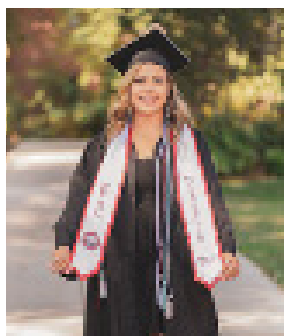
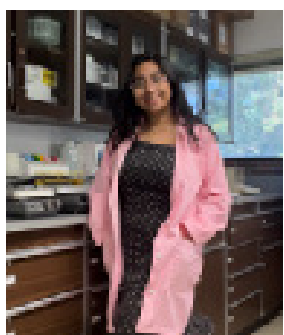


About Our Student Authors

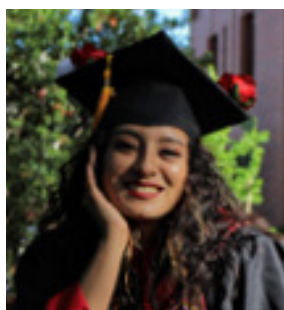
Undergraduate Students



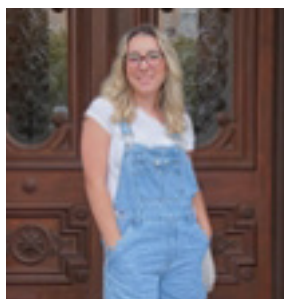
Jovita Avila earned her bachelor's degree in nutrition and food science with a double option in nutrition communications and dietetics from Chico State in May 2022. She continues her education journey at Chico State by completing the dietetic internship program to become a registered dietitian. She's passionate about helping others by improving their relationship with food. She aspires to work in a clinical setting and hopes being a bilingual, compassionate, and a caring person will positively impact the lives of others. As a first-generation college graduate, she also plans on pursuing a master's degree and a specialty in the clinical field.



Nayellie Barragan-Mejia is an undergraduate majoring in microbiology with a focus on clinical laboratory science and a minor in biochemistry. She is a first-generation Mexican American from Van Nuys. Her biggest academic goal is to receive a PhD in the science field. Nayellie is interested in many science fields including mycology, pathology, genetics, and more! Nayellie hopes to be an inspiring role model and share her passion with younger generations to encourage the STEM field. You can find Nayellie in her science lab with her stylish pink coat!



Maredith Cassandra Berdeja earned her bachelor's degree from Chico State in December of 2022. Her degree was in evolutionary, ecological and organismal biology, along with a minor in sustainability. She hopes to further her education by obtaining a master's degree in ecological sciences. Maredith's love for nature and the environment comes from her family's appreciation of the outdoors. She strives to encourage younger generations to go out and explore the flora and fauna around them. She loves sharing her passion for wildlife through animal fun facts.



Renée Brown is a Chico State alumna. During her academic career at Chico State, she was treasurer of the History Club, an ambassador to the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, and a member of Alpha Gamma Delta. She plans to either continue her education through a graduate program or find work in a museum.



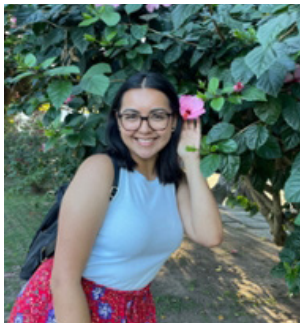
Josh Huskisson is a senior pursuing a major in Computer Engineering and a minor in computer science. His work focuses on the application of deep learning in identifying purities of materials. He plans to work on software out in the industry post college and utilize the project management skills learned during this research project.



Dania Mabel Moreno Ruiz is a senior triple majoring in Spanish, international Chicana/Latina studies, and Latin American studies. She will continue at Chico State, pursuing her studies in the bilingual authorization multiple-subject program. Her areas of interest include indigenous communities in the Western Caribbean Zone of Nicaragua, modern Latin American politics, and the effects of colonialism in Hispanic/Latina communities. Mabel's goal is to become a multiple subject professor at California State University, Northridge.



Juliana Palmas Vera is a senior double majoring in pre-credential Spanish and Latin American studies. She will continue at Chico State, pursuing her studies in the bilingual authorization single-subject program. Her areas of interest include indigenous communities along the Yucatan Peninsula, the effects of globalization in indigenous communities, and modern Latin American politics. Juliana's goal is to become a Spanish high school teacher to work with and support emergent bilinguals of all socioeconomic and language backgrounds.



Victoria Villaseñor is a senior double majoring in history and multicultural and gender studies. After graduating in May 2023, she aspires to earn a master's degree in History from Chico State and earn a PhD to become a professor in the future. Her experiences studying abroad in Montevideo, Uruguay, and La Habana, Cuba have inspired her to seek other opportunities to live and perhaps teach or conduct research abroad. Her primary research interests include race, gender, and sexuality in US and Latin American history.



Maria Zepeda is an undergraduate student who is expected to graduate from Chico State in May 2023 with a degree in psychology and multicultural and gender studies with a minor in intersectional Latinx studies. As a queer, first-generation person of color, they are very passionate about social justice and activism for everyone, including the LGBTQ+ community. They are the president of Chico State Pride and an involvement coordinator with Student Life and Leadership at Chico State. They were also the 2022 recipient of the Louis-Goldblatt Award for Social Change.

About Our Student Authors

Graduate Students



Alondra Adame is a graduate of the master of Arts in English program at Chico State. They are a Chicax essayist and poet. Their research interests include creative writing of all genres, but they have specific interests in creative nonfiction, poetry, and hybrid work that strives to break and toy with genre conventions. Their hope is to continue studying the craft of the various forms in creative nonfiction and someday write a craft book of their own.



Gelsey Aldana earned a master's degree in psychological science in May 2023. She will continue her education at Loma Linda University, where she is pursuing a doctorate in clinical psychology. After graduating, she aspires to become a clinical psychologist and work with underrepresented populations.



Erin Boyle is in the final year of her master's program in anthropology with a biological emphasis. Prior to her time at Chico State, Erin graduated with a bachelor's degree in evolutionary anthropology from UC Davis. Her interests include bioarchaeology, stable isotope analysis, and the anthropology of early childhood. After graduation she hopes to become an instructor of anthropology at a community college.



Samantha Di Lelio Boice earned her bachelor's degree and is pursuing her master's degree in communication studies at Chico State. Her research focuses on health communication and critical cultural studies. As a first-generation Latinx student, Samantha and her work advocates for underrepresented/marginalized groups/students to create and maintain equity in higher education.



Emily V. Mansilla is a first-year graduate student studying psychological science at Chico State. She is dedicated to researching the impact of adversity on addiction outcomes and various mental health implications through a behavioral lens. Her goals are to teach and support students studying psychology in her hometown of Chico. She also plans to utilize her research skills by working in data analytics for companies that align with her interests. Emily is motivated by her past experiences with poverty and her Central American family history. Family is important to Emily, and she works hard to spend time with her family on her off time.



Ashley (Ash) Martinez Aguilar is a graduate student in the communication sciences and disorders program. She is pursuing her goal to become a speech-language pathologist and will graduate in May 2023. Ash is passionate about serving underrepresented individuals and aspires to research the gaps in serving multicultural individuals and their needs. She advocates and empowers individuals because she believes everyone deserves a voice.



Leticia Mejia is earning a master's degree in social work at Chico State University. After graduating from Chico State in 2024, she plans to work toward the licensure process and her PhD. Her areas of interest include the Hispanic/Latinx community, trauma-informed practice, adverse childhood experiences, and rural communities. Letty aspires to be a clinical social worker supporting trauma survivors, specifically in the Latinx community.



Parnaz Rezaie Boroon is a master's student studying psychological science at Chico State. After graduation, she plans on gaining additional research experience as a research assistant in a neuroscience lab. Through her personal battle with a binge-eating disorder, her biggest obstacle ultimately became a passionate research interest for her. After a seven year academic break and gaining employment as a social worker for Butte County's Children's Services Division, Parnaz's goal is to become a neuroscience professor who infuses a passion for science within her students of all backgrounds.



Dominique Silva Soares returned to Chico State to earn a master's degree in social work in 2022. Dominique's research on the lived experiences of Black/African Americans in predominantly White workforces is a testament to the passion she has always had for diversity and inclusion. She plans on continuing her research at a doctoral level and hopes that it will encourage others to be mindful of the importance of inclusivity not only in their workspaces, but in their communities as well.



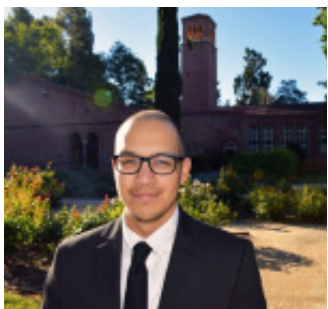
Sophia Thao is a graduate student in the Biological Sciences Department. She hopes to finish her thesis soon and graduate next semester. Her area of focus is on cellular and molecular biology, specifically the intracellular activities of proteins in eukaryotic cells. Sophia's goal is to work for a biotech company and hopefully continue her work in microscopy. She also enjoys teaching at the college level and sees a future in that as well. She loves movies, TikTok, and nightlife. She has two cats named Pimp and Blicky.



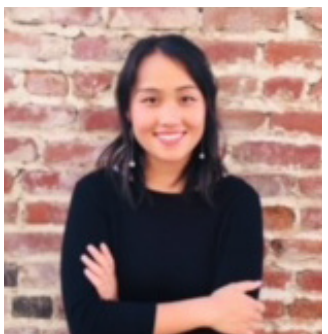
Stephen Torres is a graduate student in the computational literacy across secondary settings (CLASS) program at Chico State. He is earning a master's degree in teaching and a single-subject teaching credential in science. He will graduate in May 2023. His areas of interest include geoscience and trying to find ways to make science more fun and engaging for his students. His goal is to become a high school science teacher and inspire future generations of students to pursue careers that make them happy, just as teaching makes him happy.



John Vang is a graduate student at Chico State. He is in the biology program studying regulation of manganese oxidation in bacteria. His goal is to be a university professor.



Juan Vega Ramirez earned a master's degree in history from Chico State in May 2021. His Mexican-American upbringing inspired him to study the various ways Mexican culture and history intersects with that of the United States. He aspires to enroll in a doctoral program in the near future where he hopes to continue exploring the seemingly endless connections between Mexico and its northern neighbor. Juan's goal is to gain a better understanding of the Mexican American experience so that he can educate others and create positive change in his community.



Pa Yang is earning her master's degree in psychological science from Chico State. She hopes to gain more experience in her field through community work and teaching. Her interests include supporting students and individuals positively in both their academic and wellness journey. Her goal one day is to be an educator at the college level and help students toward success.



Dana Yount is a Graduate student at Chico State earning her master's degree in interdisciplinary studies: regenerative agriculture. She will be walking this coming May 2023, and completing her program Fall 2023. Dana works as an environmental scientist for the California Department of Food and Agriculture as part of the Methane Reduction Team and will continue her work after graduation. Her work aligns well with her research for her master's program and she hopes to continue with future work and research on livestock mortality composting.