

An abstract sculpture made of numerous thin, light-colored wooden rings intertwined in a complex, spherical shape. Several teal-colored rings are interspersed within the wooden structure. The sculpture is suspended in a modern, brightly lit interior space with large windows in the background.

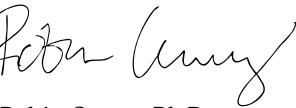
Southwestern University
2024-2025

***FACULTY REPORT
OF EXCELLENCE***



Southwestern University’s faculty are at the heart of our vibrant academic community. They are not only outstanding educators, but also distinguished experts in their fields. Through groundbreaking publications, innovative research, impactful presentations, and prestigious awards and honors, they consistently demonstrate their commitment to both scholarship and society at large. Most importantly, they are passionate about mentoring and nurturing the next generation of scholars and leaders. Their unwavering thirst for knowledge and enduring dedication to teaching inspires our students, igniting their intellectual curiosity and fostering a love for lifelong learning.

The following pages celebrate the many achievements of our faculty and staff from April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025.

Sincerely,

Robin Currey, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs

ON THE COVER:
Students, faculty, staff, and guests came together during the 42nd Brown Symposium, *Visualizing the Abstract*, to collaboratively construct a geometric sculpture designed by artist George Hart. The finished piece, now permanently installed in the Fondren–Jones Science Center Atrium, reflects the symposium’s Paideia spirit, where math and art intersect to inspire curiosity, creativity, and connection.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Student/Faculty Collaboration	2
Books	6
Articles, Book Chapters, and Reviews	7
Conference Presentations and Invited Talks	14
Awards, Grants, Honors, and Appointments	22
Community Involvement	25
Exhibitions, Productions, and Performances	26
Public Commentary and Media Coverage	28
Staff Notables	29

STUDENT/FACULTY COLLABORATION

BIOLOGY

Romi Burks

Professor Burks, **Cassidy Reynolds** '24, **Esmeralda Rosas** '24, **Cynthia Bashara** '23, **Lillian Dolapchiev** '23, **Matthew A. Barnes** '06 (Texas Tech University), and Christopher L. Jerde (University of California, Santa Barbara) published "Snail Slime in Real Time: Challenges in Predicting the Relationship between Environmental DNA and Apple Snail Biomass" in *Management of Biological Invasions* in July 2024.

Burks also:

- » Collaborated on a poster with **Gage Mallo** '26 and **Johun Reyes** '26 titled "You Better Belize They're Different: Phylogenetic Analysis and Species Identification of Native Apple Snails in Belize" presented at the Texas Academy of Science 128th Annual Meeting in Waco, Texas, held Feb. 28–March 1, 2025. The poster garnered a first-place poster award in the systematics and evolutionary biology section.
- » Collaborated on a poster with **Kylie Allemeier** '26, **Katelin Pilarski** '26, and **Sarah Berver** '26 titled "Extraordinary Extraction Efforts: Experiments to Enhance DNA Extraction for Tissues of Apple Snails of Conservation Interests" presented at the Texas Academy of Science 128th Annual Meeting in Waco, Texas, held Feb. 28–March 1, 2025.

Kimberly McArthur

Assistant Professor McArthur collaborated on research with **Annika Tracy** '25 that was presented at the Texas Academy of Science 128th Annual Meeting in Waco, Texas, held Feb. 28–March 1, 2025. Tracy's talk, titled "Location-Independent Axon Pathfinding in the Hindbrain of Larval Zebrafish," earned the first-place undergraduate talk award in the neuroscience section.

Sunny Scobell

Assistant Professor Scobell and **Madeleine Thomas** '26 presented a poster titled "A Morphological Analysis of the Dopaminergic Pathway in the Brain of a Male-Pregnant Pipefish" at the Texas Academy of Science 128th Annual Meeting in Waco, Texas, held Feb. 28–March 1, 2025.

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Bob Bednar

Professor Bednar, **Lauren Chisholm** '24, **Alexa Delenela** '25, **Tre Flores** '26, **Lauren Wise** '25, and **Justin Zamora** '24 launched the Mission-Driven Medicine website in January 2025. The website is a fieldwork-based public-facing humanities project analyzing the organizational communication at the Houston Methodist hospital system.

ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS

Debika Sihi

Professor Sihi and **Abigail (Abby) Ryan** '25 published "Crafting and Evaluating Generative AI Prompts: Insights from Students, Educators, and Marketers" in the Summer 2025 issue of *Marketing Education Review*. Sihi also:

- » Was featured along with **Abigail Norton** '28 and **Mateo Torres** '28 in the newsletter *The Scoop: Update from Litmaps*. The students were highlighted for their work visually mapping a literature review.



EDUCATION

Michael Kamen

Professor Kamen and **Sydney Jackson** '27 presented two research sessions: "STEM and Successful Play-Based Programs" at the 2025 International Consortium for Research in Science and Mathematics Education XVII Consultation in Valladolid, Yucatán, México, in March 2025, and "Play-Based Programs: Themes for Success" at the Association for the Study of Play 51st Annual Conference in South Padre Island, Texas, in February 2025. Kamen also:

- » Presented with **Sydney Aschmann** '26, **Makenzi Ducharme** '26, **Hannah Pullen** '26, **Annika Romeo** '26, **Maddie Ziegler** '26, **Annika Flora** '26, **Alejandro Gallegos** '26, and **Emily Marks** '26 in the session "Hands-On Science Lessons Presented by Preservice Teachers" at the 2024 Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching in San Antonio, Texas, in November 2024.
- » Virtually presented a poster titled "Successful Play-Based Programs: Case Studies" with **Sydney Jackson** '27 at the 2024 International Society for Cultural-Historical Activity Research Conference held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, in August 2024.

Raquel Sáenz Ortiz

Assistant Professor Sáenz Ortiz and **Melina Boutris** '22 presented "Culturally Responsive Instructional Strategies for Immigrant-Origin Youth in Austria" at the 21st IMISCOE Annual Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, in July 2024.

KINESIOLOGY

Scott McLean

Professor McLean, **Kevan Kennedy** '24, and **Emma Williams** '24 presented a poster titled "Comparison of Overground, Motorized Treadmill and Non-Motorized Treadmill Gait" at the 2024 American College of Sports Medicine Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, in May 2024.

MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Barbara Anthony

Professor Anthony collaborated with **Camille James** '26 on research that James presented at the Texas Academy of Science 128th Annual Meeting in Waco,

Texas, held Feb. 28–March 1, 2025. The poster was titled "Distortion of Single Transferable Vote on a Line." Anthony also:

- » Presented a paper co-authored with **Mark Mueller** '24 titled "Course Scheduling Made Easier: A User-Friendly Web-Based Timetabling Tool Using PyGLPK" at the 21st International Conference on Cooperative Design, Visualization, and Engineering in Valencia, Spain, in September 2024.

Alison Marr

Professor Marr, **Kathryn Altman** '24, **Lauren Calzado** '23, **Emma Lewis** '23, **Rowan Via** '23, and three additional co-authors published "Difference Distance Magic Oriented Graphs" in *Research in the Mathematical Sciences* in November 2024.

Jacob Schrum

Associate Professor Schrum collaborated on research with **Travis Rafferty** '24 and **Joanna Lewis** '24 that Rafferty presented at the 2024 Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges South Central Conference in Nacogdoches, Texas, in April 2024. The poster was titled "Using Multi-Objective Quality Diversity to Evolve Complex Machines in Minecraft."

PSYCHOLOGY

Erin Crockett

Professor Crockett, **Clayton Crusius** '25, and **Sarah Doroshov** '25 presented a poster titled "Self-Expanding in a Virtual Reality World" at the Society for Personality and Social Psychology 2025 Annual Convention in Denver, Colorado, in February 2025.

Traci Giuliano

Professor Giuliano, **Georgia Micknal** '25, **Samantha Gonzales** '26, **Lauren Levee** '27, **Gabrielle Fullard** '27, and **Kalista Esquivel** '26 published "(Don't) Hit Me Up: The Effects of Initiator Gender and Setting on Perceptions of Date Initiation" in the December 2024 issue of the *North American Journal of Psychology*. Giuliano also:

- » Published an article titled "Successfully Publishing with Undergraduate Coauthors in Psychology: Insights from Faculty with Top Track Records" with **Will Hebl** '23 and **Jennifer Howell** '09 in *Collabra: Psychology* in April 2024.

Fay Guarraci
Professor Guarraci and **Ian Klepcyk** '24 published "Cross-Cultural Comparisons: Lordosis Behavior" in the *Encyclopedia of Sexual Psychology and Behavior* (Springer) in July 2024.



Carin Perilloux
Associate Professor Perilloux, **Samantha Gonzalez** '25, **Gwen Metz** '25, **Georgia Micknal** '25, and **Griffin Salinas** '25 presented a poster titled "A Labor of Love (Mostly): Developing a Self-Perceived Parental Effort Scale" at the Evolutionary Psychology Preconference for the Society for Personality and Social Psychology 2025 Annual Convention in Denver, Colorado, in February 2025. Perilloux also:

- » Presented a poster titled "Developing the Self-Perceived Parental Effort Scale (SPES)" with **Lainey Gutierrez** '25, **Jaxson Haynes** '25, **Maryn Medlock** '25, **Cassidy Reynolds** '25, and **Lauren Sanders** '24 at the 2024 Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention in San Francisco, California, in May 2024.

SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Melissa Johnson
Professor Johnson, Assistant Professor **Naomi Reed**, **Rose Reed** '25, and **Kalista Esquivel** '26 presented their panel "Unsilencing the Past: How Oral Histories Give Voice to Black and Latinx Students at Southwestern University" at the Southwestern Social Science Association 103rd Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, in April 2024.

Maria Lowe
Professor Lowe, **ThuyMi Phung** '23, and **Katherine Holcomb** '23 presented their paper titled "The Interaction of Race and Racial Grievance: Predictors of American Attitudes about Critical Race Theory" at the Eastern Sociological Society 2025 Annual Conference in Boston, Massachusetts, in March 2025. Lowe also:

- » Published an article with **ThuyMi Phung** '23 titled "The Armed Home and Support for Trump: Predictors of Americans' Attitudes Toward Gun Violence" in the *Journal of Integrated Social Sciences* in December 2024.
- » Presented "Racialized Fears in White Spaces: The Frequency with which Residents Worry about Being Perceived as Suspicious in Their Neighborhood" with **Brigit Reese** '24 and **Carson Maxfield** '24 at the Southern Sociological Society 87th Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, in April 2024.

Adriana Ponce
Assistant Professor Ponce and **Chelsey Rocha** '25 presented "Stepparents in America: Unearthing Distinct Practices and Processes" at the National Women's Studies Association 44th National Conference in Detroit, Michigan, in November 2024.

Naomi Reed
Assistant Professor Reed, Professor Melissa Johnson, **Rose Reed** '25, and **Kalista Esquivel** '26 presented their panel "Unsilencing the Past: How Oral Histories Give Voice to Black and Latinx Students at Southwestern University" at the Southwestern Social Science Association 103rd Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, in April 2024.

THEATRE

Desiderio Roybal
Professor of Theatre Desiderio Roybal designed the scenery and was the scenic charge artist for Magnolia Musical Theatre's production of *Footloose*, which ran July 10–Aug. 10, 2024. **Connor Bustos** '26 and **Em Hoover** '27 served as academic interns in scenic fabrication and scenic art. **Kyle Bussone-Peterson** '24, **Alex Cannata** '24, **Ashlyn Zunker** '25, and **Olivia Hynes** '27 were scenic carpenters and painters. Roybal also:

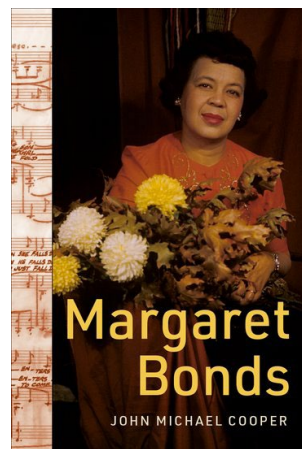
- » Designed the scenery and stage properties for Penfold Theatre's production of *I'm Proud of You*, which ran Oct. 4–26, 2024. **Connor Bustos** '26 and **Ashlyn Zunker** '25 were part of the build crew.

Students and Faculty Collaborate on Chamber Musical

Assistant Professor of Theatre **Gabriel Peña**, Scene Shop Supervisor **Monroe Oxley**, and Professor of Theatre **Desiderio Roybal** collaborated on the chamber musical *Ordinary Days* for Penfold Theatre in Round Rock, Texas. The musical follows four individuals as they navigate the frantic energy of New York City. Peña served as director, Oxley as technical director, and Roybal as scenic designer for the production, which ran Feb. 7–March 1, 2025. **Bethani Pedraza** '25 and **Yeva Tcharikova** '28 provided technical assistance.

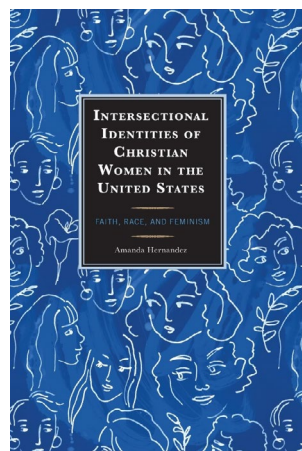


BOOKS



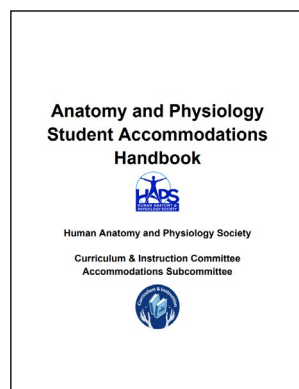
Michael Cooper

Professor of Music Michael Cooper published *Margaret Bonds* with Oxford University Press in 2025. The book is part of the *Composers Across Cultures* series.



Amanda Hernandez

Assistant Professor of Sociology Amanda Hernandez published her first monograph, "Intersectional Identities of Christian Women in the United States: Faith, Race, and Feminism," with Lexington Books in 2024.



Jennifer Stokes

Associate Professor of Kinesiology Jennifer Stokes co-edited *Anatomy and Physiology Student Accommodations Handbook*, published by the Human Anatomy and Physiology Society in 2025.

ARTICLES, BOOK CHAPTERS, AND REVIEWS

ART AND ART HISTORY

Kimberly Smith

"Austria's Dilemma: Wartime Politics and Propaganda in Schiele's Landscapes," in *Egon Schiele: Living Landscapes*, edited by Christian Bauer (Prestel, 2024).

"The French Connection," in *Expressionists: Kandinsky, Münter and the Blue Rider*, edited by Natalia Sidlina (Yale University Press, 2024).

"Else Lasker-Schüler and Franz Marc's Mail Art," in *Expressionists: Kandinsky, Münter and the Blue Rider*, edited by Natalia Sidlina (Yale University Press, 2024).

"Reiterinnen: Women Riders," in *Expressionists: Kandinsky, Münter and the Blue Rider*, edited by Natalia Sidlina (Yale University Press, 2024).

"Fritz Burger: The Art Historical Connection," in *Expressionists: Kandinsky, Münter and the Blue Rider*, edited by Natalia Sidlina (Yale University Press, 2024).

BIOLOGY

Kimberly McArthur

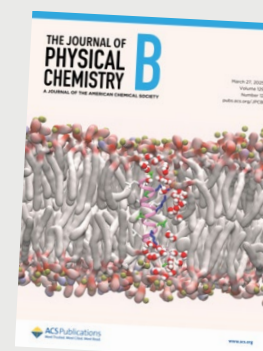
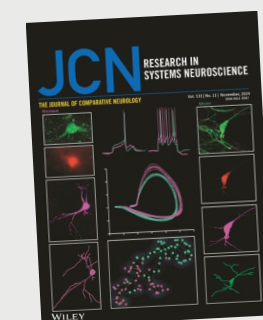
"Cranial Motor Neuron Input Specificity Refined by Activity," *Trends in Neurosciences*, January 2025.

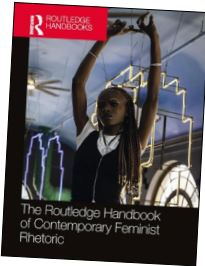
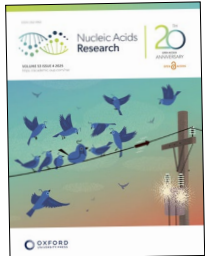
"Structure and Topography of Facial Branchiomotor Neuron Dendrites in Larval Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*)," with Winnie J. Ho (Cornell University), *Journal of Comparative Neurology*, November 2024.

CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

Sara Massey

"Functional Connectivity of Red Chlorophylls in Cyanobacterial Photosystem I Revealed by Fluence-Dependent Transient Absorption," with Sara H. Sohail (Swarthmore College), Siddhartha Sohoni (University of Chicago), Po-Chieh Ting (University of Chicago), **Lexi R. Fantz** '21, Sami M. Abdulhadi (University of Chicago), Craig MacGregor-Chatwin (University of Sheffield), Andrew Hitchcock (University of Sheffield), C. Neil Hunter (University of Sheffield), and Gregory S. Engel (University of Chicago), *Journal of Physical Chemistry B*, March 2025.





Maha Zewail-Foote

“Oxidative Damage within Alternative DNA Structures Results in Aberrant Mutagenic Processing,” with Imee M. A. Del Mundo (University of Texas at Austin), Alex W. Klattenhoff (The University of Texas at Austin), and Karen M. Vasquez (The University of Texas at Austin), *Nucleic Acids Research*, February 2025.

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Lamiyah Bahrainwala

“Caste-Attentiveness,” *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, March 2025.

“The Discursive Eviction of Muslim Women,” in *The Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Feminist Rhetoric*, edited by Jacqueline Rhodes and Suban Nur Cooley (Routledge, 2024).

Valerie Renegar

“Third-Wave Feminist Rhetoric in the 21st Century: Rethinking Limitations, Possibilities, and New Directions,” with Stacey K. Sowards (The University of Texas at Austin), in *The Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Feminist Rhetoric*, edited by Jaqueline Rhodes and Suban Nur Cooley (Routledge, 2024).

ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS

Gabriela Flores

“The Only Daughters Effect: Examining the Impact of Child Gender on a CEO’s Hiring Decisions,” with Fernanda Garcia (The University of Texas at El Paso), **Hazel Nguyen**, Maria del Carmen Triana (Vanderbilt University), and Christine Choirat (Harvard University), *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: An International Journal*, July 2024.

Hazel Nguyen

“The Only Daughters Effect: Examining the Impact of Child Gender on a CEO’s Hiring Decisions,” with **Gabriela Flores**, Fernanda Garcia (The University of Texas at El Paso), Maria del Carmen Triana (Vanderbilt University), and Christine Choirat (Harvard University), *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: An International Journal*, July 2024.

Debika Sihi

“Sustainability and Marketing: Examining the Digital Impacts,” in *Advances in Digital Marketing & eCommerce: Fifth International Conference, 2024*, edited by Francisco J. Martínez-López, Luis F. Martinez, and Philipp Brüggemann (Springer Cham, 2024).

EDUCATION

Michael Kamen

“Teacher Educators’ Perspectives, Beliefs, and Practices,” with Deepti Kharod, Ruth V. Guirguis, Jennifer M. Longley, Tugce B. Arda Tuncdemir, John A. Sutterby, and Debora B. Wisneski, in *Re-Exploring Play and Playfulness in Early Childhood Teacher Education: Narratives, Reflections, and Practices*, edited by Melanie K. Felton, Diana H. Cortez-Castro (Routledge, 2024).

“Slide Rules: To the Moon and Back,” with Debra Plowman (Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi), in *Collaboration to Advance Science & Mathematics Education: Panamá City, Panamá*, edited by Mark Bloom and Sarah Quebec Fuentes (International Consortium for Research in Science and Mathematics Education, 2024).

“The 5E Instructional Model Gets an F? Is it Time to Move On?” with Debra Plowman (Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi), *International Consortium for Research in Science and Mathematics Education Newsletter*, Winter 2025.

“Never Too Old to Play with Blocks,” with Debra Plowman (Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi), *International Consortium for Research in Science and Mathematics Education Newsletter*, Fall 2024.

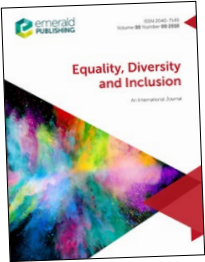
“Respecting Children’s Questions and Adapting K-W-L Charts,” with Debra Plowman (Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi), *International Consortium for Research in Science and Mathematics Education Newsletter*, Summer 2024.

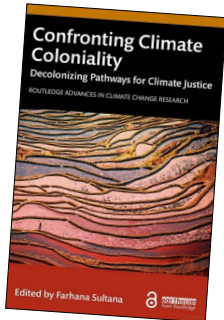
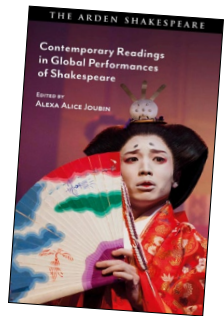
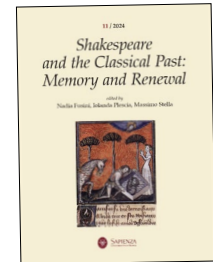
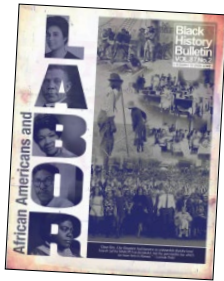
“There Are No Word Problems in Real Life: To Keyword or Not to Keyword,” with Debra Plowman (Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi), *International Consortium for Research in Science and Mathematics Education Newsletter*, Spring 2024.

Marilyn Nicol

“Reclaiming the Pen: A Call for the Return of Interactive Writing to the Primary-Grade Classroom,” with Bethanie C. Pletcher (Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi), *Literacy Today*, January/February/March 2025.

“Disrupting Epistemology and Coalescing Community: Disability Activism on Social Media,” *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies*, October 2024.





Raquel Sáenz Ortiz

“Solidarity in Labor Organizing: The Alliance between the Black Panther Party and the United Farm Workers,” *Black History Bulletin (BHB)*, Fall 2024.

“Radical Love: Liberatory Pedagogical Praxis for Black and Latinx Youth in an Alternative School,” *International Journal of Learner Diversity and Identities*, June 2024.

ENGLISH

Michael Saenger

“A Magnus Amator in Illyria: Shakespeare and the Memory of Plautus,” *Memoria Di Shakespeare: A Journal of Shakespearean Studies*, 2024.

“Shakespeare and Multilingualistic Affairs: A Strategy for Reading Across Borders,” in *Contemporary Readings in Global Performances of Shakespeare*, edited by Alexa Alice Joubin (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2024).

Laura Skandera Trombley

Review of the book *Gravity: Selected Letters of Olivia Langdon Clemens* edited by Barbara E. Snedecor, *American Literary Realism*, Winter 2025.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Stephanie Insalaco

“Satellite Remote Sensing for Environmental Sustainable Development Goals: A Review of Applications for Terrestrial and Marine Protected Areas,” with Matthew J. McCarthy (Oak Ridge National Laboratory), Hannah V. Herrero (University of Tennessee, Knoxville), Melissa T. Hinten (University of Tennessee, Knoxville), and Assaf Anyamba (Oak Ridge National Laboratory), *Remote Sensing Applications: Society and Environment*, January 2025.

Joshua Long

“The Coloniality of Climate Apartheid: Excising Colonial Legacies in Climate Development and Governance,” in *Confronting Climate Coloniality: Decolonizing Pathways for Climate Justice*, edited by Farhana Sultana (Routledge, 2024).

“Reckoning Climate Apartheid,” *Political Geography*, June 2024.

HISTORY

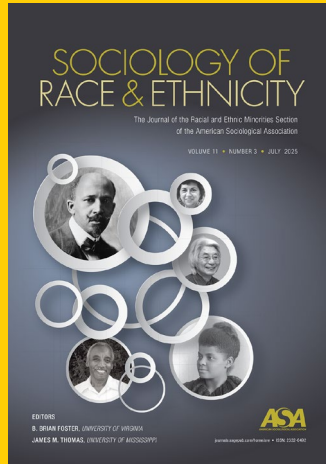
Melissa Byrnes

Review of the book *The Diaspora of the Comoros in France: Ethnicised Biopolitics and Communitarianism* by Katharina Fritsch, *H-France Review*, April 2024.

KINESIOLOGY

Scott McLean

“A Holistic Focus of Attention Enhances Vertical Jump Performance Among Inexperienced Individuals,” with **T. A. Zhuravleva**, C. J. McCandless (New Mexico State University), and C. A. Aiken (New Mexico State University), *Journal of Motor Behavior*, October 2024.



Faculty Collaborate on Article Examining Experiences of Scholars of Color

Assistant Professors of Sociology **Adriana Ponce** and **Amanda Hernandez**, Assistant Professor of Political Science **Alexander Goodwin**, Assistant Professor of History **Bryan Kauma**, and Assistant Professor of English **Sonia Del Hierro** published “Teaching with Color: Thematic Hires and the Politics of Teaching in Texas” in the journal *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* in February 2025. This article joins a growing conversation in the humanities and humanistic social sciences on ways faculty of color shoulder the burden of thinking about our shared futures as racialized, intersectional, and collaborative.

Tatiana Zhuravleva

“A Holistic Focus of Attention Enhances Vertical Jump Performance Among Inexperienced Individuals,” with C. J. McCandless (New Mexico State University), C. A. Aiken (New Mexico State University) and **S. P. McLean**, *Journal of Motor Behavior*, October 2024.

LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, AND CULTURES

Abby Dings

“Pedagogical Approaches in VE,” with Tammy Jandrey Hertel (University of Lynchburg), in *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Computer-Assisted Language Learning*, edited by Lee McCallum and Dara Tafazoli, Palgrave Macmillan Cham, 2025.

MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Barbara Anthony

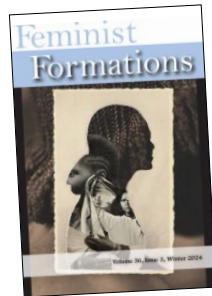
“Maximizing Rides Served for Dial-a-Ride on the Uniform Metric,” with Ricky Birnbaum (Connecticut College), **Sara Boyd** ’20, Christine Chung (Connecticut College), Ananya Das (Middlebury College), Patrick Davis (Connecticut College), Jighar Dhimar (Connecticut College), Duc Tran (Connecticut College), and David Yuen, *Theory of Computing Systems*, January 2025.

“New Bounds on the Performance of SBP for the Dial-a-Ride Problem with Revenues” (Short Paper),” with Christine Chung (Connecticut College), Ananya Das (Middlebury College), and David Yuen, in *24th Symposium on Algorithmic Approaches for Transportation Modelling, Optimization, and Systems (ATMOS 2024)*, October 2024.

“Maximizing the Number of Rides Served for Time-Limited Dial-a-Ride,” with Christine Chung (Connecticut College), Ananya Das (Middlebury College), and David Yuen, *Optimization Methods and Software*, May 2024.

Alison Marr

“Domino Antimagic Squares and Rectangles,” with Christina Napier (Cedarville University), Lauren M. Nelsen (University of Colorado Colorado Springs), Luke L. Nelsen, and Violeta Vasilevska (Utah Valley University), *Recreational Mathematics Magazine*, September 2024.



PHILOSOPHY

Zinhle ka’Nobuhlaluse

“In Conversation with Mamphela Ramphele on the Urgency of Storytelling for Black Women in South Africa,” *Feminist Formations*, Winter 2024.

Review of the book *Simone de Beauvoir and the Colonial Experience: Freedom, Violence, and Identity* by Nathalie Nya, *Simone de Beauvoir Studies*, December 2024.

PHYSICS

Cody Crosby

“Endometrial Decidualization Status Modulates Endometrial Microvascular Complexity and Trophoblast Outgrowth in Gelatin Methacryloyl Hydrogels,” with Samantha G. Zambuto (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), Hannah Theriault (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), Ishita Jain (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), Ioana Pintescu (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), Noah Chiou (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), Michelle L. Oyen (Washington University), Janet Zoldan (University of Texas at Austin), Gregory H. Underhill (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), Brendan A. C. Harley (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), and Kathryn B. H. Clancy (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), *npj Women’s Health*, June 2024.

PSYCHOLOGY

Traci Giuliano

“Making Personal Connections with Social Psychology,” in *Teaching Social Psychology*, edited by Catherine A. Sanderson and Rebecca R. Totton (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2024).

RELIGION

Laura Hobgood

“Pig/Pigs,” in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, edited by Brennan Breed, Constance M. Furey, Peter Gemeinhardt, Joel Marcus LeMon, Thomas Römer, Jens Schröter, Yvonne Sherwood, and Barry Dov Walfish (De Gruyter, 2025).

SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Melissa Johnson

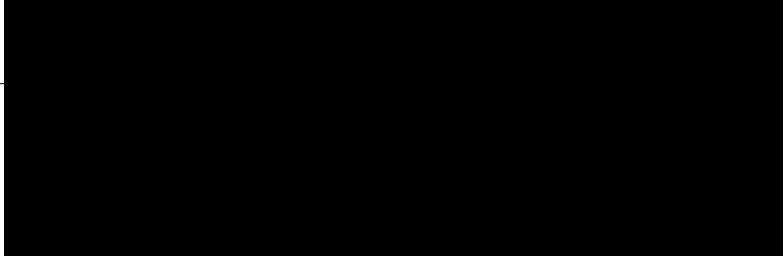
“Lucy’s Story: The Surprising Tale of an Enslaved Black Woman in British Central America in the 1770s,” *Anthropology Now*, May 2024.

THEATRE

Sergio Costola

“Lucrezia Borgia Triumphal Chariot: Notes on Performance Documentation,” *Skenè. Journal of Theatre and Drama Studies*, December 2024.





CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

ART AND ART HISTORY

Allison Miller

Professor Miller participated in a panel titled “Rethinking the Form-Matter Nexus after the Material Turn” at the 36th Congress of the Comité International d’Histoire de l’Art in Lyon, France, in June 2024. Miller also:

- » Gave a virtual invited presentation titled “Purple in Early China” to a Chinese art history class at Georgetown University in September 2024.

BIOLOGY

Romi Burks

Professor Burks co-presented “Methodological Microplastics: Development of an Undergraduate CURE to Quantify Abundance of Microplastic Fibers in a Local Stream” at the Texas Academy of Science 128th Annual Meeting in Waco, Texas, held Feb. 28–March 1, 2025. Burks also:

- » Presented “Confirming Local Eradication of Apple Snails at Bear Lake with eDNA” at the Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Invasive Species Fall 2024 Meeting in Austin, Texas, in November 2024.
- » Presented “Educated by Chocolate: How to Build Your Chocolate Knowledge One Bite at a Time” and “Separating Fact from Fiction in the Science of Chocolate” at the Northwest Chocolate Festival in Bellevue, Washington, in October 2024.
- » Presented “Chocolate Covered Science: Connect What You Love to Eat with What You Love to Study” at Schreiner University in September 2024.
- » Participated in a panel discussion on the crisis in the chocolate industry and gave a solo presentation titled “Educated by Chocolate: How to Build Your Chocolate Knowledge One Bite at a Time” at the Dallas Chocolate Festival in September 2024.

Sunny Scobell

Assistant Professor Scobell presented “Brood Pouch Anatomy throughout the Course of Male Pregnancy in Gulf Pipefish” and “An Investigation of the Role of Prolactin during Reproduction in a Fish with Male Pregnancy” at the Texas Academy of Science 128th Annual Meeting in Waco, Texas, held Feb. 28–March 1, 2025.



CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

Dilani Koswatta

Director of General Chemistry Laboratories Koswatta and Director of Organic Chemistry Laboratories **Carmen Velez** presented a poster titled “Fostering STEM Interest through Chemistry Connections with the Community” at the Biennial Conference on Chemical Education in Lexington, Kentucky, in July 2024.

Sara Massey

Assistant Professor Massey presented “Fluence-Dependent Transient Absorption Reveals the Functional Connectivity of Red Chlorophyll Sites in Cyanobacterial PSI” at the 2nd North American Photosynthesis Congress in Atlanta, Georgia, in June 2024.

Carmen Velez

Director of Organic Chemistry Laboratories Velez presented a workshop titled “Fueling Education Transformation: The Dynamic Chemistry of Community-Based Learning” at the Biennial Conference on Chemical Education in Lexington, Kentucky, in July 2024. Velez also:

- » Presented a poster with Director of General Chemistry Laboratories **Dilani Koswatta** titled “Fostering STEM Interest through Chemistry Connections with the Community” at the Biennial Conference on Chemical Education in Lexington, Kentucky, in July 2024.

Maha Zewail-Foote

Professor Zewail-Foote co-presented “Oxidative Stress Results in the Accumulation of DNA Damage within Alternative DNA Structures Resulting in Aberrant Mutagenic Processing” at the 2024 Southwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Waco, Texas, in October 2024.

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Lamiyah Bahrainwala

Associate Professor Bahrainwala participated in a discussion group titled “Rhetoric and Climate Justice in the Age of Catastrophe” at the Rhetoric Society of America 21st Biennial Conference in Denver, Colorado, in May 2024. Bahrainwala also:

- » Presented “Caste Is Not a Metaphor” at the 2024 Biennial Public Address Conference in Austin, Texas, in September 2024.

Bob Bednar

Professor Bednar presented “Bringing the Archives Out of the Archives: Mobilizing and Reframing University Archives in Critiques of Campus Commemorative Landscapes” at the Austin Archives Bazaar in Austin, Texas, in April 2024.

Jaishikha Nautiyal

Assistant Professor Nautiyal participated in a panel titled “Anti-DEI Legislation in Texas” at the 2024 Biennial Public Address Conference in Austin, Texas, in September 2024.

Valerie Renegar

Professor Renegar co-presented “Digital Collaboration: Modeling Writing and Editing Practices through Horizontal Mentoring” at the NKRF9: Rhetoric in Digital and Technological Transition Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, in October 2024.

ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS

Chandrayee Chatterjee

Assistant Professor Chatterjee presented a paper titled “Examining the Spillover Effects of Weight Loss Product Advertising on Nutritional Choice and Physical Activity” at the 2024 Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., in November 2024. Her paper titled “The Role of Inattention in Statistical Discrimination” was also presented by her co-author at a different session.

Raji Kunapuli

Assistant Professor Kunapuli presented a paper titled “Effect of Abstract Language on Critics’ Selection of Reference Groups for IPOs” at the 2024 Meeting of the Southern Management Association in San Antonio, Texas, in October 2024.

Dinushka Paranavitana

Assistant Professor Paranavitana chaired a session titled “Health Behavior I” and presented her co-authored paper “The Unintended Consequences of Women’s Clinic Closures on Preventive Care” at the 94th Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association in Washington, D.C., in November 2024. Paranavitana also:

- » Presented her co-authored paper “The Unintended Consequences of Women’s Clinic Closures on Preventive Care” at the 2024 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference in National Harbor, Maryland, in November 2024.

16	<div>Debika Sihi</div> <div>Professor Sihi presented her early-stage research project titled “Place Marketing: Bridging the Gap Between Longtime Locals, Newcomers, and Tourists through Digital Marketing” at the Marketing Management Association 2025 Spring Conference, held virtually in March 2025. In addition, she participated in a panel titled “Marketing Education.” Sihi also:</div> <div><div>» Virtually presented “Sustainability and Marketing: Examining the Digital Impacts” at the Digital Marketing and e-Commerce Conference held in Barcelona, Spain, in June 2024.</div></div> <div>EDUCATION</div> <div>Michael Kamen</div> <div>Professor Kamen co-presented “Playing with Numbers: Choice, Joy, and Wonder in Mathematics Education” at the Association for the Study of Play 51st Annual Conference in South Padre Island, Texas, in March 2025. Kamen also:</div> <div><div>» Co-presented “Playful Approaches for Learning Math: Choice, Joy, and Wonder” at the 2025 International Consortium for Research in Science and Mathematics Education XVII Consultation in Valladolid, Yucatán, México, in March 2025.</div><div>» Led “Hike Through the Guide” for the WILD Webinar series, a professional development series for Project WILD facilitators.</div><div>» Co-presented “Polishing the GEMS: Improving PD through Lesson Study” at the 2024 Project Learning Tree, Project WET, and Project WILD Conference in San Antonio, Texas, in May 2024.</div><div>» Co-presented “Polishing the Gems: Professional Development for Project WILD Facilitators through Lesson Study” at the International Consortium for Research in Science and Mathematics Education 2024 Virtual Conference in April 2024.</div></div> <div>Marilyn Nicol</div> <div>Assistant Professor Nicol presented and conducted a workshop titled “Experience Based Learning: A Renewed Perspective of Early Childhood Education” at the Association for the Study of Play 51st Annual Conference in South Padre Island, Texas, in February 2025. Nicol also:</div> <div><div>» Presented “Teaching in the Context of a Sentence: Early Literacy Skills Come Together in Interactive Writing” and “Cyrano Returns: Coaching Preservice Teachers in a Reading Clinic” at the 2024 Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, in November 2024.</div></div>	<div></div> <div>Raquel Sáenz Ortiz</div> <div>Assistant Professor Sáenz Ortiz co-presented “Co-Constructing a Pedagogy of Radical Belonging: Pláticas on Teaching for Social Justice” at the 21st IMISCOE Annual Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, in July 2024. She also co-led a workshop titled “Towards Decolonial Futurities: On Reimagining the University.”</div> <div>ENGLISH</div> <div>Eileen Cleere</div> <div>Professor Cleere presented “Laugh Track: Pregnancy and Pronatalism in Jane Austen’s <i>Sense and Sensibility</i>” at EVENT 2024, a hub conference sponsored by the North American Victorian Studies Association, in Waco, Texas, in September 2024.</div> <div>Sonia Del Hierro</div> <div>Assistant Professor Del Hierro presented “Chicana Feminism Now: Teaching Chicana Feminists Texts in 2024” at the National Women’s Studies Association 44th National Conference in Detroit, Michigan, in November 2024. Del Hierro also:</div> <div><div>» Co-presented “Rasquachismo: A Chicana Digital Humanities Praxis” at DH2024, the annual conference of the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations, in Arlington, Virginia, in August 2024.</div><div>» Presented “Las Cholas’ Sartorial Scripts: A Chicana Feminist Analysis” at the 2024 La Chola Conference in Los Angeles, California, in September 2024.</div></div> <div>Michael Saenger</div> <div>Professor Saenger presented “A Mouldy Tale Newly Set” at the Shakespeare Association of America 53rd Annual Meeting in Boston in March 2025. Saenger also:</div> <div><div>» Delivered an invited lecture titled “The Battle for Legitimacy: Zionism, the MLA, and Academic Freedom” at the Academic Engagement Network Short Course in Miami, Florida, in January 2025.</div></div> <div></div> <div>Presented a paper titled “The Ethics of Ambiguity in <i>The Merchant of Venice</i>” at the 2024 Sixteenth Century Society Annual Conference in Toronto, Canada, in November 2024.</div> <div>» Was the invited speaker at an event at the Institute for Jewish Studies and Interfaith Understanding at Old Dominion University in November 2024.</div> <div>ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES</div> <div>Joshua Long</div> <div>Professor Long presented a paper titled “Avoiding Adaptation as Partition” at Human Geographies of Climate Change Adaptation: An International Scientific Conference in Bergen, Norway, in May 2024. Long also:</div> <div><div>» Presented a flash talk titled “Reframing Existential Adaptation” at the Disentangling Successful Adaptation Using Theory of Change Workshop in Bergen, Norway, in May 2024.</div><div>» Presented a poster titled “The Right to Retreat? Interrogating the Xenophobic Politics of Urban Climate Retreat” and co-presented a lecture on the topic of climate havens at the Common City Conference in Uppsala, Sweden, in September 2024.</div></div> <div>FEMINIST STUDIES</div> <div>Meagan Solomon</div> <div>Assistant Professor Solomon participated in a panel titled “Anti-Zionist Feminist Pedagogies: Teaching Toward Palestinian Liberation and an End to the Genocide in Gaza” at the National Women’s Studies Association 44th National Conference in Detroit, Michigan, in November 2024. Solomon also:</div> <div><div>» Participated in a panel titled “Atravesades Igniting through Art, Community, and Place-Making” at the 2024 El Mundo Zurdo Conference in San Antonio, Texas, in May 2024.</div><div>» Hosted the American LGBTQ+ Museum Lavender Literary Society’s virtual discussion of <i>L.A. Interchanges: A Brown and Queer Archival Memoir</i> by Lydia R. Otero in December 2024.</div></div>	<div>HISTORY</div> <div>Melissa Byrnes</div> <div>Professor Byrnes co-led a workshop titled “Building a Small Liberal Arts College History Department” and participated in a mentoring session for early career scholars interested in working at a small liberal arts college at the American Historical Association 138th Annual Meeting in New York City in January 2025. Byrnes also:</div> <div><div>» Convened a salon session titled “Engaging the Public through French History” at the Western Society for French History 50th Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California, in November 2024. In addition, she chaired and commented on a session titled “Managing Gender and Families in Mid-Twentieth-Century France.”</div></div> <div>Jethro Hernández Berrones</div> <div>Associate Professor Hernández Berrones participated in a roundtable titled “Reproductive Science: Comparative Perspectives on the Past; Global Inspirations for the Future” at the 2024 History of Science Society Annual Meeting in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, in November 2024. Hernández Berrones also:</div> <div><div>» Presented “Visualizing At-Home Births in Mexico City after the Revolution: Midwives from the Free School of Obstetrics and Nursing, 1920s and 1930s” virtually at the Seminario Permanente de Investigación de Atlas.mx in December 2024.</div><div>» Presented “Recovering the Relics of Modern Medicine in Mexico: Homeopathy, Vitalism, and Religion, 1853–1912” at the Seminar of the Social and Cultural History of Health and Disease in Mexico in Mexico City, Mexico.</div></div> <div>Joseph Hower</div> <div>Associate Professor Hower chaired and commented on a panel titled “Environmental Justice in Postwar America” at the 2024 Organization of American Historians Conference on American History in New Orleans, Louisiana, in April 2024.</div> <div>Bryan Kauma</div> <div>Assistant Professor Kauma presented a poster titled “‘Eating Money’: Dollarization and the Monetization of Grain in Zimbabwe, 2000–08” at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs’</div>	17
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Workshop on Commodity Price Volatility and the Sustainable Development Goals in New York City in October 2024. Kauma also:

- » Presented fieldwork notes from research on commodities, trade, and pre-colonial African society at the 29th Biennial Southern African Historical Society Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, in June 2024.
- » Presented a paper titled “‘Put It in Their Food’: Food, Power, and Control in Southern Zimbabwe” at the 2024 Global Scholars Academy in Stellenbosch, South Africa, in June 2024.
- » Presented a paper titled “‘Critical but Stable’: Agricultural Propaganda, Politics, and Hunger in Zimbabwe” at the Young Scholars Initiative’s Exploring the Dark Side of the Moon: The History of Economics in the Global South virtual workshop in October 2024.

KINESIOLOGY

Jennifer Stokes

Associate Professor Stokes presented a workshop titled “The Power of Collaborative Learning: Faculty and Student Reflections on the Implementation of Collaborative Critical Thinking Problem Set Sessions” at the Human Anatomy and Physiology Society 2025 Southern Regional Meeting in Lakeland, Florida, in March 2025. Stokes also:

- » Presented “Collaborative Critical Thinking Problem Sets Enhance Student Perceived Learning and Promote Student Practice Outside of the Classroom” at the 2024 American Physiological Summit in Long Beach, California, in April 2024.

Tatiana Zhuravleva

Assistant Professor Zhuravleva co-presented “A Holistic Focus of Attention Enhances Vertical Jump Performance Among Division 1 Football Players” at the North American Society for the Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity 2024 Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, in June 2024.

LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, AND CULTURES

Erika Berroth

Associate Professor Berroth co-presented a poster titled “SPARK for German: Challenges and Success Stories” at the 2024 Coalition of Women in German Annual Conference, held virtually in October 2024. Berroth also:

- » Organized a session titled “From Aschenputtel to Schneewittchen: the Culinary in German Fairy Tales” at the 2024 American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Annual Convention and World Languages Expo in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in November 2024.
- » Presented the paper “Marica Bodrožić und Deniz Utlü’s ‘Unterhaltungen Deutscher Ausgewanderten’: Reflections on the Curated Virtual Audio Archive Dichterlesen.net” and commented on a panel at the German Studies Association 48th Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, in September 2024.
- » Hosted the annual fall conference for the Texas Chapter of the American Association for Teachers of German at Southwestern University.
- » Presented an invited talk titled at the “Die Zukunft des Sprachenlernens in den USA: Visionen und Innovationen [The Future of Studying Languages in the USA: Visions and Innovations]” conference in Washington, D.C., in April 2024.

Carlos de Oro

Professor de Oro and Staff Instructor **Noelia Cigarroa-Cooke** presented the paper “Monstruosidad y Poder: Alegorías de la Injusticia en *Sin Señas Particulares y La Llorona*” at the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association 77th Annual Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, in October 2024.

Abby Dings

Associate Professor Dings co-presented “Study Abroad as a Safe Place for Heritage Speakers to Practice Speaking” at the 2024 American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Annual Convention and World Languages Expo in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in November 2024.

Carl Robertson

Associate Professor Robertson delivered an invited presentation titled “Beautiful Writing and the Art of Living: An Introduction to Chinese Writing” for International Chinese Language Day at the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Washington, D.C., in April 2024. Robertson also:

- » Presented an invited lecture in Chinese titled “Translation and Cultural Communication: How a Twentieth-Century Concept of Chinese Language Transformed the Language of Western Poetry” as part of the Professional Lecture Forum on Foreign Languages series at Huazhong Agricultural University in Wuhan, Hubei, China, in June 2024.
- » Presented an invited lecture in Chinese titled “Who is Writing? Comparing Ideas of Self in Understanding Chinese Calligraphy” at the Fujian Scholar Forum in Fuzhou, Fujian, China, in June 2024.
- » Delivered an invitational keynote address in Chinese titled “Excellence in Teaching through Collaboration and Empathy” to the China-U.S. College Chinese Language Teachers Association (unofficial translated name) in Xiamen, China, in May 2024.

Katy Ross

Professor Ross presented her paper “(In)Visible Mothering Decisions in *Leña Menuda*” at the 2025 Modern Language Association Annual Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, in January 2025. Ross also: Presented her paper “Translating Memories: From Autobiography to Fiction” at the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association 121st Annual Conference in Palm Springs, California, in November 2024.

Laura Senio Blair

Professor Senio Blair presented “Burying Ashes and Making Dust: Redemption, Religion, and Memorialization in Recent Global Road Movies” at the 2024 International Conference on Religion and Film in Hollywood, California, in June 2024. Senio Blair also:

- » Organized and served on the panel “Leading with Equity: Perspectives on Student Success from the Mellon Academic Leadership Fellows” at the 2025 Association of American Colleges and Universities Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., in January 2025.

MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Barbara Anthony

Professor Anthony co-authored a paper titled “New Bounds on the Performance of SBP for the Dial-a-Ride Problem with Revenues” that was presented at the 24th Symposium on Algorithmic Approaches for Transportation Modelling, Optimization, and Systems, in London, England, in September 2024.

Fumiko Futamura

Professor Futamura presented “Drawing in Geometry Students with Drawing Puzzles” at the 2024 Fall Central Sectional Meeting of the American Mathematical Society in San Antonio, Texas, in September 2024. Futamura also:

- » Co-led a workshop titled “Geometric Puzzles and Brain Teasers in Perspective Art” at the 2024 Mathematical Association of America MathFest in Indianapolis, Indiana, in August 2024.

Alison Marr

Professor Marr served on a panel about the Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE) Summer Program at the 2025 Joint Mathematics Meetings in Seattle, Washington, in January 2025. Marr also:

- » Presented “Three Puzzles I’m Pondering Presently” at the 35th Midwestern Conference on Combinatorics and Combinatorial Computing in Duluth, Minnesota, in October 2024.
- » Presented “Domino Antimagic Configurations” at the 2024 Fall Central Sectional Meeting of the American Mathematical Society in San Antonio, Texas, in September 2024.
- » Presented “Difference Distance Magic Oriented Graphs” and served on the panel “Creating Successful Study Abroad Programs in Mathematics” at the 2024 Mathematical Association of America MathFest in Indianapolis, Indiana, in August 2024.

AWARDS, GRANTS, HONORS, AND APPOINTMENTS

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Lamiyah Bahrainwala

Associate Professor Bahrainwala received a Distinguished Scholarship Award from the National Communication Association's Critical and Cultural Studies Division for her co-authored article "De-Whitening Consent Amidst COVID-19 Rhetoric."

Bahrainwala also:

- » Received the Monograph of the Year Award from the National Communication Association's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Division with Assistant Professor **Jaishikha Nautiyal** for their co-authored article "Queer Desi Kinships: Reaching Across Partition."

Jaishikha Nautiyal

Assistant Professor Nautiyal received the Monograph of the Year Award from the National Communication Association's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Division with Associate Professor **Lamiyah Bahrainwala** for their co-authored article "Queer Desi Kinships: Reaching Across Partition."

ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS

Debika Sihi

Professor Sihi joined the Editorial Review Board of the *Journal of Applied Marketing Theory*.

EDUCATION

Michael Kamen

Professor Kamen was elected to the position of second vice president of the Association for the Study of Play (TASP). He will serve as conference chair for the TASP 52nd Annual Conference in 2026.

Alicia Moore

Professor Moore fulfilled her federal appointment as a member of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College Board of Visitors in March 2025.

ENGLISH

Michael Saenger

Professor Saenger was invited to contribute to the new master's in antisemitism studies program at Gratz College. Saenger also:

- » Was an invited member of the delegation representing Academic Engagement Network, an organization dedicated to fighting academic antisemitism, at the Anti-Defamation League's Never is Now summit in New York City in March 2025.

HISTORY

Melissa Byrnes

Professor Byrnes began a term as co-chair of the American Historical Association (AHA) Working Group on Small Liberal Arts Colleges. She also serves on the AHA Nancy Lyman Roelker Mentorship Award Committee. Byrnes also:

- » Was appointed a production editor for *H-France Review*.

MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Alison Marr

Professor Marr was elected to serve the three-year chair-elect, chair, and past-chair sequence for the Texas Section of the Mathematical Association of America Executive Committee.

John Ross

Associate Professor Ross was appointed digital media editor for the Texas Section of the Mathematical Association of America Executive Committee.

MUSIC

Jeanne Hourez

Part-time Assistant Professor Hourez was elected to the College Music Society South Central Chapter Board as the advisory board member for performance.

Hai Zheng Olefsky

Part-time Assistant Professor and Artist in Residence Olefsky was invited to serve as a guest judge for the 2024 Colburn-Pledge Music Scholarship Competition by Musical Bridges Around the World.

PHILOSOPHY

Zinhle ka'Nobuhlaluse

Assistant Professor Zinhle ka'Nobuhlaluse was awarded the Kristeller-Popkin Travel Fellowship from the *Journal of the History of Philosophy* for a research project titled "Interrogating Apartheid's Foundations through Alfred Hoernlé's Philosophy."

SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Amanda Hernandez

Assistant Professor Hernandez was selected to be in the Sacred Writes Spring 2025 Carpenter Cohort. Sacred Writes provides support, resources, and networks for scholars of religion committed to translating the significance of their research to a broader audience.

Naomi Reed

Assistant Professor Reed and investigative journalist Brittney Martin received a 2024 Gracie Award for Best Investigative Feature [Radio - Nationally Syndicated Non-Commercial] for their podcast series "Sugar Land."

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Lamiyah Bahrainwala

Associate Professor Lamiyah Bahrainwala secured a donation of two dozen volumes written by Bhimrao Ambedkar from the Ambedkarite Buddhist Association of Texas (ABAT) in February 2025. Ambedkar was a scholar and social reformer who played a pivotal role in drafting the Constitution of India. Bahrainwala also helped organize a panel discussion about the radical Black-Dalit solidarity work of Ambedkar and the urgency for radical anti-caste work in the United States in honor of Black History Month.

Valerie Renegar

Professor Renegar served as an advocate for Southwestern Giving Day 2024 in April 2024.

EDUCATION

Alicia Moore

Professor Moore was the keynote speaker for Southwestern's International Women's Day Celebration in Bishops Lounge in March 2025.

FEMINIST STUDIES

Meagan Solomon

Assistant Professor Solomon led a community teach-in at Alienated Majesty Books in Austin, Texas, titled "No Pride in Genocide: A Teach-In on Zionist Pinkwashing" in June 2024.

Faculty Participate in 2024–2025 Admission Letter Campaign

Nine Southwestern faculty members contributed personal letters to prospective students as part of the 2024–2025 Admission Letter Campaign. The initiative, coordinated by the Office of Admission, invites faculty to share insights about the Southwestern experience and the value of a liberal arts education. This year's contributors included Professor of Computer Science Barbara Anthony; Professor of Communication Studies Bob Bednar; Assistant Professor of Sociology Amanda Hernandez; Assistant Professor of Geographic Information Sciences Stephanie Insalaco; Assistant Professor of Political Science Zoe Moss; Professor of French Aaron Prevots; Assistant Professor of Theatre Gabriel Peña; Professor of Communication Studies Valerie Renegar; and Associate Professor of Mathematics John Ross.

MUSIC

Jeanne Hourez

Part-time Assistant Professor Hourez organized a charity concert in Austin, Texas, in honor of International Women's Day. The program consisted of music written exclusively by women, and Hourez invited Ruben Balboa to perform with her. Event proceeds went to Dress for Success Austin, which supports women's independence and professional success.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Alexander Goodwin

Assistant Professor Goodwin was the keynote speaker for the 72nd Annual Juneteenth Celebration in Georgetown, Texas, in June 2024.



Faculty Support 2024–2025 Admission Road Show Events

Six Southwestern faculty members partnered with the Office of Admission to participate in 2024–2025 Regional Road Show events across Texas. These gatherings gave prospective students the opportunity to engage directly with SU faculty and learn more about Southwestern's academic programs, distinctive experiences, and personalized approach to education. Participants included Professor of History Jessica Hower; Professor of Mathematics Alison Marr; Assistant Professor of Theatre Gabriel Peña; Assistant Professor of Business Andy Ross; Professor of Spanish Catherine Ross; and Associate Professor of Mathematics John Ross.

EXHIBITIONS, PRODUCTIONS, AND PERFORMANCES



ART AND ART HISTORY

Ariel Wood

Visiting Assistant Professor Wood exhibited their work in a solo show at the Lawndale Art Center in Houston. The show, titled “rest, raze, collect,” ran Nov. 21–Dec. 21, 2024. Wood also:

- » Exhibited their work in a group show titled “Sculpture School: Concrete” at Sweet Pass Sculpture Park in Dallas, Texas. The show ran Sept. 7–Nov. 16, 2024.

MUSIC

Katherine Altobello

Part-time Assistant Professor Altobello was the mezzo-soprano soloist at the Texas Bach Festival in July 2024.

David Asbury

Associate Professor Asbury was a featured soloist and collaborative artist in the Bay View Association’s Summer Sunset Vesper concert series in Petoskey, Michigan, in summer 2024.

Michael Cooper

Professor Cooper published three new scholarly editions of music by Margaret Bonds as part of Hildegard Publishing Company’s Margaret Bonds Signature Series: “Note on Commercial Theater,” “Three Early Songs,” and “Joy.” Cooper also:

- » Published Margaret Bonds’s “Supplication” and “Rainbow Gold” with E. C. Schirmer Music Company.
- » Published the world-premiere edition of *Two Songs for Peggy Lee* by Margaret Bonds with ClarNan Editions with part-time Instructor Christopher Washington.
- » Published five new volumes of compositions by Florence B. Price with ClarNan Editions: *Florence Price: Seventeen Art Songs and Spirituals*, *Five Pieces for Piano Solo*, *Two Moon Songs for Women’s Chorus and Piano*, *Moods*, and *Dances in the Canebrakes*.
- » Published the first edition of “Silver Urn” by Margaret Bonds with ClarNan Editions.

Jeanne Hourez

Part-time Assistant Professor Hourez released an album dedicated to “Quartet of the End of Time” by Olivier Messiaen and recorded with Hank Landrum, Zongheng Zhang, and Bobae Lee under Ladoga Records.

Jessica Mathaes

Part-time Assistant Professor Mathaes performed as a soloist with the Grand Teton Music Festival Orchestra in Jackson, Wyoming, in summer 2024. She also led the orchestra as concertmaster.

Christopher Washington

Part-time Instructor Washington and Professor Michael Cooper published the world-premiere edition of *Two Songs for Peggy Lee* by Margaret Bonds with ClarNan Editions.

THEATRE

Kerry Bechtel

Associate Professor Bechtel designed the costumes and mentored three students in costumes, hair, makeup, and puppetry for the Austin Community College Drama Department’s production of *The Long Christmas Ride Home*, which ran Feb. 21–March 2, 2025. Bechtel also:

- » Designed the costumes for Unity Theatre’s production of *The Trip to Bountiful*, which ran in February 2025.
- » Designed the costumes for Unity Theatre’s production *The Star Spangled Girl*, which ran in June 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY AND MEDIA COVERAGE

ENGLISH

Sonia Del Hierro

Assistant Professor Del Hierro was featured in the *Place-Based Justice Network (PBJN) Network News* for her project *Señora Power* in November 2024.

Michael Saenger

Professor Saenger published a blog post in *The Times of Israel* titled “How to Spot Antisemitism” in September 2024. Saenger also:

- » Published a blog post in *The Times of Israel* titled “Keeping the Light On, in My Campus Office” in April 2024.
- » Participated in a documentary on his Little Brother, Mohan Govindasamy (Launders). Govindasamy was matched with Saenger through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto and is currently a major figure in e-sports.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Joshua Long

Professor Long was featured in an article titled “Is America Ready for More Than One Kind of Weird?” in *Texas Monthly* in August 2024.

FEMINIST STUDIES

Meagan Solomon

Assistant Professor Solomon released the first episode of her collaborative podcast, *Malflora Podcast*, in March 2025.

HISTORY

Melissa Byrnes

Professor Byrnes gave a public lecture on the history of the Rwandan genocide at a fundraiser for the documentary film *Spared*, based on the book of the same name by Clementine Msengi, at Lark & Owl Booksellers in Georgetown, Texas, in March 2025.

KINESIOLOGY

Jennifer Stokes

Associate Professor Stokes was featured in an episode of the A&P Professor podcast titled “Muscling Through Barriers: The *A&P Student Accommodations Handbook* Unveiled” in December 2024.

MUSIC

Michael Cooper

Professor Cooper published a blog post on the *Women’s Song Forum* titled “Florence Price, Motherhood, and Loss” in April 2024. Cooper also:

- » Was interviewed about his new book, *Margaret Bonds* (Oxford University Press, 2025), in the Hong Kong music journal *Interlude*.
- » Was featured in an article titled “Polishing Hidden Gems: An Interview with John Michael Cooper on the State of Florence Price Scholarship” in the August/September issue of *American Music Teacher*.

PHILOSOPHY

Zinhle ka’Nobuhlaluse

Assistant Professor ka’Nobuhlaluse published a post on the *Blog of the APA (American Philosophical Association)* titled “A Clothing Paradox Unbuttoned: Why We Should All Be Ethical Shoppers” in November 2024.

SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Amanda Hernandez

Assistant Professor Hernandez published the article “Are There Christian Feminists? How White Supremacy Impacts Our Assumptions about Identity” in *Conscience: The Magazine of Religious and Reproductive Freedom* in 2024.

STAFF NOTABLES

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

Alexandra Anderson (Student Life)

Senior Associate Director of the Center for Career and Professional Development Anderson participated in the second of two workshops in the Fulbright Program Advisors Development Initiative in New York City in December 2024.

Christine Bowman (Enrollment Services)

Assistant Vice President of Admission Bowman led a workshop on understanding the financial aid process and collaborated on a session regarding student transitions and support throughout the college search experience at the Higher Education Consulting Association 2024 Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, in June 2024.

Jeff Doyle (Student Life)

Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life Doyle presented “What’s Missing from Student Success Analytics?” for the Future of Higher Education in July 2024.

Megan Firestone (Academic Affairs)

Head of Distinctive Collections and Archives Firestone presented in two sessions, “Top Texas Topaz Picks” and “Adult Book Pairings for Programming,” at the Texas Library Association 2024 Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas, in April 2024.

Jaime Gonzalez (Enrollment Services)

Director of Admission Gonzalez co-presented “Beyond Translated: Shared Bilingual Resources” at the National Association for College Admission Counseling 2024 Conference in Los Angeles, California, in September 2024. Gonzalez also:

- » Served as faculty co-chair, higher education and operations team, for the Admission and College Counseling Institute in Kerrville, Texas, in July 2024.

Hal Hoeppepner (Institutional Research)

Institutional Research Analyst Hoeppepner co-presented “Who Is Doing What? Moving Beyond Self-Reporting to Track HIPs” at the Association of Institutional Research Forum in Denver, Colorado, in May 2024.

Katherine Hooker (Academic Affairs)

Senior Research and Instruction Librarian Hooker presented a poster titled “Three Ring Library Circus (But in a Good Way): Leaning into the Theme with Creative Instruction for Creative Students” at the Texas Library Association 2024 Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas, in April 2024. Hooker also:

- » Presented “Pirates, Puzzles, and Pathways: Gamifying Library Instruction for First-Year Success” with Instruction and Student Success Librarian **Emily Thorpe** at the Texas Library Association’s Library Instruction Round Table Virtual Summit in October 2024.





Monya Lemery (Academic Affairs)

Director of Study Abroad and International Student Services Lemery participated in two panels at The Forum on Education Abroad Regional Seminar in Austin, Texas, in December 2024: “Leveraging Education Abroad as a Tool for Student Retention and Career Readiness” and “Approaches to Supporting Access to Education Abroad.” Lemery also:

- » Facilitated the “Member Mingle: Solo/Small Office Social” virtual networking session for the Forum on Education Abroad in October 2024.
- » Presented “Funding Strategies and Scholarships” at the Texas International Monthly virtual meeting in October 2024.

Lauren Strilich (University Relations)

Director of Annual Giving Strilich co-presented “Stop, Collaborate, and Listen: Building Cross Campus Partnerships” at the GiveCampus Partner Success Days in San Antonio, Texas, in April 2024.

Ron Swain (Student Life)

University Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Life Swain was a panelist on the Associated Colleges of the South virtual discussion titled “Building Bridges: Strategies for Fostering Civil Discourse in a Post-Election Era” in November 2024.

Emily Thorpe (Academic Affairs)

Instruction and Student Success Librarian Thorpe and Senior Research and Instruction Librarian **Katherine Hooker** presented “Pirates, Puzzles, and Pathways: Gamifying Library Instruction for First-Year Success” at the Texas Library Association’s Library Instruction Round Table Virtual Summit in October 2024.

AWARDS HONORS AND APPOINTMENTS

Megan Firestone (Academic Affairs and Marketing & Communications)

Head of Distinctive Collections and Archives Firestone and Visual Content Producer **Todd White** won a Texas Library Association Branding Iron Award in the digital communications category for an academic library for their work on the *Behind the Artifact* series. Firestone also:

- » Was added to the acquisition board for the Williamson Museum.

Christina Gerardo (Academic Affairs)

Digital Initiatives and Collections Assistant Gerardo won a Texas Library Association Branding Iron Award in the print marketing category for her Distinctive Collections Zine.



Leadership Georgetown Class of 2023–2024. This prestigious program, a nine-month community leadership initiative by the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, focuses on professional development and education to empower current and emerging leaders. The program aims to deepen participants’ understanding of community dynamics and the critical role leadership plays in ensuring long-term success. Cameron, Firestone, and Paxson graduated in June 2024, marking a significant milestone in their professional journeys and their commitment to community development.

Southwestern Staff Graduate from Leadership Georgetown

Assistant Vice President for Auxiliary Sales **Sally Cameron**, Head of Distinctive Collections and Archives **Megan Firestone**, and Associate Vice President for Integrated Communications & Marketing **Kristen Paxson** were members of the

Jaime Gonzalez (Enrollment Services)

Director of Admission Gonzalez completed the certification needed to become an interviewer for Gates Millennium Scholarship finalists.

Monya Lemery (Academic Affairs)

Director of Study Abroad and International Student Services Lemery was elected to a three-year term on the Forum on Education Abroad’s Forum Council.

Ron Swain (Student Life)

University Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Life Swain presented the Dr. Ron L. Swain Award for Social Justice, which is named in his honor, at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in April 2024.

Todd White (Marketing & Communications)

Visual Content Producer White and Head of Distinctive Collections and Archives **Megan Firestone** won a Texas Library Association Branding Iron Award in the digital communications category for an academic library for their work on the *Behind the Artifact* series.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Megan Firestone (Academic Affairs)

Head of Distinctive Collections and Archives Firestone presented “The Early Years of Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas” as part of the Preservation Georgetown spring lecture series in March 2025. Firestone also:

- » Presented “From Storefronts to Stories: Preservation and Local Business History” as the featured speaker for the City of Georgetown’s Main Street Program Breakfast Bites meeting.
- » Presented on the impact of the Williamson County Courthouse on the architecture of downtown and an overview of the new Historic Downtown Georgetown Walking Tour at Preservation Georgetown’s First Friday event.

Geneva Walker (Student Life)

Counselor Walker presented a talk on self-care and mindfulness to the mothers and daughters of the Austin360 Chapter of the National Charity League.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY AND MEDIA COVERAGE

Jeff Doyle (Student Life)

Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life Doyle was interviewed in an episode of the *Higher Ed Demand Gen* podcast titled “The Secret to Building Your Personal Brand on LinkedIn for Higher Ed” in September 2024.

Todd White (Marketing & Communications)

Visual Content Producer White, who serves as a LUMIX ambassador, was featured in the digital camera brand’s blog.



Reese Schornstein, Winnebago, wood, 48" x 32" x 28", 2023
Featured in the 2024 Fall Senior Art Exhibition, November 19–26, 2024

