

# FALL CONFERENCE 2025

## College of Liberal Arts

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We create, analyze, communicate, problem solve,  
collaborate, innovate, and more ...



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# DEAN'S OFFICE STAFF AND CLA CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



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[cla.calpoly.edu/faculty-staff/fall-conference](https://cla.calpoly.edu/faculty-staff/fall-conference)

# DEPARTMENT CHAIRS



**Art & Design**  
Sara Frantz



**Communication  
Studies (Interim)**  
Anu Dhillon



**English**  
Dustin Stegner



**Ethnic Studies**  
José Navarro



**Graphic  
Communication  
(Interim - Fall)**  
Colleen Twomey



**History**  
Joel Orth



**Interdisciplinary  
Studies**  
David Kirby



**Journalism**  
Brady Teufel



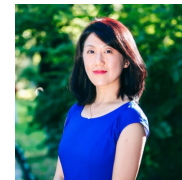
**Liberal Arts &  
Engineering  
Studies**  
David Gillette



**Music**  
Alicia M. Doyle



**Philosophy**  
Kenneth Brown



**Political Science**  
Ning Zhang



**Psychology &  
Child  
Development**  
Carrie Langner



**Social Sciences**  
Joan Meyers



**Theatre & Dance**  
Brian Healy



**Women's,  
Gender & Queer  
Studies**  
Elizabeth Adan



**World Languages  
& Cultures**  
Silvia Marijuan



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# NEW COLLEGE LEADERSHIP

## Faculty Fellow for Student Success

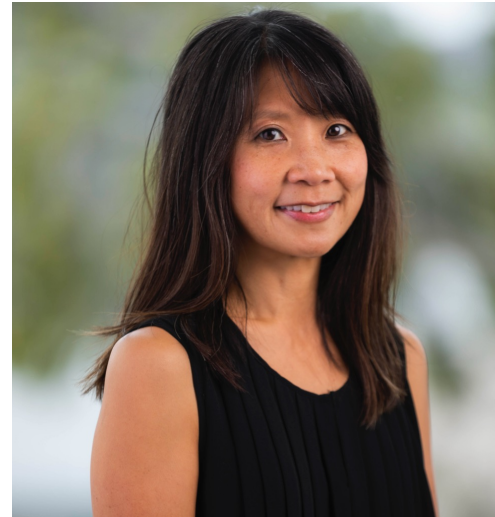


**Lauren Kolodziejski**

805-756-2359

[lkolodzi@calpoly.edu](mailto:lkolodzi@calpoly.edu)

## Interim Associate Dean for Operations



**Grace Yeh**

805-756-2359

[gyeh@calpoly.edu](mailto:gyeh@calpoly.edu)



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# NEW STAFF

**Aundrea Mendoza**  
Communication Studies

**Andrea Figueroa-tyler**  
Graphic Communication &  
Journalism

**Krys Newbury**  
Theatre and Dance

**Alejandra Gutierrez-Esquivel**  
Student Success Coach

**Yari Valverde**  
Digital Communications  
Specialist

# NEW FULL-TIME LECTURERS

**Matthew Kay** – Communications  
Studies

**Erich Riesen** – Philosophy

**Robert Olsen** – Political Science

**Peter Ford** – Political Science

**Upali Bhattacharya** – Social Sciences



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# NEW TENURE-TRACK FACULTY

**Marco Polo Juarez Cruz**  
Art and Design

**Ricky Reynoso**  
English

**Bekir Keskin**  
Graphic Communication

**Alexa Haverlah**  
Journalism

**Hyoung Sung Kim**  
Philosophy

**Ricardo Vega Leon**  
Political Science

**Tessa Bai**  
Psychology and Child  
Development

**Jennifer Beatty**  
Psychology and Child  
Development

**Corinna Klein**  
Psychology and Child  
Development

**Julie Vaisarova**  
Psychology and Child  
Development

**Jonathan Ibarra**  
Social Sciences

**Weston McCool**  
Social Sciences

**Maddie Williams**  
Theatre & Dance



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# NEW PROMOTIONS AND TENURE

## Promotion to Professor

**Bethany Conway**  
Communication Studies

**Emily Ryalls**  
Interdisciplinary Studies  
in Liberal Arts

## Promotion to Associate Professor

**Patty Piburn**  
Journalism

**Christopher Woodruff**  
Music

**Jacob Sparks**  
Philosophy

**Robert Wallace**  
Philosophy

**Ava Thomas Wright**  
Philosophy

**Jess Lee**  
Social Sciences

## Tenure

**Thanayi Jackson**  
History

**Patty Piburn**  
Journalism

**Christopher Woodruff**  
Music



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# 2025-26 RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES (RSCA) GRANTS

- **“Embodying Racial Justice: Social Change via (Inter) Personal Transformation.”**  
Alexia Arani, Assistant Professor, Women’s, Gender and Queer Studies
- **“Assessing the Efficacy of the BEACoN Research Mentoring Program.”**  
Kelly Bennion, Associate Professor, Psychology and Child Development
- **“Examining the Convergence between Design Thinking, Critical Thinking, and Technical Professional Communications.”**  
Rebekah Maples, Lauren Beck and Erin Martin-Elston, Lecturers, English
- **“Digital California Heritage Lab: Virtual Museum Pilot Project.”**  
Elizabeth Minor, Assistant Professor, Social Sciences
- **“Civilizing Missions," "Barbarians," and "Heathens": Addressing Eurocentrism in the Library Catalog.”**  
Kyle Tanaka, Senior Assistant Librarian, Kennedy Library, Jayme Yen, Assistant Professor, Graphic Design, and Farah Al-Nakib, Assistant Professor, History



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# 2025 CLA SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT (CLASS) AWARDEES

Farah Al-Nakib

James Antony

Jay Bettergarcia

Sarah Bridger

G. Andrew Fricker

Martha Galvan Mandujano

Lydia Heberling

Ivan Hernandez

Maya Hislop

Matthew Hopper

Sergio Juárez

Laura Krifka

Martine Lappe

Christine Lee

Maggie Mang

Silvia Marijuan

Jose Navarro

Patti Piburn

Daniel Rodriguez Ramirez

Sasha Sanders



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# 2025-26 TEACHER-SCHOLAR MINI GRANT AWARDEES

- **“The Fabric of Deception: Greenwashing and the Garment Industry in Bangladesh.”**  
Nikhil Deb, Assistant Professor, Social Sciences
- **“Small-Scale Fisheries in Guatemala: Indigenous Activism for Ocean Governance.”**  
Martha Galvan Mandujano, Associate Professor, World Languages and Cultures
- **“Flows: Mapping Disposessions and Reimagining Kinship in Payahuunadü.”**  
Lydia Heberling, Assistant Professor and Grace Yeh, Professor, Ethnic Studies
- **“S.C.R.I.P.T.S.: Studying Creativity, Representation, and Intellectual Property in Technological Storytelling: Generative AI in Film, TV, and Video Games.”** Ryan Jenkins, Associate Professor, Philosophy
- **“From Lived Experience to Research Practice: Building Relational Consensus Analysis with Student Co-Researchers in Social-Community Psychology.”** Daniel Rodriguez Ramirez, Assistant Professor, Psychology and Child Development
- **“Queer Love: On the Rise of the LGBT Romance.”**  
Steven Ruszczycky, Associate Professor, English and Women’s, Gender, and Queer Studies
- **“Modern Global California: A Place-Based Study of the History of Capitalism.”**  
Elizabeth Sine, Lecturer, History

# UNIVERSITY AWARD WINNERS 2024-25

## Distinguished Scholarship Award

**Ryan Jenkins**  
Professor, Philosophy

## Distinguished Teaching Award

**Scott Glysson**  
Associate Professor, Music

# FACULTY & STAFF AWARD WINNERS 2024-25

## Staff Awards

- Outstanding Career Achievement: **Paul Woodring** (Music)
- Excellence Award: **Jon Schlitt** (Journalism)
- Early Career Achievement: **Adrian Anaya** (Art and Design)

## Faculty Awards

- Early Career Award for Achievement in Scholarship: **Sara Lopus** (Social Sciences)
- Early Career Award for Achievement in Service: **Megan Lambertz-Berndt** (Communication Studies)
- Early Career Award for Achievement in Teaching: **John Paniagua** (History)
- Diversity Award: **Lydia Heberling** (Ethnic Studies)
- Douglas L. Epperson Innovation Award: **Ava Thomas Wright** (Philosophy)
- Outstanding Career Achievement in Teaching by a Lecturer: **Elizabeth Barrett** (PSY/CD)

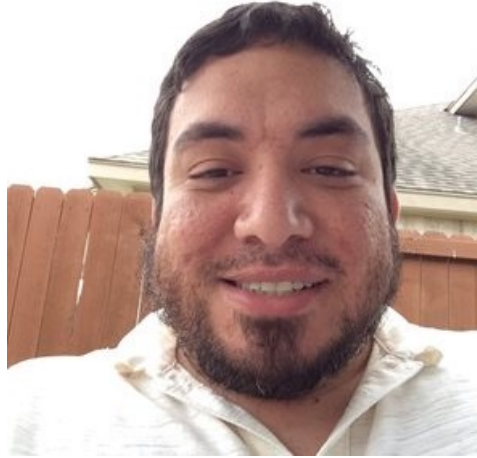
## Richard K. Simon Awards

- Outstanding Career Achievement in Scholarship: **James Tejani** (History)
- Outstanding Career Achievement in Service: **Xiaoying Rong** (Graphic Communication)
- Outstanding Career Achievement in Teaching: **Jenell Navarro** (Ethnic Studies)

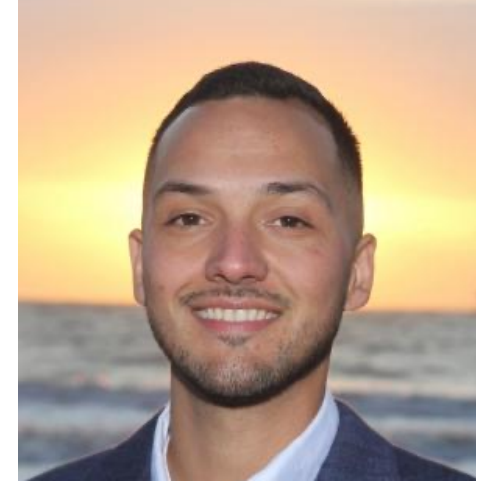
# RECRUITMENT: 2025-2026 CLUSTER HIRES



**Jennifer Beatty**  
(Psychology and Child Development)



**Enrique (Ricky) Reynoso**  
(English)



**Jonathan Ibarra**  
(Sociology)



**Ricardo Esteban Vega Leon**  
(Political Science)



**Alexa Haverlah**  
(Journalism)