



# CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY DESERT STUDIES

## WINTER 2022

### DONOR SPOTLIGHT: DR. CATHERINE H. JACOBS

Dr. Catherine H. Jacobs is a highly respected retired lecturer and ornithologist. She recently made a visit to the CSU Desert Studies Center in Zzyzx, CA to birdwatch and connect with Director Dr. Terry McGlynn, giving us the incredible opportunity to learn more about her and her fascinating career.

Dr. Jacobs obtained her PhD in Ornithology from UCLA studying village weaverbird behavior. She lectured there for six years before taking a full-time lecturer position at CSU Dominguez Hills in 1990, where she taught a variety of topics; some include evolution, environmental biology, epidemics, and her favorite course, physiology, amongst many others. Dr. Jacobs remained as CSUDH faculty until her retirement in 2017.

As she was incredibly involved at CSUDH, Jacobs and her efforts truly left a lasting mark on the campus. In the early 2000s, she revitalized a faculty lounge and began organizing weekly social gatherings in attempt to form a sense of community amongst all types of campus faculty and staff; these meetings still occur, thanks to the welcoming environment she helped create.

At CSUDH, Jacobs had such an incredible impact on her students that administration created the Catherine H. Jacobs Outstanding Faculty Lecturer Award to honor her, which "recognizes faculty who demonstrate excellence in teaching effectiveness, and acknowledges the role non-tenure track lecturers play in student success and the campus community as a whole"; she recounts this as her proudest moment in teaching (CSUDH).

Nowadays Dr. Jacobs spends her free time traveling and birding with her adult children, and working the Renaissance Fair over the summer; she's been working the Renaissance Fair since 1988 and is the current cook for the Scottish McCullen clan, made up of 100+ people. Although they haven't been able to gather over the last two years due to the pandemic, the clan is hopeful about reuniting this summer.

Our sincerest appreciation goes to Dr. Cathy Jacobs, who recently made an incredibly generous \$15,000 gift to Desert Studies. The funds will go towards renovating the site bathrooms, an effort to make them welcoming for all genders.



*Thank you, Cathy!*

## Desert Studies welcomes new staff member!

We are so happy to announce a new member of the Desert Studies team, Aleena Clavel! Aleena joined us in November, serving as our new Administrative Support Coordinator; she takes the place of Norma Charest, who retired over the summer. Aleena brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from working in the Dean's Office at Cal State Fullerton's College of Business & Economics.



Aleena Clavel  
**Administrative  
Support Coordinator**

Welcome Aleena!

## Support the future, donate to CSU Desert Studies!

When you donate to CSU Desert Studies, your generosity makes a real difference! Your dollars go directly to supporting the success of scientific research and aiding talented students in their professional development. Just a couple of our many upcoming goals include installing a specialized antenna at the DSC campus to track migratory birds, in addition to expanding our natural history exhibits.



Will you support us in this mission?  
Click **DONATE NOW** to make a gift to Desert Studies!

## What's new at the Desert Studies Center?

**We're always working to improve users' experience at the Desert Studies Center.**  
*Here's what you can expect the next time you visit with your class or book a reservation...*

- Reduced number of beds in Castle rooms for a more comfortable, apartment-style accommodation for groups of 60+.
- Rent a kitchen! You can now reserve the main DSC kitchen for your group if you'd prefer to cook while on site.
- The DSC has a new caterer! Local Baker restaurant, *The Mad Greek Cafe*, has been wonderful in providing quality, tasty meals for our users.
  - Accommodations available for all types of dietary restrictions (vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, etc.).
  - Full menu, full of variety; get more than just Greek food!

**Desert Studies has a new preferred method of contact!**  
**Please send inquiries to:**  
[desertstudies@fullerton.edu](mailto:desertstudies@fullerton.edu)



## Connect with Us!

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CSU Desert Studies



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