

# About Our Student Authors

## Undergraduate Students



**Celia Alejandre** is an undergraduate student majoring in Child Development and Latin American Studies, currently conducting research on the well-being of Hmong youth in Butte County. Her project, titled “Butte County Hmong Youth Wellbeing Mixed Methods Study,” explores various aspects of youth well-being, including experiences at school, friendships, engagement in physical activities, exposure to substances, attitudes toward mental health, help-seeking behaviors, ethnic identity, and suicidal thoughts. Through this important work, Alejandre seeks to contribute to the understanding and support of Hmong youth, promoting healthier outcomes and enhanced well-being in their lives.



**Brian Iran Cervantes Arellano** is an undergraduate with a double major in Social Science (specializing in Sociology and Economics) and Latin American Studies. His research, titled “Contemporary migration of the Americas: A Viewpoint from Tijuana, Mexico,” is focused on bringing to light the experiences of migrants in Mexico, and delved into internal migration within Mexico in order to assess how institutions and society deal with the phenomenon.



**Ulisses Cervantes** is an undergraduate studying Mechatronic Engineering, dedicated to fostering diversity and innovation in engineering fields. His research project, “Using Internet of Things Design Project to Inspire Entrepreneur Mindset in Underrepresented Minorities in Engineering Programs,” addresses the critical skills gap in engineering graduates. Recognizing that approximately 51% of industry executives lack essential soft skills—such as problem-solving, critical thinking, communication, innovation, and creativity—Cervantes aims to enhance the educational experience for underrepresented minorities in engineering.



**Karen Contreras** is an undergraduate majoring in Biochemistry and Biology, currently investigating the intriguing role of testosterone in the predisposition to idiopathic scoliosis (IS). This research addresses a critical gap in understanding the gender disparity in IS severity, as women are known to experience more pronounced spinal curvature than men. While estrogen’s effects have been widely studied, the impact of testosterone has remained largely unexplored until now. Through this innovative research, Contreras hopes to shed light on the biological mechanisms behind idiopathic scoliosis and contribute to the broader understanding of spinal health.



**Pablo Curiel** is an undergraduate majoring in Applied Mathematics, currently engaged in research focused on the metric dimension of Barabasi-Albert random graphs. The concept of metric dimension parallels the functionality of GPS technology, as it represents the minimum number of nodes necessary to uniquely identify all nodes within a graph, akin to the satellites needed to pinpoint a location on Earth. Through this project, Curiel seeks to enhance the mathematical community's knowledge of random graphs and their unique characteristics, laying the groundwork for future research in this area of study.



**Starlene Diaz** is an undergraduate History major exploring the intriguing phenomenon of the safety coffin and its significance in 19th-century society. This research project investigates the invention of the safety coffin, designed to save lives. By tracing the material culture associated with these inventions, she seeks to understand how such inventions reflect societal attitudes and fears of the era.



**Alondra Jauregui** is an undergraduate majoring in Anthropology. Her research with fellow undergraduate Kate Minderhoud is titled “Activism and Spray Paint: Environmental Graffiti in Bogotá Colombia” and focuses on the interconnectivity between art, social change, and the community in Colombia. Jauregui’s aim is to exemplify the voices of underrepresented communities.



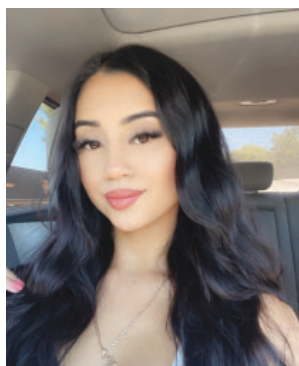
**Sally Mead** is a Nutrition and Food Sciences major who wanted to gain experience in research and work with professor Keiko Goto who helped her see that everyone has to start somewhere - telling Sally, ‘if you apply yourself, anything is possible.’ As a low-income student supporting herself through college, this program offered a funded research opportunity and a challenge. Sally was able to overcome the imposter syndrome and learned collect and code data, schedule her work at her own pace, manage her time, and be flexible and accommodating. She also learned how to interpret results professionally and was able to ask a research question, come up with hypotheses, and analyze the results.



**Kate Minderhoud** is an undergraduate finishing up her Anthropology degree. She is interested in the relationship between environmental activism and public art, and her research with fellow undergraduate Alondra Juaregui is titled “Activism and Spray Paint: Environmental Graffiti in Bogotá Colombia” delves into the embracing of graffiti as legitimate public art.



**Nathend Olivares Velazquez** is an undergraduate whose project is titled “The Crucial Connection: Exploring the Impact of University Housing on Student Success and Retention.” As a History student, he also minored in European Studies. His research focuses on university housing and how taking part in it impacts residents in more ways than initially thought. It also investigates the connection between living in dorms and student retention, along with revealing the interconnectedness of housing with other aspects of student life.



**Angelica Santibanez** studies Political Science and Psychology. Her research project, “The Social Pressure First-Generation Students Have with Families to Not Fail,” explores the obstacles first-generation students encounter in pursuing higher education. She joined the Adelante Research Program because she found it incredible that there’s an organization supporting unique research interests.



**Mariah Vallejo** is an undergraduate majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders with a minor in Spanish. Her research, titled “The impact of a required office hours assignment on student perceptions of faculty and the academic experience,” ultimately aims to reduce obstacles which may impede students from taking advantage of useful resources on campus.

## About Our Student Authors

### Graduate Students



**Isabel Araujo** is a graduate student majoring in Anthropology with a focus on Museum Studies. Her research project, “Making Stewardship First: Community and Collaboration in Collections Management Policy,” emphasizes the importance of collaboration and equity in museum practices. This project centers on a partnership between the Museum of Anthropology and the Office of Tribal Relations to draft a comprehensive collections management policy. The goal is to create a policy that not only facilitates their collaboration but also serves as a model for similar initiatives across the CSU system. Through this research, Araujo aims to contribute to the ongoing dialogue about inclusive practices in museums, ensuring that diverse voices and perspectives are represented in collections management.



**Tawny Aeriell Bolinas** is a graduate student pursuing a Master’s degree in Biological Sciences, with a focus on the intricate relationships between plants and their associated fungi. Her research project, “Pilot Study: Time and Temperature to Eliminate Foliar Fungal Endophytes,” investigates the diverse community of foliar fungal endophytes that inhabit the leaves of plants, specifically *Quercus lobata* (valley oak) from the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve. These fungi coexist within the plant leaves without causing visible symptoms and may play significant roles in plant health and stress adaptation. Through this research, Bolinas aims to deepen our understanding of plant-fungal interactions and the impact on ecological processes.



**Maggie Farlow is a graduate student in History.** Her research project, titled “Unveiling Gender Roles and Identity in Chico’s Founding: Exposing Women’s Leadership in its Prosperity through the Turn-of-the-Twentieth Century,” explores the lives of influential women in Chico, including Annie Bidwell, Ardenia Boydstun Morehead, Emma Wilson, and Ella Gatchell. Focusing on the period from settlement to the early twentieth century, her study illuminates their roles, contributions, and the evolving dynamics of gender within a frontier community. Using a case study approach, she examines their business, social, and familial networks, highlighting their impact as philanthropists, entrepreneurs, educators, and doctors. Their diverse contributions spanned community development, social initiatives, education, and cultural enrichment.



**Fernando Infante** is a Public Administration Graduate student. His research illuminates the imperative for municipalities to establish robust administrative frameworks to counter black market cannabis activities. By advocating for systems promoting compliance, collaboration, and effective oversight, Infante underscores the necessity of legalizing and intelligently regulating cannabis consumption..



**Recamier Jauregui-Ocampo** is a Psychological Sciences master's student studying Behavioral Neuroscience. His project titled "Determining the Impact of Adolescent Stress on the Oxytocin System," focused on the interaction between chronic stress and opioid abuse vulnerability in the developing brain. To counter the negative effects of stress and opioid abuse, the team examined the role of endogenous oxytocin in stress and reward related brain regions.



**Ashley Dianette Macias** is a Social Work graduate student whose research project is titled "The Intersection of Culture, Developmental Stages, and Mental Health Among Mexican American Young Adults in Rural and Urban Communities." Her research study focuses on the challenges faced by children of Mexican immigrants in the United States in forming their cultural identity, which can lead to mental health issues and academic difficulties. Through qualitative interviews with young adults aged 18 to 19, the study aims to explore how cultural loss affects their education, mental health, and family relationships.



**Russell McGregor**, a first-generation college graduate, completed his bachelor's degree in Political Science Legal Studies and Communications in Public Affairs from Chico State in 2020. He furthered his education by earning a Master of Public Administration in 2023.,



**Sonia Quintero** is a graduate student in the Master of Public Administration program. With a view to supporting students on campus, her research, titled “Public Sector Accommodation of Neurodivergence,” looks at the present state of neurodivergent accommodation in public settings (both employment and educational), best practices, accommodations desired by neurodivergent employees/students, and the challenges in dissemination and implementation.



**Chris Robinson** is a Master of Social Work graduate whose research is titled “Child Welfare Social Worker Retention: The Relationship of Secondary Trauma And Pandemic Stressors.” The study used quantitative surveys of social workers in public welfare agencies and makes recommendations aimed at bolstering institutional and agency supports for social workers experiencing secondary trauma.



**Arely Saldana** studies Psychological Sciences as a graduate student. Her research is titled “Beliefs about End-of-Life Decisions for Companion Animals.” Her study explores attitudes and beliefs about end-of-life, quality of life, and appropriateness of euthanasia as a means to end the life of companion animals. Plenty of human-animal interaction research focuses on the grief of owners and the emotions of veterinarians after euthanasia, but not on the decision-making and thought processes involved in it. The study aimed to investigate said processes.



**Rosario Zepeda** is a graduate student in Social whose project is titled Home Share Project: Exploring a Unique Affordable Housing Solution. Her research focuses on home sharing which is a program that is designed to utilize our current housing stock by matching home providers (people with an extra room) with home seekers (those who are seeking affordable housing). Additionally, many home sharing programs are geared towards intergenerational relationships where older adults are able to age in place through the support of home seekers. Home sharing taps into available housing stock and increased support programs for older adults, yet there is a dearth of research on the impact of home sharing programs across the nation. This research aims to fill a gap in knowledge about participants’ experiences in home sharing programs and seeks to understand the experiences of home share participants in Northern California.