

Department of
ETHNIC STUDIES
 SUMMER 2016 NEWSLETTER
 Volume 20



Message from the Chair

I am proud to share that the Department of Ethnic Studies continues to shine. Our award-winning faculty engage in impactful work that elucidates a deeper understanding of race, class, ethnicity, sexuality, gender, and intersectionality.

We also see the benefits that ethnic studies has on our students' educational and professional success. They are the light of the department, bringing their enthusiasm, persistence, and commitment to the study of race, social justice, and community engagement.

Sadly, this is my last "welcome" message in this newsletter. After 22 years I am moving on to a new adventure — retirement. I have been blessed to work with great colleagues, friends, alumni, students, and staff. I have learned from and been moved by so many and I am extremely grateful.

The department will soon have new leadership and vision. I encourage you to stop by and visit with the new chair beginning in 2017.

Best,

Irene

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ETHNIC STUDIES OFFICE STAFF



JODI



MEGAN



ELIAS



LUIS

JODI GRIFFIN has been the department's program coordinator for 14 years! She has the answers for everything and is always willing to go the extra mile to help anyone in the department. We are lucky to have her!

MEGAN SKEEHAN is the administrative and communications assistant for the department. She works hard to run the office and keep everyone connected and is also working on a bachelor's degree in ethnic studies.

ELIAS CABRAL and **LUIS RODRIGUEZ** will return in August 2016 as our student employees. We are excited to have them back for another year!

ETHNIC STUDIES CENTER

DR. JOON KIM has received seed money from the College of Liberal Arts and the Office of the Vice President for Research to create the **Ethnic Studies Center**. The Center will provide a collective and thoughtful voice and perspective on enduring challenges of race and ethnicity. As an extension of the Department of Ethnic Studies, the Center will support the department's mission by engaging in research, outreach, and community-based advocacy.

INNOVATIVE AND COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

The Center will be a research base for organizing disparate research interests into cohesive themes, responding to pressing societal concerns in a timely and collective way. The collaboration model particularly benefits junior faculty and graduate students who can work closely with senior faculty from the conceptual stage to publication.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND CONVERSATION

The Center will engage the public and the University communities in critical conversations about issues pertaining to race and ethnicity. The Center's emphasis on comparative, interdisciplinary, indigenous, and international approaches will complicate and problematize the manner in which issues of diversity, power, and social justice are understood and discussed.

COMMUNITY-BASED ADVOCACY

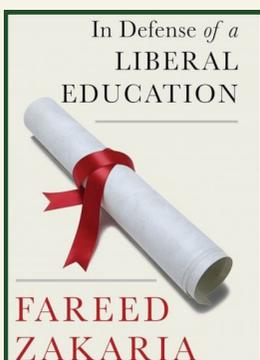
The Center will be dedicated to bringing academic scholarship to our communities. Most of our faculty are already engaged in community-based research that seeks to bring meaningful change through advocacy and social justice work. The Center's goal is to highlight the role community-based advocacy work plays in fostering critical thinking and civic mindedness, an important component of students' educational experiences.

IN THE NEWS

Ethnic studies courses can help address academic disparities by aligning individual student experiences with curriculum. New research, conducted by the **Stanford Graduate School of Education**, suggests academic benefits for students who take ethnic studies courses. This study specifically analyzes the ethnic studies pilot program in San Francisco high schools. At-risk students were placed into a track program that included ethnic studies courses and experienced a boost in attendance, academic performance, and credits earned. These findings come as educators and policymakers in many states debate the value of ethnic studies courses.

To read more about this study, visit <https://news.stanford.edu/2016/01/12/ethnic-studies-benefits-011216/>.

BOOK RECOMMENDATION



In his important and timely book, *In Defense of a Liberal Education*, Fareed Zakaria explains that the recent turn away from the liberal arts is a mistake. A liberal arts education provides the foundation for finding your voice, writing, speaking your mind and, ultimately, learning.

Technology and globalization has made these skills even more valuable and necessary as routine mechanical and computing tasks can be done by machines. More than just a path to a career, Zakaria argues that a liberal education is an exercise in freedom and, above all, it feeds the most basic urge of the human spirit — to know.

FACULTY RECOGNITION

DR. ALBERT BIMPER received the **Leroy T. Walker Young Professional Award**, given to a person of color ,40 years old or younger, who has demonstrated superior promise in the areas of service, teaching, scholarship, and commitment to the goals of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance.

DR. RAY BLACK received a **Best Teacher Award** for his exceptional impact on students through his teaching. Students and alumni can nominate faculty for the award, which is given by the CSU Alumni Association.

DR. MARICELA DEMIRJYN has been selected for the **HERS Denver Summer Institute**, an intensive two-week residential women’s leadership training program.

DR. ERIC ISHIWATA is a recipient of the **College of Liberal Arts Distinction in Outreach Award** for his continued work and service in Fort Morgan, Colo.

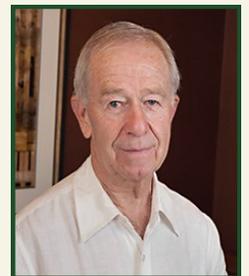
DR. THOMAS M. SWENSEN was re-elected to the board of directors of the **Koniag Education Foundation**, which funds and supports the education and future of Alutiiq people, communities, and economy.

DR. IRENE VERNON is a recipient of the **College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Service Award** in recognition of the impact her leadership has had on the college, University, and surrounding communities. She also received the **Oliver P. Pennock Distinguished Service Award** for her outstanding achievements on the Standing Committee on the Status of Women Faculty, her role in the formation of the Department of Ethnic Studies, and her efforts to recruit and promote faculty of color. Finally, she received the **National Association of Ethnic Studies Award of Recognition and Appreciation** for her dedication and work in the profession of ethnic studies over her long career.

RECOGNIZING BOB HOFFERT

Congratulations to **DR. ROBERT “BOB” HOFFERT**, who recently received the **Henry P. and M. Page Laughlin Educator Award** for outstanding contributions to the field of education.

Dr. Hoffert is a professor emeritus of political science and philosophy and served as dean of the College of Liberal Arts at CSU. He was an integral part of the creation of the Center for Applied Studies in American Ethnicity, which later became the Department of Ethnic Studies. Dr. Hoffert continues to support ethnic studies students with monthly contributions and leads the OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute at CSU. The department is grateful for the lifelong work of Dr. Hoffert, and we are honored to count him as one of our greatest supporters.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

LORENA FUENTES IBANEZ /// ETHNIC STUDIES UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Lorena is a first-generation student from Mexico City, Mexico. She is proud to be able to attend CSU because of the benefits extended to children of immigrants in the ASSET bill. Lorena is majoring in ethnic studies and minoring in sociology and pre-med.



MARLEY SMITH /// HIRAM AND TRUDI DEFRIES SCHOLARSHIP

Marley is transfer student to CSU. She identifies as Native Hawaiian and studied for two years in O’ahu, receiving an A.A. in Hawaiian studies and liberal arts.



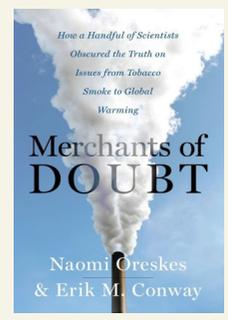
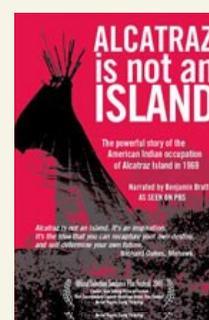
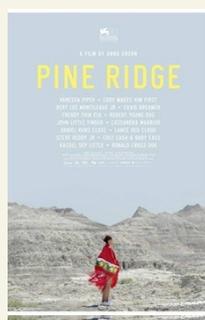
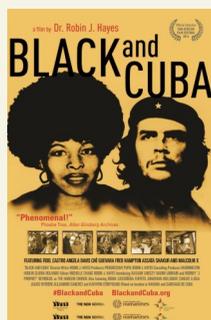
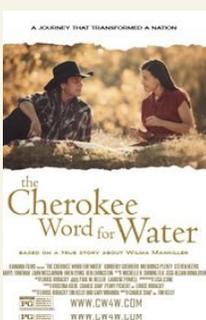
DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS

- BIMPER, A.Y.**, and Harrison, L. "Are We Committed to Issues of Race? Institutional Integrity across Intercollegiate Athletics." *International Review for the Sociology of Sport* (2015). 1-18.
- BIMPER, A.Y.** "Mentorship of Black Student-athletes at a Predominately White American University: Critical Race Theory Perspective on Student-athlete Development." *Sport, Education and Society* (2015): 1-19.
- BUBAR, R.**, Rouner, D., Long, M., **VERNON, I.**, and Aungie, B. "Rap about the Clap: A Qualitative Study of American Indian Youth and STDs/STIs." *American Indian Culture And Research Journal* 39.2 (2015): 53-67.
- Rouner, D., Long, M., **BUBAR, R.**, and **VERNON, I.** "Communication and Self-concept regarding Sexually Transmitted Infections among Rural and Urban Native American Youth." *Howard Journal of Communication* 26 (2015): 172-92.
- Clark, L., Harrison, L. , and **BIMPER, A.Y.** "Generations: Academic and Athletic Integration of a Southern PWI Basketball Program." *Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport* 86.3 (2015): 281-91.
- DEMIRJYN, M.** "The Art of Social Movements and Intersectional Activism by Latina/os and Queers of Color." *Border-Lines: Journal of the Latino Research Center* IX (2015): 21-37.
- KIM, J.K.** "Embedded Solidarity: International Migrant Labor Advocacy in South Korea." *Immigration and Work Research in the Sociology of Work* (2015): 75-98.
- KIM, J.K.** "U.S. Policies on Immigrant Families: Assessing the Impact of Race, Gender and Culture." *Proceedings of the International Conference on Multicultural Families* (2015): 60-79.
- KIM, J.K.** 2015. Review of *Migration and Diversity*, by S. Vertovec (ed.). *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 24(3). 403-05.
- Lee, J., and **KIM, J.K.** "HIV/AIDS Knowledge among Migrant Workers in Korea." *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal* 24.4 (2015): 540-54.
- SWENSEN, T.M.** "Of Subjection and Sovereignty: Alaska Native Corporations and Tribal Governments in the Twenty-First Century." *Wicazo Sa Review: A Journal of Native American Studies* 30.1 (2015): 100-17.
- SWENSEN, T.M.** "Race Technologies and Familial History in Twentieth-Century Native Alaska." *Occasion Journal Special Issue Race, Space, Scale* 8 (2015). 1-8.
- SWENSEN, T.M.** "The Relationship Between Indigenous Rights, Citizenship, and Land in Territorial Alaska: How the Past Opened the Door to the Future." *Alaska Native Studies Journal* 2 (2015). 44-58.
- SWENSEN, T.M.** "Forever Crossing Over: At the Intersection of John T. Williams's Life and Memorial." *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* 39.4 (2015): 1-18.

MEDIA LIBRARY

The Department of Ethnic Studies is proud of its rich collection of current, historical, educational, mainstream, independent, and political DVDs. The collection supports classroom teaching, curriculum, and research by faculty, staff, and students.

Stop by the office for more information about checking out a film, or check out the complete DVD library in the Resources section of our website — ethnicstudies.colostate.edu.



STUDY ABROAD

Ghana



The Department of Ethnic Studies is proud to offer two incredible service-learning trips each year to Ghana and Cuba. For many students, these study abroad trips are the first experience traveling outside the United States. Both trips are led by ethnic studies faculty and include an educational component analyzing the historical, cultural, economic, and social conditions that created contemporary Ghanaian and Cuban societies.

The Ghana trip, led by **DR. CARIDAD SOUZA**, is 20 days long and is centered on volunteering at local schools and orphanages. This year, the students painted two schools, interacted with children, and even got to try their hands at traditional Ghanaian textile making.

The trip to Cuba, lead by **DRS. ERNESTO SAGÁS** and **KARINA CÉSPEDES**, is nine days long. The students spend time learning and traveling around the island. Educationally, the trip is focused on many of Cuba's sustainability projects that have become central to Cuban life and culture.

The ethnic studies service-learning trips are not exclusively for students. Our department encourages community members and alumni to apply for these opportunities. To learn more, please visit the CSU International Programs website, and also check out the ETST Instagram page, [@csuethnicstudies](#), to see pictures of past trips.

Cuba



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

For the Department of Ethnic Studies, sharing the success of our past students inspires our current and future students because they see the different careers where our alumni have found success in. If you are an alumnus or alumna, and want to share your story with us, contact megan.skeehan@colostate.edu.



RACHEL VERNON was a graduate from the first cohort of graduate students that entered the department, graduating in 2014. After graduating from Stanford in 2008 with a B.A. in comparative studies of race and ethnicity, Rachel eventually found herself drawn to CSU's ethnic studies program to continue her education on topics that were important to her.

Rachel was attracted to the newly founded ethnic studies graduate program because of the personal relationships she had with faculty and their research interests. Rachel said "**JOON KIM, CARIDAD SOUZA, and KARINA CÉSPEDES** were very influential and also advised me on the development of my thesis."

After graduation, Rachel found work with First Nations Development Institute as an intern program officer. She then transitioned to a cooperative food empowerment directive, CoFED, as the operations and program director, where she worked for two years, developing programming for students interested in starting food coops on their college campuses. Rachel has since accepted a job working at the Chinese Progressive Association as a senior project manager. CPA works with workers and tenant organizing, youth leadership development, national movement building, and other community building projects.

When asked about what she would tell current students, Rachel said, "The department is filled with really awesome people who not only focus on your education but also focus on building real relationships. I recommend you invest in your studies, but also your relationship with your cohort and teachers!"

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

ABBIE BLACH helped create a video *Racism: Our Response* by Arisson Stanfield. Great work, Abbie! See the video at <http://youtu.be/bJZBp2qHuqc>.

MONICA CLARK presented "Fresh Food Access for Marginalized Populations: Navigating the Challenges and Celebrating the Successes" at the 2016 CSU Ventures Innovation Symposium. She was also the second-place winner at the 2015 Graduate Student Showcase for "Mentor the Garden Mentor, a 12-Month Gardening Curriculum for Marginalized Populations," highlighting some of the most innovative research at CSU. Congratulations, Monica!



MONICA CLARK

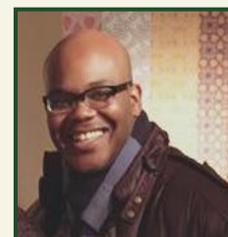
CODY CHANG and **OMAR SANCHEZ** helped coordinate the Fort Morgan High School student visit. Great work reaching out to our extended community!



NICHOLAS GOLDEN

NICK GOLDEN has been working with the department to create ethnic studies recruitment videos. He used the skills he learned from his second major in journalism and media communication to help create media that helps promote ethnic studies. Thanks, Nick!

NICK GOLDEN, NATALEAH SMALL, and EMILY RUBIN worked with **DR. ERIC ISHIWATA** on a special project for Fort Morgan High School — *Fort Morgan Speaks* — to help share diverse student voices and to promote self-confidence. Thank you, students, for the outreach and positive contributions to the Fort Morgan community!



OCTAVIUS JONES

OCTAVIUS JONES is the assistant Peace Corps representative at CSU. He is also the Department of Ethnic Studies graduate student representative for the Graduate Student Council. Thank you for representing ETST, Octavius!

FAREWELL



JESSICA

We have two very special graduating staff members this year. **JESSICA GALVAN** is graduating with a B.S. in apparel and merchandising and a minor in business administration. **TIZITA TADESSE** is graduating with a B.A. in communication studies and a minor in linguistics and culture. The department wishes you both the best of luck in your future endeavors. We will miss you!



TIZITA

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2016!

ETHNIC STUDIES M.A.

Erin H. Bell, Monica S. Clark, Vanessa M. Gordillo, Ashley V. Martinez

ETHNIC STUDIES B.A.

Aynadis K. Alemayehu, Tre D. Burnett, Alexis deFries, Alexandria T. Fischer, Kelsey J. Giles, Nicholas P. Golden, Alexis Johnson Mason, Rachelle A. Lee, Madeline A. Odell, Danita C. Ordaz, Miguel Roman-Acevedo, Destiny M. Story, Alejandra Sullivan

ETHNIC STUDIES MINOR

Alexander R. Blum, Christina M. Borrego, Lindsey R. Bustos, Tracy J. Close, Carroll G. Conley, Joanna Godina-Aldana, Amber N. Hudson, Abigail V. Keelty, Catherine C. Matthews, Mercedes Mayes, Nancy Y. Mejia-Arias, Stephanie R. Patenaude, Emily A. Rubin, Lauren S. Schall, Paris A. Tingley, Thao P. Truong, Mattie J. Wyckoff

STAY CONNECTED



CSU Department of Ethnic Studies



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STUDENT OUTREACH

About 35 students from Fort Morgan High School visited CSU on April 6 in a growing partnership that is being fostered by **DR. ERIC ISHIWATA**. Most of the students who visited campus are recent immigrants or refugees and are in the English as a Second Language class at FMHS.

The students visited with Department of Ethnic Studies Chair Irene Vernon, toured campus, and had a meeting with College of Liberal Arts Dean Ann Gill. They also attended Ishiwata's "Race Formations in the United States" class, spoke with ethnic studies majors from similar backgrounds and enjoyed lunch at the Ram's Horn dining hall. An impromptu stop at the local mosque gave many of the Muslim students a chance to be in a Mosque for the first time in years.

"College visits like this can help you understand that you don't have to just go to work at the same place your parents did — you can do something different for yourself," said high schooler Jeferson Sofoifa.

"This trip to CSU was very important for my students from Fort Morgan High School," teacher Jordan said. "These students are from all over the world; countries in East Africa such as Somalia, Ethiopia, Congo, and Tanzania. Others are from countries such as Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. The students felt welcomed, accepted and, most importantly, valued."



DEPARTMENT DONORS

“When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.” - MAYA ANGELOU

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YOUR GIFTS HAVE MADE A REAL DIFFERENCE, NOT ONLY IN THE LIVES OF OUR STUDENTS BUT ALSO IN THE IMPORTANT WORK WE ALL DO THAT EMPOWERS MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES AND PEOPLE.

FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS, THANK YOU.

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