



# CELEBRATING THE HUMANITIES



**HUMANITIES**  
REIMAGINE THE WORLD

MAY 28, 2025 | 5-7PM

SEYMOUR MARINE DISCOVERY CENTER • SANTA CRUZ, CA



# WELCOME

Celebrating the Humanities is an event highlighting excellence in the Humanities Division by honoring our undergraduate award recipients and showcasing the Employing Humanities Initiative. This inaugural celebration merges two previous annual events—Spring Awards and the Employing Humanities Celebration—into one special gathering.

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As part of the Employing Humanities program, EXCEL Fellows partner with community organizations for educational experiences outside of the classroom

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As part of the Employing Humanities program, EXPLORE Fellows work with Humanities faculty on research projects

### **THI RESEARCH FELLOWS** . . . 4

The Humanities Institute (THI) supports Research Fellows annually who are awarded funding to further support their research pursuits

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Each year ten students from the Humanities Division are selected to receive awards for their stellar research theses or projects

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Divisional awards are research specific and given to students in support of their education

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# Humanities EXCEL Fellows

**Isa Anderson**, Santa Cruz Public Libraries

**Bella Mann**, Santa Cruz Poetry Project

**Max Ari'i**, Museum of Natural History

**Alanah Martinez**, United Way

**Liliana Barajas**, Open Campus

**Kash Mejia**, Black Surf Santa Cruz

**Madeline Bautista Maurer**, Foolscap Press

**Chimera Mohammadi**, Lookout Santa Cruz

**Maury Burnett-Cavoto**, KSQD  
Community Radio

**Mayah Moore**, Democratic Women's Club

**Leo Colletta**, Santa Cruz Museum  
of Art & History

**Emily Moua**, Your Future Is Our Business

**Lesly Nicasio**, Boys & Girls Club  
Santa Cruz Co.

**Isabel Cordova**, Lookout Santa Cruz

**Mars Nored**, Santa Cruz Poetry Project

**Jake Davison**, San Lorenzo Valley  
Museum

**Eva Overton**, San Lorenzo Valley Museum

**Arabella Edler**, Santa Cruz Poetry Project

**Jamie Penilla**, WILDR Santa Cruz

**Bronwyn Eyre**, Santa Cruz Museum  
of Art & History

**Jadyn Polk**, Save Our Shores

**Paulina Garcia**, The Hive Poetry Collective

**Serena Ramirez**, Santa Cruz Works

**Gabby Goss**, United Way

**Riley Ramos**, Second Harvest Food Bank

**Janelle Harvey**, United Way

**Mac Rogers**, Santa Cruz Youth Poet  
Laureate Program

**Brock Hurtado**, The American Prospect

**Fatima Sanchez**, Cabrillo Festival of  
Contemporary Music

**Esmeralda Hurtado**, Santa Cruz Public Libraries

**Haley Shuford**, Leadership Santa Cruz

**Kyle Johnson**, Your Future Is Our Business

**Eetai Shwartz**, Lookout Santa Cruz

**Gurleen Kaur**, The Sikh Foundation

**Morgan Woodley**, Santa Cruz Museum of  
Art & History

**Ava MacDonald**, Community Foundation

**Heather Yee**, Seymour Marine Discovery  
Center

# Humanities EXPLORE Fellows

## **AI & Human Imagination**

Chloe Allen, Marissa Omaque, Caroline Wilson

## **Counter-Colonial Ecologies**

Jes Dunnaville, Hala Elamine, Esmeralda Hurtado, Niya Mustafa, Z Jones

## **Creative Writing - What Happened Next?**

Chimera Mohammadi, Clare O'Brien

## **Discourse Analysis**

Alexa Ballesteros, Carolyn Mish , Grace Nighswonger

## **Japanese American Redress Projects**

Bengi Alfaro, Jade Glentzer , Monnika Mattson, Skyla Tomine

## **Mapping the offering of courses in African History through the UC system:**

### **What is Africa's place in History curricula?**

Beckett Atkinson , Adam Ross, Ethan Strom

## **MuHSiC (Multilingual Hispanic Speech in CA)**

Silvia Ingiquez, Eleanor Garrison, Joscelyn Osorio, Cassandra Ponce Ventura,  
Dacia van Wormer, Pilar Zapien

## **Multilingual Corpus of Paraguay**

Gigi Lea, Nora Ligotti

## **Okinawa Memories Initiative**

Aivan Bach, Walter Barnaby, James Leyton , Seiya Mendiola , Geneva Samuelson,  
Court Sugano, Nixie Young

## **Santa Cruz in Color**

Riley Alinsug, Lucy Liu, Rafael Revolorio, Keiko Utsumi

## **Selling Saqqara**

Natalie Korobkova, Jackson Young

## **Shakespeare in Santa Cruz: Performance History**

Emma Bavera, Ani Tonoyan, Stone Williams

# Humanities EXPLORE Fellows

## **Shakespeare Workshop**

Emma Bavera

## **Speculative Futures**

Valerie Sainz

## **Syllable Structure in Dialects of English**

Mesa Diehl, Missy McReynolds, Ben Sommer

## **TEQ: Technology. Ethics. Questions**

Jack Anderson, Jaxon Elsner

## **The Literary Bridge: Linking Skills and Careers**

Kriti Dokania, Abiagael Mcnelis

## **Undergraduate Research Fellows in Linguistics and Language Science (URFLLS)**

Emily Avalos, Juna Pablo Calvo Huerta, Amelia Delso, Shiho Funamoto,  
Isabella Nordstron, Jason Schwartz

## **URFLLS - Gender Stereotypes and Speech Processing**

Sam Beatty

## **URFLLS - Korean obstruent phonology**

Yuko Hotta

## **URFLLS - Relative clauses in crosslinguistic perspective**

Malee Dye, Tyler Kay, Benjamin Olson

## **URFLLS - Revisiting /s/-retraction and rotic variation**

Lorelei Howe, Solomon Puthiakunna

## **Visual Constructions of the Pajaro and Salinas Valleys**

Julie Fintamag, Crystal Hicks Marin

## **Watsonville is in the Heart**

Dani Dayao, Julie Fintamag, Jamie Florence Dy, Janeth Perez Quirke

# THI Research Fellows

**Katherine Arnold**, “Nonnative Perception of Italian Consonant Length Contrast”

**Sam Beatty**, “Gendered voices and Transgender bodies: Where are we? What are we doing? And who are we talking to?”

**Julian Crown**, “Language, Media, and the Social Construction of Homelessness”

**Joshua Lieberstein**, “Verbless Clauses in Mayan K’iche’: A non-copular approach”

**Elliot-Elyjah McWhinnie**, “Zooming in on the regional differences of African American Language in California”

**Sabrina Nguyen**, “Does Freedom Mean Free? Manumission, Marriage, and Public Perception in the Roman Empire”

**Jacqueline Nowak**, “For a Bountiful Harvest: Women’s Roles in Animal Sacrifice to the Goddesses Demeter and Persephone”

**Adelina Rocha**, “Benefits and Barriers of Radical Collaboration in Performance Arts”

**Ruby Seckinger**, “Guardrails for AI: Defining Ethics and Regulation in a World of Imperfect Data”

**Pilar Zapien**, “Gossip: Power, Profit, and Patriarchy: An Academic Zine Series”



The  
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# Dean's & Chancellor's Awards

## DEAN'S UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS

**Jonas Amaya**, "Phenomenal Consciousness in Complex Adaptive Systems under Panpsychism and the Integrated Information Theory of Consciousness"

**Emmy Ceron**, "Bad Bunny: Music with a Purpose"

**Vee Eiger**, "Adorned in Exile: Algerian Jewish Jewelry as Memory, Identity, and Resistance"

**Sophia Larsen**, "Calling God to the Podium: How the Ironies in the Book of Job Structure Modern Theistic and Absurdist Understandings of Faith, Justice, and Judaism"

**Michael Robinson**, "From Bacchus and Midas Through Nationalism to Eroticism and Pop Art: How the Barberini Faun Has Been Shaped by Shifting Cultural Norms"

**Valerie Sainz**, "Kateri Tekakwitha: Praise from the Pulpit, Power in the Pines (1626-1680)"

**Ava O'Connor & Mary Zimmerle**, "The English Mummy"

## CHANCELLOR'S UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS

**Molly Maher**, "The Clubhouse"

**Sabrina Nguyen**, "Does Freedom Mean Free? Manumission, Marriage, and Public Perception in the Roman Empire"

**Ella Villar**, "Beyond Occupation: Palestinian Solidarity Art and Futurity"

# Humanities Division Awards

Dizikes Faculty Teaching Award

**Nick Mitchell**, Department of Critical Race & Ethnic Studies

The 2024-2025 Nick Mitchell Scholarship Recipients

**Aamir Asadi Esmeralda Hurtado**

Coha-Gunderson Prize in Speculative Futures Awardee

**Hannah Barrett**

Sol & Esther Draznin Memorial Scholarship in Classical Studies

**Sophia Thoman**

David A. Kadish Humanities Scholarship & Siobhan O'Neill Memorial  
Scholarship

**Emily Tran**

Humanities Dean's Excellence Award

**Aisha Lemseffer Vivian Zalunardo**

**Tabitha Ozaki Ethan Strom**

The Dr. Raihan Kadri Memorial Scholarship

**Zoe Towne**

Don Rothman Endowed Award in First-Year Writing

**Lila Morrill**, 1st place **Ella Banchieri**, 3rd place

**Roberto Lopez**, 2nd place **Isaac Loke**, Honorable Mention

Mollie Cass Sater Memorial Scholarship in Jewish Studies

**Jesus Molina**

Jay Family Humanities Scholarship Award

**Mars Nored**



# 2025 Distinguished Humanities Undergraduate Alumni Award

**William Finnegan** (Cowell '74, English Literature)



William Finnegan has been a staff writer at *The New Yorker* since 1987. He has written primarily about politics, war, poverty, race, U.S. foreign policy, organized crime, mass transit, economic globalization, and surfing. His work has appeared in *Granta*, *Harper's*, *The New York Review of Books*, and *The New York Times*, as well as *The New Yorker*. He has published four books of international and domestic reporting and a memoir, *Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life*, which won the Pulitzer Prize for Autobiography in 2016.

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Mike Stern



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## THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

Black Surf Santa Cruz

Boys & Girls Club Santa Cruz Co.

Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music

Community Foundation

Democratic Women's Club

Foolscap Press

Housing Santa Cruz County

KSQD Community Radio

Leadership Santa Cruz

Lookout Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History

Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History

Open Campus

San Lorenzo Valley Museum

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