

2017-2018 POINTS OF PRIDE, COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

AFRICANA STUDIES

Dr. Theresa White, Chair

PRIDE POINTS

- The department has a renewed focus on student recruitment, retention and success; having increased first-time freshman enrollment rates by 40%, while maintaining 100% Black male retention and graduation rates since 2005, and a 100% graduate rate for Black transfer students since 2010.
- The department has an Africana Studies Writing Lab and Library, an Africana Studies Student Debate Team, Africana Studies Book Club, Men & Women of Color Enquiry and Poster Presentation Series, a Graduate School Workshop and opportunities to participate in Model African Union Parliamentary Debates in Washington, D.C.
- AFRS hosts the *Africana Studies Student Welcome Reception*, the *Annual Black Youth Guidance Forum* (with the DuBois Hamer Institute for Academic Achievement); *Black History Month Celebration*, “*Meet Me At the Well*” *Lecture Series*; *Africana Studies Anniversary Week*; *Writing Lab Media Showcase*; *The African Symposium* and the *Black Graduation Awards Reception*.
- The university’s newly renovated Black House Cultural/Academic Enrichment Center offers educational programs; professional development workshops, tutorial programs in math, science and technology, creative expression workshops and guest lectures.
- Students publish scholarly and creative works in the department’s student research journals, “Kapu Sens” and the “CAPTURED Student Multi-Media Digital/Print Journal.”

ANTHROPOLOGY

Dr. Suzanne Scheld, Chair

PRIDE POINTS

- Professor Michael Love obtained a significant National Science Foundation fellowship to continue his work on domestic spaces in the Mayan Pre-Classic period in Guatemala. He brought along several graduate students to study in the field.
- Professor Helene Rougier co-authored an article on the origins of early modern European populations in *Current Biology*. It was included in the *Nature Index*, and helped raise CSUN’s research profile among U.S. institutions of higher learning.
- Dr. Matthew Des Lauriers’ research on the Cedros Island in Mexico has been featured in *Science* (August 10, 2017), a long-standing and popular magazine that is estimated to have over 500,000 readers online. Des Laurier’s research gives strength to the hypothesis that the first inhabitants of the Americas came by sea approximately 16,000 years ago, and not by land as it is commonly assumed.
- Dr. Des Lauriers also led a highly successful field school this past summer in the Cronise Basin. 13 students spent four weeks surveying, digging, and analyzing a broad range of interesting objects including human and animal remains, pieces of

textiles, beads, among other interesting finds. This field school was supported by the Bureau of Land Management of California, the Desert District.

CRIMINOLOGY & JUSTICE STUDIES

Dr. Vickie Jensen, Chair

PRIDE POINTS

- The department launched its brand new program, a BA in Criminology and Justice Studies, in Fall 2017. Over 400 students changed to or declared the major in less than 6 months making it the 4th largest major in CSBS at this early stage and is anticipated to be one of the biggest majors in the College.
- The department is developing strong partnerships with several important crime and criminal justice agencies including the Los Angeles City Attorney's office, Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles County Probation Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County, and several other agencies. Students from CJS will engage in several community-based programs including family and domestic violence self-help clinics, community justice initiative programs, and planned internship programs with probation and law enforcement at many levels.

GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Dr. Edward Jackiewicz, Chair

PRIDE POINTS

- Dr. Steve Graves published the e-text *Introduction to Human Geography: A Disciplinary Approach*. The free online text saved students nearly \$100,000 in the first semester it was available. More than a dozen other schools, colleges and universities around the U.S. have adopted Dr. Graves' text, helping bolster CSUN's reputation, along with the department's, while saving students money.
- The department added eight new water-related courses to the curriculum to better prepare students to meet the challenges of a changing environment.
- Dr. Soheil Boroushaki won the CSUN Outstanding Educator Award as well as a similar award from the California Geographical Society.
- Under the leadership of Dr. Amalie Orme, the department is now training students in drone technology creating many new employment possibilities.
- Dr. Mario Giraldo received a \$40,000 Campus Quality award to build an outdoor living classroom at the CSUN Compost and food garden.

HISTORY

Dr. Susan Fitzpatrick-Behrens, Chair

PRIDE POINTS

- Dr. Jeffrey Kaja was a recipient of the 2017 Distinguished Teaching, Counseling, or Librarianship Award.
- Dr. Miriam Neirick hosts on-going meetings of the Social Science Writing Project, which is an initiative to teach, encourage, inspire, and support student writing in the social sciences.

- Dr. Jessica Kim, oversaw history students who participated in a variety of different internships throughout Southern California, including, the Skirball Cultural Center, Museum of Tolerance and many more.
- Dr. Erik Goldner hosted the Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society), Southern California Regional Conference.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Dr. David Leitch, Chair

PRIDE POINTS

- Since inception, over 100 students have participated in the *DC Internship Program*. Students live, work and learn in our nation's capital for a semester. Many of these students acquire full-time positions in either D.C., or in Los Angeles, as a direct result of their internship experience.
- The *Model United Nations* program is one of the most successful programs in the country. Notably, our team won first place last fall at conferences in Seattle and Washington, D.C. as well as earning second place at conferences in the spring in New York and San Francisco.
- The *Judicial Internship Program* recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. Each semester, 15 students are selected to participate in the program, observe courtroom proceedings and are mentored by judges, many of whom are CSUN alumni.

PSYCHOLOGY

Dr. Jill Razani, Chair

PRIDE POINTS

- This semester the Psychology Department received a grant from Campus Quality Fees to open the Center for Achievement in Psychological Science, a center designed to assist with the success of students in our major by **1)** pairing them with peer-mentors, **2)** connecting students with resources in our department, college and university, **3)** offer professional development seminars, and **4)** provide a physical space in the center to use computer stations and a lounge area.
- CSUN is one of only 12 institutions nationwide that was awarded the BUILD PODER grant for underrepresented student research opportunities from the National Institutes of Health, and three of the four principal investigators of the grant are department faculty.
- The *Psychology Honors Program* identifies high academically achieving undergraduate students, pairing them with faculty mentors, in addition to hosting research and celebratory events.
- The annual "Psychology's Got Talent" event features faculty and students displaying their talents, such as, dance and poetry reading, as well as a silent auction. Proceeds go toward the Creative Endeavors Scholarship, which allows students to work on scientific projects.

SOCIAL WORK

Dr. Eli Bartle, Chair

PRIDE POINTS

- Master of Social Work (MSW) students are currently working with a CalFresh grant to provide food and additional resources to CSUN students. Their work is a part of more than 178,000 volunteer hours of community service students give to the surrounding communities.
- The MSW program received a \$50,000 grant to pilot a program targeting minority male students to increase retention and graduation rates. The Minority Male Project is now in its second year of implementation.
- Scholarships were awarded to incoming MSW students, through grants supporting meritorious academic achievement.
- The MSW program received a housing grant to assess the scope of housing instability for CSUN students and identify the available resources to help students' secure stable housing.
- MSW Graduate Student Success Allies, supervised by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, are working with a faculty mentor in each of the other departments in the college to identify and connect with students in need of additional support to achieve their undergraduate degree in a timely manner.

SOCIOLOGY

Dr. Karen Morgaine, Chair

PRIDE POINTS

- Sociology students volunteer at more than 60 community agencies through internship and field practice courses, lending their growing expertise and gaining valuable experience that ultimately, will be vital to their careers.
- A scholarship fund was established to honor the memory of CSUN Professor Amy Denissen. Scholarships are integral in supporting outstanding students who plan to engage in community practice or graduate studies, with a focus on labor and work.

URBAN STUDIES & PLANNING

Dr. Rob Kent, Chair

PRIDE POINTS

- The department opened its newly-equipped and refurbished Urban Studies and Planning computer lab in Sierra Hall. The lab includes 20 state-of-the-art computer workstations, furniture and audio-visual equipment.
- Each year about 40 of the department's undergraduate students complete internships in planning departments, non-profit organizations, and businesses in the Los Angeles region, giving them excellent preparation for jump-starting their careers.
- The department graduated its first class of 15 graduate students from its recently established Master of Urban Planning degree program in May 2017.