were given information about the concrete requests we would be making on Capitol Hill regarding funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities, Fulbright-Hayes, the National Archives, and Title VI, which funds world language education and area studies.

We also learned about strategies for promoting the humanities and pursuing funding for our projects at our universities. By attending these sessions, we were able to get a more in-depth understanding of more specific topics within humanities advocacy.

Finally, we met with our state delegations. The California delegation included faculty,
administration, and government liaisons from UC San Diego, UC Riverside, UC Irvine, San José State University, and San Diego State University.

Throughout the day, we visited the offices of Senator Alex Padilla, Senator Diane Feinstein, Representative Sara Jacobs and Representative Scott Peters. The highlight of these meetings was acknowledging the hard work of faculty and the high impact of federal humanities funding at SDSU.

The NHA prepared one-sheets on each lawmaker with whom we had meetings so we could see a summary of their past support for the humanities and their track records for signing “Dear Colleague” letters to fund the programs for which we were advocating. By the end of the day, we had acquired a new understanding of the urgency of our advocacy work and were prepared to go to the Hill to meet with lawmakers.

➤ In San Diego, during National Humanities Advocacy Day, CAL celebrated with a full schedule of talks in the Finch Conference room where Gregory A. Daddis, Joseph Stramondo, Kathi Diamant, Lashon Daley, April Anson, and Alvin Henry presented their research.
A grand opening for the wide-ranging Africana Studies Collection research space in the University Library took place on April 27.

By Aaron Burgin

With expanded library resources for Africana Studies scholars and a new fellowship program to promote research, San Diego State University is making strides in its commitment to the study of African history and culture.

Taharka Adé, an assistant professor in Africana Studies, is the newly named faculty fellow in the University Library. His appointment is part of the yearslong effort to create a space in Love Library for students, faculty and scholars to access an expanded Africana Studies Collection.

In his new position, created by former College of Arts and Letters (CAL) Dean Monica Casper, Adé will join Gloria Rhodes, outreach and diversity initiatives librarian, and an advisory committee. Together, they will work to bolster the library’s Africana Studies collection and to create a new space designed to support individual and group study, discovery of Africana Studies resources, and the provision of public programming.

“By launching this new library fellowship program with Taharka Adé, CAL supports the library and the Department of Africana Studies — and ultimately the many students whose future research on topics of race, culture and diversity will be strengthened with new library resources,” said CAL Interim Dean Ronnee Schreiber.

Library Dean Scott Walter lauded Rhodes for her years of dedication and contributions.

CONT. NEXT PAGE>>
as an original member of the working group responsible for establishing the physical space to house the collection. Her work, and the work of many others within the library and partners on campus, have contributed to the expansion of the collection and the creation of the new space.

Building on a Decades-long Library Effort

The CAL Library Faculty Fellowship program was created to promote deeper engagement between CAL faculty and Library faculty in areas of shared strategic interest, including Digital Humanities, Comics Studies, Sustainability and Ethnic Studies, Walter said.

“Professor Adé has made important contributions to the design of our Africana Studies Collection initiative this year and continued support for his involvement over the next year will ensure that its implementation is equally well-informed by the broader vision for Africana Studies and support for African American faculty, students and communities at SDSU,” Walter said.

“Working together on issues of shared strategic interest, CAL and the Library will be able to design and deliver distinctive library services and collections that allow us to play a leadership role in these areas across the CSU and as part of the broader research library community,” Walter also said.

The furniture housed in the physical library space contains Adinkra symbols that represent concepts from West Africa and uses colors from African flags or symbolize African royalty. The study rooms were repainted with accent walls in colors highlighting the African diaspora. Artwork from the University Archives featuring Black leaders from San Diego and beyond will adorn the walls.

The project team credited Maureen Dotson, project facilities coordinator and a 35-year employee of the university, with the layout, furniture choices, colors and curation of the photos and frames that will hang from the walls.

“She is frankly the glue keeping our library buildings together,” said Melisa Farnsworth, the library facilities project specialist.

Adé, who joined the SDSU faculty in 2021, said that so far the partnership between CAL and the library has yielded 300 additional books for physical space in the library, with hundreds more titles on the way in advance of the April 27 opening.

Adé will work closely with an advisory committee of faculty to develop plans further for the physical space and for the collection that will be housed there.

“I plan to introduce to the collection the best scholarship in the field relating to a host of subjects throughout the African diaspora,” Adé said.

“Right now my short-term focus is to assist in developing this space so that, upon opening, faculty and students of African descent will recognize the Africana Studies Collection as a sacred space of cultural memory that further opens the mind to cultural possibility,” Adé said.

“For the long term, I am in the initial stages of developing events, such as book clubs, a film series and a research symposium, that will engage the campus community in Africana history and culture.”

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The National Endowment for the Humanities announced $35.63 million in support of 258 humanities projects from scholars across the nation through its first Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education grant program — part of a new initiative called, “American Tapestry: Weaving Together Past, Present, and Future.”

Sureshi Jayawardene Receives First NEH Grant

San Diego State University’s Sureshi Jayawardene, associate professor in Africana Studies was one of 19 recipients based in California. The Summer Stipend award is the first NEH grant for Jayawardene.

“This summer I will be working on completing two chapters in my book, ‘We are Ceylon Africans!: Africana Culture, Politics, and Identity in Sri Lanka,’ the first book-length mixed-method study about the contemporary epistemologies of Ceylon Africans — generations-long African-descended people in Sri Lanka.

This book is the first by an Africana Studies scholar to examine the global circuits of racialization and militarism in relation to enslaved Africans in South Asia.

Jayawardene will conduct archival research at the National Archives in Colombo, Sri Lanka in July and August. “I’m most looking forward to being in Sri Lanka and connecting with Ceylon Africans as I visit the archives,” Jayawardene said.
Hisham Foad, an associate professor and chair of the Department of Economics at San Diego State University, has been awarded the Hansen Chair. The position goes to outstanding scholars whose research and teaching focus on peace and nonviolence.

Foad is committed to expanding interdisciplinary collaborations between economics and other departments, serving as a core faculty member of the Center for Islamic and Arabic Studies, on the advisory board of the Behner Stiefel Center for Brazilian Studies, and the University Senate.

Foad plans to develop a seminar series on the intersections between climate change, migration, and peace that will bring internationally renowned researchers to SDSU. Additionally, he will connect the seminar series with a CAL experience course tentatively titled “Climate Change, Migration, and Peace.”

“I propose to leverage SDSU’s unique position to work with refugee organizations in San Diego as well as student groups on campus connected to migrant communities, climate change, and peace,” Foad stated. “Helping to establish connections between community groups, researchers, and students is a key role that I envision the Hansen chair playing.”

To foster a community of scholars working on world peace, Foad intends to invite researchers from SDSU and the greater San Diego transborder region to become “Hansen Peace Affiliates.” With these scholars, he plans to organize a working paper series as well as a monthly brown bag seminar so that members can share their research with an interdisciplinary community of scholars.

The selection committee believes that Foad’s contributions and accomplishments as a researcher and teacher-scholar have the potential to make significant national and international impact. College of Arts and Letters Interim Dean Ronnee Schreiber said, “Dr. Foad’s selection provides an opportunity to expand the meaning and understanding of peace studies and continue to build SDSU as a leader in this area.”

Foad received his B.A. degree from Kenyon College and his M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from Emory University. His research focuses on the interactions between the movements of capital, goods, and people across national borders. Foad’s current research projects include an examination of the impact of migration on trade, the effects of living in an ethnic enclave on a migrant’s income and education, and a comparison of the international equity portfolio allocations of migrants and natives.
CAL Excellence in Research, Service, and Teaching Awards | 2022-23

Excellence in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities

Award for Tenured Faculty
● Roy Whitaker, Department for the Study of Religion

Award for Tenured-Track Faculty
● Yuki Arita, Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages

Excellence in Service Award

● Clare Colquitt, Department of English and Comparative Literature
● Lashon Daley, Department of English and Comparative Literature

Excellence in Teaching

Award for Tenured or Tenure-Track Faculty
● Stephen Goggin, Department of Political Science

Award for Lecturer
● Ghassan Zakaria, Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages

READ MORE>> [CAL Excellence Awards / Faculty Bios]
Social Determinants of Health Reflected in Geographical Analysis of COVID-19 Data

Changing disease dynamics in San Diego County, statewide, and in six U.S. cities over the course of the pandemic reveals need for adaptable policies.

March 11 marked three years since the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic. As the virus spread, a pattern emerged: communities with a lower socioeconomic status tended to be disproportionately impacted.

“COVID is not just a medical outbreak, it is actually a health disparity problem,” said geographer Ming-Hsiang Tsou, director of the San Diego State University Center for Human Dynamics in the Mobile Age. “Before, we knew there was a disparity, but COVID exaggerated the disparity patterns. It actually helped us reveal how vulnerable our communities are.”

For example, San Diego’s South Bay area has a high poverty rate and its residents experience inequitable access to health care. It was a COVID-19 hot spot throughout the pandemic, in part because it is home to many essential workers who provide for entire families.

“They are not like other, high-income people that can work from home,” said Tsou. “They don’t have a choice.”

To better understand social determinants of health during the pandemic, Tsou formed an interdisciplinary team including geography graduate students and social work, statistics and sociology faculty. The researchers conducted three case studies analyzing the spatial dynamics of the disease and how they changed during five phases from April 2020 through March 2021. The first compared COVID-19 infection rates by ZIP code across San Diego County. The second extended the analysis to six large cities across the country. The third compared San Diego County data to that of other California counties.

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Think Globally – Act Locally: The U.N. Sustainable Development Goals at SDSU

Library exhibit shows how students, staff, researchers, and faculty at SDSU are supporting these efforts.

By Rebecca Williamson

“SDSU Inspires Action: U.N. Sustainable Development Goals on Display” is an exhibit exploring the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and how students, staff, researchers, and faculty at San Diego State University support these efforts.

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), an urgent call for action by developed and developing countries. These sweeping goals include eliminating poverty and hunger, increasing education and health, and ensuring that no one is left behind as we build a more just, equitable, and sustainable world.

The “SDSU Inspires Action: U.N. Sustainable Development Goals on Display” exhibit highlights both the global reach of these goals and selected research and projects that SDSU students, staff, and faculty have completed to bring them closer to fruition.

Metabolism of Cities Living Lab — SDSU 4 SDGs “Leave No One Behind” Exhibition

The exhibition covers four walls of the library’s Donor Hall and includes a sustainability timeline, the 17 goals, the work of the Metabolism of Cities Living Lab under The Center for Human Dynamics in the Mobile Age (HDMA), and a responsive art mural created by SDSU faculty and students.

Using art, statistics, research, and photography, this exhibit explores the subtle and profound impact of the U.N. SDGs experienced by underserved communities. By sharing stories of underserved communities in the Southern California and Baja California regions, the exhibit opens up a larger discussion about those who are affected along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The exhibition was spearheaded and designed by adjunct faculty member Gabriela Fernandez, director of the Metabolism of Cities Living Lab in the Department of Geography, with support from the College of Arts and Letters (CAL), HDMA, and the library, especially library graphic designer Dania Mukahhal.

Former CAL Dean Monica J. Casper wrote, “We could not be more excited to support this innovative, interdisciplinary collaboration. As a scholar who has written on the Millennium Development Goals – which preceded the SDGs – I know how important such international benchmarks are to human (and nonhuman) flourishing.”

“I want to educate the SDSU community about the importance of the U.N. SDGs and the impact that one person can have on another,” Fernandez said. “I want to encourage young people to be future leaders, and advocates for their own communities, and stand up for what they believe in while considering the different perspectives/differences, and needs of people from all around the world.”

READ MORE>> SDSU NewsCenter
Mikhail Alexseev, the Bruce E. Porteous Professor of political science, understands the issues in Ukraine. Alexseev was born in Kyiv, Ukraine and moved to the U.S. in 1991. He has taught political science courses at SDSU for the past 23 years.

Alexseev has published in premier academic presses and journals on threat assessment in interstate and internal wars, ethnic relations, nationalism, and immigration in Russia/Eurasia.

Since 2015, he has conducted survey and focus group research into sociopolitical effects of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, with a special focus on how war exposure affects democracy support there.

Awarded an NSF grant for a research project, Alexseev and co-PIs, Henry E. Hale, from The George Washington University (GWU) and Serhii Dembtskyi, from Ukraine National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Sociology will conduct three waves of surveys of individuals in Ukraine who were previously interviewed in 2021/22 about war, society, and democracy to compare pre-war attitudes with those after the war onset and at different war stages.

“Ukrainian sociologists have learned how to conduct surveys under war conditions. This grant will build on that expertise, so we have confidence in generating valuable data. If the war ends and the security situation improves, we will be able to hold an academic conference presenting key findings at the Ukraine National Academy of Sciences,” Alexseev said.

Researchers seek to answer these questions: Can Ukraine survive the Russian aggression not only as a nation, but as a democracy? In what ways could support for democracy change as the war unfolds? What could sustain democratic resilience through losses, stress, uncertainty, deprivation?

The project will not only generate systematic data on social conditions and attitudes in Ukraine as the war unfolds, providing an in-depth before-after assessment of war effects on society, but it will also open opportunities to improve our knowledge on the social foundations of political systems and their evolution.

With Alexseev’s scholarly work and deep knowledge of Russia and Ukraine, along with membership in the Program on New Approaches to Russian Security (PONARS) - Eurasia, based in Washington, D.C., and collaborative work with the Ukraine National Academy of Sciences, this NSF-funded project will provide a broad impact by contributing to public knowledge, public policy dialogue, and higher education.
Summer of Research: How SURP Energizes Students and Prepares Them for Success

By Emily Tablak

SDSU’s Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) provides students with the opportunity to further engage in undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activities.

Students are supported by SDSU’s finest mentors to ensure they stay on the right track and are guided through the process. SURP is open to all majors and allows a diverse body of students to deeply explore their passions and interests while also providing a great aid for undergraduates discovering new possible career paths.

Students not only interact with and watch those who have been in the field for awhile, they also participate directly in field work. Students are given hands-on projects by mentors and organizations who assist them along the way.

Four Examples of SURP-Funded Projects Awarded to CAL Faculty

“Navigating the Path: Understanding the Social and Identity Factors that Shape Undergraduate Career Decisions”

Daniel Davis, Department of Sociology

PROJECT SUMMARY

This project explores the many sources of influence that contribute to undergraduate career decision-making. At the most basic level, to pick a career path, students must both know about the career and determine that it is desirable for them to pursue. A non-exhaustive list of social contextual influences include family, friends, mentors, teachers, course work, campus organizations, and media exposure.

CONT. NEXT PAGE>
A non-exhaustive list of identity factors include race, gender, class background, age, college major, religious identity, political identity, self-efficacy, and first-generation status. A non-exhaustive list of work features include pay, autonomy, work activities, work environment, and past work-experiences (e.g., internships, college jobs).

**KEY TAKEAWYS FOR STUDENTS**

The goal of the project is to determine which of the many factors listed above show the most robust influence on influencing students’ career choices and why. Also, we will examine variation across groups of students based on major and demographics. The significance of this project is to increase our understanding of how students sort between the many messages they receive about potential career paths to craft their own preferences.

Implications will be of interest to scholars of higher education, occupations and work, and vocational preparation professionals across disciplines. Career center professionals will find this study particularly useful in developing more targeted programming to support student career choice formation. The student researchers will get hands-on experience with sociology research and a project presentation of their own, in addition to support in applying to graduate school.

“I am eager to find out which emotions characterize various sub-groups of students’ job searches, as well as which variables influence their career pathways,” Davis said.

**“Remote-controlled Boat for Mapping Water Quality in the Tijuana Estuary”**

Trent Biggs,
Department of Geography

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

The Tijuana Estuary experiences frequent sewage spills and high sediment loads from the Tijuana River, but maps of the plumes under different ocean conditions are not well documented. Water quality also varies between the main channel and the tidal tributaries; an existing sonde (an environmental monitoring tool) is continuously recording data at the “Boca Rio” site, but no data has been collected in the main channel to the south.

The objectives of the project are to design and test a remote-controlled (RC) boat system to map water quality in the Tijuana Estuary; compare water quality mapped from the sonde with water quality mapped using satellite imagery (Landsat with 30 meter resolution and Sentinel with 10 meter resolution); and quantify spatial patterns in turbidity, chlorophyll and tryptophan in non-sewage and sewage release events (pending site conditions).

Sewage releases into the estuary from the Tijuana River occur relatively frequently during summer months, but sampling will be opportunistic; useful data can be gathered regardless of sewage vs non-sewage conditions.
KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR STUDENTS

Students will learn about remote controlled sensor systems, including telemetry;
water quality sensors, including their maintenance and calibration;
water quality data gathering and analysis in the statistical software R; use Google Earth Engine to calculate turbidity from satellite imagery; engage in statistical analysis to compare satellite imagery-derived turbidity with in situ monitoring; and learn leadership skills.

A total of three students will be working on the project: one M.S. and two undergraduates.

One graduate student who has worked with PI Biggs on a related project, will help train and mentor a student in sonde operation and data analysis. Biggs said he is most looking forward to “mapping water quality where no data exist.”

“The Socioeconomic Effects of Migrant Age of Arrival in the United States”

Hisham Foad,
Department of Economics

PROJECT SUMMARY

Immigrants have traditionally been classified as 1st generation (born abroad) or 2nd generation (native born to immigrant parents). However, these classifications are likely too coarse and miss critical differences within these immigrant generations. For the 1st generation, age of arrival has been shown to have significant effects on socioeconomic outcomes later in life. In particular, teenage arrivals have been found to have significantly worse outcomes than those who migrated at younger ages. I explore explanations for this in two papers that consider the role of language acquisition and social integration as measured by intermarriage rates. For the 2nd generation, children with two migrant parents may have different outcomes than those with one migrant and one native parent. I study this in a third paper that also considers how the gender of the migrant parent in intermarriages can have significant effects on outcomes due to both parental involvement and access to migrant/native networks. The results from these studies have important implications related to how policy resources should be targeted for migrant integration.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR STUDENTS

Students will learn that we need to be careful not to think of migrants as a monolithic group. Rather there are many differences, even among migrants from the same origin country that influence the degree of success migrants may experience in the destination.

Students will learn that identifying the key impediments to migrant integration allows us to better focus policy. For example, if language acquisition is only a major problem for teenage arrivals, then we should focus ESL resources in high schools rather than at all grade levels.

Foad said, “I am looking forward to working with students on data collection and estimation, but mostly on discussing various explanations for the results we find. I really value the insights that our students have as they bring different perspectives to issues I’ve been thinking about for years.”

Students are supported by SDSU’s finest mentors to ensure they stay on the right track and are guided through the process.
Emerita Professor Ann Johns Establishes Two New Endowed Scholarships in CAL

Scholarships will support students in the Departments of Rhetoric and Writing Studies and Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages.

It was in 1973 when Ann Johns first arrived on the mesa to begin her storied career at San Diego State University. She was a young, energetic, and committed instructor, fresh from her Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) master’s program at The American University in Cairo.

That same year, Johns founded the American Language Institute (ALI) and directed it until 1981. She also began teaching composition to diverse students as a lecturer in the English department, all while working on her Ph.D. at the University of Southern California.

In the early 1990s, Johns co-founded SDSU’s Department of Rhetoric and Writing Studies; and, with a dual appointment, she was instrumental in creating the applied specialization in the Department of Linguistics. She also founded and co-directed several other programs at SDSU, including the Center for Teaching and Learning, Freshman Success Program, and Writing-Across-the-Curriculum Program. She spent four years as assistant dean in the College of Arts and Letters (1993-1997).

Johns has presented her work and consulted in more than 30 countries while, at the same time, publishing eight books and more than 150 articles and book chapters.

“Dr. Johns, one of the ‘Founding Mothers’ of rhetoric and writing studies, is an internationally known teacher-scholar specializing in literacies, genre, and English for Specific Purposes,” said Glen McClish, chair of the Department of Rhetoric and Writing Studies.

“She has left an indelible mark on the hundreds of students she taught and mentored in applied linguistics courses over her long career,” said Betty Samraj, professor and former chair of the Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages. “What I think is

“Dr. Johns, one of the ‘Founding Mothers’ of rhetoric and writing studies, is an internationally known teacher-scholar specializing in literacies, genre, and English for Specific Purposes.”
especially admirable about Ann is the belief and confidence she has in her students’ potential and her backing this confidence by making available resources, which no doubt have changed the trajectory of these students’ lives.”

Although Johns officially retired in 2002, she continues to work at SDSU. She currently teaches an undergraduate course for first-year students called Preparing Yourself for Academia and Beyond (General Studies-150). Her 21 students may not know how lucky they are to have an SDSU legacy as their guide.

As she reviewed her career at SDSU, Johns said, “It has been a delight. I’ve worked with many accomplished department chairs and colleagues. I believe being a faculty member at a university is the most wonderful thing you can do in your life.”

The establishment of the Ann M. Johns Scholarship for Rhetoric and Writing Studies illustrates McClish’s claim that her “commitment to students, particularly those who face linguistic, economic, and cultural challenges as they transition to college, is legendary.”

“This generous endowment from Ann will continue her impact on student lives and facilitate student success,” said Samraj of the new Ann M. Johns Scholarship in Linguistics.
Political Science Alumnus is Successful Restaurateur
Scott Slater recently opened a new six-concept food hall in Pacific Beach

By Leslie L.J. Reilly

After graduating from SDSU College of Arts and Letters with a degree in political science, Scott Slater (’05) found his calling as an entrepreneur/restaurateur.

His first foray into the food business began in 2005 with a hot dog concession stand based outside of 36 Home Depot locations in the Bay Area, with outposts in New York, Phoenix, Orange County, and Los Angeles. His first business partner, Fletcher Wimbush, was a fraternity brother from Phi Kappa Psi.

After honing his restaurant chops on hot dogs, he switched to hamburgers and a variety of projects over the years to include his namesake restaurant Slater’s 50/50 (a concept he developed while still a student at SDSU). The “50/50” is a hamburger consisting of 50% beef and 50% bacon. The idea was conceived during an SDSU tailgater, when he barbecued a “burger” for friends made completely of bacon. Once he was ready to take it to the public, Slater said, “I had plans to do full bacon burgers at Slater’s, until later we tested them out and everything caught on fire,” so beef was added to the recipe — and his award-winning burger brand was born.
After selling Slater’s 50/50, he began exploring other restaurant concepts. Early this year, he opened a new food hall called Mission+Garnet housed in the iconic former Denny’s restaurant space in Pacific Beach. With six branded restaurants — it’s a one-stop meeting place for hungry locals and visitors headed to the beach, with comfortable outdoor seating, and late-night hours. “We are happy to be stewards of the iconic corner in Pacific Beach which housed the Denny’s restaurant dating back to the ‘60s,” he said. “I remember going to Denny’s as a student.”

Slater tapped into relationships built while attending classes at SDSU. His first business partner, first chef, and attorney are all frat brothers. “It all comes back to the group that you meet in college,” he said. “The reason I moved back to San Diego from Orange County was because I am an Aztec and it’s the city I fell in love with.”

Slater said he likes creating and opening restaurants. “I like hosting and I like seeing people coming in here and enjoying themselves — it gets me going,” he said. “So the more I can make people happy, it makes me happy.”

“Taking advantage of social programs at SDSU no doubt shaped the direction of my career path,” Slater said. He still leans on people that he met through his years on campus.

With such a large alumni network, Slater likens it to three degrees of separation, not the usual six, when he says, “You can go anywhere in San Diego and within a group of three, inevitably there will be another Aztec in the room.”

WATCH VIDEO>> Behind-The-Scenes Tour of Mission+Grand with Scott Slater

New Mission+Garnet food hall in Pacific Beach. Photo courtesy Scott Slater.
A CAL Love Story:
Overfilled Classrooms, Whipped Cream, and Fortuitous Consequences

Alumni Marcia Kern and Marty Stern recount how they began their lifetime together on campus more than 50 years ago

By Leslie L.J. Reilly

It’s a San Diego State love story that begins with a whipped cream pie antic, makes a crucial plot twist with an apology — and concludes with a lasting impact on two students and the university itself.

In 1969, Marty Stern was a brash sophomore studying political science and comparative literature with a penchant for challenging his professors. Marcia Kern was a studious second-year English student minoring in sociology.

As they recount the story, English professor Karl Keller had asked Stern to help him find a creative way to show students that crashing a class was discouraged. On that fateful day, though, Stern’s planned dramatic ruse went awry when he decided the best way to get everyone’s attention was with a whipped cream pie prank. After realizing the action was a bit overzealous and because of the angry reaction from Keller, Stern was mortified.

Later that day, Stern ran into Kern and asked for her help in making amends. Kern had no problem with the assignment since she was very close to Keller, her advisor.

Stern’s mea culpa delivered to the professor through Kern worked. He was not reprimanded and his future was about to change.

The professor saw something in both Kern and Stern after working with both on a variety of projects. Kern said, “For nearly two months he would ask me: ‘If Marty asked you out on a date, would you say yes?’”

And, later the professor posed similar questions to Stern about Kern.

It was in the University Library that Stern finally asked Kern on a date. She said “yes” and the rest is history. A year and a half later, they were married at a local synagogue while they were still students.
During their time at what was then San Diego State College, Kern and Stern each worked two or three jobs each semester to support themselves. Kern remembers there was a scholarship director who often informed her about scholarships. She applied each semester and received those scholarships which helped her stay on track to graduate.

“I always said to myself: ‘if I ever get to a point where I can give back, I’m going to do it.’ I was always so grateful for the scholarships I received,” Kern said.

Kern and Stern have made a planned gift to the College of Arts and Letters in hopes that students who need financial assistance will be supported and encouraged to complete their degree programs.

After graduation, their career trajectories took them to Northern California (Kern as a teacher and Stern as a law student at USF) and then back to San Diego where they settled down, had a child, and continued their careers in teaching and law. They are now both happily retired and proud grandparents to their first grandchild.

At their wedding in June 1972, right about the time the college was upgraded to state university, Keller proudly said, “I did this!” Kern recalled. The wedding gift from Keller was a porcelain pie plate, a pie server, two packages of crust, two packages of pie filler, and an empty can of whipped cream.

“We still use the pie server, it’s a treasure to us,” said Kern. ”If it wasn’t for Keller, this never would have happened.”
Life Lessons Learned Through a Language Minor Help Carve New Pathways for Chemistry Alumnus

By Andrea Snider

He initially took Chinese 101 with the simple goal of communicating better with his girlfriend and her family.

Alumnus Brandon Bouchett, who graduated in 2022 with a B.A. in chemistry and a minor in Chinese, demonstrates how something as simple as taking a language course can have remarkable and lasting results.

As he went through the introduction class, he “became mesmerized by the culture and history behind the language.” He credits his professor, Ruey-Jiotic Regina Wu, with facilitating a classroom environment that was entertaining and enjoyable yet still pushed students to become more confident speakers. His positive experience and piqued interest led him to pursue more Chinese classes, inevitably allowing him to establish a minor in Chinese.

“He quickly established himself as an intelligent young man,” Wu said. “Not only did Brandon’s work demonstrate his keen analytic skills and critical thinking ability, but the knowledge and sensitivity he acquired about communication styles in general, and among Chinese people particularly, I believe, will also serve him well as he pursues a career in dentistry.”

Bouchett was accepted to Columbia, Harvard, UCLA, and Penn, and chose to continue his education at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. In a thank-you letter to Professor Wu, he credits his unexpected path through the Chinese minor with teaching him invaluable lessons outside of just learning a language – lessons he will carry throughout the rest of his life.

“Since I planned to pursue dentistry after

Ruey-Jiotic Regina Wu.
Bouchett visited Japan during his time at SDSU.

my undergraduate degree, I figured that Chinese would just be something I was passionate about. I have since realized that I have learned so many lessons that have become imperative throughout my pursuit of becoming a dentist.”

He believes his choice to pursue a minor in a different language allows him to succeed in a challenging academic environment, as it pushed him to develop proficient study habits and a strong memory.

“Learning Chinese made me a more well-rounded and culturally aware individual which has opened my eyes to so many opportunities in life. Pursuing Chinese at SDSU has easily become one of the best experiences I had while completing my undergraduate studies. I would recommend to any student who is considering learning Chinese, to pursue it with an open mind and enjoy the journey. I truly hope you enjoy it as much as I have.” Bouchett said.
Department of Linguistics & Asian/Middle Eastern Languages, SDSU alumnus Drew S. Fagan (’05 M.A.) received the 2023 Teacher of the Year Award presented by the TESOL International Association and National Geographic Learning.

Prior to receiving an Ed.D. in TESOL from Teachers College, Columbia University, Fagan earned his M.A. in applied linguistics at SDSU, where he wrote a thesis under Professor Emerita Ann Johns.

Fagan is an associate clinical professor at the University of Maryland, College Park, where he teaches applied linguistics and language education. He also coordinates the TESOL Program at the university and serves as associate director of the Multilingual Research Center.

He worked as a teacher, trainer, and educational researcher in Tokyo, Japan, Madrid, Spain, Baja California, Mexico, and Wuhan China before becoming the first English teaching assistant Fulbright Fellow to the Slovak Republic, teaching English and U.S. culture to university students and researching language teaching method changes over the country’s history.

Fagan’s research examines the influence of educators’ embodied interactions on promoting, or hindering, opportunities for English learners’ language and content learning in diverse educational contexts. His current work prepares non-ESOL teachers, specialists, school support staff, and administrators to address the language, academic, cultural, and, if applicable, exceptional needs of English learners across U.S. K–12 curricula.
Honoring a group of dedicated employees of this size isn’t a small feat, however during a recognition celebration event at the Parma Payne Goodall Center, all the milestone awardees’ names rolled on a screen and were featured in a booklet, so attendees could see their esteemed colleagues’ names and take note of their years of service.

Recognized at the event were staff and faculty who reached a five-year milestone during 2020, 2021, and 2022, or those who will reach a milestone year in 2023. The celebration included milestones in five-year increments spanning from 10 to 50 years of service.

President Adela de la Torre congratulated the groups being honored to include those from CAL, Fowler College of Business, College of Graduate Studies, and SDSU Imperial Valley. Interim Dean Ronnee Schreiber recognized the longest serving CAL staff and faculty and congratulated all those in attendance. Each employee was gifted a gold pin with a number of gems reflecting their years of service.

READ MORE>> FULL LIST OF 190 CAL Awardees
I completed a master’s degree and began working as a full-time researcher with Professor Doug Stow in 1998. This began my 25-year career as a technical analyst in CAL’s Department of Geography, with early emphasis on remote sensing which enables study of earth using satellite and aerial imagery.

Much of the funding at that time came from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which was interested in transitioning government-funded remote sensing technology into commercial applications in order to spur innovation and the U.S. economy. One NASA program funded the evaluation of remote sensing-based methods for monitoring southern California habitat reserves, and work on this program in the early 2000s started a line of research that continues today.

Everyone is familiar with imagery products from Google, Bing, and similar streaming services. Circa 2000, our research team was capturing multispectral aerial images of Mission Trails Regional Park and looking for habitat-related land cover changes, but had difficulty properly aligning images over time. This was because terrain distortions present in the aerial images couldn’t be corrected properly based on available, supporting terrain data.

The team tested a novel technique for aligning images over time, by matching the camera viewing position (through GPS-based airplane navigation and camera triggering) and aligning aerial images on a frame-by-frame basis. This is similar to aligning image frames from a fixed-mounted video camera over time, where one image in the sequence will stack on top of the next. The team found that the aerial images precisely aligned like video frames when using the technique (now referred to as repeat station imaging, or RSI).

Additional research during the following 20 years and roughly 30 publications supported the initial findings, for use cases ranging from...
habitat monitoring to border monitoring to infrastructure monitoring with drones.

PI Stow and I were encouraged by the performance and simplicity of the approach for rapid, automated, and precise alignment of aerial images for change detection, and began efforts to make a software product commercially available for others to use. Part of the process included applying for and receiving patents through the SDSU Technology Transfer Office (TTO), in anticipation that these patents would support a healthy business down the road.

Following the convergence of a range of drone, computing, GPS, and other supporting technologies, ChangeAerial LLC was developed by a team including me, Stow, and Andrew Loerch (former geography doctoral student).

ChangeAerial won funding through the SDSU TTO Pilot Innovation Fund and built software supporting flight planning, RSI image collection, automated alignment of image frames over time, as well as visual and automated change detection capabilities. The software is designed to support rapid inspection and post-hazard damage assessment of infrastructure.

ChangeAerial hasn’t yet generated revenue and has been more of a “hobby and a hypothesis” rather than a business. However, team members are receiving support from SDSU’s business incubator ZIP Launchpad to develop a viable business.

ZIP Launchpad helps SDSU students, faculty, and staff transition ideas, research, and technology into commercially available products that benefit society. It also provides several resources, including tools and work spaces for prototype development, mentorship and guidance from entrepreneurs and executives, pro bono legal guidance, access to investors, and small grants.

The ChangeAerial team thinks that the use of RSI with enterprise-grade drones and the developed software tools could revolutionize the inspection of electric utility towers and poles. Automated imaging with RSI will enable aerial inspection images from drones to be captured more frequently and at lower cost, and to be analyzed in an automated fashion to identify defects that may need repair.

While current automation approaches use machine learning algorithms that require extensive training and only function on a limited number of anticipated defects, the RSI multitemporal change detection approach requires minimal training and is expected to successfully detect a much wider range of defects needing attention. However, testing and validation is ongoing.

Beyond electric utility inspection, the RSI approach will benefit private sector and government inspection of such things as bridges, highways, dams, and wind turbines, as well as detailed construction documentation.

I currently provide geospatial support to the campus and have learned that there is interest in evaluating drones for rapid post-hazard damage assessment of SDSU facilities. This would entail collection of baseline, pre-hazard drone imagery and then automated repeat footage by the drone in the event of a disaster. RSI image collection and rapid analysis with the developed software tools is ideally suited for this application, and will be tested in the near future.
Art is one way that people can express themselves in ways words cannot. However, as a children’s book illustrator, Iris Quiroga (English and Comparative Literature coordinator) has found a way to express her stories in multimedia forms.

With colores y cariño (or color and affection), Quiroga creates bright images that express her bicultural upbringing. In a surrealist art style, Quiroga’s pieces depict logical and fantastical elements that go beyond most of our imaginations.

When it comes to the inspiration behind it all, Quiroga said, “I find it most interesting when diverse textures, colors, and materials all combine to tell stories with nuance and humor.” Her mixed mediums and collage art style represent Quiroga’s own experiences growing up as a Colombian American and the struggle to find a place where she felt she fully belonged.

Through her medium, Quiroga provides blended perspectives for children and others while simultaneously supplying a place of belonging and similarity for other biracial and multicultural people.

And, Quiroga gets to help others pursue the same field. She has had the opportunity to guest lecture for Childhood English classes where she was able to detail her process and her creative endeavors, and furthermore inspire others at San Diego State University on how they can also succeed in art careers and create their own stories themselves.
**Geography** // Graduate student **Stephany Garcia**’s thesis work on a first-of-its-kind water assessment tool was featured in a broadcast news story showing the tool in action in Imperial Beach. // CBS 8

**Anthropology** // Professor **Seth Mallios**’ research on Nathan Harrison, the first Black homesteader in San Diego, was translated into a play by **Shakur Jackson**, a senior at Hoover High School. The play ran for two days in March. // The San Diego Union-Tribune // KNSD-7

**Behner Stiefel Center for Brazilian Studies** // Assistant Director **Kristal Bivona** and other visiting scholars from Brazil discussed the attack on Brazilian democracy in a story titled, “Local Brazilians devastated, not surprised by weekend political uprising.” // KPBS

**Center for Comics Studies** // Guest speaker **Qiana Whitted** was interviewed prior to her NEH-supported lecture titled, “Captions and Corpses: How to Read an EC Comic.” // The San Diego Union-Tribune // KPBS // SDSU NewsCenter

**CHEPS** // Director **Joseph Sabia** and Assistant Director **Yang Liang** and graduate students co-authored a new JAMA research article titled “Association Between State Antibullying Policies and Suicidal Behaviors Among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Questioning Youth.” // JAMA NETWORK // Medium

**Geography and Center for Human Dynamics in the Mobile Age** // Director **Ming-Hsiang Tsou** was interviewed about his COVID-19 research. // NBC -7

**Political Science** // Bruce E. Porteous Professor **Mikhail Alexseev** was quoted in an article titled, “Russia Gains Ground in ‘Defendable Key Terrain’ South of Bakhmut: U.K.” // Newsweek

**Study of Religion** // Associate Professor **Roy Whitaker** wrote an article titled, “MLK’s vision of social justice included religious pluralism – a house of many faiths.” // The Conversation

**Women’s Studies** // Emerita Professor **Huma Ahmed-Ghosh** was inducted into the San Diego County Women’s Hall of Fame. // SDSU NewsCenter