The Department of Ethnic Studies continues to be filled with activities and student and faculty success. Throughout 2014 and 2015, the faculty have been engaged in national and international research, teaching, and service/outreach that seeks to employ the mission and values of the Department of Ethnic Studies. In addition, we are proud to be working on increasing enrollment in our undergraduate and graduate programs and overall engagement with our communities.

We are most excited, however, about our new location. We, along with the Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research, have moved to Willard O. Eddy Hall to be more centrally located within the College of Liberal Arts. The new location provides a great space for students to engage with faculty and countless opportunities and spaces for learning. Stop by anytime to see our new home, and watch for our upcoming open house.

Best, Irene Vernon, Department Chair

Ethnic Studies Office Staff

The Department of Ethnic Studies staff continues to provide outstanding service. In many ways, they RUN THE OFFICE. We are proud to work with such quality staff members and hope you will take the opportunity to stop by and say hello.

**Jodi Griffin** has been with the department for 13 years as the office manager. As one of the most efficient and productive workers, she is able to assist you with any of your needs, and amazingly she has the answers for EVERYTHING. **Megan Skeehan** is our new administrative assistant who is also a first-generation ethnic studies major. Skeehan joins us after 13 years in the food business and seven years as a manager. Stop by, and welcome her to the department.

We have also been blessed with dedicated student workers who are an integral part of the department. **Jessica Galvan** and **Billy Wilson** will return after two years; **Tizita Tadesse** and **Luis Rodriguez** will begin their second year on staff. Wilson is a fourth-year student, studying agricultural business and is also in the Army ROTC program. Galvan is also a fourth-year student and is currently working on a B.S. in apparel and merchandising. Tadesse is a senior ethnic studies and communication double major. Rodriguez is a sophomore computer science major.

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Albert Bimper, assistant professor. He has a B.S. in health and exercise science, an M.S. in sport psychology from Purdue University, and a Ph.D. in exercise science from the University of Texas.

Ray Black, assistant professor. He has a B.A. in English from California State University at Sacramento, an M.A. and Ph.D. in English from the University of Chicago.

Bowser, Gillian, instructor. She has a B.A. in biology from Northwestern University, an M.S. in zoology from the University of Vermont, and a Ph.D. in biology from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Currently a professor in the School of Global Environmental Sustainability.

Roe Bubar, associate professor. She has a B.A. in psychology from the University of New Hampshire and a J.D. from the University of Colorado.

Karina Céspedes, assistant professor. She has a B.A. in Puerto Rican and Hispanic Caribbean studies and English/American literature from Rutgers University and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in ethnic studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

Hernán Cortés, instructor. He has a B.A. and an M.A. in history from the University of California, Berkeley.

Maricela DeMirjyn, associate professor. She has a B.S. in biopsychology and an M.A. in women's studies from San Diego State University and a Ph.D. in education from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Eric Ishiwata, associate professor. He has a B.A. in liberal arts from Colorado State University and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Hawaii, Mānoa.

Joon Kim, associate professor. He has a B.A. in sociology and urban studies from The New School for Social Research and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in ethnic studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

Amie Lopez, instructor. She has a B.S. in communication from San Diego State University and a J.D. from the New England School of Law.

Doreen Martinez, assistant professor. She has a B.A. in psychology from Mansfield University, an M.S. in sport and exercise science from West Virginia University, a Certificate of Advanced Studies in women's studies from Syracuse University, and a Ph.D. in sociology from Syracuse University.

Monica Rivera, instructor. She has a B.A. in sociology from Syracuse University and an M.A. in sociology from Colorado State University.

Ernesto Sagás, associate professor. He has a B.A. in history of the Americas from the University of Puerto Rico, an M.A. in Latin American studies from the University of Florida, and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Florida.

Benjamin Schrader, instructor. He has a B.A. in political science and sociology from Colorado State University, an M.A. in ethnic studies from Colorado State University, and a Ph.D. in political science at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa.

Caridad Souza, assistant professor and director of the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research. She has a B.A. in psychology and Black/Hispanic studies from the State University of New York at Oneonta and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in ethnic studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

Julie Sullivan, instructor. She has a B.A. and an M.A. in anthropology from Colorado State University.

Thomas Swensen, assistant professor. He has a B.A. in English and art from Westminster College, Utah. A Certificate in urban planning and theory from the University of Utah. An M.A. in English from the University of Oregon, an M.A. in ethnic studies from the University of California Berkeley, and a Ph.D. from the University of California Berkeley in ethnic studies.

Norberto Valdez, associate professor. He has a B.A. in cultural anthropology from the University of Colorado, an M.A. in cultural anthropology/archaeology from the University of Idaho, and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in social anthropology from the University of Wisconsin.

Irene S. Vernon, professor, chair of the Department of Ethnic Studies and assistant to the dean of the College of Liberal Arts. She has a B.A. in Native American studies from the University of California, Berkeley, an M.A. in history from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, and a Ph.D. in ethnic studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

Kathryn Woods, instructor. She has a B.S. in human development and family studies from Pennsylvania State University, an M.S.W from Arizona State University, an M.P.A. from the University of Colorado, and a Ph.D. in education and human resource studies from Colorado State University.
Congratulations

Dr. Albert Bimper, Senior Associate A.S. for Diversity & Inclusion, and ethnic studies professor received the NCAA award on behalf of Colorado State University. CSU earned the NCAA and Minority Opportunities Athletic Association’s Award for Diversity and Inclusion for its efforts to promote diversity and foster a culture and environment of inclusion on campus. “Many NCAA member schools are embracing diversity and inclusion on campus; however, Colorado State has taken several proactive and impactful steps,” said Bernard Franklin, NCAA executive vice president of education and community engagement and the chief inclusion officer. “We commend CSU and its staff for their actions to positively impact all of their student-athletes and further educate their general student body and staff on the importance of inclusion.” Dr. Bimper has also been a key player in the John Mosley Leadership Program which is a collaboration between athletics and the Black/African American Cultural Center. The program was developed to serve underrepresented and underserved student-athletes by engaging them in a structured, multilevel mentoring program. The athletics department also created a program for its female student-athletes, called “Rambition,” which focuses on fostering overall personal, professional, and leadership development through community engagement, educational opportunities, and networking opportunities. Athletics has also engaged in programs focused on understanding body image and healthy relationships for female student-athletes.

The Journey Is Over

As a past student of ethnic studies and a current ethnic studies instructor, Dr. Benjamin “Ben” Schrader has now completed his dissertation from the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. His dissertation is an examination of military veterans who have come home to become social justice activists. In addressing his work, Schrader comments,

“I proceed by staging encounters between their lives, stories, activism, experiences in war, with a number of theoretical concepts. These concepts include: geocorporeal actors, parrhēsia, organic intellectual, masculinity, hypermasculinity, state violence, citizenship, war imaginaries, and healing. These encounters between these veterans and concepts tell us many interesting things about war, militarism, U.S. democracy, and U.S. society. At times, these encounters help to unravel the messiness of understanding some of these concepts; at other times, it makes that which seems clear-cut more complicated. Finally, this dissertation shows the wars at home that these veterans are currently fighting. They are fighting wars that are often tied to the wars they left while in the military, and they are fighting to make sense of it all, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and physically.”

In the past two years Schrader has taught a number of classes for ETST, including a course titled War, Militarism, and GI Resistance.

The National Council of Social Work Education recently awarded Professor Roe Bubar for Best Article of 2014 for, “Graduate Students’ Perceptions of Professional Power in Social Work Practice,” which appeared in the Journal of Social Work Education (Winter 2013). The criteria for choosing the best article included the importance and timeliness of the content, originality of thought, innovative conceptualization of the topic, and presentation of conclusions and/or recommendations that add significantly to the professional knowledge base and to social work education. The award winners were honored at the Reviewers Reception at the 2014 CSWE Annual Program Meeting in Tampa, FL. Bubar’s article has been praised for demonstrating sound methodology, use of advanced statistical procedures, and discussion of clear implications that add significantly to the professional knowledge base and to social work education.

Ethnic Studies MA candidate, Marley Hamrick, won the first place award for the research category in Excellence in Diversity and Social Justice in CSU’s Graduate Student Showcase this spring. The showcase is a one-day conference for graduate students to present their research and creative projects. Her thesis, Surgically Enforcing Normalcy: A Critical Analysis of International Craniofacial NGOs sought to catalyze a critical understanding of the work of international craniofacial NGOs that exacerbate and potentially even create the problems that they aim to address.

Ethnic Studies Scholarship Awardee

Marielle Konzen is from Fairview Heights, Illinois where she lives with her mom, two sisters, and their Jack Russell Terrier, Skittles. She is a junior, double majoring in ethnic studies and human development and family studies with the hopes of becoming a community support coordinator for the Air Force. In her free time she is involved in community service, Silver Wings, babysitting, spending time with family and friends, reading, and playing Frisbee. This summer she is back in Fairview Heights working as a counselor at a summer day camp and taking classes at a nearby community college. She is extremely excited to study abroad in Ghana over winter break.


Kim, Joon K. 2014. “Introduction to Asian American Studies,” California State University, Fullerton, Department of Asian American Studies, Fullerton, CA.


Vernon, Irene. 2015. "Addressing Adequate Health Care for Navajo Transgender Women in Urban and Rural Areas." Panel presenter and moderator, Navajo Studies Conference, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ.

Vernon, Irene. 2015. "Mental Illness Among Native American LGBT2Spirits,” Looking Into the Causes and Effects of Mental Health Issues with Native Americans and How it Contributes to an Astounding Suicide Rate Panel, Sixth Annual Native American Healthcare Conference, San Diego, CA.

Vernon, Irene. 2015 Margaret B. Hazaleus Award, CSU, Fort Collins, CO. Given for serving as a role model for women on campus, making outstanding achievements that enhance the campus environment for women, have a sustained record of support to women and actively works on behalf of women, including significant mentoring.

**Excerpt of “A Story Legitimating the Voices of Latino/Hispanic Students and their Parents: Creating a Restorative Justice Response to Wrongdoing and Conflict in Schools”**

*Equity & Excellence in Education* 47:4:565-579

Tom Cavanagh, Patricia Vigil, and Estrellita Garcia

Tom Cavanagh and Patricia Vigil are Ethnic Studies supporters and department affiliates, and share with you part of their 2014 publication. “A group of university researchers initiated a research and professional development project called Culture of Care at a large high school in the Denver Metropolitan area. After implementation, Latino/Hispanic students and their parents maintained the project. It was the charge of Latino/Hispanic parents to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline by introducing restorative justice practices into the classroom as a way of responding to wrongdoing and conflict. The purpose of the project was to change teachers’ practices, as well as involving these students and their parents as primary informers in the process. Conceptually, the project was based on an ethic of care, the theory of culturally responsive pedagogy, and the principles of restorative justice practices in schools. Data were collected in the form of focus group interviews to create testimonios to legitimate the voices of the participants. Data were analyzed based on the typologies of authentic caring and aesthetic caring. Findings indicate that the high school needed to change, particularly in classrooms, and that tension in the school was based on deficit theorizing by teachers. Based on these findings, a recommendation is made to build the capacity of teachers and their students to build caring relationships by using restorative justice practices to respond to wrongdoing and conflict. With the support of the Latino/Hispanic parents, this recommendation was turned into action.”
For the past several years, Dr. Ishiwata has been engaging in research in Morgan County CO. His project examines Morgan County’s response to the recent increase in hate crimes directed towards East African refugee population, as well as their integration into the community. The 2006 ICE raids on JBS Swift & Co. caused Colorado’s meatpacking industry to recruit African refugees as they offer a cost-effective yet legal labor source. While refugee labor has been a boom for business, the integration of African Muslims into rural Morgan County has been marred by deep residential and occupational segregation, an upswing in hate crimes, and the more typical challenges of housing, educating, and serving Colorado’s newest minorities. His work supports the integrative efforts of OneMorgan County (the non-profit that has spearheaded the county’s community-building efforts), Cargill Meat Solutions (the county’s largest employer of refugees), Lutheran Family Services (the region’s refugee resettlement agency), and Morgan County School District (Re-3). To enhance his knowledge, in 2014 and 2015 he visited Vancouver’s internationally-recognized Collingwood Neighborhood House, that is known for its outstanding immigrant services and opportunities to welcome and integrate them effectively into communities. At the Cargill meat-processing plant in 2005, less than one percent of their workforce was African, today it is 30 percent. Dr. Ishiwata, ethnic studies students, and the community are working together to develop solutions to the problem at hand. With Fort Morgan and Cargill taking a proactive and positive approach they are becoming a model for race relations and immigrant integration. For more information about the activities go to http://source.colostate.edu/csustudents-support-race-relations-work-in-fort-morgan/

Media Center

The Department of Ethnic Studies is proud of its rich collection of current, historical, educational, mainstream, independent, and political DVDs. The collection is for use primarily in support of classroom teaching, curriculum, and research by faculty, staff, and students. Feel free to stop by the office for more information about checking out a film. Our media library can be accessed at http://ethnicstudies.colostate.edu/doc/video_library.pdf
Graduate Student Activities

The backdrop of the recent protest in Mexico, as communities gathered to demand action by the federal government in regards to the 43 missing students. In November, affiliate faculty member Dr. Tom Cavanagh, along with ethnic studies graduate students Bryan Putnam and Karla Gonzales-Garcia were invited to attend the ESPRES conference in Mexico City, ESPRES stands for Escuelas de Perdon y Reconcilacion SP. The conference was attended by 13 countries from the Americas as well as two additional African countries. Born out of the conflict between government and the rebel group FARC, ESPRES has grown to become one of the leading conferences dedicated to reconciliation. CSU guest speakers were able to contribute to the conference by providing a lecture about the renowned work by Cavanagh dealing with restorative justice. Putnam commented that the event was successful and engaging, among the tension of the protests that were happening in Mexico City, the event was still celebratory in nature.

Dr. Maricela DeMirjyn developed and led the Graduate Student Writing Retreat. All graduate students from the College of Liberal Arts were invited to attend a weekend writing retreat scheduled during March of 2015 at the Shambhala Mountain Center in Red Feather Lakes, Colorado. This retreat was intended for students who were in the final stages of writing their projects, theses, or dissertations in fulfillment of MA, MFA, or PhD degrees. It was limited to students who were working on topics that pertain to or arise from populations/people of color, including the issues, histories, texts, or performances arising from or addressed to people of color. Funding for the Graduate Student Writing Retreat was provided through a grant by the Graduate School. Seven students attended, two of them, Marley Hamrick and Allison Goar, were from the Department of Ethnic Studies.

Undergraduate Activities

50th Anniversary March “Walking Classroom”

An ethnic studies minor student, TreVaughn Hawkins, went to Alabama where he and a group of students treaded 50 miles from Selma to Montgomery to commemorate the same march that happened 50 years ago. They walked 30 miles and bused 20 miles through construction over the course of five days. On each of those days, a speaker would come in to tell them their stories about the march or educate them on the social issues that plague America today. The National Parks service was kind enough to accommodate the students, and provided anything else they may have needed while they were in Alabama. From shower trailers, to hand warmers, to delicious food, no expense was spared for this event, and Hawkins said he was, “eternally grateful for everyone who put this event on for us”. He also is “grateful for meeting all of the people who marched with me through rain and heat. You are all very beautiful people, and I'm glad you'll be carrying the baton with me on the fight for freedom for all.” Hawkins described the event as unforgettable.
The Department of Ethnic Studies and El Centro sponsored the Valdez Lecture on May 5th, 2015, to commemorate the retirement of Professor Norberto Valdez. Dr. Valdez has been with the department for 20 years. The celebration included a lecture by Valdez entitled, “Modern Day ‘Peasants’: Creating Communities of Resistance in the New American Order”.

Prior to the lecture, former students, including now Professor Dr. Eric Ishiwata, shared heart warming stories about Dr. Valdez. They noted how he was an inspiration and dedicated to the empowerment of students and communities. One student mentioned that “Dr. Valdez always brought truth to the classroom” and infused “knowledge with possibilities.” Dr. Ishiwata commented that he was “fortunate to have Norberto as a powerful influence for the better part of [his] life.” After Valdez’s powerful lecture urging all to make their voices heard, the Chair of the Department of Ethnic Studies, Dr. Irene Vernon, and Professor Roe Bubar honored Dr. Valdez with a Pendleton blanket. Indeed, Dr. Valdez was cherished, and the Department of Ethnic Studies and Colorado State University were blessed to have him! We will miss him.

Ethnic Studies Master of Arts
Jessica Benn
Monica Clark
Karla Gonzales Garcia
Allison Goar
Marley Hamrick
Emily Hooper
Bryan Putnam

Ethnic Studies Bachelor of Arts
Niyaankor Ajuaj
Brooke Raean Bettolo
Sara Elizabeth Briley
Christina Danielle Brown
Tre Dalton Burnett
Corey Evans
Monique Lynn Gallegos
Avondine Hill
Victoria Elizabeth Morrazzo
Sapphira Oddo
Madeline Ann Odell
Chanelle Cherise Phelps
John Phillips
Janet Sierra
Anja Robinson
Evan Joshua Taylor
Taylor Jackson Stone

Ethnic Studies Minor
Sarah Jane Earle
Rachel Morgan Franz
Jazmine Daniela Gonzalez
Alea Griffin
Shakari Grigsby
Christina Hadera
Marie Harding
Kamishia Henry
Rosaura Arellano
Paul Higashi
Dae Hong
Makeda Hope-Crichlow
Alyssa Jansekok
Jennifer Ledbetter
Jessica Miranda
Elizabeth Oberlies
Yazmin Rivera
Sarah Jane Earle
Darartu Ibrahim Shafi
Angel Nicole Smith
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Anna Tessitore
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Daniel Valdez
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