

CSULB DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER



April 2022

I am pleased to be able to extend these annual greetings from the newly renovated (and positively buzzing!) Social Science and Public Affairs building on the California State University Long Beach campus.

This has been a year of change, most clearly realized in the shift from virtual to in-person learning. We have embraced being back with a combination of enthusiasm and a sense of responsibility for the health and well-being of each other and our loved ones. We are recognizing anew what an opportunity it is to be able to engage face-to-face about subjects that hold both great intellectual interest and ever-heightening public relevance.

As an alum of the program, it is an honor to step into the role of department chair, but especially so at this time, as we rejuvenate existing traditions and craft new connections within and among the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of our extended department community.

Our POSC students have shown tremendous resilience and are more active than ever via clubs and organizations. Students and alumni

alike continually make us proud through the many purposes to which they are putting their knowledge and skills. Faculty are innovating in the classroom, while also sharing their analyses in campus, academic, and public venues. New staff members are further enhancing our department collaborative spirit so we can respond creatively to novel challenges and opportunities.

We count ourselves lucky to have many wonderful successes to celebrate, even amidst the ongoing difficult times in which we find ourselves. I am confident that like me, you will find inspiration in the pages that follow, so read on!

Finally, please connect with us on social media (@csulbposc) to be part of our work-- and to ensure you do not miss a thing in the coming year!



All my best,

Dr. Amy Cabrera Rasmussen
Chair and Professor

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PSSA: Political Science Student Association

From PSSA Faculty Advisor Dr. Edgar Kaskla

After a COVID-19 hiatus, the Political Science Student Association (PSSA) returned to action, albeit via Zoom. PSSA president Celeste Sanchez assembled a very dedicated and passionate team around her to make it all happen, and we have had great presentations from our faculty members in both semesters in addition to a limited return to in-person meetings (a coffee chat, a joint panel with the Economics Students Association, and so on). We are very much looking forward to that magical day where we can meet together face to face, on a more regular basis.

Our aim is to provide a space for students to discuss and think through political concepts that impact our world as well as for the opportunity to build community.

For the latest updates, news, & information, we invite you to follow PSSA on social media: @csulbpssa or visit @csulbpolisci for all things in our political science world.

For more info, email:
edgar.kaskla@csulb.edu



In February, 2022, PSSA students collaborated with the Department to host a coffee meet-up, followed by an informal campus tour. The students incorporated their favorite spots to study and meet up with classmates. For many students, this was their first exploration of CSULB as we returned from virtual learning!

PSGSA: Political Science Graduate Student Association

From PSGSA Faculty Advisor Dr. Teresa Wright

The Political Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA) is committed to providing a supportive intellectual environment where Political Science graduate students can pursue their academic interests and enhance their scholarly and professional growth.

PSGSA leaders for Spring 2022 include: Taylor Ramirez (Co-Chair), Aesha Mahmoud (Co-Chair), Evelyn Ortiz Soto (Treasurer), Lena Wild (Secretary), and Lorenzo Marasigan.

For the remainder of the Spring 2022 semester, the PSGSA will meet bi-weekly on Wednesdays, from 3:30-4:30pm.

For more information, contact the faculty advisor: Teresa.Wright@csulb.edu, or student leader: Taylor.Ramirez02@student.csulb.edu.

GroupMe QR code
for the PSGSA
group chat:



Moot Court

From Moot Court Director Dr. Lewis Ringel

2021-2022 was a huge success as for the second straight year, CSULB's Moot Court Program produced a national champion.

What is more, three of the nation's top eight teams were from CSULB. A program of seven teams (.014% of all teams in the nation) produced three of the nation's top teams. In addition, it tied an AMCA record of advancing teams in four regional finals.



Front Row, from left to right: Alex Lohman (Assistant Coach), Vaishalee Chaudhary, Alexa Alvarez, Nichole Athanitis, President Jane Close Conoley, Jocelyn Soto, Judy Hails (Assistant Coach), Georgina Tierney, Kelton Munch, Marco Romero, and Lewis Ringel (Head Coach).
Back Row: Aleece Hanson, Celeste Sanchez, Kevin Poush (Assistant Coach), John Littles, Ryan Chapman (Assistant Coach), Jessica Zatarain, Pat Dyson (Assistant Coach), Jake Hill, and Kamra Jackson. Not photographed: Emma Nelson.

Over the weekend of January 21-23, 2022, CSULB Seniors Vaishalee Chaudhary and Marco Romero won the American Moot Court Association's (AMCA) Oral Advocacy National Championship. This is CSULB's second national championship in oral advocacy. Only one other school has won more. CSULB is one of just two public universities to win a national title for oral advocacy in AMCA's 22 year history and it is the only public university to qualify for more than one national final (three) and more than two national semi-finals (four). The competition, which was held on Zoom, featured 100 teams from schools such as the University of Chicago, Yale University, Pennsylvania University, and UC Berkeley.

Chaudhary and Romero, the only team in AMCA history to win three regional tournaments, won five of five competitions in 2021-2022 and went undefeated on the season. In addition to winning the national title for oral advocacy they finished 4th in the nation in respondent written advocacy.

This keeps CSULB's streak of at least one brief in the top ten over the past twelve years alive!! Chaudhary and Romero graduate as the winningest team in CSULB history.

The final panel at the Championship featured:

- Illinois Supreme Court Justice Michael Burke
- North Carolina Court of Appeals Justice Lucy Inman
- California Court of Appeals Justice Lamar Baker
- Maryland District Court Judge David Carey
- West Virginia Solicitor General Lindsay See

CSULB's Jessica Zatarain was also named a top ten orator, finishing 8th in the nation.

Kelton Munch and Georgina Tierney (who attends the College of Wooster) and Aleece Hanson and Celeste Sanchez were the other quarter-finalists. Both teams repeated as regional champions giving

Moot Court, continued

CSULB a total of three regional champions for the second straight season. Only one school has ever won more than three regionals in a season and few have done so in back-to-back seasons. Munch and Tierney did not lose a round all season to a team other than Chaudhary and Romero-- in effect giving CSULB two teams that went undefeated against non-CSULB teams.

Kamra Jackson and Jocelyn Soto advanced to the Round of 32. Jackson and Soto were the runners up in the South Atlantic Regional. On the season they beat three teams that had previously won or were in a regional final.

Emma Nelson and Jessica Zatarain and Jake Hill and John Littles also earned bids to nationals to give CSULB a school record of six bids. Nelson and Zatarain advanced to elimination rounds at nationals. Zatarain was voted the number 8 orator in the nation out of nearly 1,000 advocates.



Top Row, from left to right: Top: Emma Nelson, Aleece Hanson, Celeste Sanchez, and Judy Hails (Assistant Coach). Second Row: Kamra Jackson, Georgina Tierney, Jake Hill, and Jessica Zatarain. Middle Row: Kelton Munch, Vaishalee Chaudhary, Marco Romero, and Jocelyn Soto-Rivera. Third Row: Alexa Alvarez, Nichole Athanitis, John Littles, and Lewis Ringel (Head Coach) Bottom Row: Pat Dyson (Assistant Coach).

Click on the icon to the right to read a tribute to the CSULB team in *The Congressional Record*.



Click on the icon to the right to watch the final round of the 2022 American Moot Court Association National Championship!



Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society

From Pi Sigma Alpha President Jennifer Matiz

Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society, is the only honor society for undergraduate and graduate students of political science and government in accredited colleges and universities across the country! The Delta Omicron chapter at Cal State Long Beach was chartered in 1965 and has inducted over 2,000 members since then. Membership in such a distinguished honor society is for a lifetime and an asset for both your academic and professional advancement.

This semester, the Spring 2022 officers, alongside the Political Science department, worked endlessly to officially recognize the Delta Omicron Chapter as more than an honor society, but as well as an organization, club, and academic association at CSULB! This is the start of what we hope will be a prosperous journey for the organization at CSULB.



Model United Nations (MUN)

From MUN Director Emeritus Dr. Larry Martinez

The Model UN Program at CSULB is excited to see the campus come back to in-person classes. This means, like the swallows returning to San Juan Capistrano, in-person Model UN Conferences are returning to the calendar following a COVID-19 interruption in our usual monthly cadence of conference training and participation. Despite the pandemic interruption, students in POSC 378 attended the TrojanMUN Conference in October sponsored by the USC Model UN Program. The following students attended TrojanMUN Conference 2021 representing a diversity of countries including an ancient Egyptian historical re-creation:



CSULB Delegates	UN Committee	Representing
Christian Ramon	UN Security Council	Egypt
Blake Maese	UN Security Council	Egypt
Marco De La Cruz	Social and Humanitarian Committee	Uganda
Ethan Bray	Akhenaten Religious Revolution	Thutmose II Viceroy of Kush

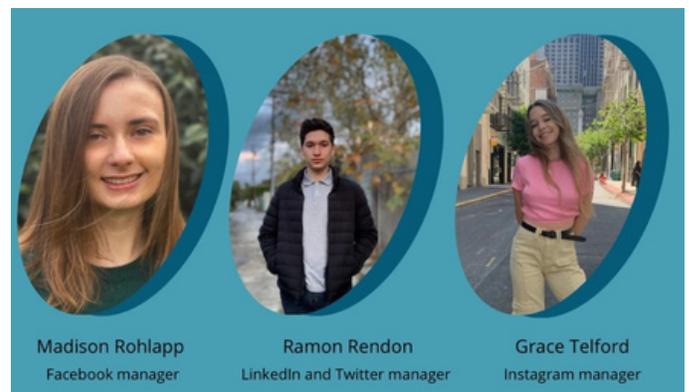
Mr. Ethan Bray has taken the reins of the MUN Club as the elected MUN Club President for the current year. He and his team of other MUN club officers are enthusiastically re-starting the club activities and training so as to hit the ground running for the 2022-23 academic year's full slate of MUN conferences and on-campus activities.

Political Science Department Social Media Intern Team

*From POSC Social Media Team Member
Grace Telford*

As part of the POSC Social Media team, we take great pride in representing our department! We work as a team in coordination with each other and the department to create and put out interesting and relevant content for our audience to enjoy. We are constantly working to create the perfect balance between informational and fun content! We had the pleasure of working with students and alumni, and have been able to showcase their amazing accomplishments on our channels! Some other content we love featuring include course spotlights or information on the department's

major concentrations. We have all enjoyed this internship opportunity with our department and highly recommend it to anyone interested!



Madison Rohlapp
Facebook manager

Ramon Rendon
LinkedIn and Twitter manager

Grace Telford
Instagram manager



Annual Graduate Mixer

On November 10, 2021, the Department welcomed incoming and current students, alumni, and faculty of our M.A. program to our Graduate Mixer. It was so nice to have an opportunity to “see” everyone, even if it was on Zoom!

Our master’s program is a source of pride for our department. It is a space in which students and faculty engage in intellectual discussions and scholarly pursuits that go beyond what is possible in the undergraduate classroom. Our students build their knowledge of the discipline, learn new skills in research methods, and develop mentoring relationships with faculty that can lead to research assistantships and even co-authored work. It can be a springboard for our students to go on to doctoral programs and to utilize their advanced studies in a range of important ways—in government, nonprofits, education, and so much more.

We did a modest reboot of the event via our invitee list: in addition to our current students and faculty members, we also invited some of our alumni and also our newly admitted students for the spring semester. We wanted to build community and give people involved with our MA program new ways to connect. We have some ideas as to what shape this could take moving forward, but also hope this can lead to possibilities we have not yet even imagined.

Thanks to all of our faculty, students, and alumni who attended. Dr. Cabrera Rasmussen would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Cora Goldstein, our Graduate Coordinator, and alum of the program Amanda Mendoza, who worked with her to make the event a success!

If you are a graduate of our M.A. program, but did not hear about the event and would like to attend or help plan a future event, do reach out to us: posc@csulb.edu.

POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY:
CHARLES MAHONEY, VAHID NIAYESH, ROBERT SHURTZ, & SIMON TANG

RUSSIA AND UKRAINE CONFLICT

JOIN US FOR A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE
CURRENT TENSE SITUATION BETWEEN RUSSIA,
UKRAINE, AND THE WEST.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17
3:30-4:45
COB 140

Russia and Ukraine Conflict

On March 17, 2022, POSC Faculty members Charles Mahoney, Vahid Niayesh, Robert Shurtz, & Simon Tang held a well-attended virtual and in-person discussion about the current tense situation between Russia, Ukraine, and the West.

Girls Like Us:

Exploring Trans Feminist Herstory

Join us to celebrate Women’s History Month with a virtual discussion from Dr. Kathryn J. Perkins.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23RD
3:30-4:45 PM

Register at <https://bit.ly/GirlsLikeUs2022>

First 25 to register and attend will receive a copy of Janet Mock’s *Redefining Realness: My Path To Womanhood, Identity, Love & So Much More!*

TO REQUEST DISABILITY-RELATED ACCOMMODATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE BOB MURPHY ACCESS CENTER AT LEAST 24 HOURS BEFORE THE EVENT.

Girls Like Us: Exploring Trans Feminist Herstory

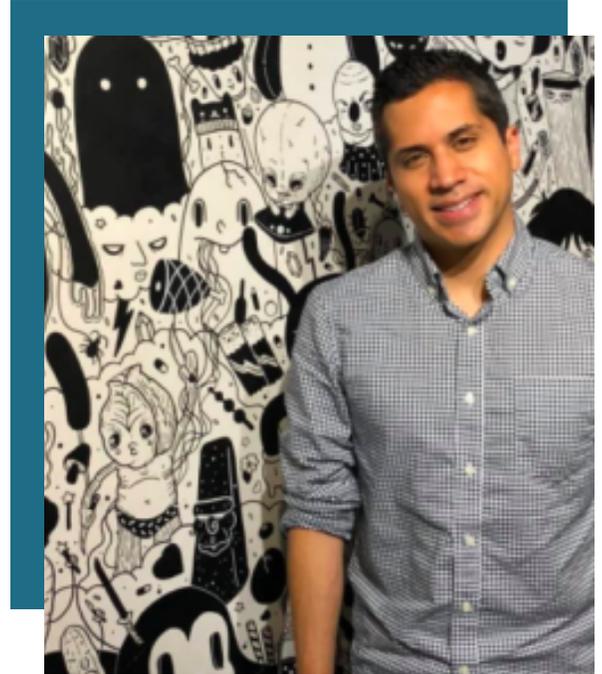
On March 23, 2022, POSC Faculty member Dr. Kathryn Perkins spoke to a broad audience of students and faculty about the history of trans women and trans feminist organizing both within the U.S. women’s and gay liberation movements and beyond.

Welcoming Our Newest Tenure-Track Faculty

(beginning in the 2020-2021 Academic Year)

Dr. Matthew Mendez Garcia

Dr. Matthew Mendez Garcia is a native Californian and proud first-generation college student and scholar, born and raised in San Jose, California. He earned his AA from San Jose City College, his BA in political science from San Jose State University, and his PhD from the University of Southern California. His dissertation, "In/Visible Constituents: The Representation of Undocumented Immigrants", received the award for Best Dissertation from the American Political Science Association's Organized Section on Race, Ethnicity, and Politics. Professor Mendez Garcia was an assistant professor at CSU Channel Islands for four years before joining the faculty at CSU Long Beach. Professor Mendez Garcia's research is generally concerned with equality, difference, representation, and political institutions in the United States. He enjoys teaching courses on U.S. politics and mentoring students on research projects. He also founded and serves as the executive director of the Long Beach Center for Urban Politics and Policy at CSU Long Beach which seeks to support faculty and students who wish to study urban politics in the greater Long Beach region. He is currently working on a several projects, including the legislative behavior of LGB representatives in Congress, responsiveness to undocumented immigrants by state legislatures, and a survey of political attitudes of Long Beach registered voters.



Dr. Matt Lesenyie

Dr. Matt Lesenyie was born in Idaho and grew up in Harrisburg, PA and Vista, CA. He earned his AA from MiraCosta College in San Diego, his BA in Political Science and Communication from UC Davis, his MA from University of Nevada, Reno, and Ph.D. from UC Davis. He completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Santa Clara University. Dr. Lesenyie enjoys teaching courses on interest groups, race and ethnic politics, and California politics. He is engaged in several research projects including one on ballot initiative advertisements and another on prison conditions in California. He is an avid golfer.

Dr. Larry Martinez Retires



Dr. Larry Martinez concluded his 34 years of CSU teaching during Fall 2021. Martinez's research focuses on international governance of cyberspace and outer space.

His most recent publication, "The Greatest Transformation: How Cyber Is Defining Security in the Space Domain," is being published by Oxford University Press (2022) in the volume *Oxford Handbook of Space Security*, edited by P.J. Blount and Saadia M. Pekkanen.

Dr. Rich Haesly Honored

Congratulations to our department's very own Dr. Rich Haesly on receiving the 2022 CSULB Distinguished Faculty Advising Award!

Dr. Rich Haesly has been a faculty member in the Political Science Department for 21 years, and has served in the role of Undergraduate Advisor since 2013. In this time, Dr. Haesly has demonstrated dedication, skill, and care in every advising interaction he has with our more than 600 majors and minors.



His teaching record includes more than 30 years teaching POSC 378 Politics and Practice of the UN and his tenure as the Faculty Director of CSULB's award winning Model UN Program.

For over ten years, he served as the Vice-Chair on the CSULB Academic Senate's Curriculum and Education Policy Council. In 2018, Martinez taught international relations on the Spring Semester at Sea Voyage in 11 Pacific, Asian and African countries. Martinez also serves as the parliamentarian for the International Institute of Space Law and was appointed as the its liaison with the International Academy of Astronautics. In 2007, he was honored as Cuesta College's Alumnus of the Year.

Martinez is an avid cyclist who completed two 100-mile races in 2010 and 2011, and raced seven times on the Mt. Diablo Challenge. He resides in Santa Barbara with his wife, Dr. Cathy Boggs.

The Department will miss Dr. Martinez' warm and energetic presence, and his knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order are already sadly absent from our department meetings! We cannot wait to celebrate your retirement this May. We also will look forward to keeping in touch and hearing all about your future adventures both in the U.S. and abroad!

Dr. Haesly's work has substantially improved our department's overall advising program and greatly contributed to the efforts of his faculty advising colleagues. His work has helped our students to make the most of their time in the major in an efficient and creative manner. In particular, he has enhanced students' participation and success in high impact practices such as learning communities, global education, internships, and capstones—initiatives that have been shown to positively impact student retention and engagement. Students regularly attest that Dr. Haesly goes above and beyond to help them to accomplish their goals in college—and has given them a springboard to their post-graduation paths.

Dr. Haesly has made related and significant contributions as a former internship coordinator in our department, as well as in curriculum committees at the department, college, and university levels. While Dr. Haesly's time as an advisor is concluding this spring, his work has benefited our students, department, and well beyond.

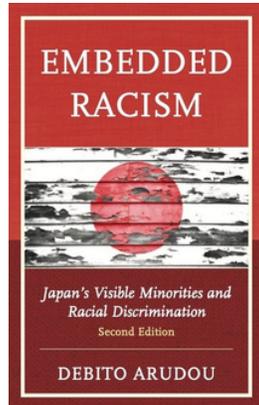
Scholarship and Activities

Debito Arudou Beamer (International Studies, Ph.D. Meiji Gakuin University) spent the pandemic completely revising and updating his acclaimed 2015 monograph *Embedded Racism: Japan's Visible Minorities and Racial Discrimination* as a Second Edition with Lexington Books/Rowman & Littlefield (2022).

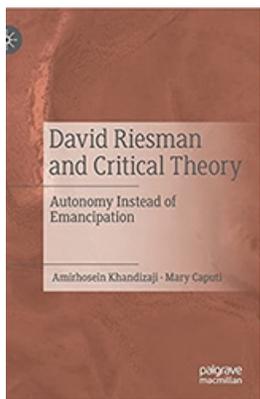
He also writes a regular monthly column called "Visible Minorities" for the Shingetsu News Agency opining about life and human rights in Japan.

Having taught Intro PoliSci, Comparative Politics, Senior Research Seminar, and Research Methods in recent years at Cal State LA and UC Riverside, he joined Cal State Long Beach Spring 2022 as a Lecturer teaching classes on Congress and political parties.

He is also an officer in the California Faculty Association, and has kept an active blog on human rights issues in Japan since 1996.



Mary Caputi (Political Theory; Ph.D., Cornell University) Professor Caputi completed two book manuscripts, *David Riesman and Critical Theory* (Palgrave, 2021), co-authored with Amirhosein Khandizaji, and *Slow Culture and the American Dream* (Lexington, 2022). She is also working as co-editor of the *Handbook on Feminist Political Thought* along with her friend and co-editor, Patricia Moynagh, to be published by Edward Elgar in 2023. She submitted "Marcuse's Feminine Principle and



Non-Binary Subversions" to a collection focusing on critical theory and gender, and will also give this paper at the 2022 Critical Theory Conference in Rome, Italy.

Professor Caputi will also teach a course at John Cabot University in Rome this summer. She continues to participate in the Department's Washington Mentoring Program.

Alfredo Carlos (Political Economy, Racial and Ethnic Politics; Ph.D. University of California, Irvine) Dr.

Carlos is currently on professional leave from CSULB, serving as the Interim Director of Chicano Studies at Eastern Washington University. While away he has focused on building the curriculum of

that program and developing key strategic partnerships with community and business stakeholders to aid in supporting the growing Latino college student population in the state of Washington. Part of that work has involved leading the Hispanic Serving Institution initiative focused on not just reaching the demographic goal, but to also make sure the campus is culturally, academically, financially, and programmatically equipped to support these students. He continued his collaboration with the CSULB Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship's Social Justice Entrepreneurship program focusing on supporting and advising Worker Cooperative business development which aligns with his research. He also served as the opening speaker for the CSULB Student of Color Conference 2022 and is serving as a Keynote for the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, WA. Dr. Carlos has recently also accepted a Tenure Track position in Labor Studies at CSU Dominguez Hills and is looking forward to coming back home to continue serving the communities in the Harbor Area.

Anand Commissiong (Political Theory; Ph.D. Rutgers University) Dr. Commissiong's current project

examines the movements of people and ideas between and among the Caribbean and the United States. It seeks to illuminate the mutual influences on social and political movements and social and political change. This monograph entitled, "Intersecting Cosmopolitanisms," is under contract with Lexington. Dr. Commissiong has presented or will present portions of the monograph at APSA, Association for Political Theory, and the Caribbean Philosophical Association. Dr. Commissiong's article "Where is the Love? Race, self-exile, and a kind of homecoming," was published recently in *Diaspora*. His article, "The Target of Everybody's Fantasies': James Baldwin's Queer Race Consciousness," is under revision for *Theory & Event*. His article "The Will to Peace: Kant and Nietzsche's Conceptions of History and Hope" is under review.

Darin DeWitt (American Politics; Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles) Dr. DeWitt published "Moral Obligation in an Anarchic World" in *The Expanse and Philosophy* and presented "It's Not a Conspiracy, It's a Collective Action Problem" at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association.

of the American Political Science Association.

Matthew Mendez Garcia (American Politics; Ph.D., University of Southern California) Professor Mendez Garcia has focused on research agenda and preparing for them publication in suitable journals.

One paper, "Who Counts? The Representation of

Undocumented Immigrants by State Legislators”, (co-authored with Dr. Sarah Sadhwani) is currently under review at a journal. His manuscript “LGB-TQ: Testing the Strength of Trans Ties in Congressional Surrogate Representation” (co-authored with Dr. Sara Angevine) was presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in September 2021. He also founded the Long Beach Center for Urban Politics and Policy which aims to support CSULB faculty who want to study problems or questions of urban politics and policy in the greater Long Beach area. He is currently teaching a research course for undergraduates that is funded by the Center and supported by the Department of Political Science that is developing an online survey of political issues in the city of Long Beach.

Larry N. George (International Relations, Political Theory; Ph.D. Princeton University) Dr. George is at work on his book project, provisionally entitled “Pharmacotic Violence 2.0”. It brings together his earlier work on “pharmacotic war” (war understood as a form of human sacrifice that functions simultaneously as medicine, poison, and an addictive, performance-enhancing drug for the body politic) with a range of contemporary political theory topics, including terrorism, ISIS, immigration, political identity, Donald Trump and right-wing populism, the opiate crisis, and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cora Goldstein (Comparative Politics; Ph.D. University of Chicago) Dr. Goldstein’s article “Propaganda Images as Historical Traces: 1940s Visual Propaganda and the Image of the Home Front in Contemporary America,” was recently published in *Studies in American Culture*. In this paper, she argues that the American home front during World War II is often “remembered” based on the way it was portrayed by the government’s propaganda campaign during the war itself. At CSULB, Dr. Goldstein is enjoying teaching as well as her service as the Department’s Graduate Coordinator.

Liesl Haas (Comparative Politics; Ph.D. University of North Carolina) Dr. Haas continues her research on the politics of race/ethnicity within conservative religious spaces. Her article, “This One New Humanity: Can Multi-Ethnic Evangelical Churches Be Spaces for Racial Reconciliation?” (co-authored with Richard Haesly) is under review at *The Journal of Religion and Society*. She is currently working with Richard Haesly and Cathy Kim (CSULB MA student) on a content analysis of sermons in multi-ethnic Evangelical churches following George Floyd’s murder and subsequent conviction of Derek Chauvin. This project explores whether we see distinct patterns in

the ways the national leadership in the Evangelical multi-ethnic church movement speaks about race and racial justice, depending on the race/ethnicity of the church leader.

Richard Haesly (Comparative Politics; Ph.D. University of North Carolina) Dr. Haesly submitted an article, “This One New Humanity: Can Multi-Ethnic Evangelical Churches Be Spaces for Racial Reconciliation?” (with Dr. Liesl Haas) to *The Journal of Religion and Society*. He presented, “Empathy, Inclusion, Uptake and Demands for Action: Confronting Systemic Racism in Multi-Ethnic Churches,” at the 2022 WPSA conference. Dr. Haas and he are working with an MA student, Cathy Kim, to analyze sermons from multi-ethnic Evangelical Christian churches around the George Floyd killing and the subsequent trial, to see if these pastors feel compelled to speak out on such an important issue of racial justice given the multi-ethnic community they are trying to create. Dr. Haesly is completing his third, three-year term as an Undergraduate Advisor for the Department. It has been a great experience to learn so much about our talented and diverse students and hopefully to guide them to do “More in Four” as the College of Liberal Arts encourages students to do during their time here at CSULB. He is humbled and proud that he was recently awarded the all-campus Distinguished Faculty Advising Award.

Matt Lesenyie (American Politics; Ph.D., University of California, Davis) Dr. Lesenyie held a research competition in his POSC 323 Racial and Ethnic Politics course during the fall term. He worked with the top two proposals to apply for the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Summer Research Assistantship Grant. Undergraduates Aleece Hanson and Cayce Schaeffer each won grants of \$5,000 to conduct their proposed survey experiments. Together this research team will explore political attitudes concerning race. Aleece’s project investigates public opinion on efforts to reduce COVID-19 spread in prisons. Cayce’s project seeks to explain the intersection of race and access to mental health services in America. Dr. Lesenyie recently submitted a review of the book *Campaign Finance and American Democracy: What the Public Really Thinks and Why It Matters* for the fall issue of *Political Science Quarterly*.

Alex Lohman (CSULB POSC ‘11, J.D., Northwestern Law): Alex joined the political science department this Spring, lecturing on constitutional law. She continues to advocate for youth in foster care identified as victims of commercial sexual

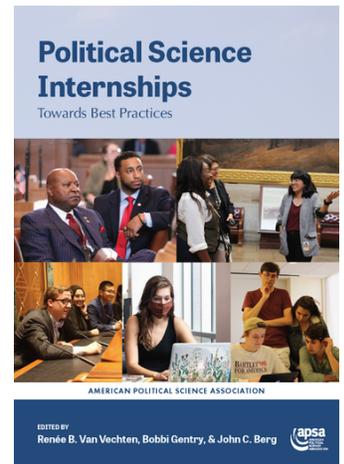
exploitation. She recently litigated a matter of first impression regarding permanency timelines and the needs of minor parents suffering from traumatic brain injury. She and her colleagues are training other litigators on this issue across this issue, and they are creating a pilot project to serve this population. She also continues to serve as a volunteer coach for the CSULB Moot Court Program.

Charles Mahoney (International Relations; Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles) Dr. Mahoney presented papers at the 2021 American Political Science Association annual conference and the 2022 International Studies Association annual conference. Dr. Mahoney is currently working on several projects including an examination of private equity firms' growing role in defense contracting, a history of American arms sales to Taiwan, and the strategic logics of non-state bioterrorism.

Kathryn J. Perkins (Public Law; Ph.D. University of North Texas) Dr. Perkins furthered her research agenda in public law, LGBT politics, and trans feminist theory this year with a publication and presentations in multiple venues. She published "Willful Lives: Self-Determination in Lesbian and Trans Feminisms" in the *Journal of Lesbian Studies* and presented her invited manuscript "To Run Like a Girl: State Transmisogyny and the Legal Construction of Trans/Gender in *Hecox v. Little* (2020)" at the fall Department of Political Science Research Colloquium, the CSULB President's Commission on the Status of Women's (PCSW) annual Women's Research Colloquium (WRC), and at the 2022 Western Political Science Association (WPSA) meeting where she chaired the section on Judicial Politics, Legal Politics and Public Law. She was also appointed this year to a term on the American Political Science Association (APSA) Committee on the Status of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgender Individuals (LGBT) in the Profession. She is currently working on several related projects, including co-authored manuscripts with CSULB POSC alumna (F19), Equity Scholar, and current POSC graduate student Evelyn Ortiz-Soto, POSC alumnus (S20) and current UC Riverside POSC graduate student Grant Wilson, and CSULB anthropology professor Melissa Maceyko. She continues to work on her book manuscript on trans/gender identity and the law and another solo-authored project investigating the biopolitics of gender markers. Dr. Perkins was also an invited panelist on the work of bell hooks and Lauren

Berlant in conversation with trans feminism as part of the CSULB Trans Studies Symposium "Cruising the Capacious" and gave a talk for Women's History Month entitled "Girls Like Us: Exploring Trans Feminist Herstory" sponsored by the PCSW, the Women's and Gender Equity Center (WGEC), the Trans Feminist Herstory" sponsored by the PCSW, the Women's and Gender Equity Center (WGEC), the Trans Advocacy Coalition (TAC), and the Departments of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) and Political Science.

Amy Cabrera Rasmussen (American Politics; Ph.D., Yale University, MA and BA CSULB). This year, Dr. Cabrera Rasmussen is honored to have stepped into the role of Chair of the Political Science Department. In addition, she also co-authored a chapter (with Renée Van Vechten) on "Virtual Public Affairs Internships" in the book *Political Science Internships: Toward Best Practices*, published by the American Political Science Association. She also co-authored (with Peter Levine, Robert Lieberman, Valeria Sinclair-Chapman, and Rogers Smith) the piece "Civically Engaged Research in Political Science: History, Institutionalization, and Potential," which served as the preface to a Symposium on Civically Engaged Research published in *PS: Political Science and Politics*. At the 2021 APSA annual meeting, she presented on the APSA-sponsored panel "Applying for a Job at a Teaching-Oriented Institution" and about "Civically Engaged Research" at The Methods Cafe. She is currently working with her fellow APSA Institute for Civically Engaged Research (ICER) Directors to plan a third ICER—back in person at Tufts University—for June 2022.



Lewis Ringel (Public Law; Ph.D. University of Maryland) coaches CSULB's moot court teams and continues to chair the National Case Committee of the American Collegiate Moot Court Association (ACMA). In that capacity, he helped author the 2022-23 national case. In 2022, CSULB won the American Moot Court Association's National Championship for Oral Advocacy.

Kevin Wallsten (American Politics; Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley) is in the process of finalizing a book manuscript on public opinion towards the NCAA's compensation towards college athletes (co-authored with Tatishe Nteta and Lauren McCarthy). In the last few months, he has published an article (coauthored with Rachel Van Sickle Ward) in the *Washington Post's* Monkey Cage entitled, "Can the Supreme Court Take Away Birth Control" and an article in *Global Sports Matters* (co-authored with Tatishe Nteta and Lauren McCarthy) entitled "White Liberals Are Driving Increased Public Support for NIL and College Athlete Rights."

Jason Whitehead (Public Law; Ph.D. University of Southern California, JD Willamette University, BA CSULB) continues to serve as the director of the Legal Studies Certificate program and as the campus pre-law advisor for the Law School Admission Council. He is also faculty advisor for the Law Society as well as the Beach Catholic student organization. Dr. Whitehead's current research focuses on the legal views of Christian conservatives. He is currently working on a book manuscript that analyzes how Christian conservative legal narratives are becoming increasingly hostile to liberal democratic values.

In July, he is scheduled to deliver a paper at the Global Meeting of the Law & Society Association in Lisbon, Portugal entitled "Dangerous Stories: Narrative Socio-Legal Theory and Critique in a Post-Truth World." In March, Dr. Whitehead gave two talks at the Faculty Bridges annual "Winds of Change" conference, analyzing Christian conservative views of Critical Race Theory and gender theory. He continues to appear as a TV commentator and analyst on KCBS, KCAL, Spectrum News, and other outlets, discussing issues such as the battlery over the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court, the anniversary of the January 6 insurrection, and President Biden's first State of the Union address.

Teresa Wright (Comparative Politics, Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley) In the past year, Dr. Wright wrote a forthcoming book review in *The American Historical Review* and presented a paper entitled "Rethinking Regime Legitimacy in China: Rural Youth Experiences and Attitudes" at the Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting. In addition, Dr. Wright gave two invited talks: "Learning from Protest and Resistance in China," for the USC Webinar on Protest and Resistance; and "The Future of the CCP," for the American Chamber of Commerce in the People's Republic of China Policy Plus Webinar. She also co-led the American Political Science Association Asia Program workshop on "Contentious Politics and its Repercussions in Asia," and is finishing her tenth year on the editorial board of the *China Quarterly*.

In Memoriam: Dr. William Leiter



The Department of Political Science reports with great sadness the sudden passing of Professor William Leiter on September 19, 2021 in Long Beach. He joined our department in 1966, became a full professor in 1975, and retired as professor emeritus in 2015.

Bill began his teaching career at the University of Rhode Island while completing work on his Ph.D. dissertation. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1968.

Bill was an extraordinary scholar who found his courses required his ability to accommodate evolution and revolution. His major fields were Constitutional Law, The American Presidency, Public Policy, and California Government. He wanted his courses to be remembered by changing modes of thought and behavior. He desired his courses to inspire searching “all source” inquiry and lasting intellectual excitement. To these ends, he encouraged his students to: (1) challenge their existing thought patterns; (2) become careful students of the statutes, constitutional law, administrative rules, judicial opinions and key secondary sources associated with the public policy topics addressed in a course; and (3) integrate these primary and secondary sources using graceful and precise speech and writing.

He believed such integration of primary and secondary sources is critical to a proper collegiate study of public policy.

Bill did not just encourage scholarship, he personified it. He wrote the following books: “California Government: Issues and Institutions,” “Nixon Social Welfare Policies,” “Affirmative Action in Antidiscrimination Law and Policy: An Overview and Synthesis.” He wrote regularly for *The Presidential*

Studies Quarterly and served on its Board of Editors. delivered papers at meetings of political and social sciences associations nationwide as well as those of ANZASA (Australia New Zealand American Studies Association) in Christchurch, New Zealand and later in Launceston, Australia. He was a discussant/lecturer at conferences around the country sponsored by The Center for the Study of the Presidency.

Bill was dedicated to serving in various capacities on campus. He was a member of the governing board of the CSULB American Studies Program. He was an elected representative on the School Council of the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences. He served on all the standing committees of the Department of Political Science.

“By your example and your teaching, you have passed on the craving for learning and the delight of a lifelong effort to satisfy it.”

- LEITER'S FORMER STUDENT

But throughout his career at CSULB, his impact on the lives of his students defies quantification. Hundreds of students have written to “Professor Leiter” over the years to tell him how he has positively affected their lives. His role as a mentor and an inspiration was incredible. “He always had me sit in his chair when I came to his office and he sat off to the side.” “While his knowledge and skills as a scholar were important, I will remember him more by his subtle humor and wisdom.” “He challenged me not only to understand government, but also to be concerned about it.” “I only wish I had the confidence in myself that you have in me, and I will ever attempt to deserve the praises you have bestowed upon me.” “His enthusiasm was contagious and I am greatly indebted to him for helping me to discover that learning is one of the greatest joys in life.” “You knew each student’s name – in itself unusual, and that communicated your interest and respect.” “You’ve taken the time to make me feel like I was the best during times when I felt I was the worst. You are a rare man because you care about people, you care about your students.”

Bill Leiter was a man of character – genuine, honest, committed. He was committed to his students and to the principles of our government.

Written by Dr. Leiter’s wife, Sheila, whose life was enriched for over 60 years by lectures on every conceivable topic! Your condolences and/or memories can be shared with her at sleiter@msn.com.

In Memoriam: Dr. Alain G. Marsot

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Alain G. Marsot after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease in Los Angeles.

Born in Saigon to French parents, Alain first studied law in Paris, receiving his French law degree (BCL) and passing the bar in 1961. He went on to study political science, receiving his doctorate from Paris University, followed by a B. Litt in political science at Oxford University, where he met his future wife, professor and historian Afaf AlSayyid Marsot. He taught at various universities around the world, including Dijon University and the American University in Cairo, before joining CSULB in 1968, where he taught until retiring in 2002.

His field of specialization was Comparative Politics, specifically Southeast Asia, as well as Government and Future Studies. His publications included: "The Chinese Community in Vietnam under the French" (1993), "Political Islam in Asia: A Case Study" (1992), "The Crucial Year: Indochina 1946" (1984), and "Southeast Asia under the New Balance of Power" (1974), edited by Sudershan Chawla, Melvin Gurtov, and Alain G. Marsot.

Alain was an elegant, old-fashioned, old-school gentleman who lectured in three-piece suits, often with French cuffs and a watch fob. While his appearance surprised many of his students, it belied his commitment to left-wing causes, specifically a woman's right to choose, civil rights, climate change, the rule of law, and animal rights. He was a man of ideas, of refined tastes, of incisive criticism, and humor. He loved teaching and inspiring his students.

He supported the Vietnamese community, advocating for Vietnamese prisoners not to be sent to China, where they might be tortured. He



loved classical music, Asian art, French poetry, cars, cats, and Bordeaux wines, and was always delighted to share his knowledge with his large circle of friends.

The quotation below was taped to the bookshelf that housed Alain's massive stereo and music collection.

"A man should hear a little music, read a little poetry, and see a fine picture every day of his life in order that worldly cares may not obliterate the sense of the beautiful, which God has implanted in the human soul."

- JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE

*Written by Dr. Marsot's daughter Vanina.
Condolences and/or memories may be sent to Afaf, Vanina, and Vanessa Marsot at vaninamarsot@gmail.com*

Departures and Arrivals



POSC Dept. Administrative
Coordinator Ty Yim



POSC Dept. Administrative
Support Assistant Julia Castro

Department-based staff members contribute to and facilitate every aspect of our CSULB Political Science student and faculty success, and they do so in countless ways every single day.

The Department would like to thank our departing Administrative Support Coordinator (ASC) **Amelia Marquez** and Administrative Support Assistant (ASA) **Katie Masterson** for all that they contributed over many years! Amelia has happily retired, and Katie is recently married and now the ASC for CSULB's Department of Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies. We miss both dearly but wish them all the happiness in the world!

We welcome the arrival of our new ASC, **Ty Yim**, and new ASA, **Julia Castro**. Julia joined us in the middle of the Fall 2021 semester while Ty joined us just before the winter break.

As a former ASC from the Linguistics department, Ty brings her expertise and thorough knowledge of college and university processes and guidelines, and is a great teacher to Julia. Julia is a recent graduate of CSULB. and brings fantastic problem-solving and organizational skills.

Ty and Julia have fit right in, displaying great enthusiasm and energy for their work in the department. Both are already very engaged with students and faculty. Both have gone above and beyond with every task or responsibility I have asked of them, even amidst this very challenging time. I could not have picked a better team to work alongside, and our Department is lucky to have them both.

And the New Department Logo Is...

This spring, we created several options for a new logo and gathered input from faculty, students, and staff. The option selected-- and which you see throughout this newsletter-- connected most clearly to the recent renovation of our SPA building. This "home away from home" is a fitting symbol for our department community! You may also notice that our new logo has echoes of the CSULB Pyramid and that the three triangles depict the three concentrations in our major: Law Politics and Policy, Global Politics, and Political Theory!

Thanks to Ros Ithiratanasoonthorn, College of Liberal Arts graphic designer, for creating it for us! From brainstorming, to executing designs, and giving us a complete digital toolkit, her work will inspire our future communications.

On a related note, we would like to thank Debbie Hildreth-Pisarcik, College of Liberal Arts communications specialist, for her photographs, which have added so much to this newsletter and our website.



Click on the symbols to the right to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram (@csulbpolisci) and LinkedIn so you can connect with our community and stay up to date on the latest department news, events and opportunities!



Student News

Gia Alcantar will continue her studies in political theory and American politics when she begins her PhD program in Fall 2022. She plans to focus on racial and ethnic politics from a theoretical and critical standpoint. She has been awarded full funding for 6 years and two highly competitive fellowships for her first year. She's very excited about her new journey and credits this huge accomplishment to the help and guidance she received at CSULB from her amazing POSC and CHLS professors, peers, and advisors.

Danielle Dougall has been accepted into Columbia University's Master of International Affairs Program with a concentration in International Security Policy and specialization in Technology, Media, and Communications for the fall of 2022 (Class of 2024). She was also accepted into New York University's Master of International Affairs program for fall 2022 but declined the admission offer. Currently she is interning at The Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab. She presented at the American Political Science Association, "Promoting Pluralism;" iPoster presentation in September 2021.



Master's program students Evelyn Ortiz Soto and Aesha Mahmoud at the CLA Equity Scholars Luncheon in March 2022.

Aesha Mahmoud has been named a College of Liberal Arts Equity Scholar while pursuing her master's degree here at CSULB.

Michelle Raygoza has been working as a campaign intern for Congressional candidate, Cristina Garcia.



Students taking a break at the outdoor tables adjacent to SPA building and The Outpost during the Spring 2022 semester.

Alex Reyes has been admitted to UCI's doctoral program in Political Science.

Valerie Rodriguez is a political science major and a first-generation Latina graduating this Spring. She is interning through the Sacramento Semester Program. Since January she has been interning with Farmers Insurance as a Legislative Affairs intern and is happy to say that she will continue the internship through the Summer.

Scott Richard presented a paper entitled "Political Rhetoric for the 21st Century: Analyzing Congressional Tweets in the 2020 US Election" at the Western Political Science Association annual meeting in Spring 2022.

This paper examines the use of the word socialism/socialist on Twitter and argues that aspects such as party identification predict the use of this specific term. The results provide evidence that some politically loaded words used on social media during the campaign trail may be a particular campaign tactic used by specific political parties.

Evelyn Ortiz Soto has been named a College of Liberal Arts Equity Scholar while pursuing her master's degree here at CSULB.

Sydney Stuttford has been accepted into the Master's Program in Political Science at CSULB.

Georgie Suico has been accepted into all three of the urban planning MA programs to which she applied-- USC, UCLA, & Portland State. She is still deciding on which to accept.

The Benjamin R. Stockton Endowed Scholarship and Program Fund

A New Opportunity for CSULB POSC Students Seeking to Contribute to the Public Good

Benjamin R. Stockton, known by friends as “Randy”, is a proud alum of Political Science at Cal State Long Beach. Randy has always had a vision for helping his community. During his childhood into his college years, he was constantly surrounded by hard-working young people who put in gritty, physical labor to make ends meet while also attending classes and going to school to earn their degrees. Randy grew up around the cultural and economic boom that occurred soon after the Great Depression. He and his peers, who came from rural parts of Southern California, worked tirelessly with limited resources but plenty of perseverance to finish schooling and begin their careers. It is this kind of journey that gave Randy so much passion for creating the Benjamin R. Stockton Endowed Scholarship and Program Fund in the Department of Political Science.

“I developed an appreciation for people in the classroom, most of whom were comfortably middle-class, but scattered around there were others who had struggles at home, and had to work and earn their degree at the same time. I thought—Wow. That’s a place where I can chip something in and help those folks cover their bills. Maybe they don’t have to take that third shift at work. Maybe they can get that term paper turned in on time.”

Ranked number one in the nation for advancing economic and social mobility in 2020, according to the 2020 Social Mobility Index (SMI), Cal State Long Beach prides itself in being the university that most working students attend in the Long Beach and South Bay areas. These students are working not only to financially support themselves and their tuition, but often to support their families as well. Randy is very empathetic to people in this situation and plans to use his scholarship contribution to help these kinds of students in perpetuity.

“I share the same values as CSULB; to provide an education and a pathway to the middle class for people who do not have a lot of social capital and do not have somebody who can pay their tuition for them.”

The Social Mobility Index provides an annually updated report that measures the extent of a

four-year university’s impact in providing opportunities for economically disadvantaged students to graduate into well-paying jobs. In the report’s latest year, 2021, CSULB is still in the top three of the SMI, ranking in at number three.

Randy also believes that providing this scholarship in the Political Science Department is the best way for him and the University to provide encouragement for students hoping to contribute to the public good after graduation.

“I want somebody to find some of the answers to this [the political division and disparity in the U.S.]. I believe in making this gift in Political Science because it all begins here. Hopefully, the next generation of Political Science students and those who go into



academia to teach or get into government and directly put their hands on these problems, will come from CSULB. Many of our problems in society are centered around economics and politics to some degree. I am excited to see students gain this opportunity, go through CSULB, and see what they can do for our community and the country.”

Dr. Amy Cabrera Rasmussen believes Randy’s thoughtful generosity will have a significant impact: not only on individual awardees, but also on the department’s students more generally.

“Being selected for a Stockton scholarship can provide a ladder of opportunity to majors wanting to use their political science knowledge and skills to make a difference in their community, society, and world. But Randy’s investment in a program fund will also help us to create innovative workshops and provide concrete support for those motivated to contribute to the public good. Randy’s gift will help our students craft successful academic and professional paths. I am grateful that he has fond memories of his time in the department and sought to reconnect with us in such a meaningful and long-lasting way.”

*Written by Becky Zeferino-Chung,
Development Associate, College of Liberal Arts*

Alumni News

Stephen Abanise is currently working as a Trial Attorney for the IRS, Office of Chief Counsel, regularly litigating federal tax law cases on behalf of the U.S. federal government in the United States Tax Court.

Yasmine Arsala has been working as Gender Equality Program Manager at the International Rescue Committee.

Megan Blash teaches AP U.S. Government and Politics, AP Macroeconomics, and AP Human Geography in the Santa Ana Unified School District. She is also a part-time faculty member at Coastline Community College where she teaches American Government.

Sara Baumann is currently working for the City of Long Beach as the Government Affairs Analyst for the City Manager's Office.

Juan Campos is pursuing his Ph.D. in Political Science at UC Berkeley.

Lena Gonzalez was elected to the CA State Senate, representing District 33.

Nicholas Hassani earned his JD at Loyola Law School and has been working as a Manager in Law and Global Compliance at Boeing.

Sarah Malik currently works as an Assistant General Counsel at PeaceHealth, providing in-house legal counsel for a major nonprofit healthcare system in the Pacific Northwest.

Grace Malinao now teaches American Politics at CSULB, LBCC, and Irvine Valley College.

Marlene Montañez is the Associate Director at Long Beach Forward, working with a team that advocates for housing equity, a healthy environment, and civic engagement for working families.

Art Montoya is a Policy Advisor for SoCalGas and was a former Appointed Planning Commissioner for the City of Downey.

Rebecca Nuñez currently works as a case manager with a full-service provider team for the unhoused community.

Dominique Pham is currently a Field Research Analyst at American Rising Corporation.

José Ramos is now working for the Honorable Evan J. Wallach of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Leticia Ramirez specializes in real estate development for the Cesar Chavez Foundation. She is a Board Member for the Community Land Trust: Fideocomiso Comunitario Tierra Libre and is working with the Global Leadership Academy in partnership with Southern California Association of Governments writing affordable housing policy in the San Fernando Valley.

José Urias has accepted admission at the University of Southern California. He will be pursuing a Ph.D. in the Political Science and International Relations (POIR) program. He will be focusing his research on Chinese influence in Latin America.

If you have a professional update you would like to share with our CSULB POSC community in a future newsletter, email it to us! posc@csulb.edu



Additional views of the interior and exterior of our newly updated SPA building!

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Support the department's work

You can help to fund student scholarships and programs, bring scholars and practitioners to campus, and build alumni connections by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Department of Political Science.

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<https://cla.csulb.edu/departments/polisci/>

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Or contact:
Howie Fitzgerald,
Director of Development,
College of Liberal Arts:

Howie.Fitzgerald@csulb.edu
or 562.985.1619

