

About Our Student Authors

Undergraduate Students



Consuelo B. Baez Vega is a Chico State transfer student from her local college, College of the Desert, where she received her associate's degree in natural resources. She arrived at Chico in 2016 with the goal to get a bachelor's degree in agriculture. While being Chico State undergraduate student, Consuelo has had the privilege to be involved in research regarding faba beans as well as cover crops alongside renowned professors in the College of Agriculture. She also had the honor of attending several conferences where she presented her research, gaining valuable experience. One of her most recent achievements was to be awarded first place in the 2020 research symposium poster contest in Crop Production and Managements at the SASES conference for her work in faba bean weed management practices.



Allison Cardwell is a respiratory therapist who went back to school to obtain a bachelor's degree in social work. She now works where she interned, at Passages, and hopes to gain experience working with the older adult community as she prepares to apply to master's programs. In her free time, she plays the harp, is involved in her church, and is a writer. Her life is full with the joy her four grandchildren bring to it, and there is never a dull moment in the Cardwell house.



Daisy Cedillo graduated as a first-generation student with a bachelor's degree in social work with a minor in child development, one in gerontology, and a general education pathway minor in ethics, justice, and policy studies, as well as a certificate in gerontology from Chico State. Cedillo is currently pursuing her Master of Social Work at California State University, San Marcos.



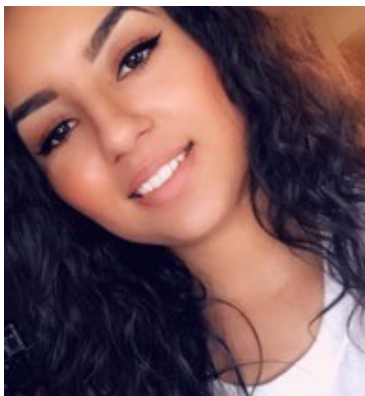
William Dowell obtained a bachelor's degree in cellular and molecular biology along with a minor in chemistry from Chico State in spring 2021. In fall 2021 he matriculated to the University of Vermont's Cellular, Molecular and Biomedical Sciences PhD program, where he will continue to study biology in the context of human health.



Armin Fazlic is a senior at Chico State and is pursuing his bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He has a wide range of research interests but is particularly interested in research with an emphasis on sustainability practices and has pursued hands-on experiences that combine both research and practice, working with biochar for several years. In addition to his work in the field, Armin also holds a position as president of Sustainable Environmental Engineering for Health Development (SEEHD), a club on campus that focuses on issues related to environmental engineering and health problems.



Natalia Garcia recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology from Chico State. She will be continuing her studies at CSU Dominguez Hills where she will be completing a master's in clinical psychology and working toward attaining her clinical counseling licensure. Her areas of interest include the psychological areas of addiction and its influence on the decision-making process, the study of psychopathology, and mental health. Her goal is to one day become a professional clinical counselor and work one on one with clients, helping them navigate through their hardships.



Michelle Gomez is a first-generation, low-income student currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at Chico State. She considers herself a well-rounded individual, who is enthusiastic about gaining new knowledge and experiences, as well as enhancing her skills in various fields. She is a hands-on learner with an ongoing motivation to achieve her goals. Her dedication has helped her grow as a student and as woman in STEM.



Greg Gutierrez graduated from Chico State double majoring in mechanical engineering and physics. His work focuses on the practical use of various hollow DNA nanostructures as a molecular container for drug delivery. While an avid Chargers and Padres fan, he enjoys fishing along Deer Creek and SolidWorks modeling.



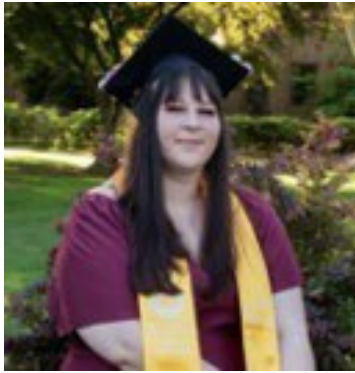
Vivian Hernandez is a senior double majoring in history and Latin American studies with minors in Spanish and global development studies. Her research interests include modern Latin American feminist, gender, and women's issues. Her current research focuses on the impacts the introduction of oral contraceptive had on Mexican women in the second half of the 20th century. Vivian hopes to expand her research by examining the role men played after the introduction of contraception in Mexican society to transform it into a gender analysis.



Daisy Linsangan graduated from Chico State in spring 2021 with a bachelor's degree in anthropology with a focus in forensic anthropology. Her research interests include Latinx migration patterns. She hopes to work alongside the US-Mexico border to help retrieve and identify migrant remains to contact and bring closure to families who have lost their loved ones. She will be applying for grad school in fall 2022 to develop more research as a forensic anthropologist.



Veronica Lopez was born and raised in Santa Cruz, and graduated from Chico State in 2021 with a bachelor's degree in social work and a minor in sociology. Veronica currently works with at-risk youth in Sacramento. Veronica was interested in research because she wanted to see how research affects the access individuals have to resources, and hopes to take what she learned into continuing to work with youth and become a behavioral specialist.



Alejandra Moreno was born and raised in Salinas. She graduated in spring 2021 with a bachelor's degree in social work and minor in family relations. Alejandra is currently serving Yuba and Sutter Counties, working as a mental health rehabilitation specialist. Alejandra hopes to pursue her master's and serve as a school counselor, and help normalize putting mental health as a priority.



Aleeza Namit is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in cellular and molecular biology at Chico State. Her research interests include studying hematopoiesis, which is the process of blood formation in zebrafish. As a student researcher in Professor David Stachura's laboratory, she is primarily focusing on studying the importance and role of a certain gene involved in hematopoiesis. She is also exploring the effects of toxic chemicals found in the waterways of Paradise after the Camp Fire in 2018, on the developing immune system of zebrafish. She plans to continue in her efforts with these research studies.



Magaly Quinteros is a recent graduate with a bachelor's degree in anthropology. She recently entered the University of California medical sector with the goal to attain experience with working with marginalized populations. During this gap year, her hope is to attain medical insight and experience to better understand the health problems that marginalized individuals face on a regular basis. Her long-term goal is to become a social worker and later use her skills and knowledge to be influential within the global health sector.



Roxzel Soto Tellez is a sociology undergraduate student at Chico State. She is an advocate for youth in foster care and a social activist. Her research seeks the causes that shape attitudes by using survey data to examine the effects of these factors. Specifically, Roxzel centers on political, racial, ethnic, gender identities, and social influences contributing to perception. She is currently researching the effects of demographics, social influence, and political ideas of Santa Ana residents on their perception of the police. In short, Roxzel studies the impacts that the social environment has on perceptions.



Vicky Wong is a first-generation Chinese American college graduate from Chico State, where she majored in both child development and psychology. She is an early childhood educator. Her research interests include the cultural factors affecting adolescent well-being, school violence prevention and safety, parent-child relationships with a focus in parentification, and peer relations in a school setting. Having worked to serve young students from all diverse populations has led Vicky to pursue a master's degree in school counseling. She hopes to become a high school counselor and advocate for youth, especially students of color.



Tatiana Ybarra is an undergraduate majoring in political science and criminal justice at Chico State. She is an Indigenous mother of three boys, wanting to incorporate research ways into her reservation lifestyle in Nevada. Her future goal is to become a district attorney and published indigenous research scholar.

Graduate Students



Alondra Adame is a graduate of the Master of English program at Chico State. They are a ChicanaX essayist, poet, and educator. 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.



Vania Buck is a graduate student in the Master of Social Work program at Chico State. Her research interests include child welfare, its policies, and practices. Bilingual in English and Spanish, Vania's research focuses on the experiences of bilingual social workers in child welfare and how the skill impacts services to Spanish-speaking only communities. She hopes to add to the limited research pertaining to bilingual social workers in child welfare by continuing her research in a PhD program. Additionally, Vania wishes to create university educational programs to support bilingual students with the goal to better prepare them as they transition to bilingual professionals.



Sheila Mary Burke is a graduate student in the Communication Studies Department at Chico State. Her primary areas of study are organizational communication and change management. She is passionate about stakeholder engagement and motivating individuals and groups to bring about meaningful change. Her research is centered on stakeholder and community voicing in matters of public interest. With an extensive background in leadership and corporate communication, she hopes to combine her study and experience to teach organizational communication.



Cara Campbell is a graduate of the Master of Social Work program at Chico State. She is a first-generation college student, advocate for women of color, and a cycling enthusiast. Her motivation is to contribute to the research in health and maternal care for women, with an emphasis on Black women, where it is sorely needed. Her aspirations are to assist communities and healthcare professionals with improving medical and maternal health care for Black women with hopes to decrease racial health disparities.



Alaina Castor is a graduate student in the psychological science master's program at Chico State. She is interested in research that aims to foster student equity and achievement within higher education. In the past, she has worked on several research projects that focus on this mission. As a Latinx and first-generation college student herself, Alaina intends to continue advocating for students through her work. It is her hope to shed light on how to best support underrepresented student groups on their academic journeys in an effort to bridge the achievement gap.



Blake Ellis is a graduate of the Master of Social Work program at Chico State. She served individuals impacted by the 2018 Camp Fire as an AmeriCorps disaster case manager and recently became a certified Forest Therapy Guide with the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy. She plans to continue to study solastalgia and ecological grief and integrate her research into disaster recovery and mitigation programs. Blake hopes to take an ecological approach to social work that honors human beings' relationship to the natural world in order to build resilient, sustainable, and healthy communities.



Emilee Hunt is a graduate student in the Master of Social Work program at Chico State. Her previous research has centered LGBTQ+ individuals, including survivors of sexual assault and veterans serving prior to the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell. As a prospective school counselor, she is particularly interested in research that focuses on the social-emotional growth and well-being of K–12 students experiencing multiple marginalizations. Her goal as a counselor and researcher is to support underserved students in the development of knowledge surrounding mental health coping tools and behavioral interventions through evidence-based practices.



Giang Hang is a cellular and molecular biology graduate student attending Chico State. With interests in the medical and psychology field, Hang took particular interest in the impacts of remote learning on the mental health of students, and the correlation between declining mental health and academic success. Giang is looking forward to continuing her work with Nate Milliard and the research team before pursuing a doctorate in clinical psychology or a medical degree with a focus in child psychiatry.



Jaime Lopez is a master's student in the biological sciences program at Chico State. He obtained his bachelor's degree in biology with a focus on ecology and environmental biology from CSU Dominguez Hills in 2016. Jaime's research interest lies in trying to explain the role of diazotrophs and understand how their presence affects coral symbiosis under environmental changes. A tropical sea anemone, *Exaiptasia pallida*, is used as a model system for understanding coral symbiosis and bleaching. He hopes to continue studying coral symbiosis and someday build conservational strategies to aid our beloved coral reefs.



Dana Moot II is a 2021 graduate of the Master of Art program at Chico State. He is an Air Force veteran, epigrapher, researcher, graphic designer, and illustrator. His research interests include the arts and languages of the Americas in general, with specific interests in the writing systems of ancient Mesoamerica, especially the Maya Hieroglyphic script. He hopes to continue his research pursuits in a PhD program as well as to continue his ongoing work as an illustrator, specializing in ancient artifacts.



LuAnn Peitz currently lives in Chico with her husband and three daughters. Born and raised in Trinity County, she has always had a deep-seeded passion for the community that reared her. Her master's thesis was a work of passion that has attempted to give a voice to her community. She is building on her thesis work by creating a North State Youth Collaborative (NSYC). The NSYC will give young people across the North State a voice in local, regional, and state policy and initiatives. She aspires to be a macro social worker that can be a voice for the oppressed rural communities throughout the North State.



Kaitlyn Romo received her Master of Biological Sciences from Chico State in 2021. She also received her bachelor's degree in cellular and molecular biology from Chico State in 2016. Her lifelong interests in biology and environmental studies, along with a career exploration in wine microbiology, led her to the study of cnidarians and their microbiome, utilizing the model organism *Aiptasia*. She is currently a Quality Control Supervisor at Crain Walnut Shelling in Los Molinos. Her goals include inspiring others to pursue scientific fields and continuing her love for education through educating others.



Meegan Sims graduated from Chico State in May 2021 with a Master of Arts in Anthropology with an option in museum studies. Prior to attending Chico State, she received a bachelor's degree in creative writing from BYU-Idaho. Currently, she is in the process of applying for jobs in the museum field. In the meantime, she is working on finishing and polishing her first novel for eventual publication.



Travis Souders is a graduate student in the Communication Studies program and a graduate of the journalism program, both at Chico State. He is a writer, journalist, educator, and communication professional. His research interests include interdisciplinary approaches to communication, particularly in the fields of journalism and mass media; specifically, he is interested in intertwining communicative and sociological concepts to find ways to generate more equity and inclusiveness in journalistic areas. He hopes to contribute to the development of a reinvigorated, community-minded generation of journalists, and to produce a book that reimagines equitable sports journalism.



Amanda Taylor received her Master of Social Science in spring 2021. She is the credential advisor for Chico State. After seeing the negative effects on students who transitioned to online during spring 2020, Amanda aimed her research to assisting students on managing their stress. Her research focuses on the capability of positive thinking techniques such as breathing, self-care, and positive self-talk. She hopes to continue to implement her research on positive thinking into her current position as an advisor and maybe one day into her own class.



Kathy Vargas is a graduate of the Master of Social Science at Chico State. She has worked as staff on campus since 2012 in three campus divisions. As an alumni and ambassador of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund and the Gates Millennium Scholars Program, her experiences on campus motivated her to complete a master's degree that focused on racism at Chico State and the inability to attain equity without addressing racism outright.



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.



Jennifer White is a recent graduate with a master's degree in nutrition education from Chico State. Jennifer previously acquired her bachelor's degree at Chico State, majoring in nutrition and food science with the option in general dietetics. Her goal after becoming a registered dietitian is to continue her research of diversity within nutrition programs and the profession. Other research interest includes community nutrition, food security and food access policy, as well as clinical research focusing specifically on the gut and microbiome.