2020 Scholarship & Awards Recipients
## Table of Contents

MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS COMMITTEE 3
MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR 4

SCHOLARSHIPS 5
Besnilian Leadership Scholarship 5
Christine H. Smith Scholarship for Nutrition, Dietetics & Food Science 7
Nancy J. & Joseph N. Owens Kappa Omicron Nu Scholarship 9
Nancy J. Joseph Owens Scholarship for Apparel Design & Merchandising 11
Pastor Herrera, Jr. Scholarship for Consumer Affairs 12
Rosalie Higler Achievement Scholarship 14
Tom Chen Scholarship for Food Science 16

AWARDS 17
Dean’s Award 17
CSUN Wolfson Scholar Award Nominee for FCS 19
Apparel Design & Merchandising 20
Consumer Affairs 22
FCS Education 23
Food Science 24
Interior Design 25
Nutrition & Dietetics 26
Kappa Omicron Nu (KON) Honors Cords 29
Outstanding Community Partners 30

IN LOVING MEMORY 34

MANY THANKS 36
Dear FCS community and friends,

First, we would like to acknowledge everyone’s persistence and ability to adapt through this uncertain time. Adapting to the current situation, we are proud to recognize the excellence of our FCS students virtually. This brochure is our way to honor the Fall 2019 Scholarship recipients, the Spring 2020 Award Recipients, and the Fall 2019/Spring 2020 graduating KON members.

Our students’ achievements are outstanding examples of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences mission of enhancing the quality of life for individuals, families and communities through education, research, creative endeavors, and public service.

Congratulations to all of our Scholarship and Awards Recipients!

Scholarship and Awards Committee
Rosalia Garcia-Torres
Tracie Tung
Hessam Ghamari
Dear FCS Students and friends,

First, I would like to acknowledge how very proud I am of all of our students and their achievements.

I would also like to thank those of you who have made the generous donations and contributions. It is because of you supportive donors, whom have generously made a commitment to supporting student success here at CSUN and beyond, that we are able to celebrate our students’ achievements.

I admire the hard work, commitment, and creativity derived from the vast diversity of the academic and professional experience of the students and organization presented here. During this most trying of times, our mission of enhancing the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities has become more important than ever. You, and many more who are not mentioned on this brochure, are dedicated to supporting this mission and make FCS one of the finest.

So, on behalf of all the faculty and staff in the department, I offer my congratulations to our 2019-2020 Scholarships and Awards recipients!

Best wishes,

Yi Cai
Department Chair, Yi ‘Tom’ Cai
Department of Family & Consumer Sciences
Fall 2019 Scholarship Recipients

Besnilian Leadership Scholarship

CSUN has been a second home to Annette Besnilian and her family for over 27 years. She first earned her bachelor’s degree in 1994 and then completed her doctorate in Educational Leadership at CSUN in 2013. She is currently the Director of the CSUN accredited Dietetic Internship Program and a full-time faculty teaching Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Science courses to graduate students in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences since 2002. She is also Executive Director of the Marilyn Magaram Center for Food Science, Nutrition and Dietetics.

The gift proceeds for the Besnilian Leadership Scholarship will provide annual scholarship awards for undergraduate or graduate students enrolled in the Family and Consumer Sciences Department. The scholarship was established to help support students and provide leadership opportunities for those who intend to apply to local or national conferences or annual professional symposia to present their research.

Maria Torres

Undergraduate Student

Nutrition & Dietetics

Maria Torres is a second-year graduate student in the Human Nutrition Program. Her interest in childhood obesity has driven her to work on creating a curriculum for a hands-on cooking workshop series at Palmdale High School. In the near future, she hopes to expand her workshop program in order to reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity in Southern California. She is currently applying to dietetic internships in efforts to become a Registered Dietitian. As a Dietitian, Maria wishes to continue serving communities in need. When Maria isn’t combating childhood obesity she is usually reading, running, or performing Aztec dancing.
Theodore Roosevelt Mitchell
Undergraduate Student
Nutrition & Dietetics

Born and raised in South Central, Los Angeles, California, Theodore has a very diverse background. A student/researcher, Theodore has undergraduate degrees in Clinical Nutrition and Neuroscience, as well as Psychology and Wellness. His current studies focus on healing trauma at the individual, community, and public health levels.

Theodore has worked across various fields from community development and organization, to healthcare and social services. Theodore is a member of multiple community organizations including All of us or None (AOUON). AOUON a national organization focused on regaining civil rights and enhance the quality of life of systems impacted people and also West2West. West2West is an African Diaspora Centered organization focused on community development culture, education and health.

Theodore is currently a graduate student in the Human Nutrition program and is working to integrate trauma informed care and healing centered engagement with nutrition.
Fall 2019 Scholarship Recipients
Christine H. Smith Scholarship
for Nutrition, Dietetics & Food Science

The late Dr. Christine “Chris” Smith was a beloved professor in the Family and Consumer Sciences Department for almost 30 years. She was a co-advisor for the department’s Student Dietetic and Food Science Association (SDFSA) for over 20 years and served as the director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD). Chris was instrumental in guiding students into becoming registered dietitians and she remained a large part of the DPD program after her retirement. Chris and her husband, Owen ’65 (Theatre), M.A. ’67 (Drama) met at CSUN, had a fairytale romance, and both were influential members of the CSUN community. In 2013, they passed away just 81 days apart — Owen, after battling cancer, and Chris, after an accident at her home. Prior to their passing, the Smiths decided to leave a gift from their estate to CSUN, their second home. In their will, the Smiths directed funds in the form of a planned gift to five different areas at CSUN, including this endowed scholarship for a student in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences with an emphasis in Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Science.

Shelby Becker
Undergraduate Student
Nutrition & Dietetics

Shelby is a senior in Nutrition and Dietetics and an outdoor enthusiast! She loves creating new vegetarian foods during the day, and dancing in multiple styles at night. She is currently volunteering at Adventist Glendale Hospital, where she has found a great passion for caring for the elderly and Hispanic community. She hopes to one day become a Dietician, and looks forward to advising the elderly on how they can use food to improve their health.
Alexis Swanson-Coleman
Undergraduate Student
Nutrition & Dietetics

Alexis is a FCS Nutrition and Dietetics major, entering her Senior year at CSUN. Her dream career is to become a dietician, she has a deep passion to enhance the health of others holistically. She is currently a project leader for a research project funded by the MMC to enhance peer-to-peer health promotion skills in middle school children. She also holds leadership roles in nutrition, sustainability, and honors clubs on campus. She loves getting involved with the community and encouraging healthy, sustainable living. She wants to utilize her skills and passion to make this world a better place!

Alondra Valdez
Undergraduate Student
Nutrition & Dietetics

Alondra Valdez grew up in Wasco, California and graduated from Bakersfield College in Spring 2019. She transferred to California State University, Northridge in Fall 2019 and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Science. She plans to strive for a master’s degree and possibly a doctorate degree as well. She aspires to receive her certification as a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and desires to focus on working with patients with eating disorders.
Fall 2019 Scholarship Recipients
Nancy J. and Joseph N. Owens Kappa Omicron Nu Scholarship

Nancy Owens taught in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences for 36 years, specializing in apparel design and merchandising. She was highly involved at CSUN and has continued volunteering at the university since her retirement. Nancy served as the university’s chapter advisor for Kappa Omicron Nu, the leading honor society for students in the human sciences. Nancy and her husband Joe have continued to support the society by creating this scholarship for an undergraduate and/or graduate student in the department who meets the academic requirements for membership in Kappa Omicron Nu.

Emma Lindsley
Undergraduate Student
Nutrition & Dietetics

Emma is an upcoming senior in the DPD program for nutrition and Dietetics. She is a diet-technician at the Center for Discovery, where she works with eating disorders. She mentors high school students weekly through Young Life. She is the Chief Communications Officer for SDFSA. Her long-term goals are to work as a registered dietitian and open a Christian summer camp for high school students with her husband, Matt. Emma’s zeal for life has been evident since she was a young girl, as she navigated challenges with her genetic disorder called Nail Patella Syndrome. She is honored to be the recipient of this scholarship.
Chloe Hartounian
Undergraduate Student
Nutrition & Dietetics

Chloe is an FCS undergraduate in Nutrition & Dietetics. She is finishing up her second year at CSUN and anticipates graduating in Spring 2022. She plans to become a Registered Dietitian and work within her community. She is currently interning with the Marilyn Magaram Center at the Child Nutrition Internship at CSUN’s Lab School. This is her third semester interning and she plans to apply to become a Student Leader in the Fall. She also work part-time as an office Administrator at a thermography office. In her free time, she enjoys cooking and spending time with family and friends.
Fall 2019 Scholarship Recipients

Nancy J. and Joseph N. Owens Kappa Omicron Nu Scholarship
For Apparel Design & Merchandising

Nancy Owens taught in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences for 36 years, specializing in apparel design and merchandising. She was highly involved at CSUN and has continued volunteering at the university since her retirement. Nancy and her husband Joe continue to support the university through their scholarship endowments that help students achieve their academic and career goals. This scholarship provides support to a student in the Apparel Design and Merchandising program.

Tala Derakhshan
Undergraduate Student
Apparel Design & Production

Tala is an Apparel design and merchandising major, expecting to graduate in spring 2020. Her goal is to obtain a position as a fashion designer with her own line of clothing. She is thankful to her amazing and supportive instructors from whom she learned a lot. She is honored to be the recipient of this scholarship and she is sure this award will help her to reach her goals.

Sara Safabakhsh
Undergraduate Student
Apparel Design & Production

Sara is an Apparel Design and Production major graduating in 2020. She loves being at CSUN, she has a 3.90 GPA. Currently, she is working on her collection and interning for LSO Designs by Linda Stokes while working part-time. She hopes to have a career within the fashion industry and pursue knowledge every day of life.
Fall 2019 Scholarship Recipients

**Pastor Herrera, Jr. Scholarship**

*For Consumer Affairs*

Jr. Pastor Herrera, Jr. has been an adjunct professor at CSUN since 2011. He has also served on the California State License Board and held multiple positions at the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs for over 19 years. His most recent position at the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs was serving as the Director for the Consumer and Business Affairs Department. Pastor understands the importance of giving back and felt that supporting scholarships would make the greatest impact and help students with their finances as they work their way through the family and consumer sciences programs.

**Divjot Kaur**

**Graduate Student**

*Consumer Affairs*

Divjot will be graduating in Spring 2020. He has a B.S in Family and Consumer Sciences option Consumer Affairs – Business, and a double minor in Management and Marketing with distinction Cum Laude from CSUN. She was also awarded The President’s Volunteer Service Award by the Corporation for National and Community. She grew up in a tiny village in India and immigrated to the United States at young age. Besides her academic commitments, Divjot enjoys giving back to the community, accumulating over 400 service hours at local hospital, non-profit organizations, community kitchen, and Khalsa Care Foundation. She has been an intern at the US Federal Trade Commission (LA Regional Office) Divjot’s goal is to provide all consumers, regardless of their occupation, adequate education about their rights and bring awareness to avoid unsafe services.
Maria Lizardo
Graduate Student
Consumer Affairs & Family Studies

Maria is pursuing her master’s degree in Family Studies & Consumer Affairs. Aside from being a student, she has her little tribe which are her two gorgeous boys and her husband. She is currently working part time at an adolescent treatment center. She considers herself very motivated in hopes of providing her family with a bright future. After graduating in Spring 2021, her goal is to become an advocate for education. She plans to work directly with families that face challenges which prevent them from being engaged in their children’s education. She aspires to provide families with educational resources within their community to educate parents on social emotional and cognitive areas of child development, research information, and personal experience in order to support families in being mentors for their children. Her children being her biggest motivation, inspire her to be active in their educational endeavors as well as educating herself on their development in order to nurture their growth in a positive and enriching manner.
Fall 2019 Scholarship Recipients
Rosalie Hilger Achievement Scholarship

This scholarship was made possible by a generous gift from Ernest Hilger, on behalf of the Hilger Family Trust, and in honor of Ernest’s most beloved wife, Rosalie Hilger. Ernest established this scholarship to carry on Rosalie’s legacy, her caring and gentle spirit, and to benefit future generations of students, something that Rosalie was passionate about. Rosalie Hilger was an alumna of CSUN’s Family and Consumer Sciences program and served as an adjunct professor at East Los Angeles Community College and Los Angeles Mission College.

Karim Damji
Undergraduate Student
Human Nutrition—Dietetic Internship

Karim graduated from CSUN in 2018 with a BS in Nutrition and Dietetics and is currently pursuing his master’s in nutrition, Dietetics and Food Science. While completing his undergraduate, Karim worked at CSUN’s Student Recreation Center as a personal trainer and is currently a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist through the National Strength and Conditioning Association. Following graduation, Karim interned as a research assistant in various nutrition projects along the Thai-Myanmar border with Shoklo Malaria Research Unit. In his free time, he enjoys kickboxing, cooking, coffee, and spending time with family.
Maria Lizardo  
Graduate Student  
Consumer Affairs & Family Studies  

Maria is pursuing her master’s degree in Family Studies & Consumer Affairs. Aside from being a student, she has her little tribe which are her two gorgeous boys and her husband. She is currently working part time at an adolescent treatment center. She considers herself very motivated in hopes of providing her family with a bright future. After graduating in Spring 2021, her goal is to become an advocate for education. She plans to work directly with families that face challenges which prevent them from being engaged in their children’s education. She aspires to provide families with educational resources within their community to educate parents on social emotional and cognitive areas of child development, research information, and personal experience in order to support families in being mentors for their children. Her children being her biggest motivation, inspire her to be active in their educational endeavors as well as educating herself on their development in order to nurture their growth in a positive and enriching manner.
Fall 2019 Scholarship Recipients

Tom Chen Scholarship
for Nutrition, Dietetics & Food Science

Dr. Tungshan “Tom” Chen was a professor in the Family and Consumer Sciences Department and the founding director of the Marilyn Magaram Center for Food Science, Nutrition and Dietetics. Marilyn Magaram met Dr. Chen while she was a master’s student and considered him a great mentor and friend. Unfortunately, Marilyn’s life was cut short. As a tribute to her, Philip Magaram, Marilyn’s husband, and his family dedicated the Center in honor to her memory. Tom was a large influence in seeing the Center transform from concept to reality after it opened in 1991. This scholarship is awarded to a full-time student and member of the Student Dietetic and Food Science Association (SDFSA) who is actively involved in programs and services hosted by the Marilyn Magaram Center.

Laura Ann Horwitz
Undergraduate Student
Nutrition & Dietetics

Laura returned to CSUN in 2014 to pursue a career change with the goal of becoming a registered dietitian. She graduated with her BS in Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Science in December 2018 and is currently pursuing her master’s in nutrition, Dietetics and Food Science. She holds previous degrees in music, including a Master of Arts in choral conducting from CSUN. Laura participated in the Marilyn Magaram Center Internship program for two years before becoming a student leader in May 2018. She’s a member of SDFSA and served two terms on the executive board during her DPD.
Jennifer Rodzianko
Graduate Student
MS in Human Nutrition

Jennifer Rodzianko has been recognized for her work in addressing food insecurity and food waste at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) and in the greater Los Angeles area; she was selected as a Newman Civic Fellow in 2019. The Newman Civic Fellowship recognizes and supports community-committed students who are change makers and public problem solvers. As the Coordinator of the CSUN Pop-up Pantry, Jennifer developed the entire operation starting from the vision board, establishing community partners to training over 30 volunteers to deliver over 3000 pounds of produce at every event. She received a student grant from the California State University Chancellor’s Office Basic Needs Initiative to study the role of the food pantries in supporting student success. She presented a workshop at the inaugural California Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance 2020 Summit that brought together over 750 leaders from across the California State University, California Community Colleges and University of California systems to explore the efforts of advancing basic needs security in order to address student success on an individual, communal, and institutional level. Jennifer’s scholarship and career goals focus on the intersection of nutritional science, community health and environmental justice.
Jennifer White is a senior majoring in Family and Consumer Sciences - Nutrition and Dietetics at California State University, Northridge (CSUN). She is a non-traditional student, returning to college after spending seven years as her mother’s full-time caregiver. As a NIH-funded BUILD PODER Scholar, Jennifer studies the dialysis patient population to help resolve nutritional deficiencies. She has an interest in public policy and has over three years of experience working in hunger alleviation. Jennifer intends to complete a dietetic internship to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, and will then enroll in a Ph.D. program, with the longer-term goal of becoming a professor at a four-year university. She wants to help train the next generation by providing guidance, information, and scholarship rooted in scientific research. Jennifer believes that her experiences both in life and at CSUN will aid her in becoming a respected professional with the skills and knowledge to improve the health of others.
2020 CSUN Wolfson Scholar Award Nominee for FCS
College of Health and Human Development

Brian Mitchell
Undergraduate Student
Nutrition and Dietetics

Brian Mitchell is a senior, majoring in Family and Consumer Sciences with an emphasis in Nutrition and Dietetics. Because of his own personal struggle to maintain a healthy weight through his life, Brian has decided to commit his life to offering compassionate medical nutrition therapy to patients hoping to make meaningful lifestyle changes. Upon completion of a bachelor’s degree from CSUN, Brian will begin the Masters Entry Clinical Nurse program at UCLA with the ultimate goal of becoming a Nurse Practitioner with an RDN credential to aid patients in reversing symptoms of common preventable chronic diseases. With so many opportunities available to be of service, Brian is excited to continue expanding his personal and academic endeavors.
Fall 2019 FCS Award Recipients
for Apparel Design & Merchandising

Outstanding Graduate Student Award
Joohye Hwang
MS in FCS, Apparel Design & Merchandising

Joohye started her graduate program in Apparel Design & Merchandising in FCS in spring 2018. She is working on her thesis project which focuses on consumer behaviors in fast fashion stores, which she will complete by Spring 2020. Her research is funded by the CSUN thesis supporting program. In 2019, she received the CA-AFCS scholarship and presented her research paper at the International Textiles and Apparel Association (ITAA) conference in Las Vegas. Her BA is in Economics, and has six years of work experience as a merchandiser for a global company in South Korea. Her professional goal is to be a researcher and educator in higher education.

Outstanding Graduating Senior Award
Rhiannon Smith
Apparel Design & Production

Rhiannon is a graduating senior majoring in Apparel Design and Production. She is passionate about self-expression through clothing and art. Her approach to design is centered around the reconstruction of existing garments. She is inspired by all people who she interacts with that exhibit kindness, integrity, and creativity. Nature, music, and art objectives also serve as an endless source of inspiration. In her personal sphere, Rhiannon is grateful to be supported by loving parents, sisters, and friends. Outside of fashion, her interest include self-sustainability, veganism, and mindfulness. Her career goal is to become a fashion design and creator by bringing more beauty into the world through fashion that sparks inspiration, connection, and confidence in other. She aspires to positively influence the fashion industry by addressing inclusivity and environmental concerns. Rhiannon is thankful for all who have contributed to her learning experience including the professors, mentors, and peer who have offered genuine guidance and expertise.
Juana is an international student from Columbia. She is the only child raised by a single-mom and an amazing grandmother. After she graduated from high school she decided to study fashion. That is when she made the decision of coming to one of the greatest fashion cities, L.A., and started her higher education at CSUN. She has met a number of incredible people inside and outside her field. As the president of the fashion club, TREND, she has learned so much in how to be a better leader every day, how to make people interested in this field, and how to communicate with people. Her goal is to be a fashion trend forecaster in the future.
Fall 2019 FCS Award Recipients
for Consumer Affairs

Outstanding Graduate Student Award
Yola Diab

Yola Diab is an immigrant from Syria and a mother of three. She received her BA in honors psychology at CSUN and is currently completing her MS in Family & Consume Sciences with an option in Consumer Affair and Family Studies. She has volunteered in the CSUN Adolescent and Adult Adjustment Research Lab. She first authored a presentation titles, “Parental support and depressive symptoms in Asian, Latino, and Middle eastern emerging adults” at the Association for behavioral and cognitive therapies national Conference. She has also volunteered with elementary school children and older adults. She plans to completed a doctorate degree.
Outstanding Graduating Senior Award
Joanna Mejia

Joanna Mejia is a first-generation student majoring in Family and Consumer Sciences Education. With limited resources and guidance, she was motivated to further her education and attended CSUN. Though there were many times she felt incompetent and discouraged, she never gave up. The sum of all her accomplishments have been hard work, dedication, and patience. Joanna is a firm believer in helping others, especially the less fortunate. The desire to serve others is what has inspired her profession to help students. Joanna’s experience has been one of a kind as she paved her own path to success.
Fall 2019 FCS Award Recipients
for Food Science

Outstanding Graduating Senior Award
Carolyne Derison

Carolyne Derison is a senior in the Food Science program in FCS. For the past year she has been the president of the Food Science Association (FSA). Each FSA meeting promotes a learning environment focused on gaining exposure and awareness of opportunities within the field. Carolyne is personally very focused on the interwoven relationship between nutrition and product development. It is very common for her to spend hours researching and sampling new products, as well as, formulating her own ideas. This is a true passion of hers and she is eager to begin her career.

Outstanding Service Award
Laura Sandoval

Laura Sandoval is a senior at CSUN and will graduate in May 2020 with a degree focused in Food Science and Administration. She is the current Vice President of the Food Science Association (FSA). She is eager to learn about how the cannabis industry can benefit the public and how to remove the social stigma.
Outstanding Graduating Senior Award
Ariana Perez

Ariana Perez is a senior Interior Design student at CSUN and was born and raised in Los Angeles and grew up in a Mexican Household. During high school she attended her first AutoCAD drafting course and instantly became interested in Architecture. She enrolled in Santa Monica College where she discovered there were interior design courses. That is when she decided what she wanted to pursue for a future career. The Interior Design program at CSUN has helped her develop and strengthen her skills as a better designer. Classes ranging from drafting to textiles, studio classes, and material classes were challenging, but exposed her to the design process and prepared her for this profession. Through this program she was able to participate in various charettes and projects. Ariana is excited to graduate in May and be a part of a firm where she can illustrate her passion for interior design.

Outstanding Service Award
Sabrina Cosi

Sabrina Cosi was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina and moved to the United States at the age of six. Since a young age, she was creative and took an interest in art and fashion. She graduated from Santa Susana Magnet School in Simi Valley with an emphasis in Dance. Then continued her studies at Moorpark College and finished her general education. As she kept exploring the different aspects of art, she then began to notice how an environment can affect a person’s mood through different designs, which led her to pursue a career in interior design with an interest in residential and commercial projects. Sabrina has an extensive appreciation for a variety of design styles. She hopes to help others by reflecting someone else’s personality, and taste through her designs. She is currently the president of the IIDA chapter on campus, and has participated in IIDA Haunt Couture 2019. In her spare time, Sabrina enjoys spending time with family and learning about different cultures and how they can apply to interior design.
Fall 2019 FCS Award Recipients for Nutrition & Dietetics

Outstanding Graduate Student Award
Jennifer Rodzianko

Jennifer Rodzianko has been recognized for her work in addressing food insecurity and food waste at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) and in the greater Los Angeles area; she was selected as a Newman Civic Fellow in 2019. The Newman Civic Fellowship recognizes and supports community-committed students who are change makers and public problem solvers. As the Coordinator of the CSUN Pop-up Pantry, Jennifer developed the entire operation starting from the vision board, establishing community partners to training over 30 volunteers to deliver over 3000 pounds of produce at every event. She received a student grant from the California State University Chancellor’s Office Basic Needs Initiative to study the role of the food pantries in supporting student success. She presented a workshop at the inaugural California Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance 2020 Summit that brought together over 750 leaders from across the California State University, California Community Colleges and University of California systems to explore the efforts of advancing basic needs security in order to address student success on an individual, communal, and institutional level. Jennifer’s scholarship and career goals focus on the intersection of nutritional science, community health and environmental justice.
Outstanding Graduating Senior Award

Brian Mitchell

Brian Mitchell is a senior, majoring in Family and Consumer Sciences with an emphasis in Nutrition and Dietetics. Because of his own personal struggle to maintain a healthy weight through his life, Brian has decided to commit his life to offering compassionate medical nutrition therapy to patients hoping to make meaningful lifestyle changes. Upon completion of a bachelor’s degree from CSUN, Brian will begin the Masters Entry Clinical Nurse program at UCLA with the ultimate goal of becoming a Nurse Practitioner with an RDN credential to aid patients in reversing symptoms of common preventable chronic diseases. With so many opportunities available to be of service, Brian is excited to continue expanding his personal and academic endeavors.

Outstanding Graduating Senior Award

Jennifer White

Jennifer White is a senior majoring in Family and Consumer Sciences with an emphasis in Nutrition and Dietetics. She is a non-traditional student returning to college after spending seven years as her mother’s full-time caregiver. As a NIH-funded BUILD PODER Scholar, Jennifer studies the dialysis patient population to help resolve nutritional deficiencies. She has an interest in public policy and has over three years of experience working in hunger alleviation. Jennifer intends to complete a dietetic internship to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, and will then enroll in a Ph.D. program, with the long-term goal of becoming a professor at a four-year university. She wants to help train the next generation by providing guidance, information, and scholarship rooted in scientific research. Jennifer believes that her experiences both in life and at CSUN will aid her in becoming a respected professional with the skills and knowledge to improve the health of others.
Outstanding Service Award

Briana Caban

Undergraduate Student

Briana Caban is the Vice President of the Food Recovery Network and Treasurer of the Student Dietetic & Food Science Association (SDFSA). She has been involved with MEND, CalFresh, and Champions for Change in the community. Briana has also been coordinating Education and National Nutrition Month on campus. She is currently involved with Metabolism and Stress Assessment Research, and HHD wide research project. She is a Pathways mentee and a student leader.

Outstanding Service Award

Marie Olguin

Undergraduate Student

Has been instrumental in Project RICO and is an active volunteer in her community of Pacoima. She single-handedly organized a team to compete in a county-wide research competition (RICO was chosen of 1 of 5 teams to compete among over 125 applicants). She is currently organizing mobile health screenings and exploring working with Food Forward to establish a Pop-Up Pantry in Pacoima.

Outstanding Service Award

Eirenel Eclevia

Graduate Student

She is the President of Kappa Omicron Nu (KON) Honor Society. She has helped with developing our accredited diabetes program and the LAC DPH CDC Sodium Reduction Intiative on campus. In addition to being a student leader at the Marilyn Magram Center (MMC) by helping with projects and editing their newsletter, researcher, student mentor, and community outreach coordinator, Eirenel strives to be a future Registered Dietitian and aspires to promote health and nutrition in the community through art and technology.
Kappa Omicron Nu National Honor Society for the Human Sciences (KON) promotes empowered leaders who use an integrative approach to enhance quality of living through excellence in scholarship, leadership, and research. It provides recognition and honor, as well as lifelong opportunities for networking through education and service. KON is a certified member of the Association of College Honor Societies, and serves 98 active chapters and nearly 150,000 members.

The Omicron Beta Epsilon Chapter of KON at CSUN is co-advised by Dr. Annette Besnilian and Dr. Diane Lewis-Goldstein. KON serves all options from both the undergraduate and graduate programs within the Kinesiology and the Family & Consumer Sciences majors. To receive membership: each undergraduate student must maintain at least a 3.5 GPA, have completed 45 semester units, and rank in the top 25% of their class; and each graduate student must be enrolled in a qualifying graduate program, maintain a 3.5 GPA, and have completed 12 semester units.

Honors cords are given to active member to indicate their achievement at commencement ceremonies. To receive honors cords, a member must maintain all of the basic criteria, and in addition, complete at least four hours of service.

Spring 2020
Graduate Students
Nina M. Heumann
Eirenel G. Eclevia

Spring 2020
Undergraduate Students
Jennifer White
Brian Mitchell
John Caribrari
Kellie Fernandez
Bertha Flores

Fall 2019 Honor Cords
Graduate Students
Sophia Lopez

Undergraduate Students
Kenneth Carcelen
Sandra Dahlgren
Ashley (Young) Glantz
Kimberly Poquiz
Northridge Academy High School

Non-Profit

Northridge Academy High School is a partnership of the Los Angeles Unified School District (Local District 1) and California State University, Northridge (CSUN). Northridge Academy High School (NAHS) opened on September 9, 2004 with 600 ninth and tenth grade students. As a small high school community, NAHS has a mission to inspire, support, and expect our students to achieve their fullest potential as learners and productive citizens. The joint relationship between Northridge Academy and CSUN provides a unique opportunity for the high school and university to develop richer curriculum and expanded learning opportunities for the students on both campuses.

Bloomingdales

For-Profit

Bloomingdale's Inc. is an American luxury department store chain; it was founded by Joseph B. and Lyman G. Bloomingdale in 1861. Every year, Bloomingdale’s employees contribute thousands of dollars and volunteer hours to various causes that include but are not limited to arts and culture, education, health, homelessness, hunger relief and women’s issues. Through their national employee volunteer program, Bloomingdale’s supports organizations and causes that are important to our employees and local communities through organized, grassroots efforts.
Fall 2019 FCS Outstanding Community Award Recipients
for Food Science

Earth Island
For-Profit

Earth Island, located in Chatsworth, California, has been a strong partner with our Food Science program. Earth Island has provided site visits for the product development course and internships for our senior students. Earth Island specialized in plant-based alternatives and they make great products such as vegenaise®, vegan cheeses, and dairy-free yogurts among other delicious food products. The Research and Development team at Earth Island has been very generous with their time and knowledge to support CSUN students.
Fall 2019 FCS Outstanding Community Award Recipients
for Interior Design

IIDA
Non-Profit

The International Interior Design Association (IIDA), Southern California believes in the advancement of education and supports interior design students throughout the region with student exhibitions and award programs. One of those programs is the student charrette. Students from different schools come together each year to collaborate in a fast-paced, hands-on design charrette. Teams are challenged to work together to develop a design presentation based on a program assigned at the beginning of the day. Winners are chosen by a panel of esteemed interior design professionals. First Place winning team is awarded $10,000 and the Second Place team receives $4,000. The first place team participates in the West Coast Student Charette each year. Our own Isabella Pina was on the Second Place winning team this year.

Pepsi (PBNA)
For-Profit

The roots of PepsiCo Beverages North America (PBNA) go back to 1898, when Caleb Bradham, an entrepreneur from new Bern, North Carolina created pepsi-Cola and began offering it to his pharmacy customers. Then in 1965, Donald Kendall, the CEO of Pepsi-Cola, and Herman Lay, the CEO of Frito-Lay, recognized what they called “a marriage made in heaven,” a single company delivering perfectly-salty snacks served alongside the best cola on earth. Their vision led to what quickly became of the world’s leading food and beverage companies: PepsiCo. Today, PepsiCo is on of the world’s most-respected companies with products sold in more than 200 countries and territories and 22 brands that generate more than $1 billion each in estimated annual retail sales. While being “the global leader in convenient foods and beverages by winning with purpose,” they embody their vision to reflect their ambition to win sustainably and accelerate their top line growth, and keep their commitment to do good for the planet and their communities.
MEND
Non-Profit

The mission of MEND is to meet immediate needs of individuals and families and increase their access to opportunities that strengthen their capacity to thrive. MEND offers a range of comprehensive services delivered with dignity and respect by exceptionally dedicated staff and “army” of volunteers. For 48 years, MEND has opened its doors to the most vulnerable members of our community and over the years we have become one of the most comprehensive and empowering poverty relief agencies in Los Angeles County, serving, in 2018, over 14,600 individuals but providing an average of 30,000 client encounters each month. Started in a San Fernando Valley garage in 1971, MEND is an anchor institution with the largest food bank in the Valley, medical, dental and vision clinics, clothing, homeless care services, as well as support and care through case management services.
Four years ago, we lost one of our dearest colleague Dr. Kyriakos Pontikis, Professor of Interior Design at CSUN. He received his B. Arch. from Oklahoma State University and his M. Arch and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. From his association with his teacher and mentor at UCB, the renowned Christopher Alexander, Kyriakos developed his own conceptual framework for “Eco-Humane Design” which unifies ecological design with humane design in an effort to create livable and sustainable communities and building environments, aesthetics, and sustainable living.

During his tenured professor here at CSUN, Kyriakos was committed to the value of sustainability education, served as an active member of the university’s Sustainability Curriculum Committee between 2010-2012, and led the College of Health and Human Development’s Sustainability Committee. He assisted with the development and implementation of the Minor in Sustainability, which began in 2011 and was a significant step in strengthening the sustainability efforts on our campus. He taught several sustainability related upper division courses in the Family and Consumer Sciences department. He worked closely with CSUN’s architect office to give to his FCS students the experience of incorporating green design concepts and principles into the design of the USU Wellness Center and of other buildings on campus. Through coursework and research grants, he engaged students in community service-learning projects and provided design services to various public and private school in Los Angeles. He founded CSUN’s Chapter of Habitat for Humanity and worked with disadvantaged communities through local organizations such as MEND and Pacoima Beautiful. He was a true ambassador for advancing sustainability at CSUN and in the community and providing students with meaningful learning experiences.

Kyriakos was a mentor to many students, providing them with meaningful learning experiences and a dear friend to all of us. He is greatly missed by all of us who knew him.
Dr. Allen Martin served as Professor and Chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at California State University, Northridge. Allen received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Virginia Tech University and his Doctorate from The Ohio State University.

He was a man of action who put his values to work. A gifted organizer, Allen easily recognized people’s strengths, bringing them together for successful collaborations. Allen was Director of the Consumer Resource Center for nearly fifteen years. Under his leadership, students provided much needed consumer and financial education to the local community. Over his professional career he has held multiple offices in the Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals, the American Council on Consumer Interest, and the Association of Financial Counseling and Planning Educators. He was proud of his appointments by both California Governors Gray Davis and Arnold Schwarzenegger to the Commission on California Earthquake Authority. Most recently Allen was serving as president of the Los Angeles District of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and had held multiple state and national offices with the organization.

An author of many journal articles and presentations, Allen served on the editorial board of the Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences. He also served as treasurer of the Council of Administrators of Family and Consumer Sciences and was deeply involved in university faculty governance. He served as the faculty rights chair of the California Faculty Association and was skillful in negotiations between administrative and faculty concerns. Across campus and throughout the California State University system there are many who consider Allen a good friend because he cared about them, and because he defended them.

“Allen was a beloved faculty member who mentored hundreds of students through his teaching and many professional contacts,” said retired Cal State Northridge Professor Alyce Akers, who preceded Martin as chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. “Allen led a life of service to others fueled by his tenacious optimism, affability and tremendous energy. He will be terribly missed.”
A Heartfelt Thank You To:

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