

# COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

SAINT  
MARTIN'S  
UNIVERSITY

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THE  
ISSUE

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NEWSLETTER  
**WINTER**  
2021-22

# Farewell, Dean Jeff Crane

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I write this last message with both joy and sadness in my heart. I am excited by the new opportunities and challenges awaiting me at Humboldt State University and am eager to work on Climate Justice and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at a university that has made a bold commitment to these issues. However, I leave behind a number of relationships that are deeply meaningful to me. I appreciate getting to know many of you

and working together on sticky and challenging issues. Similarly, I am grateful for the friendships that have evolved over time as well.

My sadness at leaving is alleviated by the fantastic leadership taking the helm. Both Dr. Coby and Dr. Chavez have risen through the ranks at Saint Martin's and have powerful records in teaching, service, and scholarship as well as

excellent administrative experience. They embrace and embody collaboration, faculty governance, and student-centered education. You will all be well served by their leadership.

Sincerely,  
**Jeff**

# Welcome, Interim Dean Aaron Coby

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Greetings College of Arts & Sciences community! I want to start by thanking Jeff Crane for the years of leadership, mentorship and friendship that he has offered. The college has benefited from his time here, and his advocacy for faculty and students is something I want to continue during my time as interim dean. He will be missed, and we wish him the best on his next adventure. I am honored to be stepping into the role and I am so lucky to have Dr. Julia Chavez joining me as associate dean. We make a great team and I look forward to the great things we'll do for the college... just give us a little time to get our feet under us.

I approach this role with a service perspective. My goal is to support and advocate for our faculty and students with a vision to further communicate the importance of a liberal arts education. One that

values all its areas of study and expression. A liberal arts education that improves a student's understanding of the world and the humanity we share. And I believe that the only meaningful path towards that goal is one that incorporates inclusivity, improves equity and broadens our diversity. I promise to commit to all these ideals while doing the behind the scenes work that helps you accomplish your goals.

Every day I witness the commitment and dedication of our faculty and staff to our students and the college. I also recognize the fatigue and frustration that comes with the altered state of our learning environments (and the world). Finding solutions and the best path forward requires collaboration and effective communication to make sure everyone is being heard and that we're all committed

to our shared goals. It also doesn't hurt to have a little fun along the way. I'd love to find ways this year for us to come together to celebrate each other and the amazing things we've accomplished.

Looking forward to working with you all!  
**Aaron**

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# Event Highlights





# Harvie Lecture Series Featuring Cynthia Iyall

Inspired by its Catholic, Benedictine values including, hospitality, respect for persons, listening, justice, peace and community living, Saint Martin's University hosted an event at the Norman Worthington Conference Center on the evening of October 11th to commemorate Indigenous Peoples' Day and honor the Nisqually people, the original inhabitants of the local South Puget Sound region and the land upon which St. Martin's University resides. This event, featuring Cynthia Iyall, Tribal Administrator for the Nisqually Indian Community, was offered through the St. Martin's University Harvie Lecture Series - an annual program promoting accomplished speakers, writers, filmmakers, and activists who advocate to raise awareness and educate about social justice issues facing our community. Past presentations have focused on wrongful convictions, rehabilitation and reentry from incarceration, abuses committed against indigenous women, disproportionate treatment within the justice system, housing insecurity, racial and ethnic discrimination, sex trafficking, suicide prevention, police and prison reform, the death penalty, immigration reform, and more. The goals for this

event were aimed at showing respect for indigenous persons, listening to indigenous perspectives and voices, and educating our community about indigenous experiences.

We were delighted to see more than 50 students, faculty, and staff from the Saint Martin's Community, as well as local residents and tribal members attend Cynthia Iyall's presentation about the rich history of the Nisqually, challenging negotiations with American settlers and military forces for the Medicine Creek Treaty of 1854, and the events surrounding Chief Leschi's wrongful conviction, execution, and posthumous exoneration. Ms. Iyall's story of Chief Leschi and the Medicine Creek descendants represents powerful evidence of the maltreatment and pain endured by generations of indigenous people, reminding us all that we should take time to acknowledge the harms inflicted throughout American history. Yet, Cynthia's presentation also celebrated the healing and many accomplishments that have taken place within the Nisqually community over 160+ years since the Medicine Creek Treaty was signed, especially the work she and other tribal members have been engaged in to honor and continue the legacy of Chief Leschi, strengthen the financial position of the tribe, provide social services to tribal members in need, and ensure the protection and preservation of Nisqually land for future generations. These accomplishments serve as a testament to the resilience of the Nisqually and other indigenous communities who have continued to thrive, despite the many injustices they have experienced.

To conclude this special event, the Saint Martin's community, represented by Jeff Crane, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, and Justin Kover, St. Martin's University Alum and Nisqually Tribal Member, presented a Chief Joseph inspired Pendleton blanket to Ms. Iyall to express our deep appreciation for Cynthia's storytelling, as well as her work and ongoing efforts to bring about social justice in our South Puget Sound Community.

**Dr. Will Stadler**  
**Program Director for Criminal Justice**

# Celebrating Live Music

"To be in community, to be IN the community, to feel actual sound waves as they leave another person and take form in our ears, our minds, our hearts. This is what it means to me to be a musician. This is why I am so elated to have live music fill our classrooms, our sacred spaces, and, in turn, our community.

Hans Christian Andersen said it so well, "Where words fail, music speaks". Over the past 21 months there has been a mutual grieving, a loss, a loneliness that has permeated down to our very souls. For me, a big part of this loss has been the lack of live music. Because music is more than dots on a page with, perhaps, some lyrics. Music can give us an anchor for the feelings we are just not ready or capable of processing. It can steady our minds, give us words, help us reconnect with the deep. Here is where the beauty lies, to connect with the deep alongside another. I believe we were created to be in community. To me, there is no greater joy than to bear one another's burdens, to rejoice and cry "Hallelujah" in one of our universal languages, music.

The Music Department has been busy creating community again through live performances. We have had two Music @ Noon guest performers, soon to have our third. Student convocation where our applied lesson students get to share themselves and what they have been learning with their peers, and two concerts in the Abbey Church. These events have been a blessing and joy for our SMU community of faculty and students, and to our greater community as we welcomed them to our campus."

**Crystal Zimmerman**  
**Interim Director of Vocal Music**

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"Performing and conducting with the Saint Martin's Chorale and Wind Ensemble has been the highlight of my college career. With the effects of Covid, many music programs across the country were temporarily silent or even disbanded. Being able to perform again for a live audience has been a gift that I treasure every day. Thanks to the help and support from all the wonderful people at SMU and associated musical groups, I now feel ready to graduate and teach my own music classes."

**Kyle Housden**  
**Music and Science Education '22**

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"As it's my first year in college, I was worried about transitioning from high school choir to college-level choir. However, after just a few weeks working with the SMU choir, I knew I was in good hands. All of our work culminated into the Sacred Music Concert, and it was amazing. There were so many new things I had never experienced before, like singing in a new location or singing with folders, and it made that night a highlight of my freshman year. It was awesome!"

**L. J. Montefalcon**  
**Computer Science '25**









# Les Bailey Writers Series Featuring Nicola Griffith



Presented by the Saint Martin's University English Program, the Les Bailey Writers Series brings writers and authors of note to campus to read and discuss their books. It was named in honor of Leslie G. Bailey, Ph.D., a gifted and inspiring English professor at Saint Martin's who was beloved for sharing his great passion for the written word with students. Bailey taught at Saint Martin's from 1975 until his death in 2010. This year's guest speaker was Nicola Griffith, presenting a talk titled, "*Making and Remaking the World*".

**Nicola Griffith** is a dual US/UK citizen living in Seattle with her wife, novelist and screenwriter Kelley Eskridge. She is the author of seven award-winning novels, including *Hild* and *So Lucky* (which both won the Washington State Book Award), with an eighth, *Spear*, forthcoming in April 2022, and her ninth, *Menewood*, the sequel to *Hild*, soon after that. Her shorter work--essays, stories, and opinion pieces--are published in *Nature*, *New York Times*, *Out*, *New Scientist*, and others. She's also written an award-winning memoir, and is the co-editor of the three-book *Bending the Landscape* series. She holds a PhD from Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, is the founder and co-host of #CripLit, and is known for her work on identifying and tracing bias in the literary ecosystem. She teaches occasionally, but mostly is either writing or hitting heavy bags at the boxing gym. When she isn't lost in researching all things seventh-century she emerges to drink just the right amount of beer and take enormous delight in everything.





# Nursing Center Dedication Ceremony





# Faculty Highlights





# Dr. Katherine Porter: Sabbatical Project

## ALEKS Mathematics Videos

**Dr. Katherine Porter** worked to generate videos covering 272 topics found in MTH 100, Math Lab, over her sabbatical. MTH 100 is called Math Lab because it functions as a lab, letting the students work at their own pace in a guided computer program called ALEKS with the help of a professor and a PAL (Peer Academic Leader). The computer program initially tests the student's skills and checks for topics they are competent in and helps them practice the skills they need to refresh or learn for the first time. ALEKS has multiple examples with step-by-step instructions to aid the student through the topics. An additional benefit to the structure of MTH 100 using ALEKS, is that for those students who are wanting to get into Precalculus or even higher, at a quicker rate, we have prepared modules in ALEKS that the students can complete. At the end of the MTH 100 course, students retake the math placement exam, as a final exam, and if they place higher than MTH 101 (the next course in sequential order) they are allowed to register for the class they placed into.

In ALEKS the program presents questions to the students, with multiple choice answers, but also has examples and worked through explanations of these types of problems, allowing the students to see several examples before doing any of their work, if they so choose to view them. This, however, means they do not hear the explanations of each step in the examples, or any rationale why that step is done, and each explanation is presented in full when the student looks at the solution. This is where Dr. Porter's videos come in. She used the examples in ALEKS to prepare the material for each topic, emphasizing any older material also used in the examples and illustrating the building block nature of mathematics. She also showed additional approaches, if not already shown in ALEKS.

Dr. Bonnie Amende incorporated the videos into ALEKS for her summer class of MTH 100 and they are now being used in all MTH 100 classes. Surveys about their use are being conducted and will be studied to see if they improve the students success in the course.



# Dr. Kayla Blyman: COMAP

**Dr. Kayla Blyman** is excited to be taking on several new leadership roles with the Consortium for Mathematics and Its Applications (COMAP) this year.

As COMAP works to develop two Certificate in Modeling programs – one for industry professionals and a second for educators – Dr. Blyman will lead a team in developing the curriculum for the Introduction to Modeling course that will be used as the first half of both certificate programs. She looks forward to being able to bring portions of this curriculum to the Mathematical Modeling course at Saint Martin's University.

Dr. Blyman will also be filling two

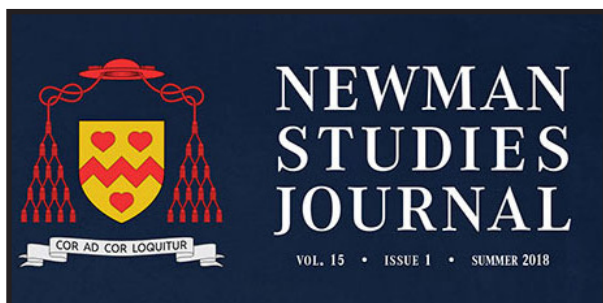
Co-Director positions for international mathematical modeling competitions as she trains to become the Director of each. The first is with the inaugural Middle School Mathematical Contest in Modeling (Mid-MCM) held in November 2021. The second is with the undergraduate Interdisciplinary Contest in Modeling (ICM) held in February 2022. Additionally, Dr. Blyman will continue as the problem author and coordinator of the Sustainability (previously the Environmental Science) problem of the ICM this year. Last year the ICM had more than 16,000 submissions, accounting for over 48,000 students, and it is expected to grow larger this year.



# Dr. Ramon Luzarraga: Newman Studies Journal

**Dr. Ramon Luzarraga**

published the article, "The Charism of Companionship: John Henry Newman's Adventure in Religious Life," in the *Newman Studies Journal*.





# Dr. Nathalie Kuriowa-Lewis: RSA



In October, Dr. Kuroiwa-Lewis participated in a memorial event located in the Worthington Center. This event was part of a grant, coordinated by Drs. Lori Sirs and Shandeigh Berry, titled “*I remember*” for Project Poppyseed, an organization founded by Dr. Berry that is devoted to helping parents grieve the loss of a pregnancy or baby. For the memorial event, Dr. Kuroiwa-Lewis drew on John Fox and William Sieghart’s ideas on the medicinal benefits of poetry and led a generative poetry writing workshop focused on grief and healing. Participants left the workshop with the beginnings, or in some cases, full drafts of poems completed.

**Dr. Nathalie Kuroiwa-Lewis** recently published her poems titled “*Waterfall Climbing*,” and “*Conversions*” in *The Wild Word*, issue 62, which deals with the theme of escape. Both of her poems use aspects of the natural world to explore spiritual dilemmas. Dr. Kuroiwa-Lewis is currently writing new poems for a chapbook.

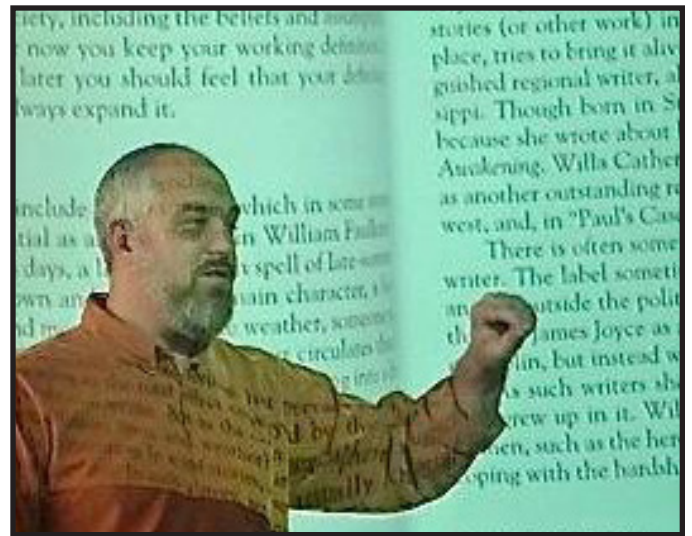


Over the summer, Dr. Kuroiwa-Lewis applied and was accepted at the Rhetoric Society of America Institute. She participated in a virtual seminar “*Ecological Feelings*” and workshop “*Rhetoric of risk and public health*” focused on environmental rhetoric. Applying what she learned at the Institute, she is now working on an article that analyzes the digital rhetoric of the DOE’s framing of its revision of high level nuclear waste.

# Dr. Jeff Birkenstein: DVNHA

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**Dr. Jeff Birkenstein** has been collaborating with the Death Valley Natural History Association on a series of literature-about-the-desert related classes. The events were titled “Lands Color And Light: Readings From Death Valley And Desert Southwest” and “Book Pairings: Summer Readings 2021”.



# Dr. Julie Prosser: IARR Conference



**Dr. Julie Prosser** presented a paper at the International Association for Relationship Research conference on Sept. 20th called Gendered Beliefs and Behaviors in Couple Relationships as Predictors of Physiological Stress Functioning. It is a paper that she co-authored with several other colleagues from Colorado State University and it is currently under review for publication.



# Dr. Lori Sirs & Dr. Nikki Berry: SCLFG

**Drs. Lori Sirs and Nikki Berry** have been collaborating in a multidisciplinary research project between Social Work and Nursing and were awarded the Washington Campus Compact (WACC) “Student Civic Leader Fellowship Grant.” The WACC is a “coalition of higher education institutions committed to advancing the public purpose of colleges and universities, educating students for the workforce and civic leadership, and working in partnerships to cultivate vital and sustainable communities.”

The Civic Leader Fellowship Grant will support two student Research Assistants pursuing careers in Social Work and Nursing. Sanyt Shores from Nursing and Cristina Tapia from Social Work have been chosen from a pool of highly competitive applicants to serve as Research Assistants to Drs. Sirs and Berry.

The multidisciplinary research project

focuses on supporting fathers experiencing grief following perinatal loss by using a movement modality known as ‘poi spinning.’ Poi spinning, the rhythmic movement of tethered weighted objects around the body, originated from the Māori people of New Zealand. Dr. Sirs has been exploring poi spinning as a therapeutic movement modality for the past eight years. Fathers, whose grief is often marginalized and disenfranchised following perinatal loss, rarely receive the bereavement support they need. Without support, fathers have an increased risk for becoming isolated, utilizing maladaptive coping mechanisms such as alcohol, and developing complicate perinatal grief. Complicated perinatal grief is a potentially life-long adverse outcome characterized by depression, anxiety, substance misuse, posttraumatic stress disorder, suicidality, hypertension, diabetes, obesity, and cancer. In collaboration with Dr. Berry, specializing in perinatal loss, grief, and bereavement, poi spinning workshops will be used to investigate the efficacy of

this ancient practice in mitigating the risk of fathers developing complicated perinatal grief following perinatal loss.



# Dr. Teresa Winstead:

## Sabbatical Project

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### Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder

**Dr. Teresa Winstead** collaborated with Olympia Bupe Clinic (OBC) and the University of Washington's Addictions Drug and Alcohol Institute (ADAI), to help to evaluate the clinic's approach to opioid treatment. The grant for the project, the Community Opioid Response and Evaluation (CORE), was funded by the PEW Charitable Trusts and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The Olympia Bupe Clinic (OBC) opened as a new program to provide Medication assisted treatment for OUD at Capital Recovery Clinic in January 2019. Capital Recovery Center (CRC) is a 501(c)(3) peer-run community mental health agency that has served Thurston and Mason Counties for 30 years. CRC provides peer counseling and groups, homeless outreach, and supported employment services. OBC provides a low barrier, harm reduction approach to buprenorphine treatment for high needs individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD), closely integrated with peer recovery support services. OBC serves a mix of urban and

rural areas. Most OBC patients reside in Olympia, the greater Thurston County region, and the adjacent Lewis, Mason and Grays Harbor counties which are largely rural. The total population of this service area is 420,000, with a pre-pandemic average of 27 patient visits per night. Per night visits have gone down to an average of 20 during the pandemic.

There were two goals for Winstead's year-long project. First, the research team aimed to create a patient-centric view of OBC processes, impacts, and barriers co-constructed through focus groups and interviews with both clinic patients and staff. The second goal was to gather individual narratives focused on recovery and treatment from current OBC patients. Results from the study will help to create a multidimensional representation of clinic functions to share with the wider community and will help inform and refine the Olympia Bupe Clinic model. In addition, the personal narratives shared by patients will help to destigmatize Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in the wider opioid crisis response community.

Dr. Winstead explained that her involvement in this project came about as a result of a connection made during a community conference on supporting vulnerable populations in the South Sound region. Winstead had been asked to present on the harm reduction efforts and overdose prevention data from the syringe exchange she works with in California, and OBC's team was giving a presentation on access to Buprenorphine treatment on the same panel. As a result, the planning and co-conspiring began, including discussions about OBC's plans to submit the PEW grant and ideas and visions for what a sabbatical project might look like that could contribute to both clinic and patient needs. The OBC team asked the UW's ADAI to serve as the grant's evaluator, and their team, led by Caleb Banta-Green, took the lead on designing and implementing the quantitative side of the data collection. OBC invited Winstead to participate on the qualitative portion of the evaluation after they received the news that the grant was funded.







Of course, not everything went according to plan during the project, because undertaking a large research project with an oftentimes vulnerable population while navigating a pandemic presents lots of challenges. The research team made many modifications to the design as the pandemic protocols shifted under their feet. Winstead conducted all the staff focus groups and interviews via zoom, for example, but was able to conduct all the patient interviews in person, after

being vaccinated in February 2021. The modifications and delays meant the calendar for the project got pushed a few months further out, but PEW and all the collaborators have been remarkably adaptable and data collection has been very successful.

Winstead explained that one benefit of this project, something that has made it extra meaningful to be a part of for her, is related to the impact she hopes the work can have related to decreasing stigma against people who are using drugs. The goal, in addition to identifying impactful clinic practices, was to help shed light on what recovery and treatment look like, and to contribute to decreasing stigma and misunderstanding through sharing patient's stories, their challenges, and their successes. In addition, Winstead says she feels exceptionally lucky to have been able to work with the fantastic staff at OBC. She says: "The OBC staff is phenomenal, their commitment to supporting their patients is inspiring and grounding, and their ability to problem-solve and take action for the greater good was a reminder of what's important during

a very challenging time." The research team plans to share patient's experiences with Buprenorphine treatment with both the local and scholarly communities in the coming year.





# Student Highlights



# Katelynn Gulley: Pacific Seabird Grant

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**Katelynn Gulley** (senior, Biology), under the supervision of Dr. Megan Friesen, was awarded the Pacific Seabird Group undergraduate research grant for her research on color choice in seabirds. The PSG grant will fund Gulley's senior research in which she will be conducting behavioral choice tests on a captive population of seabirds. These experiments will use color choice experiments and spectrophotography to better understand carotenoid expression in North Pacific seabirds. The goal of these experiments is to understand the correlation between carotenoid expression, selection, and seabird diet. If such a correlation can be supported, carotenoid expression could be used as a metric for seabird health. Gulley will be presenting the preliminary results of her research at the 2022 Pacific Seabird Conference as part of being a grant recipient.

Katelynn Gulley was also recently (summer 2021) a co-author on a government publication of research that investigated visual attraction of seabirds to anthropogenic lights at-sea (under Dr. Friesen).



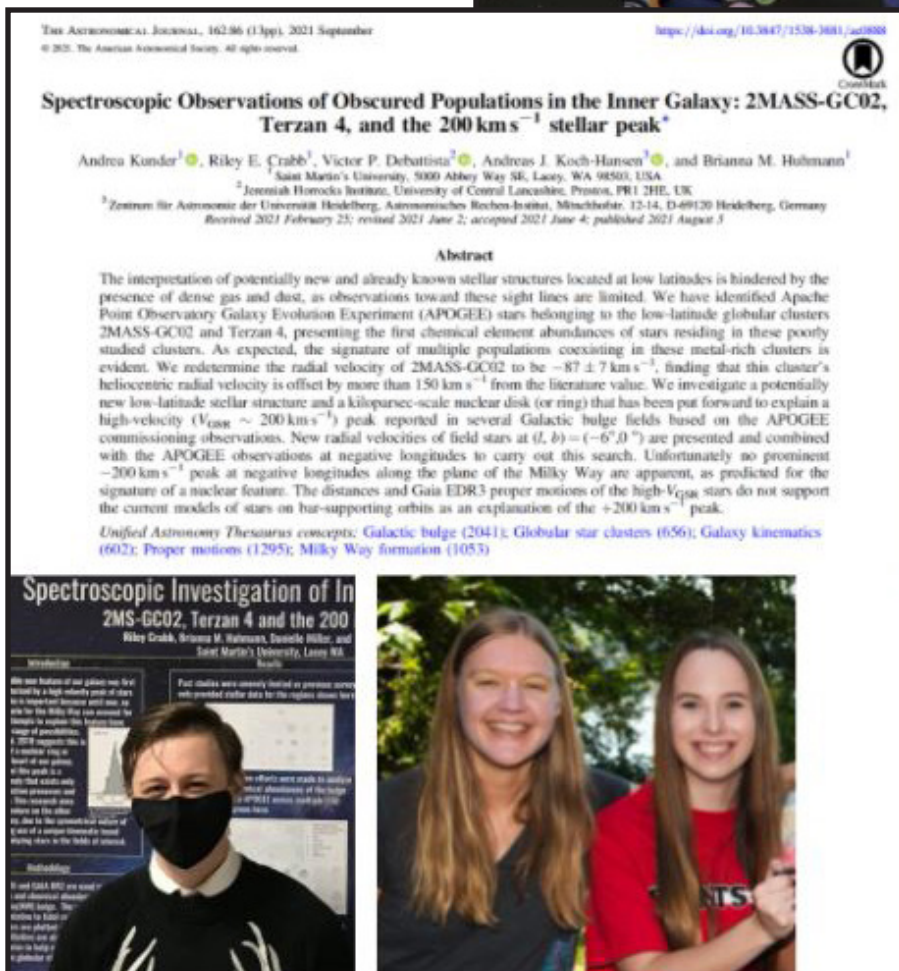
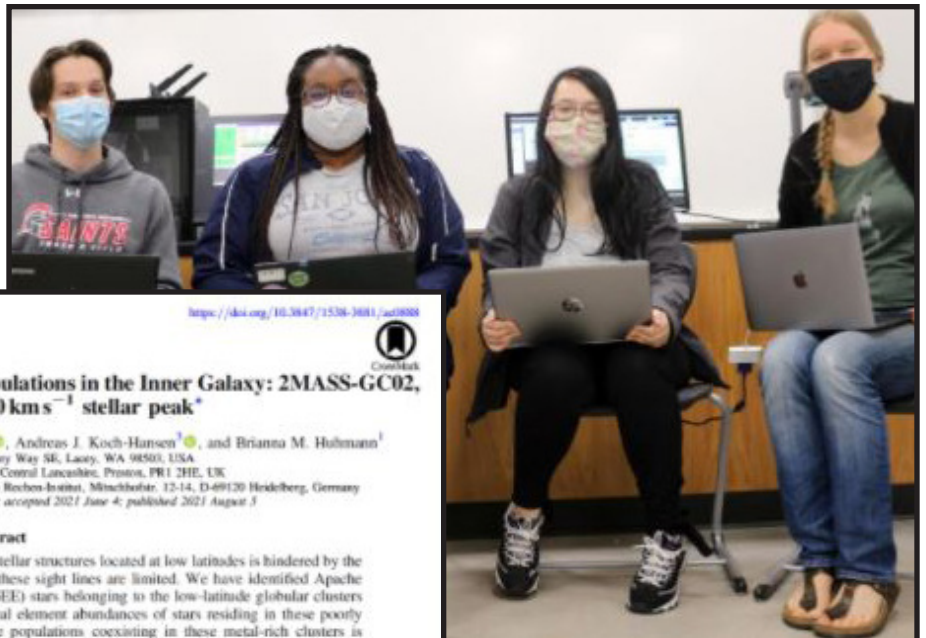
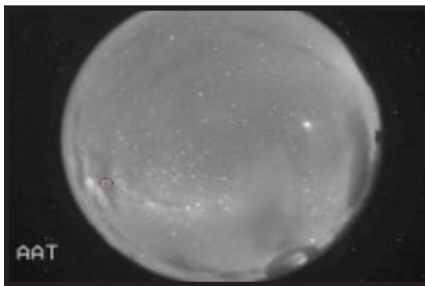
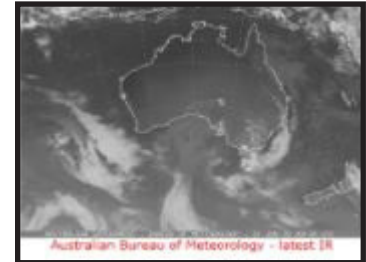
# Franny Anunobi, Rebekah Kuss, Riley Crabb & Brianna Huhmann: Astrophysics Research

## Franny Anunobi and

**Rebekah Kuss** carried out summer astrophysics research. They spent one night in Ernsdorf, observing on the Anglo-Australian telescope remotely, collecting new observations on the motions of old stars in the center of the Milky

Way Galaxy. The rest of the summer was spent scrutinizing these observations. The results will be presented at the 2021 Murdock conference, and a manuscript is in preparation.

\*(In picture below: Anunobi pictured on the center left, Kuss pictured on the center right)



**Riley Crabb and Brianna Huhmann** had their astrophysics results accepted to the AAS peer-reviewed journal, *The Astrophysical Journal*.

\*(In picture to the left: Crabb pictured on the left, Huhmann pictured on the right)



# Jalyn Boado: STIPDG Internship

**Jalyn Boado** is a Political Science major and Resident Assistant at Saint Martin's University. In addition to being a full-time student, Jalyn has completed several internship programs focused on social and environmental justice.

During her time at SMU, Jalyn has especially enjoyed taking "Politics of Journalism" with Austin Jenkins, and "American Race and Racism" with John Hopkins and Brian Barnes. Deciding to major in Political Science came easy for Jalyn. She says, "When I watch the news, I'm so focused on it, and I want to give my opinions to everyone. That's what I feel the Political Science Major is like- you have an issue and you prod at it, discuss it, and try to be well informed."

This past summer, Jalyn had the opportunity to complete the Summer Transportation Internship Program for Diverse Groups (STIPDG). She worked for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Administration Office of Transportation Secretary. This opportunity interested Jalyn because she wanted to learn more about the intersectionality between transportation, climate change, and advocacy related to that.

Prior to the Transportation Internship, Jalyn had taken part in an organizational event called "Our Climate," which advocates for the state legislature regarding climate change. Jalyn took part by training other people who had never lobbied before, as well as leading an art activism committee, and being the MC. The organization was invited to the clean fuel standard luncheon in the Governor's mansion, where Jalyn spoke about the standard going through the legislature in Olympia and the youth climate lobby day. Another event that she had attended was the Environmental Defense Funds Summer of Action event, which was lobbying congress in Washington D.C. There, Jalyn met other climate activists and went with their policy team to lobby Maria

Cantwell and Denny Heck.

After graduation, Jalyn's career goal is to be a senior policy advisor on climate, transportation, energy, or housing, in either the federal government or in the Governor's office.







# Alumni Highlights



# Nate Pearsall: Communication Studies

**Nate Pearsall** is a 2019 SMU graduate, receiving a Bachelor's of Arts in Communication Studies. Nate currently works as a Sports Information Director at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

During Nate's time as an undergraduate, he enjoyed his classes with Dr. Irina Gendelman. He explained that Dr. Gendelman brings, "a fresh perspective to the class and she pushes you to open up your mind and see things from multiple perspectives." Nate also landed a position as the Social Media Director for Austin Byrnes, the SMU Sports Information Director. Nate enjoyed the creative freedom of this internship and the support of Byrnes for implementing new ideas. This internship led Nate to work in the

2018 GNAC Championships for Basketball, and then the 2019 GNAC Baseball Tournament!

Nate's Internship experience played a key role in developing the skills and creating the connections that led up to his current job as the Sports Information Director at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. When asked what a typical work day looks like, Nate said, "Sometimes we'll have tripe-headers. It could be men's basketball, women's basketball; there's a lot that can be going on at once. A typical game day is about 12-13 hours. I make sure all of our streaming equipment is up to par, I make sure that I have media passes printed and ready, then it comes down to preparing for the game. This includes getting the gym or the ice ready, running through

the press-box needs, running through the scores table needs, then it's game time. Post-game, I'll run through an interview or two with the coach and players, then I'll be in the office for the next two hours writing and posting the recap, and sending it to media members!"

To any soon-to-be graduates, Nate explains, "Don't try to rush yourself, despite the pressures of having a job lined up right after graduation. Build on your connections and the right job will find you!"

Connect with Nate on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/nathan-pearsall-8b8535171/>



# Gloria Petri: Biology



**Gloria Petri** graduated from Saint Martin's University in 2019, with a Bachelor's of Science in Biology. Gloria is now a 3rd year student at Oregon State University's Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine, where she is specializing in small animal medicine! While attending SMU, Gloria was on the Women's Soccer Team, and was involved with microbiology and genetics research.

Some of Gloria's favorite memories from Saint Martin's University were times spent with her soccer team (practices, Sunday brunch at the cafe, supporting other sports teams). Gloria truly felt like she was a part of a family with her team and is still close to many of the girls and coaches she played with. As a biology major, a lot of her time was spent on the 4th floor of Old Main, working with her lab group in Dr. Aaron Coby's microbiology course, doing senior research projects with Dr. Sam Fox, and delving into the details of genetics with Dr. Margaret Olney. Gloria says, "I have very fond memories of being out in the woods learning about the native flora and fauna with Dr. Robert Bode and the ecology labs we had. I will never forget how to tell the

difference between a douglas fir and a red cedar! The professors at SMU are what make the biology department so special and what made the trip up the Old Main staircase and four flights of stairs worth it every day."

When applying for veterinary school, Gloria was interested in a school with a high faculty-to-student ratio, and a focus on community and inclusivity, like she had at SMU. "It's important to consider not only the school that you want to attend, but the surrounding area as well. I think it is imperative to visit the school that you are considering attending since you will be living there for 4 years," says Gloria. Apart from picking the school, she relied on the help of her advisor, Dr. Aaron Coby to work with her through the application process. Gloria explained the online application through VMCAS (Veterinary Medical College Application Service), that almost every veterinary school uses to review applications. She emphasized that students should start this application process early!

For Gloria, veterinary school has been the hardest and most rewarding thing she has ever done. She has never been asked to retain and master such a large volume of material at such a rapid pace. "It's expected that you not only understand the material, but retain it through the 4 years and beyond. That being said, you are not doing it alone. There is a large amount of comradery between classmates which makes the long days/nights studying manageable."

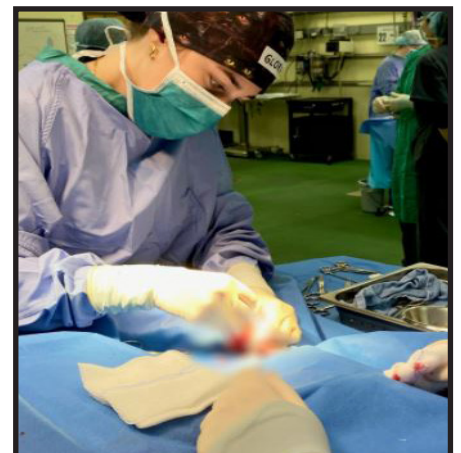
The advice Gloria would give to undergraduate students who want to pursue veterinary school is that, even if you feel like you have no experience in veterinary medicine, you have to put yourself out there and get a foot in the door. She worked as a receptionist at a veterinary clinic for 2 years and feared it wasn't going to be enough "clinical experience" to prepare her for veterinary school. Now

that she is in veterinary school, she realizes that many schools are not looking for students with 10 years of clinical experience. Rather, they are looking for students who are dedicated, hard working, and can work well in a team environment. Gloria says, "They teach you everything you need to know to be a great doctor in veterinary school. What they don't teach you is how to take care of yourself, how to manage the heavy workload, and how to commit to the material to be the best doctor for your future patients. So, I would advise that whatever you do before veterinary school, stay dedicated to it, work hard, take the extra classes to prepare yourself for the workload, and if you have any doubts about it, take a year to think about it before applying!"

Now that she is in her third year, Gloria is finally able to put the knowledge she has been learning into practice. She has started to perform her first surgeries and ultrasounds, as well as learning the treatment protocols for the plethora of diseases/problems she has learned about.

Gloria is excited to finish off this year, going into clinical rotations and obtaining her DVM in 2023!

Connect with Gloria on LinkedIn:  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/gloria-petri-918843148/>





# Megan Quiñiones: Political Science

**Megan Quiñiones**, a double-major in political science and sociology/cultural anthropology, was a student leader during her time at SMU, and is now giving back to her community as a Volunteer Services Coordinator for St. Francis in Boston, Massachusetts.

During her time at Saint Martin's University, Megan was a student leader, advocating for social justice, sustainable development, and labor organizing. She immediately got involved with the Diversity and Equity Center and AHANA. AHANA is a three-day orientation for students of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds to come together and engage with the campus community, gather information about student support services, make new connections and begin building friendships that last. Identifying as multi-racial, Megan said, "It was nice to connect with people from both different and similar backgrounds." During her junior year, Megan was also the ASSMU Senator of Cultural Diversity!

Since graduating in 2020, Megan has been living in Boston, MA. When she first arrived, Megan was serving with the Mayor's office of food access through a program called Food Corps. Megan said, "This was an amazing opportunity. It gave me a lens on food inequity and other inequities in the city of Boston."

When her service year came to an end, Megan decided to apply for a job that had a strong equity focus, and a job that she would be happy going to every day. Three round of interviews later, she landed a job as a Volunteer Services Coordinator for St. Francis, a day shelter for people experiencing homelessness. Since starting her position, Megan has been working on volunteer appreciation projects, as well as service learning for local College Students!

When asked what piece of advice she would give to someone who is about to graduate college, she said, "the best piece of advice I recieved was you don't have to go to graduate school right away. Give it some time, build some experience-everyone's journey is different."

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# Marissa Klump: Environmental Studies

**Marissa Briggs** is a 2020 SMU graduate, who received her Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science. Now, she is an Environmental Specialist at the Pollution and Liability Insurance Agency (PLIA).

Here's what Marissa said about her time at SMU and her career post-graduation:

"During my time as an ENV student, I was constantly taught by my professors and peers alike to always question science. With the many environmental lectures and labs that I took during those four years, they have all taught me to look at the data presented – and to form thoughts and reasoning behind the data, and to make strong conclusions about what was presented. Discussions about the environment and how we as humans play the primary, vital role in its health and survival were the backbone of my environmental education. The classes and activities I participated in strengthened my knowledge of the environment and pushed me towards a career that helps protect it. As an ENV student, I was also taught that one of the only ways to make the environment a better place, is to continue the conversation about protecting it – even if we feel that it is already protected. With continuing the conversation, we can continue to reach and influence more people to make sustainable choices. While attending SMU, I was able to take a class that covered the topic of environmental social issues. The professors of this class were actually guests, and were the Director and Deputy Director of the Pollution Liability Insurance Agency (PLIA), a Washington state agency that oversees the cleanup of leaking underground storage tanks (USTs) (gasoline, diesel, heating oil, etc.). PLIA provides a government funding model that helps owners and operators meet financial responsibility and environmental cleanup requirements for underground storage tanks. They offer multiple programs for



citizens to enroll in, to help provide assistance on site cleanup efforts to make sure that the standards of the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) are met to achieve applicable cleanup levels for soil, groundwater, and vapor exposure pathways.

After taking this class with the leaders of PLIA, I was able to keep in contact and then apply and serve as a PLIA intern during my senior year. This internship presented me with an incredible op-



portunity to work for the agency as an administrative assistant as I finished my degree in Environmental Science. Upon receiving my degree with the class of 2020, I was presented with yet another opportunity to become an Environmental Specialist 2, and oversee cleanup sights on my own for PLIA's Heating Oil Insurance Program (HOIP). As an Environmental Specialist 2, I review sites that have leaking heating oil USTs, commonly on homeowners' properties. The majority of these sites only encounter petroleum contaminated soil (PCS), whereas other sites might also have groundwater and vapor impacts. Homeowners will file a claim with PLIA's HOIP, and have an environmental consultant come and perform the cleanup efforts (commonly resulting in excavation of the PCS). As the state representative, I review the soil results, site maps, cross sections, etc., and confirm that lab results meet the MTCA cleanup level requirements. Sites can then receive various opinion letters written by me, including Further Action or No Further Action. Reviewing Workplans and Change Orders are also major parts of site management. I am also slowly entering the commercial side of site management, looking at sites that include gas stations with larger USTs, and more environmental impacts. After working PLIA for almost 2 years, I am now being promoted to an Environmental Specialist 3 in August 2021! Overall, taking this one environmental class at SMU ultimately led to my career and where I am today. SMU has helped me create so many memories and meaningful connections with others. Majoring in the Environmental Science program only helped me further my passion to protect the environment even more, and provided me with one of the best opportunities to start my career at such a young age!"

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