



Faculty Discussion Panel

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - [Tuesday, March 2: The Journey to Graduate School](#)

Panelists will discuss their graduate program, provide 1-3 tips for applicants and incoming students. Q & A sessions will follow.

Moderators: Roya Azizi, PhD and Heather Kitching, OTD, OTR/L



M. C. (Kate) Esposito, PhD
Professor and Chair, Special Education
College of Education

Dr. Esposito is the Chair of and professor in the Special Education Program at California State University, Dominguez Hills. Dr. Esposito conducts and publishes research in the areas of teacher preparation and inclusive practices. She received her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Loyola Marymount University and her Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Southern California. She holds Multiple Subject and Mild/Moderate Teaching Credentials. She has also served on the editorial and executive boards of scholarly journals and professional organizations.



Adrieen Mancillas, PsyD
Professor of Counseling
Program Coordinator, School and College Counseling
College of Education

Dr. Mancillas is a Professor in and Program Coordinator of the School and College Counseling Program in the Division of Graduate Education, College of Education. She also currently serves at Chair of Graduate Council, a collective of the graduate degree programs on our campus. She has taught at CSUDH for 19 years and is also a clinical psychologist and former school counselor.



Terry Peralta-Catipon, PhD, OTR/L
Associate Professor, Chair and Program Director, Department of Occupational Therapy
College of Health, Human Services and Nursing

Dr. Peralta-Catipon is the Chair of the Occupational Therapy Department at California State University Dominguez Hills since 2010. She began as adjunct faculty in 2002 then became a tenure-track faculty in 2004. She earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Occupational Science and a Master of Arts in Occupational Therapy from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from the University of the Philippines. As an occupational therapy practitioner for 22 years, her work was mainly in adult rehabilitation and community-based programs for older adults and mental health. Her research interests are in ethnographic studies, especially in the areas of migrant adaptation, community wellness, and promotion of cultural occupations. She married in 2003 and is a mother of two daughters. Her hobbies are playing golf, cooking, and traveling.



Faculty Discussion Panel

[12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. - Tuesday, March 2: The Journey to Graduate School](#)

Panelists will discuss their graduate program, provide 1-3 tips for applicants and incoming students. Q & A sessions will follow.

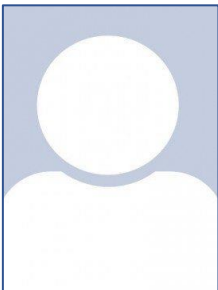
Moderators: Roya Azizi, PhD and Heather Kitching, OTD, OTR/L



Annemarie Perez, PhD

Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies
College of Arts and Humanities

Dr. Annemarie Perez is an Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies. She is a native of Los Angeles and passionately interested in the literature and culture of Southern California, detective fiction, and Harry Potter. Her academic interests include digital humanities and digital pedagogy work and its intersections and divisions with ethnic and cultural studies. Her specialty is Latina/o literature, with a focus on Chicana feminist writer-editors from 1965-to the present. She has received fellowships from the Ford Foundation and Irvine Foundation. She is currently writing a book on Chicana feminist editorship. This single authored book addresses questions about late twentieth century Chicana authorship and editorship, using textual readings and interviews to explore the evolution of editorship and the development of textual communities within and around the development of Chicana feminist praxis.



Silvia J. Santos, PhD

Professor, Department of Psychology
Co-Coordinator, Master of Arts in Psychology Program

Dr. Santos is a Professor of Psychology and the Co-Coordinator of the Psychology Master of Arts program at California State University, Dominguez Hills. She earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Social and Personality Psychology from the University of California, Riverside. Her research interests and publications have centered on ethnic minority and Latino immigrant mental health and the role of faculty mentoring and ethnic identity processes on the academic and college adjustment of students. More recently Dr. Santos' focus of research has shifted to ethnic health disparities and she is the Principal Investigator on a NIH funded pilot grant examining diabetes illness beliefs and health-related attitudes and practices of Latinx emerging adults who are at high risk for future diabetes onset. Dr. Santos is an invited member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi which recognizes faculty who have achieved scholarly distinction and is the recipient of the Dean's Award for Outstanding Teaching and Service to Students and the Outstanding Professor Award: Exemplary Service to Students with Disabilities.



Betty Vu, PhD

Assistant Dean, Graduate and Professional Programs
College of Business Administration and Public Policy

Dr. Betty Vu has been in graduate admission for more than twenty years. Her professional experience includes working for the University of Southern California (USC), Loyola Marymount University, Whittier College, and The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. She has recruited and advised prospective students to law, business, public administration, and psychology graduate programs. Dr. Vu has been with California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) for the past nine years as the Assistant Dean in the College of Business Administration and Public Policy overseeing the MPA program. Her research background focuses on human resources and organizational development.



Faculty Discussion Panel

[11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 3: The Journey to Research: More than One Road](#)

Panelists will discuss their personal journeys to research careers. First hour will feature researchers from the CSUDH campus and second hour will feature researchers from other campuses/institutions. Q & A sessions will follow.

Moderators: Erin Barrett, MA and Kai Greene, PhD, CCC-SLP



Mark Carrier, PhD

Professor, Department of Psychology
College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences
California State University, Dominguez Hills

Research: Applied Cognition, Psychology of Technology, Cognitive Psychology, Critical Thinking

Dr. Carrier's area of research expertise is the effect of personal technology use upon our brains and behavior. His work helps to document and to find the reasons that children, students, and regular people engage in odd, destructive, or maladaptive behaviors when using computer technology. It also helps to generate ways that people can assess, monitor, and change their behaviors at home, in the workplace, or at school. Research techniques and tools that are used by Carrier include laboratory-based psychology experiments, online anonymous questionnaires, and brain imaging.



Kevin Montes, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology
College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences
California State University, Dominguez Hills

Research: Addiction, alcohol use, marijuana use, tobacco use, gambling, identity (e.g., recovery/drinking identity), protective behavioral strategies, motives, outcome expectancies, health disparities, and advance quantitative analyses.

Dr. Montes' research focuses on the following areas: addiction, alcohol use, marijuana use, tobacco use, gambling, identity (e.g., recovery/drinking identity), protective behavioral strategies, motives, outcome expectancies, health disparities, and advanced quantitative analyses. Dr. Montes received a highly competitive NIH-K01 award that focuses on elucidating identity change as a mechanism of behavior change in alcohol recovery. Dr. Montes is also involved in two large multi-site addiction studies and is a consulting editor of the peer-reviewed journal, *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*.



Philip Vieira, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Psychology
College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences
California State University, Dominguez Hills

Research: Behavioral Neuroscience, neuroplasticity, addiction, pharmacokinetics.

Dr. Vieira is a graduate of Fresno State University. His research follows two different lines: 1) neurobiology of drug addiction and 2) STEM education research to improve underrepresented student success.

From Dr. Vieira's faculty profile: Human behavior ultimately derives from changes within the brain. The broader scope of my research is to understand how neurobiology supports these changes. I currently study the role drugs of abuse play in exploiting the brain's adaptive framework to produce maladaptive (addiction) behavior. I am also interested in the individual differences that interact with the environment to create the conditions that support drug addiction. These include epigenetics, endocrinology and drug metabolism. To that end, I am also involved in work that has developed next generation biosensors to detect real-time changes in individual drug kinetics and dynamics.



Faculty Discussion Panel

[12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 3: The Journey to Research: More than One Road](#)



María Resendiz, PhD, CCC-SLP

Associate Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders
Texas State University

Dr. Resendiz earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree at the University of Texas at Austin, where she also earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees – all in Communication Sciences and Disorders. She has worked with bilingual children and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in school, rehabilitation, and early childhood settings. Her research includes a collaboration with Engineering to design an app for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The app uses machine learning and based on visual, audio, and gesture information, identifies the emotion of the conversational partner for the person with ASD. She also conducts research in partnership with Austin Smiles focused on creating sustainable models for training therapists in their home country using telepractice.



Laura Rhinehart, PhD

Assistant Researcher, Center for Dyslexia, Diverse Learners and Social Justice
University of California, Los Angeles

Dr. Rhinehart holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Master of Education degree in Urban Education from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She completed her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Special Education at UCLA in 2019. Her work focuses on a federally funded project, Towards Early, Differential Intervention for Children with Dyslexia. This project aims to determine the overall effectiveness of different systematic intervention programs for particular profiles of students identified in Kindergarten with, or at-risk of, dyslexia and/or reading failure



Maryanne Wolf, PhD

Professor, University of California, Los Angeles
Research: Global literacy of neuroscience and reading

Dr. Wolf is a scholar, teacher, and advocate for children and literacy around the world. She is the Director of the Center for Dyslexia, Diverse Learners, and Social Justice at UCLA in the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies and the former John DiBiaggio Professor of Citizenship and Public Service at Tufts University. She is Chapman University's Presidential Fellow (2018–2020) and past Fellow (2014–2015) and present Board Member of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. Her awards include highest honors from the International Dyslexia Association (Geschwind and Orton awards) and The Dyslexia Foundation (Einstein Prize); Distinguished Researcher of the Year for Learning Disabilities in Australia; Distinguished Teacher of the Year from the state and national American Psychological Association; Fulbright Fellowship (Germany); and the Christopher Columbus Award for Intellectual Innovation for co-founding Curious Learning: A Global Literacy Initiative, with deployments in Africa, India, Australia, and rural United States. She is external advisor to the International Monetary Fund, Canadian Children's Literacy Foundation, and other boards, and a frequent speaker about global literacy at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. She has authored over 170 scientific publications; the RAVE-O reading curriculum for dyslexia; RAN/RAS tests of reading prediction with Martha Denckla; and *Proust and the Squid: The Story and Science of the Reading Brain* (15 translations; HarperCollins, 2007); *Tales of Literacy for the 21st Century* (Oxford University Press, 2016); and *Reader, Come Home: The Reading Brain in a Digital Culture* (11 translations, HarperCollins, 2018). In the last year (October 2019), she received both the national award from the Reading League for her contributions on reading research and the Walter Ong Award for her work on the effects of different mediums on the intellectual development of the species. Most recently she was elected a permanent member of the Pontifical Academy of Science for her work in neuroscience and education.

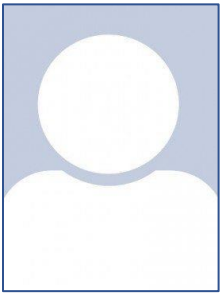


Graduate Student Discussion Panel

[11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Thursday, March 4: Life in Graduate School: The Adventure!](#)

Students who are currently pursuing research degrees at the doctoral or master level will discuss their journey of decision-making and, for some, their experience in research degree programs. The discussion will focus on navigating all that is new and exciting with pursuing a career that includes research.

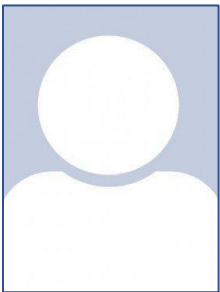
Moderators: Erin Barrett, MA and Kai Greene, PhD, CCC-SLP



Jael Castro

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology at CSUDH
Applicant, PhD in Clinical Psychology and Master in Counseling

Jael Castro is a 26-year-old Salvadorian woman that comes from a family of six and is the first in her family to graduate from a community college and university. She holds an Associate of Arts degree in psychology from Cerritos College and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) completed in 2020. Her friends describe her as ambitious, genuine and determined. She independently funded her education while also experiencing homelessness during her first year following transfer to CSUDH. However, this did not stop her from focusing on and attending her courses and goals. She is interested in cognitive psychology, clinical psychology, positive psychology, and statistics. She is completing an internship as a counselor for a non-profit community center while working part-time at a restaurant. She enjoys mentoring prospective students and building rapport with clients from all backgrounds. She hopes to create a program that assists first-generation and minority students maneuvering the college/university environment.



Daniel Correa

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology at CSUDH
Graduate Student, Clinical Psychology at CSUDH

Daniel Correa holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology with a minor in Management from California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) completed in 2019. He is a second year graduate student in the Master of Arts, Clinical Psychology program and plans on pursuing a doctorate in Counseling Psychology to provide services to underserved communities. He is a member of the George Marsh Applied Cognition Laboratory and Health, Social and Developmental Laboratory and has presented at the Western Psychological Association conference and CSUDH Student Research Day. His research interest includes positive youth development, health disparities and education disparities. He is passionate about being in a helping profession, as well as promoting well-being and personal development.



Taylor Anne Duffy

Graduate Student, Clinical Psychology at CSUDH
Graduate Research Assistant, Positive Social Development and Dynamics Lab
Graduate Research Assistant, Social and Developmental Research Lab

Taylor Duffy is currently a graduate student and is working to obtain her Master of Arts degree in Clinical Psychology from California State University, Dominguez Hills. She is a research assistant in the Social and Developmental Research Lab with Dr. Silvia Santos and Dr. Maria Hurtado-Ortiz. In this lab, she works on research regarding diabetes risk and the identification of what factors can be used to lower diabetes risk. She is also a research assistant for Dr.

Giacomo Bono in the Positive Social Development and Dynamics Lab. This lab focuses on research regarding gratitude and its benefits. Research is something that Taylor is passionate about, so she plans to obtain a Developmental Psychology PhD. She has goals to use this degree to teach on the university level as a psychology professor and to conduct research.



Graduate Student Discussion Panel



Taylor Hosea

Bachelor of Arts, Sociology with a minor in Psychology at CSUDH
Master of Social Work Student, at CSUDH

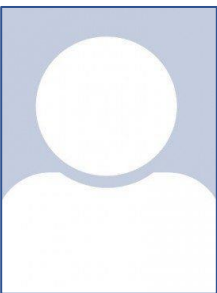
Taylor Hosea graduated with honors from California State University, Dominguez Hills with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, and a Minor in Psychology in 2019. She is now in pursuit of a Master of Social Work degree with a projected graduation date of May 2021. Her social work education has been informed through a Critical Race Theory and Intersectionality perspective and she is committed to serving disenfranchised communities. Through her experiences during her first year and second year internship, she has found a passion in working with individuals who are currently incarcerated or who have been formerly incarcerated. She is currently completing an internship where she provides clinical therapy to individuals who have a substance-use disorder diagnosis. After graduating she hopes to obtain her LCSW and eventually wants to pursue a macro social work position because she realizes that macro-level changes impact the work social workers do on a micro and mezzo level.



Loree T. Pham, MS, OTR/L

Master of Science, Occupational Therapy at CSUDH
Doctor of Philosophy Student, Occupational Science at USC
Graduate Research Assistant, Lifestyle Redesign[®] for Chronic Conditions Lab

Loree T. Pham graduated from the University of California, San Diego with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and received her Master of Science in Occupational Therapy from California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) in 2020. She is currently a student in the Doctor of Philosophy in Occupational Science at the University of Southern California (USC). She is also a graduate research assistant in the Lifestyle Redesign[®] for Chronic Conditions Lab at the USC Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. One project she is currently involved in is the Function and Emotion in Everyday Life with Type 1 Diabetes study which aims to disentangle the short-term dynamic relationships between blood glucose, function, and emotional well-being in adults with type 1 diabetes. Pham's personal and professional experiences have served to fuel her passion for increasing research and advocacy for underserved individuals, groups, and populations while utilizing a culturally sensitive and holistic approach. Her research interests include complementary and integrative health practices, including yoga and mindfulness, as well as addressing and reducing health disparities and health inequities for socioeconomically disadvantaged and ethnic minority populations.



Gilberto Sanchez

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology at CSUDH
Research Assistant, Positive Psychology Lab at CSUDH

Gilberto Sanchez obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from California State University, Dominguez Hills in 2020 and is now in pursuit of a Master's degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology. He is a Research Assistant in the Positive Psychology Research Lab where his current project focuses on understanding the Latinx community's perceptions on mental health. In this project, he has played an integral part in developing the online survey using Alchemer survey application. His research interests include leadership skills and development.



Graduate Student Discussion Panel



Roberto Villalta, Jr.

Master of Arts Student, Communication Sciences and Disorders at CSULA
California State University, Los Angeles -Speech-Language Pathology 2021
2020-CSULA-NSSLHA President
2019-2020 [National NSSLHA](#) Student State Officer (SSO) for AZ AuD

Roberto Villalta Jr. holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communicative Disorders from California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA) completed in 2018 and is now a second-year graduate student in the Master of Arts program in Speech-Language Pathology. He has served as President of the CSULA Chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) and as a student state officer for National NSSLHA. He is currently creating a parent awareness program aimed at providing information regarding communication disorders and rights to service to parents.



Vanessa Monique Yanez, MS, OTR/L

Master of Science, Occupational Therapy at CSUDH
Doctor of Philosophy Student, Occupational Therapy at Texas Woman's University
Adjunct Instructor, University of St. Augustine, Austin, Texas

Vanessa Monique Yanez graduated with high honors from the University of California, Irvine with a Bachelor of Science degree in Cognitive Sciences. She subsequently completed a Master of Science degree in Occupational Therapy at California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) in 2014. She was born and raised in East Los Angeles by a single parent, who emigrated from Central America and fervently supported higher education. Ms. Yanez was the first member in her family to complete high school while experiencing homelessness throughout her adolescence. She is a first-generation college graduate and is proud to have received her education from the public education system. Ms. Yanez is currently pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Occupational Therapy at Texas Woman's University. Her doctoral research is focused on mental health, sexuality, health disparities, and theory-driven practice in cancer care. Ms. Yanez is a licensed occupational therapist with a specialization in oncology and has presented at the state and national levels on relevant issues in cancer care. She is currently an adjunct instructor for the masters and doctoral programs at the University of St. Augustine in Austin, Texas.