Congratulations
Department of Mathematics

The American Math Society has recognized the Department of Mathematics at Cal State Fullerton as the recipient of the 2022 Award for “Mathematics Programs That Make A Difference.” The CSUF department was selected based on “the department’s excellent record of mentoring and graduating students from underrepresented groups.”

“The early leaders of our department believed that our faculty and our students could excel through such activities as undergraduate research (long before it became the norm) and mathematics competitions,” said Alfonso Agnew, chair and professor of mathematics. “Throughout the years, a culture of excellence evolved, bringing the highest levels of mathematics achievement and opportunity to our students, a majority of whom are underrepresented and first-generation. I couldn’t be prouder of this department nor more grateful to the vision of past leaders.”

Of the more than 650 students who completed a degree in mathematics at CSUF over the past decade, about a third represented underserved communities, almost half were women, and about half were first-generation students. More than 50% were eligible to receive Pell grants.
“We meet our students where they are and take them where they want to go. That includes students who have never thought of themselves as capable of getting involved with higher-level mathematics,” said Marie Johnson, dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

“We aspire to combine the best qualities of teaching and research where actively engaged students, faculty and staff work in close collaboration,” said Bogdan Suceavă, professor of mathematics. “Our philosophy is to enhance scholarly and creative activity. As such, we have directed a significant portion of our efforts to developing a culture of student-faculty research, and accelerating the path toward preparing new scholars to meet the upcoming challenges.”

“Our students are at the center of everything we do,” said Jessica Jaynes, associate professor of mathematics. “It is our passion to encourage them to make interdisciplinary collaborations and explore new areas motivated by real world problems. Our philosophy is to have students engaged in the task, be involved in the decision-making process, and prepare them to be efficient researchers and contributors to higher education.”

You can read more about the award and stories from Mathematics Alumnae here: https://www.ams.org/news?news_id=6883&fbclid=IwAR3Kvx3sRmYT2BqiE-YtMA0Y1Vw51Z8QN0xLKvIFRm4vBAT7579_AgOFIU
Congratulations to the following faculty members who added their name plates to the Ray Adams Wall:

**Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professors**

Misty Paig-Tran, Biology '20  
Joseph Carlin, Geology '20  
Christopher Lyons, Mathematics '20  
Matthew Rathbun, Mathematics '20  

Joshua Der, Biology '21  
Parvin Shahrestani, Biology '21  
Ryan Walter, Biology '21  
Allyson Fry-Petit, Chemistry '21  
Valbone Memeti, Geology '21  
Bridget Druken, Mathematics '21  
Jessica Jaynes, Mathematics '21  
Valerie Poynor, Mathematics '21  
Roberto Soto, Mathematics '21  

**Early Tenure & Promotion to Associate Professor**

Alison Marzocchi, Mathematics '20  

**Tenure**

Leigh Hargreaves, Physics '20  
Gina Passante, Physics '21  

**Outstanding Lecturer**

Ashley Thune-Aguayo, Mathematics '20  
Dwight Wynne, Mathematics '21
Department Highlights - Chemistry & Biochemistry

Two graduate students, Kevan Nguyen and Cannon Savage, in Maria Linder's research lab in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, participated in and presented their work at the Gordon Research Conference on the Cell Biology of Metals, in Mt. Snow, Vermont, Oct. 17-22. Kevan's research is focused on determining the nature of small copper-containing molecules that are released from various kinds of mammalian cells into the blood, and/or into the gut or kidney tubules. Cannon's research is on how inflammation changes the level of the main copper binding protein in blood fluid, and the amounts of copper it contains. Both students also helped run the closing session of the meeting by providing microphones to people in the audience who were participating in discussion. The setting - in the mountains of Vermont in mid-October, was particularly beautiful because of the brilliantly colored leaves of the trees in the vast forests and other landscapes nearby.

Cannon Savage with the poster with which he presented his research at the conference

Cannon Savage, Kevan Nguyen, & Dr. Linder, walking the Freedom Trail the day before getting to the conference.
Department Highlight - Geological Sciences

Geological Sciences graduate student Tut Tran and Associate Professor James Parham presented "New fossil from the late Miocene (Tortonian) of California inform the evolution of feeding ecomorphologies" at the 2021 Society of Vertebrate Paleontology Meetings.

Geological Sciences undergraduate student Kim Perkins and Professor Adam Woods presented “A paleoenvironmental analysis of the upper member of the Union Wash Formation, Darwin, CA: Environmental conditions during the late post-extinction recovery period” at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America meeting in Portland, OR.

Joe Carlin had a new paper published recently with a former BA student listed (Sadie Kanneg) where work from her thesis contributed to this paper.

Department Highlight - Mathematics

Mathematics students, Efren Rojas and Emily Rumaldo, spent Summer 2021 in New Jersey teaching mathematics to low-income, first-generation high school students in the Upward Bound Math/Science Program. They lived in the dorms while mentoring and teaching the students and they spent their free time exploring New York City.

Three of Dr. Alison Marzocchi’s mathematics research students, Christine Gamez, Brian Quisenberry, and Anthony Truong, won the Student Creative Activities and Research (SCAR) Days Outstanding Poster Award for their Spring 2021 poster presentation titled “Representation of Women and STEM Careers in Middle School Mathematics Textbooks.”

The Mathematics Department was recognized for its transformative track record of mentorship and guidance of traditionally underrepresented students towards research, academic engagement, and graduation. Please read the American Mathematical Society article for more information.

Dr. Sam Behseta - and his team of researchers in the Center for Computational and Applied Mathematics for receiving this grant to acquire a new supercomputer for faculty and students in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics! The acquisition of this supercomputer will allow for faculty and students to engage in innovative research activities and give students hands-on training to prepare them for careers in STEM.
Dr. Martin Bonsangue and his daughter, Dr. Jennifer Clinkenbeard (Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics, CSU Monterey Bay), recently published the article, “A comparison of American student and faculty experiences in mathematics courses during the COVID-19 pandemic,” in the International Journal of Educational Research Open journal. Based on responses from more than 2800 students and eighty mathematics faculty members, this study found that while both faculty and students reported feelings of disconnectedness during the pandemic, the two groups may have experienced the impact of virtual learning very differently. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijedro.2021.100075

Emily Rumaldo, Evelyn Pohle, Alexis Di Pasqua, and research advisor Dr. Alison Marzocchi in Palm Springs for the California Mathematics Council South Conference.

Out of 145 submissions, CSUF's Project MISS was considered one of 21 finalists for the National 2021 Examples of Excelencia, awarded by Excelencia in Education, a program committed to informing, organizing and compelling change to advance Latinx success.

Dr. Alison Marzocchi, Emily Rumaldo, Alexis Di Pasqua, and Evelyn Pohle presenting their research at the California Mathematics Council South Conference in Palm Springs.
During the first quarter of CSUF's 2021-22 fiscal year, our Mathematics Department faculty and lecturers have received over $765,000 in grant funding to support various projects that offer more opportunities and resources to students.

1. Dr. David Pagni was awarded $506,806 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the project titled "Transitioning Math Majors Into Teaching".

2. Dr. Sam Behseta was awarded $208,000 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the "Collaborative Research HDR DSC: Data Science Training and Practices: Preparing a Diverse Workforce via Academic and Industrial Partnership" project.

3. Dr. Alfonso Agnew was awarded $84,106 from the California Education Learning Lab and Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) via the Regents of the University of California, Irvine for the "Biocalculus Preparation Engagement and Application Program" project.

4. Dr. Zair Ibragimov was awarded $20,000 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the project titled "California State University Louis Stokes STEM Pathways and Research Alliance 2018-2023". Dr. Ibragimov was also awarded $63,700 from University Enterprises, Inc. for the project titled "California State University Louis Stokes STEM Pathways and Research Alliance 2018-23.

5. Dr. Tien Nguyen was awarded $70,000 from the United States Air Force via Intelligent Fusion Technology for the "NSS Multi-Carrier Broadband Waveforms Adaptation and Onboard Signal Clean-Up Using Game Theoretic, Advanced Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence" project.

CSUF students gather after presenting their research at the MAA Student Poster Session at the 2018 Joint Mathematical Meetings in San Diego. Left to Right: Cameron Hooper, Freddy Nungaray, Roberto Hernandez, Isabel Serrano, Jasmine Camero, Oscar Rocha Rocha, Alexandro Luna, and Daniel Zelaya.
Drs. Sam Behseta and Jessica Jaynes secured a grant that increases outreach to underrepresented students by implementing services that encourage students to pursue opportunities and careers in the growing field of data science.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, Mathematics Professor Dr. Roberto Soto was presented in a publication between the Mathematical Association of America and the American Mathematical Society's book "Testimonios: Stories of Latinx and Hispanic Mathematicians".

The book "brings together first-person narratives from the vibrant, diverse, and complex Latinx and Hispanic mathematical community. Starting with childhood and family, the authors recount their own individual stories, highlighting their upbringing, education, and career paths. Their particular stories, told in their own voices, from their own perspectives, give visibility to some of the experiences of Latinx/Hispanic mathematicians".

Drs. Glesser, Ichinose, and Stone-Johnstone received a $1000 Assessment Inquiry Grant from the Office of Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness and the Office of the Provost. This grant is to assess the efficacy of a new corequisite course designed to both improve student's foundational algebra and trigonometry skills while taking Calculus 1 and to also allow some students to bypass Precalculus, thus decreasing their time to graduate.

Drs. Kurianski, Marzocchi, and Soto recently had an article published titled Tools for humanizing mathematics classes in a virtual world (and beyond) in the International Journal of Mathematical Education in Science and Technology. This article describes tools and strategies we used to build community and a sense of belonging in our online courses. We also discuss ways that these strategies can be used in face-to-face teaching modalities.
Q: What is your specific area of research?
A: I am part of Dr. Hope A. Johnson's research laboratory. My contribution to the team is to conduct attempts to purify MopA. This is a protein that in company with other molecules, is responsible for the oxidation of manganese. Such mechanism still unknown. A purer sample of MopA would facilitate the study of such mechanism. Understanding the mechanism provides a new database in the field of bioremediation.

Q: If you could thank anyone on campus, who would you thank and why?
A: I would like to thank Dr Merri Casem and Dr Hope Johnson. Dr. Casem for introducing me to the laboratory research studies field, I was a pre-medical student prior, and Dr Johnson for catalyzing my growth and development as a researcher and as a person.

Q: What advice would you give to current students?
A: If you are pre-medical, pre-dental, or non-research related career goal and plan to obtain a degree in STEM, I highly encourage you to explore the world of conducting research studies. You may find it fun, may change career goals, but definitely will have a great time!

"He has really grown to love research. It has been a real pleasure to see Bryan grow as a researcher." - Dr. Hope Johnson
Alejandro Montoya
Major: Mathematics

Q: When and how did you first get involved in research?
A: In 2013, the beginning of my higher education endeavors I joined Santa Monica College's STEM program (Science Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). I was part of the 3rd cohort of students and was introduced to many students and faculty with similar interests. In this program, students were offered an opportunity to live and attend classes at UCLA for an entire week. We lived the lives of undergraduate students for an entire week. We went to class together we ate together, and we worked together like true undergraduate students. On the last two days, we visited research labs and attended student-led research presentations. These students were fellow Santa Monica college students of the previous cohort of students that had joined various professors of UCLA's research teams. They talked about the research they did and later talked about their experiences in finding research labs to join. I was astonished by the work they did. When I got the opportunity to attend Dr. Roman Ferede's research class I was overjoyed and later flabbergasted by the amount of work that goes into research.

Q: What has been your favorite experience at CSUF?
A: My favorite experience at CSUF was my journey to re-enter CSUF. When I first attended CSUF in spring 2019 I did not do too well. I was put on academic probation and ultimately put on academic disqualification in a year's time. This taught me two things. Firstly, something was terribly wrong with my style of studying. What I did at the community college level was not going to work at the university level. Secondly, I clearly misjudged what it took to be a Titan. After some time, reflection, and some counseling by Open University Advisor Margaret Luzzi; I enrolled in Dr. Marzocchi's Math 380 class. This class was my first introduction to higher division math courses and it showed me what it means to be a mathematician. For all those that haven't taken math 380, I strongly suggest you take it with Dr. Marzocchi! She is the best!

Q: If you could thank anyone on campus, who would you thank and why?
A: I would certainly thank Dr. Alison Marzocchi for taking me under her wing and giving me the opportunity to be her apprentice. When I first took her Math 380 class, she and her apprentices before me took notice of my work and deemed me worthy of being an apprentice. While working under Dr. Marzocchi I experience the world of co-teaching for the first time. At first, I was afraid to talk in front of a class, but through the careful planning and the support of Dr. Marzocchi, I found it was within me to lecture effectively the entire time. I fumbled at first but got better at it with time, practice, and the guidance of Dr. Marzocchi. It was an experience I will cherish forever and use to base my future teaching carrier on. Dr. Marzocchi took me on as an apprentice, became my boss, and ultimately became a friend.

Q: What are your future career plans?
A: My future career plan is to become a teacher at the secondary level (high school, and middle school). I want to start off by teaching the urban youth of my community and hopefully inspire at least one other student to go for higher education and ultimately change the lives of others. My ultimate goal is to teach at the community college or university level and possibly dwell in research. Nothing would make me happier than to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Marzocchi.
Q: What do you enjoy most about working within the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics?

A: There are many aspects to working in the College of NSM that make our job enjoyable. But the absolute best part of working as a student is the people. Tatiana, Sam, Brittany, and the other student employees I work with have made coming to work so much fun! Everyone is so understanding about scheduling changes or appointment cancellations. They make working and being a student doable and have always recognized us as students over employees. I could not imagine working with a better group of individuals.

Q: If you could thank anyone on campus, who would you thank and why?

A: I want to thank Mrs. Soto and Dr. Roberto Soto. Mrs. Soto, thank you for being the reason I became a math major and inspiring me to look at math in a way I was never taught before. And Dr. Soto, thank you for being a fantastic professor, advisor and always having candy in your office. The two of you have taught me that math is beyond computational, and asking questions is far more important than always being right. Without their support and advice, my time at Cal State Fullerton would have been very different. I owe much of my success to them and could not thank them enough for everything they’ve done.

Q: What advice would you give current students?

A: I encourage you to make mistakes and fail; you will learn the most from those experiences. Open yourself up to meeting new people; it could change how you remember your undergraduate years. My favorite memories at CSUF are from late-night study sessions on campus, walks to Aloha Java, and fish tacos on Wednesdays. Lastly, it’s okay to not know what you’re doing or where you’re going; most of us don’t. The best solution for this I learned from a book. “Begin at the beginning and go on till you come to the end” (Lewis Carroll).
LSAMP is a statewide program with the goal of increasing the number of graduates with Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) degrees, especially for individuals who have faced or face social, educational, or economic barriers to careers in STEM.

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<tr>
<th>Participant Benefits</th>
<th>Eligibility Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Receive up to $300 scholarship to present at a conference</td>
<td>• Must be a US citizen or Permanent Resident.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Receive up to $200 scholarship towards purchasing a required STEM textbook.</td>
<td>• Must be working on FIRST baccalaureate degree.</td>
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<td>• Waived graduate school application fee for most graduate programs.</td>
<td>• Must be enrolled at California State University, Fullerton, or be transferring to CSUF from a community college.</td>
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<td>• Eligible to apply and receive up to $3,500 scholarship to participate in a fully funded, summer international REU</td>
<td>• Must have a DECLARED SCIENCE (biochemistry, biology, chemistry, geology, microbiology, natural science, or physics), ENGINEERING (civil, computer science, electrical, mechanical, or other) or MATHEMATICS MAJOR</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Eligible to apply for the BD Masters and BD Ph.D. programs that award students an annual scholarship and additional academic support throughout their graduate school education.</td>
<td>• Must be an individual who has faced or faces social, educational, or economic barriers to careers in STEM</td>
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<td>• Exposure to additional research opportunities within LSAMP and beyond</td>
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<td>• Ability to attend LSAMP workshops both here and throughout California</td>
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<td>• Guidance and mentorship through program director, Dr. Ibragimov</td>
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**Research Scholar Benefits**

In addition to the benefits listed for participants, research scholars receive the following benefits:

- $2,000 scholarship per Academic Year for research
- Priority Registration
- Eligible to apply for free or reduced cost GRE prep course

**How to Apply**

- Obtain an application online: [http://fullerton.edu/lsamp](http://fullerton.edu/lsamp)
- Completed applications should be submitted in person to our mailbox in MH-166.

**Research scholar**: submit a letter of support from a faculty member or research mentor at CSUF in a sealed envelope. Alternatively, faculty mentors may email the letter directly to LSAMP@fullerton.edu. The letter of support is only required for Research Scholar applicants.

**We accept Participant applications year-round.** Application submission window for Research Scholars is between August 20 and September 16.

Visit our website for the most current information about the program.

[www.fullerton.edu/LSAMP](http://www.fullerton.edu/LSAMP)

Have questions or concerns?

E-mail: LSAMP@exchange.fullerton.edu
CHANDA ISHISAKA

- cishisaka@fullerton.edu
- Students make appointments online: www.fullerton.edu/career
- Instagram: @csufcareer
- Office Hours: Thursdays, 3-4:30pm on Zoom

CAN HELP STUDENTS WITH:

- Career Options
- Search for a job/Internship
- Practice interviewing
- Apply to grad school
- Resume/Cover Letter Review
- LinkedIn Profiles

CAREER CENTER UPDATES

- offering virtual and in-person appointments
- can do presentations for classes
- for Spring Semester:
  - will try out in-person and virtual Career Fairs
Student Success Center

The NSM ICC welcomed back Fall Festivities this semester! Over 150 students and staff attended the event. Students participated in our Fall Bingo game, met NSM clubs, took photos with Science Tuffy, played games and more. Students received a free lunch and Titan Radio provided music for the event. Thanks to everyone who came out to support!

Brittany Henry became our retention specialist in March 2020, just in time to spend most of her time in NSM working from home. During this time Brittany has been busy working with NSM students and working on her Ed.D. Brittany will be leaving CSUF to go to Cal Poly Pomona and her new position is: Coordinator, Advising Services with Student Support and Equity Programs. Please join me in wishing Brittany all the best at CPP and thanking her for the wonderful work she did with our first and second-year undergraduate Titans during this difficult time.
NSM Clubs and Organizations

Contact any of the organizations below to find out their meeting and activity information.

American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) is an organization focused on educating and connecting students of any major to the oil industry through the use of key speakers and student expositions. AAPG@fullerton.edu

American Medical Student Association (AMSA): Committed to improving health care and healthcare delivery to all people. Promotes active improvement in medical education. Involves its members in the social, moral and ethical obligations of the profession of medicine. Assists in the improvement and understanding of world health problems. Contributes to the welfare of all pre-health professional students. AMSA@fullerton.edu

Beta Psi Omega Professional Biology Fraternity is a student organization with the primary purpose of helping students help themselves. Our overarching mission is to provide a supportive brotherhood for students pursuing the biological sciences professionally and academically and to further the advancement of biology as a science and as a profession. It is committed to serving the needs of students and thereby the community. Beta Psi Omega aims to provide passionate students with opportunities, insights, and guidance to success. beta@bpsomega.org

Biology Graduate Club (BGSC): Offers opportunities for association and interaction between CSUF students, faculty, and administration. bgsc.csuf@gmail.com

Chemistry and Biochemistry Club (CBC): Provides information pertaining to opportunities and careers with the fields of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Familiarizes students with department opportunities. Conducts community outreach. csuf.cbc@gmail.com

CSUF Pre-Dental Society - Through general club meetings, guest speakers, dental school visits, and much more, our pre-dental members can gain the knowledge they need as well the necessary tools to be a competitive dental applicant and apply to dental school. csuf.preddentalsociety@gmail.com

CSUF Pre-Optometry Club - Aimed to accommodate students interested in the field of Optometry in order to educate themselves more about the healthcare profession and network with other students and professionals with similar interests. csufpreoptometryclub@gmail.com

Flying Samaritans - Our purpose is to provide health care to people living in the rural areas outside of Tecate, Mexico. Volunteers have the opportunity to assist in administering, translating, taking vital signs, shadowing health care providers, and working in the pharmacy. Also, our members get the opportunity to experience medicine and another culture first hand. flyingsamselhongo@gmail.com

Geology Club: Unites geology majors and others by providing related information and volunteer activities on and off campus. geologyclub@fullerton.edu
Latino Medical Student Association Pre-Medical Latino - Undergraduate Society (LMSAPLUS): Anyone interested in medical school can join LMSA, you do not need to be of Latino/Latina heritage! 

lmsa.plus@exchange.fullerton.edu

Math Club Promotes involvement for students and faculty in the mathematical community. The club encourages students to start joint research projects with faculty and attend conferences nationwide for observation and/or presentation. Its activities bring together all levels of math majors in one setting, such that new students can be involved. Most Math Club members continue their education as a graduate student. 

csufmathclub@gmail.com

NSM Inter-club Council (NSM-ICC): NSM clubs and students collaborate with each other and Associated Students (ASI) to provide events and travel funding to all NSM and CSUF students. The NSM – ICC organizes the NSM Symposium, Meet and Eat with the Deans and Chairs. 

nsmicc.csuf@gmail.com

Physics Club: Organizes lecturers from guest speakers as well as several events a year. All CSUF students are welcome. 

Physicsclub.csuf@gmail.com

Pre- Veterinary Club - The Cal State Fullerton Pre-Veterinary Club is an organization on campus that is open to all students who have interest in pursuing veterinary medicine. The club provides exposure to various aspects of veterinary medicine including hands-on experience, veterinarian speakers, social events, and community service opportunities throughout the semester. 

prevet.csuf@gmail.com

SMART Girls Support Group (Sisters in Mathematics and Academic Relations in Teaching): Holds monthly meet-ings, study sessions, and provides access to advisors. Learn how to be successful in math courses, relate undergrad-uate courses to high school teaching connect to school tutoring in schools and networking. Males may join as associ-ate members. 

csufsmartgirls@gmail.com

STEM Outreach Club: Builds a community with your peers. Forms study-groups. Gets involved in the community. Helps promote science. And much more! ALL MAJORS WELCOME! 

csufmentor1@gmail.com

Student Health Professions Association (SHPA) - Informs students about the opportunities available in the various health professions. Furthermore, the club provides volunteer opportunities for students to get involved in the community, campus life, American Red Cross blood drives, and work closely with the Health Professions Advising office which is dedicated to assisting students in getting admitted to health profession graduate schools. 

csfshpa@gmail.com

SUCCESS (Students United with Community Collaborators to Enhance Success in Science): Consists of students from all STEM disciplines who are interested in undergraduate research and collaborate together to hold workshops and events for CSUF students. 

SUCCESS@CSUF@gmail.com