



**POSC**  
POLITICAL SCIENCE  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH

2023 - 2024  
**NEWSLETTER**



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# A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Most rhythms of the academic year are familiar: excitement at the start of classes, resetting during breaks, and anticipation as exams, projects, and papers come due (and must be graded!). There are also smaller moments where we connect in study sessions, meetings, office hours, lunches, and talks.

This newsletter is always an opportunity to reflect upon our past year. Putting it together allows consideration of the many community accomplishments we celebrated, the new members who joined our department, as well as those we have lost. We do this at one of the busiest times of the year, reminding us to soak up culminating events as best we can.

This spring, however, I am also closing out the final academic year of my term as department chair, giving me greater cause for reflection than usual. As an alumna, it has been an honor to serve as chair of the department where I earned my bachelor's and master's degrees. The department is where I had faculty mentors who helped launch me into graduate school at Yale--and also welcomed me back as their colleague. It is the place where I have crafted my career of teaching, research, and service. To have the chance to contribute to this department as chair has been incredibly meaningful to me.

I am very proud of what we have accomplished together over this past three years: in particular, a renewed sense of community and belonging amongst faculty, students, staff, and alumni, driven by the unique contributions we each provide and rooted in a shared commitment to collegiality, inclusive and equitable student success, and the public good.

I am grateful for the collaboration of our dedicated current and emeritus faculty, engaged student and alumni leaders, as well as the partnership of our college and campus colleagues. Most fundamentally, however, a department chair's efforts are made possible by the staff professionals with whom she has the honor to work, and I have benefited greatly from the expertise and skill of Amelia Marquez, Katie Masterson, Julia Castro, Amy Aguilar, and Kaitlynn Keang. In particular, I count myself incredibly lucky to have worked for the last several academic years with our Department Administrative Coordinator, Socheatey (Ty) Yim, someone whose character, knowledge, relationships, insights and good cheer consistently enhanced my work and our department as a whole.

I am very proud to share that my colleague Dr. Kathryn J. Perkins will be stepping into the role of chair when we start the 2024-2025 academic year. I know the department will continue its decades-long tradition of strong leadership, while also developing new rhythms to our common experience. Dr. Perkins brings so much ingenuity and future-focus to the role, I cannot wait to see what comes next for our department under her leadership.

Please read in the pages that follow about what we have been up to over the past year. To ensure you do not miss a thing, follow us: @csulbposc on most major social media platforms. I would also like to make a special appeal for you to join us on BeachNexus--where we can create new connections with one another and increase our collective impact.

All my best,  
Dr. Amy Cabrera Rasmussen



Dr. Amy Cabrera Rasmussen  
*Department Chair 2021-2024*



Dr. Kathryn J. Perkins  
*Incoming Chair Fall 2024*

# STUDENT AND ALUMNI UPDATES

## Student News

**Sarah Arya** was selected as a Presenter at the 2024 CSULB Student Research Competition. She has studied under Dr. Ezgi Yildiz focusing on human rights, and Dr. Matthew Mendez Garcia focusing on urban politics.

**Dennis Brownlee** has been admitted to MA programs at the Hertie School (Berlin, Germany) and the Geneva Graduate Institute (Geneva, Switzerland) and plans to move to Berlin next academic year.

**David Espinoza-Silvestre** has an internship with city councilwoman Kristina Duggan, 3rd District.

**Diego Flores** is the CSULB Policy Debate Team President, and he is currently ranked third in the nation for policy debate.

**Masha Kharchik** and **Sierra Darwin** presented original research papers at the 2024 WPSA annual meeting.

**Masha Kharchik** presented an original research paper entitled, "Russia's War in Ukraine as a threat to global food security" at the 2024. Royce International Symposium at the Richard Nixon Library. Her paper won a Royce International Symposium Student Research Award.

**Grant Latour** and **Sarah Arya** are participating in a study under Dr. Yildiz regarding renewable energy. They anticipate publishing pieces on their findings.

**Issac Obert** was recently elected as Senator for the College of Liberal Arts. He has also started a new Political Theory Club with Dr. Caputi.

**Evelyn Ortiz Soto** has been admitted to UCI and UC Berkeley and intends to do a Ph.D. in Political Science. She was awarded the most prestigious award of Chancellor Fellowship from UC Berkeley.

**Guadalupe Romero-Padilla** has been an active leader on campus, serving as president of the Political Science Student Association and volunteering with the Long Beach Community Table.

**Katherin Toscano** was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa.

**Matthew Wong** has a judicial internship with the LA Superior Court.

## Alumni News

**Amy Aguilar** was recently hired as the Political Science Department Administrative Assistant.

**Giovanna Itzel Alcantar** was a recipient of the 2023 American Political Science Association's Adaljiza Sosa-Riddell Mentor Award.

**Tatijana Brienza** will be attending California Western School of Law Class of 2024. She has received the Dean's Honor Scholarship which will cover 75% of her tuition.

**Jayden Greenfield** has been offered an Executive Capitol Fellowship to begin October 2024 in Sacramento.

**Elizabeth Henriquez Gaunt** is now a Senior Paralegal at the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles working in the Medical Legal Partnership.

**Daniella Hernandez** is a Senior Associate for Chemonics International, working on two Mexico projects specializing in human rights and violence prevention. She also has been accepted to the Master's program in Global Human Development at Georgetown University.

**Jacob Lenerville** is an Instructor in History and Political Science at Barstow Community College.

**Gladis Molina Alt**, Executive Director of the Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights, presented the prestigious 28th Karen J. Honig Memorial Lecture in March 2024 at the University of Illinois-Chicago. The talk was entitled, "Welcoming the Newcomer: Meeting Migration Trauma with Trust, Generosity, and Support."

**Ginrich Moua** works for Groundswell, an Orange County-based nonprofit that delves in community service to build co-creation and belonging for all communities.

**Pablo Ordenez** is a law student at the University of Michigan.

**Kimberly Rangel** will be applying to law school in 2024.

**Sumaira Yasin** recently accepted a position as a Development Associate at a non-profit called Youth on Root in the Bay Area and co-founded *TAJDEED*, an independent global research platform.

# MOOT COURT

*Written by Moot Court Director Dr. Lewis Ringel*



*From left to right: Ashley Harding, Mikayla Browne, Jacqueline Zambrano (assistant coach), Jocelyn Soto-Rivera, Jocelyn Colpitts, Stevie De La Fuente, Ivonne Sotelo, Lewis Ringel (head coach), Morgan Barragan, Alexa Alvarez, Emma Nelson, Kylie Barnhart, Jordan Gebrian, Farnoz Norouzi, Alex Lohman (assistant coach), and Pat Dyson (assistant coach).*

## 2023-24 MOOT COURT SEASON

The longest season in the history of the American Moot Court Association (AMCA) is complete. The AMCA has adopted a new framework that involves competing in a regional, earning a bid to one of four 32 team preliminary rounds of the national tournament (PRONT) from which 32 teams advanced to the final round of the national tournament (FRONT). The year started with 477 teams. 6 from CSULB. For sake of comparison, there are over 360/350 Division I NCAA men's and woman's basketball teams respectively. 128 teams qualified for the PRONT. 6 were from CSULB. This is the first time in CSULB history that all of our teams qualified for nationals. There were 32 teams that qualified for the FRONT. 3 from CSULB: Morgan Barragan and Ivonne Sotelo; Jocelyn Colpitts and Emma Nelson; and Jordan Gebrian and Farnoz Norouzi.

Barragan and Sotelo finished fourth in the nation in oral advocacy – that's in the top 0.83% of the nation. *In the Fall season, Barragan and Sotelo qualified for the semis or finals in all five of their competitions – only one other CSULB team has done the same.* A program of 6 teams produced one of the best four teams in the nation. There were much larger programs and yet at the end, there we stood -- defying the mathematical odds. This speaks volumes to our students and coaches. Everyone got on the same end of the same rope and pulled in the same direction at the same time. CSULB's national sweet 16 streak is at 14 seasons. A new generation will have to take it to 15.

### *PRONTS:*

CSULB sent six teams to PRONTS. CSULB won five top orators awards: Stevie De La Fuente (Vegas PRONT, 1st); Emma Nelson (Lexington PRONT, 1st); Jocelyn Colpitts (Lexington PRONT, 8th); Kylie Barnhart (Vegas PRONT, 12th); and Alexa Alvarez (Vegas PRONT, 14th).



*Morgan Barragan and Ivonne Sotelo*



Front row, from left: Jacqueline Zambrano (assistant coach), Jocelyn Colpitts, Ashley Harding, Ivonne Sotelo, Mikayla Browne, Jocelyn Soto-Rivera, Morgan Barragan, Kylie Barnhart, Emma Nelson, Alex Lohman (assistant coach), and Lewis Ringel (head coach). Back row from left: Jordan Gebrian, Farnoz Norouzi, Stevie De La Fuente, Alexa Alvarez, Patrick Dyson (assistant coach), and Kamra Jackson (assistant coach).

### *Regionals:*

CSULB advanced to two regional finals. This marks the 12th straight season that we have done so. CSULB won six top orator awards: Emma Nelson (Ohio, 3rd); Jocelyn Colpitts (Ohio, 4th); Mikayla Browne (Northeastern, 7th); Jordan Gebrian (MT ST Mary's, 7th); Farnoz Norouzi (MTY ST Mary's, 8th); and Kylie Barnhart (Western, 9th).

### *Invitationals:*

CSULB competed in three invitationals and won all three. CSULB produced all six finalists and ten of twelve semi-finalists. Mikayla Browne and Jocelyn Soto-Rivera defended their title as Rocky Mountain Invitational champs. Kylie Barnhart and Ahsley Harding won the Falcon Classic. Morgan Barragan and Ivonne Sotelo won the 49er Classic over Holy Cross.

### *Written Brief:*

CSULB won two written brief awards. Alexa Alvarez and Stevie De La Fuente finished second in the nation in respondent brief! This is the third time CSULB has been runner up in the contest. Morgan Barragan and Ivonne Sotelo finished 9th in petitioner written brief. CSULB's streak of finishing in the top 10 of written brief stands for 14 straight seasons now. This is the longest in AMCA history. A new generation will have to take this streak to 15.

### *The Sixth Generation Comes to a Close:*

The 6th generation of Mooters since I have been coach is over. To invoke two cliches: all good things must end and just as the sun sets, it also rises. The dawn is arriving for a new generation of mooters. But for now, the focus is on the generation that has run its course.

In December, and again in February, I told the squad that nationals would be about its legacy – it had to keep all streaks alive, it needed a top 1 or 2 finish in written brief, and it needed to make a deep run at nationals. The 6th generation rose to the occasion.

First, some vitals and a title for the generation: This generation, known as the Seven, was comprised of 17 students divided into 10 teams who competed over 2 seasons. It was a deep squad such that any team was a threat to win any competition. Of the Seven's 10 teams, 5 won a competition, 7 teams advanced to finals, and 9 advanced to semis.

### *Individual Orator Awards:*

- 1 top 10 orator at the FRONT
- 5 top speaker rewards at the PRONT
- 2 of the number one speakers at national competitions in 2023-24 were from CSULB
- 12 top ten speaker awards at regionals: 6 per season

### *Written Advocacy:*

The Seven produced six top ten written brief awards in two seasons. CSULB has won 24 top ten briefs since 2010. 25% came in this era. The Seven finished: 2nd, 4th, 5th, and in 9th place three times. That second place finish is one of three in CSULB history. It was one of the boxes the generation had to check and it did.

*A Deep Run at the FRONT:*

CSULB finished 4th in the nation out of 477 teams. CSULB has produced five national semi-finalists – never more than one per generation – the Seven ended the season by checking the final box.

*Unique Circumstances and Expectations*

The Seven competed under unique circumstances. For one, it began by learning and competing over ZOOM. Second, the Seven came in as the defending AMCA national champions in oral advocacy; the first generation to come in under such circumstances. It wore the title well. Defended hard. It was not easy – but life is about doing hard things. We were no longer the plucky underdog people loved. The Seven competed under tremendous pressure – the likes of which only they had experienced – and by any measure it excelled. The Seven inherited and extended the longest top ten brief streak in AMCA history. It inherited and extended AMCA’s second longest national sweet 16 streak. It followed three generations, each unique in their own way, which had made a deep run at nationals. The Seven checked that box.

The Seven inherited a streak of reaching a regional finals in 10 straight seasons – that streak now stands at 12. The Seven came in as the three-time defending champions of the Rocky Mountain Invitational. It leaves as the five-time defending champs. The prior four generations produced at least one mooter who qualified for 3 AMCA national tournaments. Emma Nelson checked that box.

*Final Thoughts on the Season and the Seven:*

It is always bittersweet to see a season/era end. I am proud of my competitors and my coaches. Nationals and the brief contest can be crapshoots – coming come down to who judges and the style of who one faces. The Seven extended every streak it inherited. What is more, this generation has passed on a winning culture – one that stresses respect and putting the team first – to next the generation. These streaks and the culture that produced them are in the hands of the next generation of CSULB Mooters.

Thanks to my coaches and our alums. I stand in awe at their talents and dedication to CSULB. I hope we can continue to rely on you all in the future whether it be for your time and expertise and/or your financial support.





From left to right: Sarah Arya, Dr. Ezgi Yildiz, Aivy To, Genesis Chacon, Michael Harris, Joshua Mims, Kyle Smith, Adaugo Asinugo, Grant Latour, Matthew Wong, Evan Stein

# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

*Written by MUN Director Dr. Ezgi Yildiz*

The CSULB MUN Program has continued its successful streak in the 2023-2024 academic year. The new MUN Club leadership includes Sarah Arya (Co-President and Director of Research and Writing), Grant Latour (Co-President), Evan Stein (Vice President), Adaugo Asinugo (Secretary) and Matthew Wong (Treasurer), Michael Harris (Events Coordinator), Aivy To (Director of Fundraising), Ethan Bray (Director of Conference Skills), Genesis Chacon (Director of Social Media), Joshua Mims (Director of Conference Research), and Kyle Smith (Director of Recruitment and New Members).

We won several awards at regional and national conferences we attended. At the 2023 Far West Conference in San Francisco, CA, our team earned the Slanzcka Achievement Certificate (Best Position Paper Award), and delegates Sarah Arya and Mikayla Browne were honored as General Assembly Rapporteurs (peer award given to an outstanding delegation). At the 2023 National MUN in Washington, DC., our double delegates (Sarah Arya and Mikayla Browne, Dennis Brownlee and Adaugo Asinugo, and Evan Stein and Rick Dorrhauer) earned Outstanding Position Paper Awards across three committees. Sarah Arya served as a chair for the General Assembly Third Committee at the 2024 Inland Empire Conference for the MUN (IECMUN). The entire CSULB Delegation representing Cuba earned an Honorable Mention. Similarly, at the 2024 National MUN in New York, our CSULB Delegation representing the Republic of Moldova received an Honorable Mention.

In addition to the successful MUN conference experience, the CSULB MUN Program is hosting its inaugural BeachMUN Conference on 27 April 2024. BeachMUN is open to CSULB students from all majors and to other universities and Model UN programs. In addition, the MUN Program co-sponsored the annual Elena Diane Curris Global Issues Lecture, delivered by Eric Tistounet (former UN Human Rights Council official) on 16 April 2024 at the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden.

## *Conference Updates*

The 2023 MUN of the Far West was our big comeback moment. We represented Latvia and Ireland and returned home with several awards and recognitions. Mikayla Browne and Sarah Arya, representing Latvia in the UN General Assembly, received the Slanzcka Achievement Certificate (Best Position Paper award), and they were also elected to serve as the rapporteurs of their committee (peer award given to an outstanding delegation). In addition, the Third Committee, which included members of our Latvia delegation, Kyle Smith and Evan Stein, received an award for being the most cooperative committee.

In addition, we attended R'MUN on May 20, 2023, where Grant Latour, representing Russia at the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), received the Best Delegate Award.



In Fall 2023, the CSULB MUN program reached new heights. We increased our membership through promotional activities during the campus Week of Welcome and CLA Day. As our numbers increased, we dedicated more time and energy to training our new members and improving their research, writing, and speaking skills. We also provided them with opportunities to test these skills and have an immersive experience at FunMUN (themed practice sessions within club meetings) and several MUN conferences.

The first conference of Fall 2023 was Trojan MUN, which was organized by USC. The conference took place in Los Angeles between 19 and 22 October. We sent our largest delegation yet to the Trojan MUN conference, which served as the first MUN conference for many of our new members. Our delegation of 24 students attended the 6th Committee (Legal) of the UN and the Organization for Security and Cooperation (OSCE). We then attended a practice conference at Riverside City College on 4 November. This practice conference helped our delegation to test their skills.

Then came the moment we were all waiting for: the NMUN Conference in Washington, DC. This was certainly the highlight of the semester. We brought a very competitive team to represent the Republic of Cuba in DC composed of the following students: Travis Gillette and Joshua Mims (UN Development Program), Dennis Brownlee and Adaugo Asinugo (UN General Assembly), Evan Stein and Rick Dorrhauer (Third Committee), Kyle Smith and Matthew Wong (Commission on Population and Development) Grant Latour and Michael Harris (Food and Agriculture Organization), Mikayla Browne and Sarah Arya (UN Environmental Assembly).

We received multiple awards at our first-ever national conference in DC. Three of our double delegates received Outstanding Position Paper Awards. Dennis Brownlee and Adaugo Asinugo for their work at the UN General Assembly; Evan Stein and Rick Dorrhauer for the Third Committee; and Mikayla Browne and Sarah Arya for the UN Environmental Assembly. Last but not least, our entire delegation of Cuba received the Honorable Mention Award.

Spring 2024 is an equally exciting moment for the program. We continued to recruit new members and train them throughout the semester and through regional conferences such as R'MUN in UC Riverside (24 February) and the Inland Empire Conference for the MUN (IECMUN) at Riverside City College (2 March). Our Co-President, Sarah Arya, chaired the General Assembly Third Committee at the IECMUN conference.

The team spent the late spring preparing for the 2024 MUN of the Far West, which takes place between 19 and 23 April in San Francisco. Our preparations also included planning for the 2025 MUN of the Far West Conference, where the CSULB MUN Program will chair an International Court of Justice simulation.



Back row, left to right: Matthew Wong, Ethan Bray, Dennis Brownlee, Dr. Ezgi Yildiz. Middle row, left to right: Evan Stein, Blake Maese, Sarah Arya, Mikayla Browne, Grant Latour. Front row: Joshua Mims, Kyle Smith.

## POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

*Written by PSSA Advisor Dr. Edgar Kaskla*

The Political Science Student Association (PSSA) remains a vital part of campus life for both political science and non-majors alike. We have discovered that on a commuter-based campus, Zoom meetings have led to better and more consistent attendance in contrast to times past, so we have continued this in the post-pandemic world with great results!

There have also been a handful of in-person events, including PSSA's participation in the Week(s) of Welcome and the graduation celebration in April. PSSA has been in the very capable hands of Lupe Romero-Padilla this academic year, assisted by an equally capable team of student leaders making PSSA happen even when we are not face to face, spreading our germs.

PSSA meetings have been well-attended and it's great to have a place to interact, be it virtual or real. 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. PSSA has been successful at doing precisely that!



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

For more information, email: [edgar.kaskla@csulb.edu](mailto:edgar.kaskla@csulb.edu)

## POLITICAL SCIENCE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

*Written by PSGSA President Courtney Jackson*

The Political Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA) is dedicated to creating a place where Political Science graduate students can supplement their education with events catered directly to their interests. We hold meetings and host talks centered around faculty research projects in addition to other events that students feel are helpful for school-related activities.

PSGSA leaders for Spring 2024 include: Courtney Jackson (President), Masha Kharchik (Vice President), Juan Fragoso (Treasurer), Genesis Hernandez (Social Media Coordinator), and Jordan Villegas (Secretary).

For more information, contact the faculty advisor, [Teresa.Wright@csulb.edu](mailto:Teresa.Wright@csulb.edu), or president, [Courtney.Jackson01@student.csulb.edu](mailto:Courtney.Jackson01@student.csulb.edu).



# POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

*Written by Amy Aguilar and Isaac Obert*



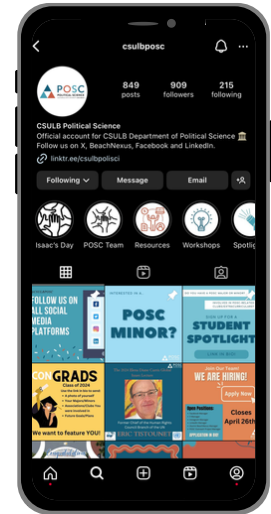
Fall 2023 Team

From left to right: Amy Aguilar, Dulce Sarmiento, Kaylie Abundiz, and Matthew Wong



Spring 2024 Team

From left to right: Adaugo Asinugo, Isaac Obert, and Zoe Gonzalez. Not pictured: David Espinosa Silvestre and Luis Dominguez



The POSC Social Media team plays a key role in informing students about departmental and school-wide events through various platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Working closely with Dr. Rasmussen, the team delivers informative content showcasing esteemed faculty, alumni spotlights, internship opportunities, and student achievements.

This internship provides invaluable experience, equipping members with diverse skills essential for professional growth and future success. If you are media savvy and interested in fostering connections with faculty and like-minded peers, be sure to apply to join the Team @csulbposc. We thank our team for all their contributions!

## PI SIGMA ALPHA *Written by Pi Sigma Alpha President Amanda Gomez*

Pi Sigma Alpha is the National Political Science Honor Society, the only political science honors society in the United States. PSA encourages interactions among political science students and recognizes their academic achievements and successes. It is also a great way to meet like-minded academic professionals.



### Pi Sigma Alpha 2023-2024 Inductees:

- |                   |                        |                    |                   |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Chase Abramson    | Ciara Donegan          | Lila Lopez         | Kayla Rosenthal   |
| Dana Ahmad        | Juan Fragoso           | Alexandria Mayen   | Meaghan Ruidias   |
| Jasmine Anguiano  | Sinai Franco           | Bethany Mengesha   | William Ruiz      |
| Althea Antholzner | Lytzi Garcia           | Tatum Moodley      | Jacob Tauro       |
| Sarah Arya        | Gemma Gasca-Villanueva | Haritha Muthukumar | Michelle Valencia |
| Daniella Berges   | Lily Gibbs             | Laura Ojeda Flores | Tyler Webber      |
| Adam Bird         | Zoe Gonzalez           | Maya Omran         | Matthew Wong      |
| Mikayla Browne    | Kimberlynn Guzman      | Hector Parga       | Ella Young        |
| Geraldine Campos  | Katelyn Hernandez      | Chloe Perez        | Hannah Zubkoff    |
| Adrian Carachure  | Earl Jones             | Victoria Perez     |                   |
| Itzel Ceballos Q  | Courteney King         | Alessia Perretti   |                   |
| Margaret Cruz     | Johanna Laos           | Michelle Reynoso   |                   |

# DEPARTMENT UPDATES

## CSULB | Beach Nexus

*Written by Dr. Amy Cabrera Rasmussen*

We are so excited to launch the Political Science group on Beach Nexus!

What is Beach Nexus? It is a digital space that extends our CSULB POSC community, offering students, alumni, faculty and staff a platform to connect, share insights and explore opportunities. Imagine using a platform like Linked In, but with only CSULB graduates included and with additional tools and functionality for our specific needs.

Students can explore career paths, find mentors and start networking, while alumni can share insights and successes, become mentors and stay up to date on departmental news. Faculty can serve as facilitators of these interactions and remain connected with their past students. Staff are an essential part of our department and do so much to cultivate a sense of belonging among us all.

We invite you to sign up and be a part of our vibrant community! It only takes a couple of minutes to get started.

We are also developing sub-groups tailored to specific interests, including the CSULB POSC master's program, the Model United Nations program, and Washington, D.C. initiatives.



But the space is truly open for you to make connections around whatever professional interests you may have!

*Students:* What knowledge and connections might help you to craft your post-graduation path? Ask our past graduates about their career trajectory and take advantage of opportunities for mentoring and connection. The career paths that our graduates have taken might serve as inspiration for you as you make your own unique mark in the world.

*Alumni:* What experiences do you wish you had back when you were a student? Could your workplace offer a paid internship or service learning opportunity? When you were sitting in a classroom in the SPA building, what would you have liked to have known about post-college life that might have eased your way? Would it benefit you to know other CSULB POSC grads who are also out there putting their political science skills and knowledge to work in the world?

By joining this network, each of you will be able to help us develop our department community and be – and stay—engaged with CSULB Political Science over time.

As the current chair and an alum of this department myself, I am thrilled to see this Beach Nexus space come to fruition. I cannot wait to see what happens here!

### To get started:

- Visit the Beach Nexus website to create a profile
- Navigate to “Connect” and “Groups”
- Select the “Political Science Students and Alumni” group
- Select “Join” and participate!



Scan to start!

# DEPARTMENT EVENTS



From left to right: Prof. Chris Burnett, alum Eduardo Cisneros, CSULB Director of University Partnerships and Civic Engagement Ricki Burgener, Amy Aguilar, Prof. Som Chounlamouny, Masha Kharchik

## Alumni Chat

In October, Eduardo Cisneros, a distinguished alumnus of the Political Science Department, was warmly welcomed for a chat in a joint meeting of students in Dr. DeWitt's *POSC 439: Senior Seminar in Law Politics and Policy* and Dr. Burnett's *POSC 423: The American Presidency* courses. Later, over an informal coffee, he provided further insight into his career, which included time at the White House. He gave advice to students looking to break into the practical world of politics and government. Since his visit, he has taken on a new role as Principal Deputy Director for the Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs, U.S Department of Health and Human Services. We are so grateful to have such distinguished alumni return to The Beach!

## CLA Day

In October, the Department participated in the second annual CLA Day which showcased the variety of programs and opportunities to be found in the College of Liberal Arts. Many students visited our department's tables to learn about the clubs and organizations that Political Science offers. Representatives of the Political Science Student Association, Law Society, Moot Court, Model UN, and the Political Science Graduate Student Association were there to give interested students insight into their activities and details on how to join. Thank you to all the students, faculty, and staff who participated!



Back row, left to right: Prof. Som Chounlamouny, Matthew Wong, Dr. Lewis Ringel. Front row, left to right: Mikayla Browne and Sarah Arya

# Graduate Mixer

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Each fall, the Department holds a Graduate Mixer, and this year's had an amazing turnout. Amidst light refreshments, graduate students, faculty members, and alumni of the program engaged in lively conversations, forging connections and sharing insights. This annual event is one of our most anticipated opportunities to showcase our stellar master's program. In recent years, the event also announces the Outstanding First Year MA student(s). This year, Courtney Jackson and Genesis Hernandez were honored.



Graduate Coordinator Dr. Cora Goldstein with Outstanding First Year MA Student honorees Courtney Jackson and Genesis Hernandez



Dr. Ezgi Yildiz proudly holding her two newly published books

# Dr. Yildiz Book Talk

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In April, the Political Science Department hosted a Book Talk for Dr. Ezgi Yildiz to commemorate the publication of her two new books, *The Many Paths of Change in International Law* and *Between Forbearance and Audacity*. It was an honor to have Dr. Yildiz discuss her books with students and faculty members at the event, which included an interactive question-and-answer session facilitated by the department's Research Colloquium Director Dr. Charles Mahoney. Congratulations to Dr. Yildiz on her incredible accomplishments!

# Careers with a Positive Impact

This spring, the Department hosted its second annual “Careers with a Positive Impact” event. This year’s theme was putting research skills to work for the public good. Students were introduced to Political Science alumni via a panel moderated by 2023-2024 Stockton Scholars Meaghan Ruidas and Chrystyan Pulido.



Samuel Turley (Civic Engagement Associate at Equality California) and Dr. Alfredo Carlos (Assistant Professor at CSU Dominguez Hills) sharing their insights on their career path



Nayiri Baghdassarian and student Andre Achacon having a discussion about her role as Director of Public Policy at San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership

During the panel, student attendees learned about each alumni’s career and were offered tips for entering their desired professional path. After the panel, students rotated among alumni tables, eating lunch and asking questions regarding research-oriented careers. Alums provided further insight into their work life and offered advice and connection. Many conversations continued even as the event came to a close!

*This annual program is made possible by the generous donation of Mr. Benjamin “Randy” Stockton, an alumni and friend of our department.*



From left to right: Chrystyan Pulido, Meaghan Ruidas, Claudia Ramirez, Sandra Adams, Ramon Luquin Jr, Amanda Mendoza, Fernando Ochoa-Suarez, Nayiri Baghdassarian, Samuel Turley, Dr. Alfredo Carlos



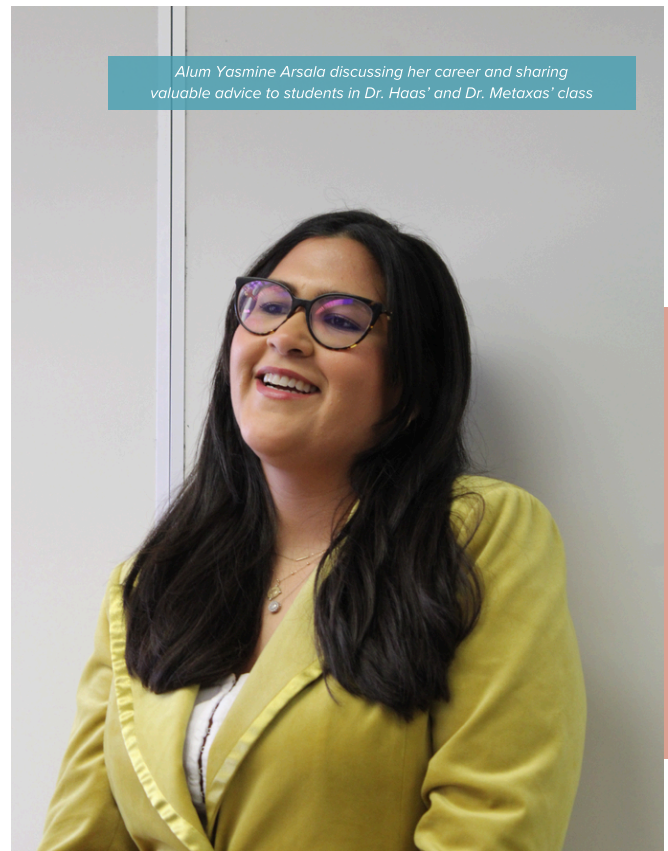
Incoming student and family visiting our tables at Day at the Beach

## Day at the Beach

For the last two years, admitted first year and transfer students visited CSULB on a Saturday in April to learn more about The Beach. Newcomers and their loved ones were warmly greeted and showed excitement about the Department's offerings. At our tables, students, faculty, and staff joined together to provide detailed information about the Department and its terrific clubs, professors, and classes—all while handing out informative flyers and POSC goodies such as candy, stickers, and pens. We cannot wait to officially welcome these new students to our classrooms this fall!

## Alumni Chat

This spring, Yasmine Arsala, an alumni of our Political Science master's program, was invited back to the department and spoke about her work on behalf of refugees and immigrants to a joint session of Dr. Haas' *POSC 479: Senior Seminar in Global Politics* and Dr. Metaxas' *POSC 218: Global Politics* classes. Students were able to ask questions about work-life balance, finding internships and opportunities, and how to make a positive difference in the world with their careers. It was an excellent opportunity for students to connect with an inspiring and accomplished alumni who has been part of a range of government and non-profit humanitarian efforts. Since her visit, we are proud to share that Yasmine has become Domestic Platform Coordinator at the U.S. Department of State.



Alum Yasmine Arsala discussing her career and sharing valuable advice to students in Dr. Haas' and Dr. Metaxas' class



# MEET NEW STAFF



## Amy Aguilar

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In February 2024, we welcomed a new Administrative Support Assistant to the department: Amy Aguilar!

Some of you may know Amy, as she is an alum from the Political Science Department – just graduating this past December 2023. She was an outstanding student and also part of our social media intern program. For two semesters she created and curated content, managed the department’s LinkedIn and Instagram accounts, analyzed metrics and produced reports, among many other things. She coordinated closely with the department during this time and was a leader among her peers. We were thrilled that she wanted to come on board as our new ASA.

She brings smarts and dedication, a deep knowledge of our department, social media and design savvy, along with a range of other skills that will contribute to our efforts. She has hit the ground running and is already a real asset to our CSULB POSC team.



## Kaitlynn Keang

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We would like to send a huge thank you to our 2023-2024 academic year student assistant, Political Science major Kaitlynn Keang.

Kaitlynn has become an integral part of the Political Science Department. They became a familiar face when faculty and students stopped by the office. They played an essential role to support the chair and department when staff members went on leave. Their positive attitude and commitment to their work has been outstanding. They have gone above and beyond to contribute to our team, and have helped to create connections to our student organizational representatives as well as with our SPA building colleagues in the Economics Department.

We hope to continue to work with Kaitlynn and look forward to seeing all they do in the department and beyond!

# A TRIBUTE TO POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT CHAIR DR. AMY CABRERA RASMUSSEN

*Written by Dr. Kathryn J. Perkins*

This year marks the conclusion of Dr. Amy Cabrera Rasmussen's distinguished service as Chair of our Department. In her time as our Chair, Dr. Rasmussen skillfully navigated the Department through campus repopulation after the pandemic, advanced student equity and success through new scholarships, technology access, and programming; enhanced our visibility and reputation through strategic investments in classroom and office renovations and an official Department logo design, and promoted a collegial and inclusive community dedicated to advancing the public good.

As Emeritus Professor and Chair Dr. Ronald J. Schmidt, Sr. frames it, "the quality of an academic department's work is based primarily on the quality of its relationships" and that during Dr. Rasmussen's time as Chair he has "been able to observe [her] working to facilitate open, honest and collegial relationships amongst the department's faculty and staff, and to broaden and deepen the relationships between faculty and students". Dr. Rasmussen's commitment to fostering community encompasses our alumni as Professor and former Chair Dr. Teresa Wright shares that she is "inspired by [Dr. Rasmussen's] work to reach out to our alumni and foster student-alumni-faculty connections, including organizing numerous impactful events, establishing and nurturing virtual and in-person communities, and expanding the department's social media communications". Emeritus Professor Dr. Larry Martinez adds that Dr. Rasmussen's "positivity makes the sun shine on a May Gray day and her engagement with all levels of the University administration, faculty, staff and above all, students, has made this Department the collegial and fun place to be".

Associate Professor Dr. Richard Haesly writes that "many of [Dr. Rasmussen's] efforts are focused on forging a community of inquiry, service, teaching, learning, and contributing to the world" and that Dr. Rasmussen's work as Chair is a "testament to her dedication and a desire to create more than just a department, but a welcoming academic community." Professor Dr. Mary Caputi notes that Dr. Rasmussen is "committed to performing her tasks in a transparent, fair-minded manner bound by democratic principles and collegiality". Indeed, as Professor Emeritus and former CLA Associate Dean Dr. Dan O'Connor puts it, Dr. Rasmussen has helped cultivate "a culture of celebration in the department under her leadership".

One kind of relationship that Dr. Rasmussen significantly invested in was as a mentor to early career faculty. As Assistant Professor Dr. Matt Lesenyie shares, Dr. Rasmussen "regularly provided feedback and mentorship" and "has been an effective advocate for my career and promoter of my work". Assistant Professor Dr. Ezgi Yildiz writes that Dr. Rasmussen's "unwavering support and dedication have provided me with a sense of comfort and assurance, knowing that her guidance is always there when I need it most" and that her "commitment to nurturing those around her leaves a lasting impact on everyone who has the privilege of knowing her".

Dr. Rasmussen likewise forged close and collegial relationships with staff members in the Department, as our Administrative Support Coordinator Ty Yim shares, Dr. Rasmussen "welcomed me with open arms, was open to all of my creative ideas, and allowed me to settle into this department in my own way".

Dr. Rasmussen's impact is also felt by our many students who benefit from her leadership and vision for student equity and success. As Assistant Professor Dr. Matthew Mendez Garcia aptly shared, "her commitment to our students is unquestionable, and I have seen her work diligently to expand opportunities for them". These opportunities include new scholarships such as the Stockton Scholarship, supporting students with financial need pursuing careers advancing the public good, a fund that also supports student programming like the phenomenal "Careers with a Positive Impact" annual event. Dr. Rasmussen also worked with donors to establish two other new scholarships, the KTL Family Pre-Law Prep Fund that enhances equity by supporting law-school preparedness and the FirstGen Internship Award which helps compensate our first-generation students who are doing unpaid public service internships. These scholarships substantively increase student equity and success and will be a lasting legacy of Dr. Rasmussen's time as our Chair.



Dr. Rasmussen also invested deeply in high-impact practice student opportunities such as our Department's outstanding Moot Court and Model United Nations programs. As Moot Court Director Dr. Lewis Ringel shares, "from day one of her tenure, [Dr. Rasmussen] and I formed a partnership that was instrumental in many of Moot Court's successes over the past three seasons". These successes included national awards, top law school placements, and the development of a Moot Court travel endowment and an alumni advisory board. Dr. Rasmussen also partnered with Dr. Yildiz as she took on the role of faculty advisor to our Model U.N. program, helping to bolster infrastructure and resources to recruit and support students, including the Beach MUN 2024 conference.

Dr. Rasmussen is also our first alumna to serve as Chair, earning both her B.A. and M.A. from our Department before earning her Ph.D. at Yale University. I am personally grateful for her inspiring leadership and dedicated mentorship, and I join my colleagues in thanking her for her service and wishing her the very best as she enters a new era and returns to the classroom. I know she will continue to model for us all what it means to advance the public good, for as Emeritus Professor and Chair Dr. Charles Noble writes, "in many ways, [Dr. Rasmussen] embodies what we are supposed to be doing: combine a passion for teaching our students with a deep engagement with the scholarship in our areas of specialization. Most impressive, [she] has always known how to listen to and encourage the students who look to us to be mentors and models".

# IN THE NEWS

Written by Jim Milbury, CSULB News Media Services Specialist

This was another banner year for political science experts to appear in local, national, and international news outlets. The Political Science Department was only one of two departments in the university to be represented every month of this school year with multiple news stories. Special thanks go out to Dr. Jason Whitehead, Dr. Kevin Wallsten, Dr. Kathryn Perkins, and Dr. Matt Lesenyie for being available to news media inquiries.

## #MEDIA MENTIONS



KEVIN WALLSTEN



KATHRYN J. PERKINS

Chart of faculty members mentioned in the news this academic year



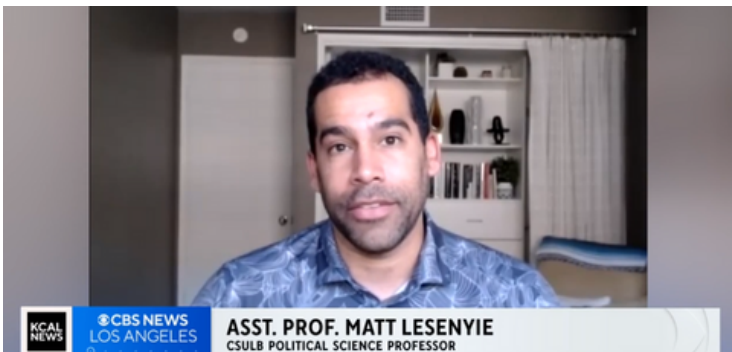
Dr. Matt Lesenyie was mentioned or quoted in the newspaper 34 times, Dr. Kathryn Perkins 11 times, Dr. Kevin Wallsten 3 times, and Dr. Jason Whitehead 12 times.



Dr. Matt Lesenyie made appearances on television 14 times and Dr. Jason Whitehead twice.



Dr. Matt Lesenyie was mentioned or appeared on the radio 9 times.



# FACULTY UPDATES

**Debito Arudou Beamer (International Studies, Ph.D., Meiji Gakuin University)** is now fully on the "freeway flyer" Lecturer Faculty circuit, this Spring semester teaching six classes (19.5 credits) on three different campuses, continuing his monthly "Visible Minorities" column on Japan for the Shingetsu News Agency, blogging on human rights issues since 1996 ([www.debito.org](http://www.debito.org)), and still serving on the CFA-LA Executive Board and the CSULA Faculty Senate.



He was a featured speaker in May 2023 for the "Colorism Across Global Lines" Conference at New York University Abu Dhabi, presenting on discrimination by skin color in Japan. When school is out of session, he spends the hiatus in Tokyo with his wife, who is in Japan as a Fulbright Researcher.

**Mary Caputi (Political Theory; Ph.D., Cornell University)** has completed work on her co-edited volume, *Research Handbook on Feminist Political Theory*, which she undertook with Professor Patricia Moynagh. The collection of twenty-four essays in recent feminist theory will be published by Edward Elgar Press and will appear this spring. Her essay, "Adriana Cavarero's 'Inclinations' and the Problem of Dispossession," appears in the volume. Professor Caputi is also working on an essay, "Quiet Quitting as Marcusean



Refusal," which will be in a forthcoming collection about Herbert Marcuse (Palgrave). She will give this paper to the recently formed Political Theory Association in our Department, spearheaded by students, as well as the 2024 Critical Theory Conference in Rome, Italy, in May. She is slated to give a talk, "The Imperiled American Dream:

A Slow and Curvy Response," at Wagner College in April. In addition to being involved in the Department's Political Theory Association, she also continues to participate in the Washington Mentoring Program as well as in CSULB's President's Commission on Sustainability.

**Darin DeWitt (U.S. Politics; Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles)** Dr. DeWitt presented "Satirical Liberals and Campy Conservatives: The Asymmetry of U.S. Political Humor," a co-authored project with Dr. Nicole Seymour (English, Cal State Fullerton), at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. With Dr. Seymour, he is working on developing a book project on conservative political humor. Dr. DeWitt also published a book chapter titled "Can Narratives Counteract Conspiracy Theories?" in *Conspiracy Thinking: Folklore and the Role of Conspiracy Theory in Contemporary Society* (University of Wisconsin Press), edited by Andrea Kitta and Jesse Fivecoate.

**Larry N. George (International Relations, Political Theory; Ph.D., Princeton University)** Dr. George delivered a paper, "Trumpism as Backlash Politics" at the 2024 Western Political Science Association meeting, and contributed to a roundtable on the work of the scholar James der Derian at the 2024 meeting of the International Studies Association. He also published an article (co-authored with Aggie Hirst of King's College, London) entitled "Pharmacotic Wargames: Military Play as Ritual Sacrifice" in *Security Dialogue*.

He continues work on his book project, provisionally entitled "Pharmacotic Politics". It brings together his earlier writings 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,

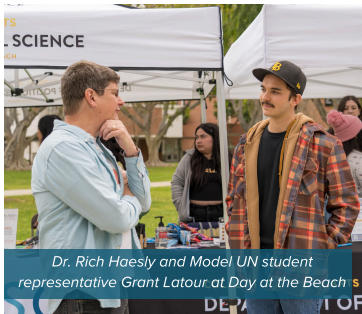




including terrorism, ISIS, immigration, political identity, Donald Trump and right-wing populism, the opiate crisis, and the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Cora Goldstein (Comparative Politics; Ph.D., University of Chicago)** Dr. Goldstein is working on a couple of research projects that have captured her interest. She is also enjoying her courses and her service as the Department's Graduate Coordinator.

**Richard Haesly (Comparative Politics; Ph.D., University of North Carolina)** Dr. Haas and I are currently completing an article based on content analysis of sermons from multi-ethnic Evangelical churches during summer 2020 to see if/how they discussed the murder of George Floyd and the attendant protests throughout that summer. I am also finishing a more theoretical article, "Contact, Empathy, Uptake, and Power in MEC Attempts at Racial Justice," which investigates the possibilities and barriers to Evangelical churches being sites of sustained and meaningful racial reconciliation and what lessons other organizations might learn from those attempts by organizations not known for tackling the challenge of racial reconciliation. I will present that article at the Diversity in Organizations, Communities, and Nations Conference in Lisbon, Portugal this summer. I am pleased to continue my



Dr. Rich Haesly and Model UN student representative Grant Latour at Day at the Beach

work as the POSC Department Advising Liaison, where I continue to help the College of Liberal Arts Advising, which has taken over the primary responsibility of advising our undergraduate students,

but still establishing ways for the Department to work with our students to help them reach their academic and extra-curricular goals during their time here at CSULB.

**Edgar Kaskla (Comparative Politics, Ph.D., UC Irvine).** Completed a book manuscript, *Left Turn*, which is a longer version of a manuscript written last year in Estonian. The book is a defense of democracy as a means by which climate change needs to be addressed. He is still faculty advisor for the Political Science Student Association and continues to write regularly in several Estonian newspapers as well as occasionally contributing on the Counterpunch.org website.

**Matt Lesenyie (American Politics; Ph.D., University of California, Davis)** Dr. Lesenyie published "Ads and Editorials: How Pretreatment Reduces the Persuasiveness of Interest Group Advertisements" in the *California Journal of Politics and Policy*. Matt provided expert analysis on California politics appearing in more than 40 news stories during the 2024 primary election.

**Alex Lohman (Public Law; J.D., Northwestern University School of Law; BA, CSULB)** In addition to teaching Constitutional Law at the Beach, Alex now serves as the Associate Director of the Office for the Prevention of Discrimination and Harassment and UC San Diego, where she ensures the university's compliance with state and federal law, and is charged with designing alternative dispute resolution programming for the campus. Alex is also an active assistant coach with the CSULB Moot Court Program alongside Dr. Ringel, and a faculty support for the CSULB MUN program with Dr. Yildiz. She is currently interested in the development of the State's Rights legacy of the Roberts Court, and the re-emergence and potential liberal application of the "unique moral questions" jurisprudence invoked most recently in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* (2022).

**Charles Mahoney (International Relations; Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles)** Dr. Mahoney's article "Leveraging National Security: Private Equity and Bankruptcy in the United States Defense Industry," was published in *Business & Politics*. Dr. Mahoney also presented a paper titled "Outsourcing in Outer Space: Defense Contractors in the Final Frontier," at the 2024 International Studies Association annual conference in San Francisco. Dr. Mahoney presented an additional paper titled "Deterrence, Dollars, or Diplomacy? Why the United



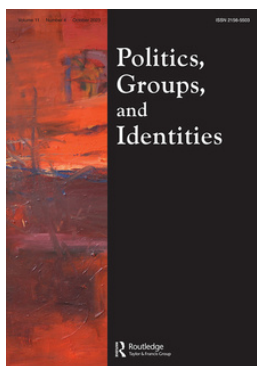
Dr. Ezgi Yildiz, Dr. Charles Mahoney, and Dr. Barry Steiner at the 2023 annual meeting of the International Studies Association in Montreal



States Sells Arms to Taiwan,” at the 2023 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Dr. Mahoney is currently working on several other projects including an examination of venture capital investment in the defense industry and a book about the contemporary United States defense industry.

Committee where she successfully proposed a resolution condemning the recent rise of discriminatory anti-LGBTQ laws and policies. Dr. Perkins is currently on sabbatical leave for Spring 2024 working on her book project on transgender rights and constitutional law.

**Kathryn J. Perkins (Public Law; Ph.D., University of North Texas)** Dr. Perkins presented her ongoing research at both the American and Western Political Science Association’s annual meetings. She also served as the Chair of the WPSA’s Committee on the Status of Women’s and Gender Justice and the Betty Nesvold Women and Politics Award committee. She continues to serve as a Coordinating Editor for *Politics, Groups and Identities* and is co-editing a forthcoming special issue of the journal focused on LGBTQ Politics with Dr. Joanna Wuest (Mount Holyoke College).



Her book chapter, “To Run Like a Girl: State Transmisogyny and the Legal Construction of Gender in *Hecox v. Little* (2020)”, is also forthcoming in Dr. Caputi’s co-edited *Research Handbook on Feminist Political Thought*. Her paper on the emerging legal “right to misgender”, co-authored with Dr. Maceyko, was presented at the American Anthropology

Association’s 2023 annual meeting and is now under review. Dr. Perkins served as the Interim Director of the Legal Studies Program in Fall 2023 and continued serving as Vice-Chair of CSULB’s LGBTQIA+ Campus Climate

**Amy Cabrera Rasmussen (American Politics and Public Policy; Ph.D., Yale University, MA and BA CSULB).** In September, Dr. Cabrera Rasmussen co-chaired (with Dr. Renée Van Vechten) the Teaching and Learning Conference at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. The 2023 TLC at APSA—the sixth annual conference-within-a-conference—included panels, workshops, and sessions organized along four tracks and around the theme: Political Science Education in and Age of Mis- and Disinformation. Also

at APSA, she participated in “Increasing Enrollment in Political Science Majors: Opportunities and Challenges,” a



department chair roundtable. In October, she represented CSULB’s of Liberal Arts (with Dr. Jolene McCall) at the National Social Mobility Symposium at CSU San Marcos. In December 2023 in Denver, she presented a workshop at the Annual Meeting of the Mountain Pacific Association of Colleges and Employers on “Designing the Future of High-Impact, Equity Anchored Internship Programs for Campus and Community Change” with Michelle Chang, Kristal King, and Beth Manke. She has also continued to be the faculty advisor for CSULB’s Pi Sigma Alpha chapter. Dr. Cabrera Rasmussen is honored to continue serving as department chair, working on behalf of the entire CSULB POSC community in all the ways she can—until

concluding her time in the role in August 2024. This fall, she looks forward to a sabbatical leave, during which she will advance research on a new project: the construction of “good work” in the U.S. context—past, present, and future. She is also grateful to have been named one of the 2023-2024 President’s Awardees for Outstanding Faculty Achievement, as well as being the tenured faculty recipient of the Advancement of Women Award from the President’s Commission on the Status of Women.

**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 2023-24 national case. In 2024, CSULB advanced to the Semi-Finals/Final Four in the American Moot Court Association’s National Championship for Oral Advocacy and finished second in the nation in respondent written advocacy and ninth in petitioner written advocacy.

**Kevin Wallsten (American Politics; Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley)** During the last year, Dr. Wallsten published two peer-reviewed articles. In “Contraception Policy and Politics in a Post-Dobbs World” (published in the *Journal of Women, Politics & Policy*), Dr. Wallsten and his co-authors (Dr. Rachel VanSickle Ward and Sarah Hayes) review the current landscape of birth control politics and policy after Dobbs, including state and federal policy responses, elite rhetoric, interest group advocacy, media coverage, and public opinion. In “Consolidation nations:



Public attitudes, electoral institutions, and fiscal rules in the European Union” (published in *Electoral Studies*), Dr. Wallsten and Dr. Edward Fogarty ask: has the adoption of fiscal responsibility laws (FRLs) across the European Union in recent decades been the result of their heeding public opinion or ignoring it? The analysis finds a mixed picture: the strengthening

of FRLs generally occurred in the presence of public support for debt reduction, but this public opinion effect is stronger in countries with more majoritarian electoral systems than those with more proportional systems. Dr. Wallsten also continues to serve as an expert guest for newspaper, television and radio reporting on current political events.



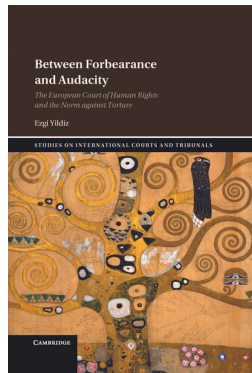
**Teresa Wright (Comparative Politics, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley)** Dr. Wright traveled to Singapore, Hong Kong, and mainland China in October 2023—her first time back in Asia since 2018. In Singapore, she presented a paper on “Youth Activism in Reform-Era China, Old and New,” at the Youth Activism in Asia workshop hosted by Singapore Management University. In Hong Kong, she presented an overview of her in-progress book manuscript, “Generations, Geography and Governance in China,” at a City University of Hong Kong Department of Public and International Affairs workshop. Additionally, Dr. Wright published a book review in the *American Historical Review*, examining Jeremy Brown’s volume on The Tiananmen Protests and Beijing Massacre of 1989. In March 2024, she was a presenter and



panelist at the Royce International Symposium at the Richard Nixon Library, speaking on the topic of China’s domestic politics and foreign relations. Also in spring 2024, Dr. Wright joined the Steering Committee of The Society for the Social Science Study of China, a new organization funded by the

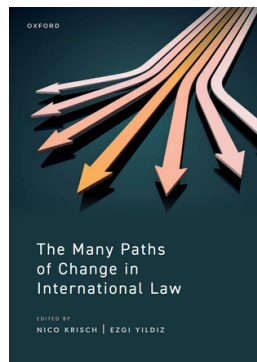
Luce Foundation to promote the interdisciplinary study of China and develop best practices for teaching about China. At CSULB, she continues to enjoy working with students in the classroom, mentoring students pursuing independent research, and serving as the faculty advisor for the PSGSA.

**Ezgi Yildiz (International Relations, Ph.D., Geneva Graduate Institute)** continued her role as the Director of the Model United Nations Program. Dr Yildiz published her first monograph, *Between Forbearance and Audacity: The European Court of Human Rights and the Norm against Torture* (Cambridge University Press), in November 2023. Her co-edited volume, *The Many Paths of Change in International Law* (with Nico Krisch) (Oxford University Press), was also published in November 2023. She also secured a book contract with Oxford University Press for her co-written manuscript, *Change in International Law: Paths, Processes, Power* (with Nico Krisch and Pedro Martinez Esponda). Dr Yildiz’s co-written article, “The



Defocalizing Effect of International Courts: Evidence from Maritime Delimitation” (with Umut Yüksel), has been accepted for publication in *The Review of International Organizations*. Her co-written chapter “Norms, Legitimacy, and Compliance: Between International Law and Politics” (with Isabel Silagy, a former CSULB student) was accepted for publication in the

*Oxford Handbook of Norms Research in International Relations* (Oxford University Press) edited by Sassan Gholiagha, Phil Orchard, and Antje Wiener. Dr Yildiz presented her recently published books at Koç University in Turkey and Manchester International Law Center at Manchester University in the UK. In addition, she received a Faculty small Grant for her project, “Online



Disinformation Campaigns Against Women and LGBTQ Community in Turkey,” and a Faculty Ethics Research Stipend from Ukleja Center for her project entitled, “Compromising under State Pressure: The European Court of Human Rights Walking Back on Rights of Refugees.”





# IN MEMORIAM



## Dr. Barry Steiner

*Professor Emeritus*

Barry was born and raised in Los Angeles by two Hungarian-born immigrants. As a first-generation American, Barry's writing focused on global conflict. His scholarly interest in international relations began during his undergraduate work at U.S.C. and blossomed during his graduate work at Georgetown University and then Columbia University, where he earned his Ph.D. in Political Science. Barry returned to California in 1968 to teach at CSULB, which he considered his academic home until he retired emeritus in 2017.

Barry loved academia and was always steeped in books and articles to freshen his understanding of the world around him. As anyone who walked into his office knew, his walls and desk – and even the floor around him – were always filled with material that he wanted to include in his lectures or writings. Barry was also old school: he continued using a typewriter for his writing into the 2000s and only transitioned to a computer after repeated nudging from his family.

In his scholarly writing, Barry particularly enjoyed using case studies to illustrate or critique a theoretical framework for analysis. Barry's articles appeared in journals like *International Relations*, *International Negotiation*, *International Journal of Intelligence & CounterIntelligence*, *Contemporary Security Policy*, *Arms Control Today*, *Review of International Studies*, *Intelligence and National Security*, *Armed Forces and Society*, and *Public Administration Review*.

He also authored three books on *Bernard Brodie and the Foundations of American Nuclear Strategy*; *Collective Preventive Diplomacy: A Study of Conflict Management*; and *Diplomatic Theory: A Focused Comparison Approach*. Of timely note, he also edited a tome called *New Issues in Mediating the Israel-Palestine Deadlock*.

Barry was a member of numerous international studies and fraternal organizations, including Phi Beta Kappa, to which he dedicated long hours in helping to select its latest members at CSULB.

Barry took great pride in his students' accomplishments and treasured students' curiosity and excellence. In 2012, Dean Gerry Riposa tapped him to be grand marshal of one of the liberal arts commencement ceremonies at CSULB, and lauded him for his years of service, distinguished teaching, and generous commitment to mentoring.

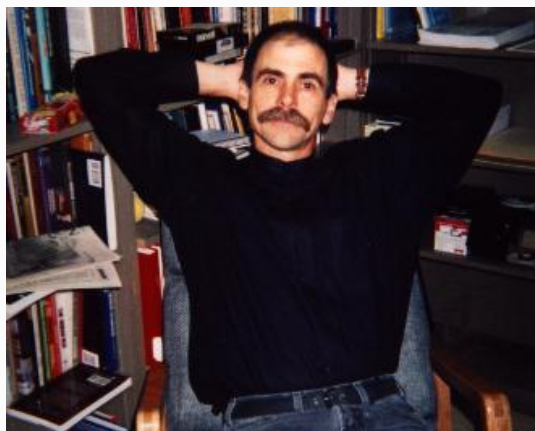
Barry, however, was much more than a specialist in international relations. He was also a student of music, playing classical piano and listening to chamber music with great pleasure. He also relished a good game of chess and his family helped to establish a chess club in Los Angeles many decades ago. He was a committed member of the Los Angeles Jewish community and participated in and helped to lead many synagogue choirs. Barry was a man of unwavering faith, who modeled his convictions with passion and understanding. Barry also prized his civic duties; he loved serving on juries and volunteered as a poll worker at his local voting station.

Despite a long illness, Barry continued to write books and articles throughout his retirement. He delivered his last paper in Montreal at the March 2023 International Studies Association meeting, less than six months before his passing. His children flew in from the East Coast to be in the audience for the special occasion. Until the very end, Barry was drafting an article on the use of economics as a diplomatic tool.

Barry leaves behind him a rich legacy of intellectual and personal integrity, charitable works and a commitment to lifelong learning, both secular and religious. Barry's wife, his twins Mitzi and Benjamin and their partners were at his bedside when he peacefully passed on a Friday evening, September 1, 2023.

*Written by Dr. Steiner's wife, JoAnn Victor, with the love and support of their children—one an attorney like mom, the other an academic like Barry. Comments and memories you would like to share can be sent to joannvictor@gmail.com.*

# IN MEMORIAM



## Dr. Gerry Riposa

*Former Dean and Professor Emeritus*

Former CLA Dean, Chair of Political Science and Professor Emeritus, Gerry Riposa passed on January 31st in McKinney, Texas after a long valiant battle with both Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Gerry is survived by his wife, Carolyn Dersch, and his three stepchildren, Stephen, Sara, and Andrew; three grandchildren, Sloane, Peyton and Sutton; and twin great-grandsons, Grayson and Jamie. Gerry was 75.

Dr. Riposa received his Ph.D. from UC Riverside in 1984 and held an assistant professor position at Texas Tech from 1985-89. He came to Cal State Long Beach in 1989 along with fellow colleagues Larry Martinez and Larry George. He published several articles on public policy as well as on street gangs, a subject to which he was introduced while working for a time in Mayor Bradley's LA office.

I met Gerry when I became Associate Dean in CLA in 2005. Gerry was then the other Associate Dean, a position he had held since 2002. As an Associate Dean and later as Dean of the college, Gerry consistently supported me in my role, even during some extremely challenging times. He wasn't given to lots of talk about himself, and it was only after he and I had worked together for a few years that we began hanging out outside of work. We also took up hiking, and it was while hiking that he gradually opened up about some of the personal details of his life.

He grew up on the East Coast in Norfolk, Virginia in a working-class Italian family. He was the oldest of three brothers whose father was a career Navy man who did dangerous underwater construction. Early in his life, higher education was not Gerry's aspiration. Gerry was more the warrior. A wrestler on his high school team, upon graduating in 1966 he immediately joined the Marine Corps. He fought on the Corp boxing team and later was sent to Vietnam. Gerry ended up doing two tours of duty there, was wounded twice, and received two Purple Hearts. As his friend and fellow marine, Bob Parker explained, due to the many times Gerry distinguished himself as a Marine, he was promoted to Staff Sergeant in 3 years. At that time, throughout the 192-year history of the Corps, Gerry was one of only 126 others to achieve that rank in such a short period. This was a noteworthy achievement. Gerry left the Marines in 1971.

Upon returning to the States, Gerry endured the negativity and harsh treatment so many Vietnam vets unfortunately experienced. He had trouble finding work and suffered from PTSD. He eventually got a job with a construction company, yet his post-Vietnam experience motivated him to pursue higher education. He believed getting higher ed credentials would allow him to pursue work that might help veterans. That was Gerry. Helping others drove him and that quality certainly helped mold him into an excellent teacher and university citizen.

I heard Gerry proclaim many times his love for students and the college. Professor Martinez writes that "[Gerry's] service to his students, the Department and College were exemplary. His move back to Texas left a gap in our social fabric that was never really closed. Very sad to lose a true friend."

Gerry's colleague Professor Larry George expresses well Gerry's concern for others and the essence of who he was: "... I was serving on the College RTP Committee, which had, obtusely, recommended against awarding a permanent salary bump to a junior colleague with a young family. Gerry was the Dean.... I barged in[to his office], and explained the situation. Hearing the words 'young family,' Gerry thought for maybe two seconds and said simply 'I'll take care of it,' and he did. Gerry was like that – reflexively compassionate and empathetic and always thinking about how to make things better for others, particularly for those with little in the way of privileges and advantages. He was organically and instinctively progressive in that way, and his decisions were shaped and directed by an unadorned, unpretentious ethical commitment and personal political orientation that fit his persona as a politically dissenting working-class Marine veteran."

I will miss my hiking buddy.

*Written by Dr. Mark Wiley, former Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts. Photo provided by Dr. Larry Martinez. Condolences and memories for Dr. Riposa's family can be shared to Dr. Wiley at [mark.wiley@csulb.edu](mailto:mark.wiley@csulb.edu).*

# IN MEMORIAM



## Jason Yoshio Shishido

*POSC Undergraduate Student*

Jason Yoshio Shishido, 27, was an undergraduate student in the Political Science department and was known by all for his humor, candidness, and his determination to stand up for what he believed in.

Jason tragically passed away on September 14, 2023, but his 'bright light' will never be forgotten by his family, friends, and classmates.

Jason was a part-time student for five years at El Camino Community College, before he applied to transfer and was accepted as a Political Science major at CSULB.

It was his dream to attend CSULB, and he will graduate posthumously with the degree he worked so hard for.

The Shishido family is eternally grateful for the kindness and support the Political Science department has continued to show our family following the tragic loss of our beloved Jason.

We'd like to extend our gratitude towards faculty, administration, and professors who have shared their words of condolence for Jason. Thank you.

*Written by the Shishido Family*

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