



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**BAKERSFIELD**  
 School of Arts and Humanities

# AHA!

## Arts and Humanities Alive!

# NEWSLETTER

Fall 2021 VOL. 4, ISSUE 3

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

### Pivoting Back



ROBERT FRAKES, Ph.D.

As I walk through the Humanities Office Building at California State University, Bakersfield, during this Fall semester I can talk to faculty and staff who I see in offices and in the hallway. And it's great to see students on campus! What a change from the last three semesters! This semester, about 35% of Arts and Humanities classes have an on-campus component (whether completely face-to-face or Flex).

In addition to our classes, the School of Arts & Humanities continues to offer an array of guest speakers and cultural events. Recently, we had Professor Mari Webel (University of Pittsburgh) speak on "The Politics of Disease Control. Sleeping Sickness in Eastern Africa, 1890-1920" for the History Department's History Forum and Professor An Yountae (CSUN) presented on "Colonial Violence and Redemption" for the Philosophy and Religious Studies Colloquia Series. On November 16th, Beatriz Santiago Muñoz (from San Juan, Puerto Rico) presented as part of the Dorothy Florence Zaninovich Visiting Artist Lecture Series for the Art & Art History Department. Prof. Eve Sweetser (University of California, Berkeley) spoke on "Choosing Source Domains to Guide Metaphoric Health Reasoning" for the English Department's Lectures in Language and Linguistic Series on November 10th and author Kara Vernor will present for the California Writers Series (generously funded by the Virginal and Alfred Harrell Foundation) on December 3rd.

Our Theatre program recently performed *The First Degree* by CSUB Alumni Michael Mejia. They will present *Noodle Doodle Box* on **November 20th and 21st**. The Music program will present a Concert & Symphonic Band concert on Saturday, **November 20th** at 7pm, a Chamber Music Concert on Sunday, **November 21st** at 2pm, and *An Evening of Opera Scenes* on Thursday, **December 2nd**. Meanwhile, in early November Rachel Tatro-Duarte (BA and MA alumna in English at CSUB and a full professor of English at Porterville College) is running an experiment in VR and Literature as a part of her dissertation in the CSUB DPEL program where CSUB students will be using VR goggles to explore virtual worlds and report about how such experiences can inform their reading.

As we head into the home stretch of the Fall semester, I encourage our students to stay focused on their classes (through whatever modality they may be). I thank our community partners who made generous donations to support the students in the School of Arts and Humanities, helping us win the Battle of the Schools competition during the 2nd Annual Day of Giving. And, of course, I also encourage everyone to continue to be flexible and understanding in these difficult times!

## INSIDE AHA!

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# AH HIGHLIGHTS

Theatre of New Audiences Presents *Noodle Doodle Box*, is a delightful and entertaining play about learning to share and to live together.

The story was written by Paul Maar, translated by Anita & Alex Page and directed by Amy Ressler.

The show times are as follows:  
 Saturday November 20 at 11am, 1pm, 3pm  
 Sunday November 21 at 1pm & 3pm  
 Doré Arena Theatre

\$5 General Admission  
 Children 12 and under are FREE

Visit [CSUB.edu/theatre](http://CSUB.edu/theatre) for ticket information.



## SAVE THE DATES! Check out our event calendar at [CSUBAHA.com](http://CSUBAHA.com)



2021 California Writers Series Presents **Kara Vernor**

Kara Vernor's fiction and essays have appeared in *Ninth Letter*, *The Normal School*, *Gulf Coast*, Vol. 1 *Brooklyn*, and elsewhere. She has received support from the Elizabeth George Foundation and the Mendocino Coast Writers' Conference, and her writing has been selected for Best Small Fictions, Best Microfiction, and *Wigleaf's* Top 50. Her book, *Because I Wanted to Write You a Pop Song*, is available from Split Lip Press.

Since 2006, the California Writers Series has invited writers to the CSUB campus to give a reading—free and open to the public—in the beautiful Dezember Room in the Walter Stiern Library. CWS writers usually live in or have roots in California. After the readings, the audience has a chance to ask the author questions, engage in discussion of the creative process, and meet with the author to have their books signed.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the reading for Fall 2021 must be virtual: <https://csub.zoom.us/j/86564414845>

### PHILOSOPHY FOR CHILDREN (FALL 2021)

@ SOUTHWEST LIBRARY  
 TUESDAYS, 3PM-4PM, AT GRANDMA'S ATTIC  
 RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN AGES 7-12

OCTOBER 12 WHAT ARE RIGHTS?	OCTOBER 19 ONE BOOK EVENT	OCTOBER 26 WHAT CAN I OWN?
NOVEMBER 2 MUST I CONFORM?	NOVEMBER 9 WHAT DO I OWE OTHERS?	NOVEMBER 16 WHO HAS RIGHTS?

P4C CONVERSATIONS DEVELOP A COMMUNITY OF INQUIRY, WHERE PARTICIPANTS SHARE THEIR REASONING WITH THEIR PEERS, AND FOSTER CRITICAL THINKING AND COLLABORATIVE LEARNING SKILLS.

CSUB FACULTY CONTACT:  
 PROF. SENEM SANER  
 SSANER@CSUB.EDU

FOLLOW US @  
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CSUBP4C/](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CSUBP4C/)



**Chamber Concert**  
 Sunday, November 21 at 2pm  
 Music Building Room 127  
 Visit [CSUB.edu/theatre](http://CSUB.edu/theatre) for ticket information.

### LECTURES IN LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS PRESENTS Choosing Source Domains to Guide Metaphoric Health Reasoning

With Dr. Eve Sweetser  
 University of California, Berkeley  
 Wednesday, November 10, 2021\* 7:00 p.m.  
 Zoom Meeting ID: 213 258 6842  
 Passcode: 874476



For more info, please contact  
 Dr. Sophia Adjaye  
 sadjaye@csub.edu

SPONSORED BY THE CSUB DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND SIGMA TAU DELTA  
 FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**An Evening of Opera Scenes**  
 Thursday, December 2 at 7:30pm  
 Doré Theatre  
 CSUB Opera Theatre presents the *An Evening of Opera Scenes*. The program will include excerpts from Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, Loesser's *Guys & Dolls*, Puccini's *La Bohème*, and Bellini's *The Capulets and the Montagues*. It will be fully staged and costumed.  
 Visit [CSUB.edu/theatre](http://CSUB.edu/theatre) for ticket information.

# AH HIGHLIGHTS



The most positive exciting development this year is the renovation of the Performing Arts Building into a new Media Arts Center for the Communications Department and Art and Art History Department.

You might know this was an old and worn building, with some deferred maintenance issues. The ground-breaking for the renovation has taken place. When the work is completed (hopefully right before the beginning of the Fall 2022 semester), the building will be a great resource for our students. It will include updated printmaking lab and dark room, and gallery for the Art program and a new home for the Runner newspaper and the Runner Media Group, a Media Lab for digital media classes (including a curved wall and a ceiling rig for equipment), and a sound booth and audio suite for recordings (such as for podcasts) for the Communications program. The renovated building will also include new faculty offices and an additional seminar style conference room.

READ MORE NEWS ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES AT [CSUBAHA.com](http://CSUBAHA.com)

## 24th Annual Gandhi Alliance for Interfaith Harmony Conference

In honor of Gandhi's birthday (October 2) members from five faiths — Hinduism, Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and Sikhism — shared their perspectives on "The Role of Religion in Overcoming Prejudice" during a Zoom conference on October 3, 2021.

The conference promotes a new generation of leaders who are peace-loving, tolerant, giving, caring, and cooperative members of our world. The Gandhi Alliance for Interfaith Harmony was established by Dr. Hansa Patel and Dr. Naina Patel in Bakersfield to promote Gandhi's message of interfaith harmony by joining together to recognize the oneness of everyone, move beyond tolerance, and to wholeheartedly appreciate one another for all of their identities.

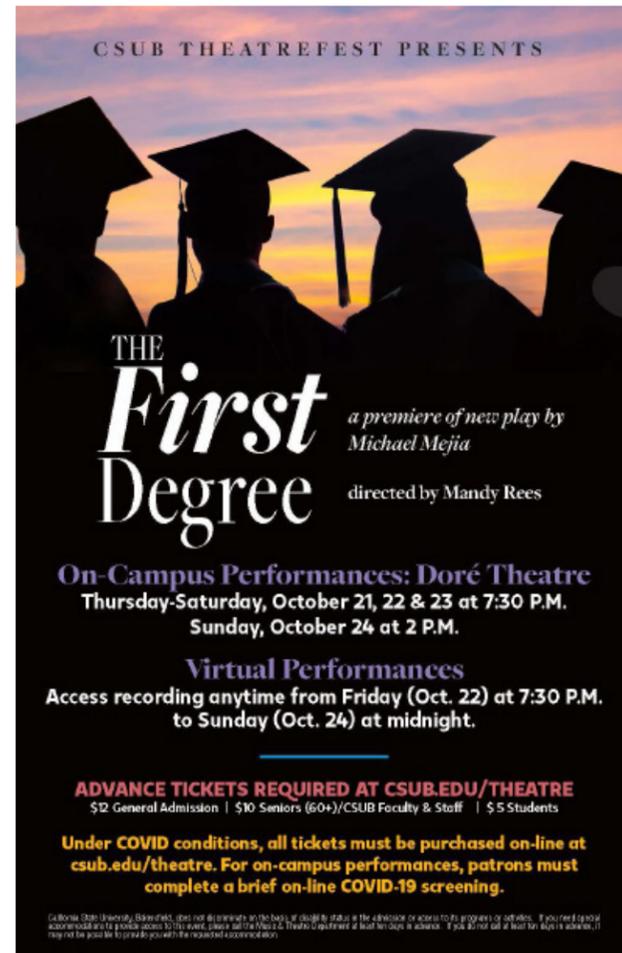
"This topic is as timely as ever," says **Dr. Liora Gubkin**, director of CSUB's Institute for Religion, Education and Public Policy. "We can interrupt our biases and prejudices and build relationships based on mutual understanding when we come together to truly listen to one another's stories."



# AH HIGHLIGHTS

After a year of being limited to virtual performances CSUB premiered its first in-person production since March 2020 — *The First Degree*, written by alumnus **Michael Mejia**. *The First Degree* is about four first-generation CSUB students with different backgrounds and focuses on the challenges they face while pursuing a degree, such as a struggle for financial and parental support and deciding on a career path. This is the first time the theatre program has performed a play about CSUB students, said **Mandy Rees**, coordinator of the program and director of the play.

“It is something that we hope our students can relate to, to see things they’ve experienced being played out on stage,” she said. “Even if you’re not a first-generation student, you may have faced some of the things they’re facing.”



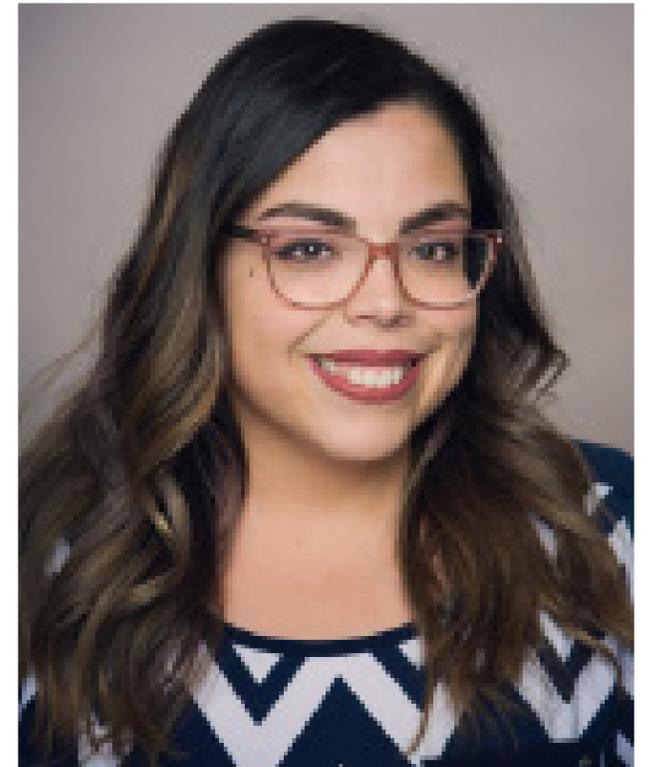
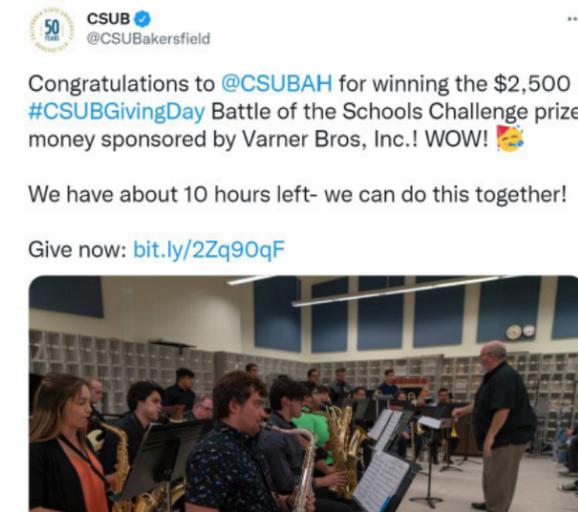
## GIVING DAY

CSUB’s School of Arts and Humanities won the School Giving Competition for the 2nd year in a row in the “Day of Giving” campaign on October 1, 2021!

The Dean’s Office appreciates the support of faculty and staff in the school as well as our community supporters. Arts and Humanities won by having an impressive number of distinct donors. This support not only brought in a large amount of donations but also a generous challenge gift by **Varner Brothers, Inc.**

If you missed a chance to give, you can still do so at:

SUPPORT ARTS AND HUMANITIES (insert link here)  
<https://give.csub.edu/ah.shtml>



**Kristina Saldana** feels at home in her position as the administrative coordinator for the Music and Theatre Department, where she loves being “surrounded by intelligent and artistic people, both students and co-workers, who are working toward creating a better future in higher education and the arts.”

Saldana volunteers with The Empty Space, a Bakersfield community theatre and art gallery. “The Empty Space’s mission is to provide professional live theatre to the Bakersfield community and create an opportunity for local actors, directors and technicians to work in a creative environment.”

# FACULTY NEWS



During the Summer of 2021, Dr. Teresa Fernández Ulloa published four chapters in *Las insolentes: desafío e insumisión femenina en las letras y el arte hispanos*.

Fernández Ulloa has a doctorate in Hispanic Philology (language and linguistics) from the University of Deusto, Bilbao. She is a Professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at California State University, Bakersfield. Her areas of specialization and research are sociolinguistics, discourse analysis (especially the political one and that of creative women) and the teaching of Spanish.



Dr. Michael Burroughs has been awarded a Whiting Fellowship for his project Humanities Beyond Bars—a public program on incarceration that reimagines public safety, exploring the philosophical and historical roots of prisons and their material and social consequences, featuring scholars, activists, and formerly incarcerated students.

Burroughs is an associate professor of philosophy and director of the Kegley Institute of Ethics at California State University, Bakersfield. In his work at the Kegley Institute, he strives to make philosophy and ethics accessible and engaging both at and beyond the university, including a focus on working with children and teachers in Pre-K and K-12 schools, senior citizens, and currently and formerly incarcerated persons.

The Whiting Foundation provides targeted support for writers, scholars, and the stewards of humanity's shared cultural heritage.

Phil Chang is an Assistant Professor of Reproducible Media and received his MFA from The California Institute of the Arts and his BA from the University of California, Irvine. His research and work take the form of visual art and have been written about in the following publications.

Kate Palmer Albers, *The Night Albums: Visibility and the Ephemeral Photograph*, University of California Press, 2021

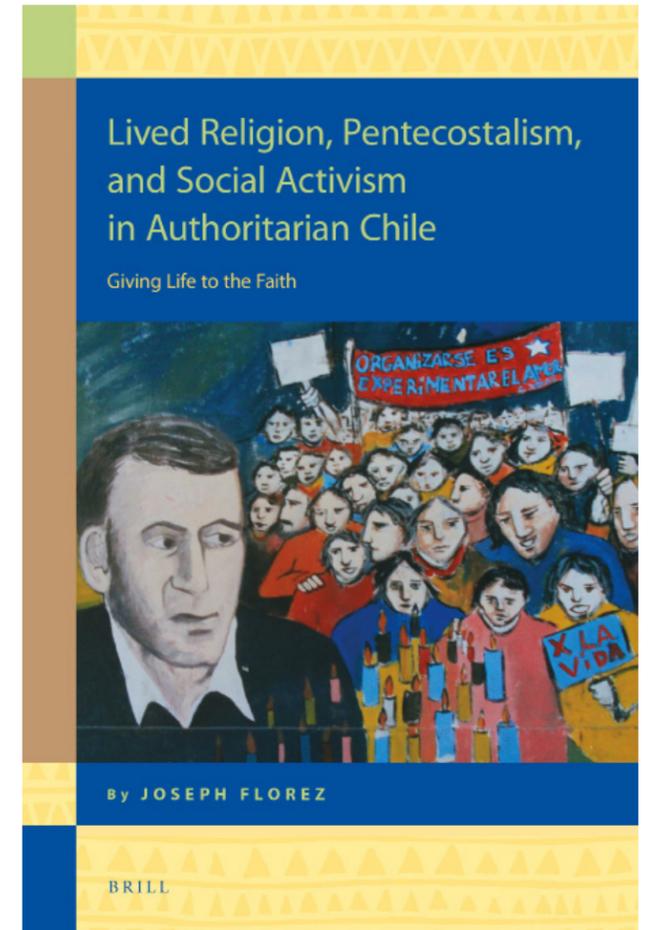
Gemma Padley, *Look At This If You Love Great Photography*, White Lion Publishing, 2021

Charlotte Cotton, *The Photograph as Contemporary Art*, Thames and Hudson, 2020

Odette England, *Keeper of the Hearth: Picturing Roland Barthes' Unseen Photograph*, Schilt Publishing, 2020



Installation view of "Pictures, Chromogenic and Pigment, #2", Praz-Delavallade Gallery, Paris, 2015



Congratulations to Dr. Joseph Florez (Religious Studies) for his forthcoming chapter in *The Gospel in Latin America*, edited by David Bebbington, Baylor University Press, Fall 2022. The chapter is entitled "Indigenization and Believers' Accounts of Pentecostal Faith in Chile, 1910-1920." Also, his book, *Giving Life to the Faith: Lived Religion, Pentecostalism, and Social Activism in Authoritarian Chile*, was published in June 2021 (Brill).

# AH INSTITUTES



Public History  
Institute

Conceived in 2008 as an institute within the School of Arts and Humanities, the Public History Institute (PHI) seeks to collect, explore, preserve, and promote the history of our region, namely Bakersfield, Kern County, and the Southern San Joaquin Valley, through projects and programs intended to engage the campus and community. Of particular importance is our support of oral history projects, undertaken mainly by the Historical Research Center of the Walter Stiern Library, under the direction of archivist **Chris Livingston, M.A.** These have included a focus on the oral histories of Dust Bowl-era migrants, members of the CSUB community, and African Americans in our region. PHI events are generally free and open to the public, often focusing on agricultural, labor, oil, and cultural history, as well as important national events and the experience and effects of these events locally.

Learn more about our institutes at  
[CSUBAHA.com](http://CSUBAHA.com)

The Institute for Religion, Education, and Public Policy continues to live into its mission to promote justice and peace in a religiously-diverse world. Since its founding in 2011, the Institute has conducted trainings for faculty, staff, and students on religious and worldview pluralism, hosted numerous public dialogues, and supported student programming. **Dr. Liora Gubkin** serves as the Director with **Dr. Joseph Florez, Katy Hanson,** and **Dr. Jonathan Young** forming the Faculty Advisory Committee.

A new religious holiday calendar has been created as a resource for faculty as an inclusive planning tool as they create their course assignment calendar. In addition to the dates and “commonly used accommodations” the calendar provides information for our community to learn a bit more about our religiously diverse world. Visit the Holiday Calendar here!



# EAC NEWS & INFORMATION

## CHRIS BENHAM

Benham is a graphic designer and illustrator born and raised in Bakersfield, CA.

## JIM DAMIAN

Damian is a Kern County entrepreneur and is the founder and CEO of Stria.

## ROBERT FRAKES, Ph.D.

Dean, CSUB School of Arts & Humanities.

## AMANDA FRANK

Frank is a Bakersfield native and serves as the Director of Community Relations at Dignity Health.

## NATALIE GREEN

Green owns NYFotography with a commitment to her community and the growth of downtown Bakersfield.

## ANDREA HANSEN

Hansen was born and raised in Bakersfield, CA. and is currently the President of Kern Dance Alliance and a Fox Theater Board Member.

## DAVID MILAZZO

Milazzo is a proud Bakersfield native and founded his business, Macroscopic.

## HEATH NIEMEYER

Director of Development, CSUB University Advancement.

## JON SAMPSON

Sampson is a Bakersfield native and CSUB alumnus, with Wells Fargo Advisors.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

David Milazzo  
Founder and Principal  
MACROSCOPIC



Greetings from the newest organization supporting the CSU, Bakersfield School of Arts and Humanities!

The Friends of Arts and Humanities — AH Friends — is an extension of the Executive Advisory Council for the School of Arts and Humanities. Our board is delighted to introduce you to the premier method to stay connected with the outstanding programs and student work making a positive impact on campus and in our community.

AH Friends is a brand-new, membership-based organization with a host of member benefits. In addition to gaining early information about upcoming programs and events, members receive special invitations and complimentary tickets. Some membership levels even deliver exclusive access to unique experiences with faculty and students of the CSUB AH programs. And every membership delivers valuable impact to the students of our university.

We invite you to join AH Friends and experience a deeper connection to the pursuits underlying the human experience. Your membership greatly contributes to our students’ success in discovering and defining the future of the arts and humanities.

Visit [AHfriends.org](http://AHfriends.org) or email us at [AHfriends@CSUB.edu](mailto:AHfriends@CSUB.edu) to learn more about how you can help the Friends of Arts and Humanities at CSUB.

Learn more at [AHfriends.org](http://AHfriends.org)  
or email us at  
[AHfriends@CSUB.edu](mailto:AHfriends@CSUB.edu)

# ALUMNI BUZZ



**Anthony Box**  
2012 & 2016 CSUB Alumnus

Box earned both a B.A. and M.A. in English and in the spring of 2021, he was awarded his Ph.D. in Stylistics from the University of Houston. His first article won the Wyman H. Herendeen Awards for Excellence in Scholarly Publication.

CSUB creates champions of all types. CSUB alumni have gone on to be CEOs of companies, celebrities, musicians, journalists, professional athletes, politicians, scientists, and the list goes on. On this page you'll find notable alumni and their achievements, but there are countless more. Each issue we will feature two graduates from the Arts and Humanities programs.

Do you know alumni whose work should be recognized here?  
Contact us at  
[rstcroixmartinez@csub.edu](mailto:rstcroixmartinez@csub.edu)



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**Jennifer Barrera**  
CSUB Alumna

Barrera earned a B.A. in English from California State University, Bakersfield, and then earned a J.D. with high honors from California Western School of Law. Barrera is currently the president and chief executive officer for the California Chamber of Commerce.

## SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS MAKE YOUR PLEDGE TODAY TO THE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Contribute to the success of Arts and Humanities at CSUB by donating to the school's Foundation account! Donations are tax deductible and help support programs and activities. You can contribute [online](#) or by going to CSUBAHA.com to find the link "Support Arts & Humanities" on the right-hand side of the page. To contribute by check, please make your check out to "CSUB Foundation" and write "A&H Fund" on the memo line of the check.

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Bakersfield, CA 93311-1022