

# Graduate Studies Newsletter

ISSUE 03 FALL 2017



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# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:

## Dr. Marisol Cortes-Rincon

Professor of Anthropology  
Department Chair, Undergraduate & Graduate  
Advisor, Director of Archaeology Research Lab



### How long have you been at HSU? Can you tell us about your academic history?

- I started at HSU in Spring of 2010. My undergraduate degree was on Classical archaeology at Montclair State University (MSU). I had to learn Classical Greek in order to translate segments of the Iliad as part of the curriculum. I stayed at MSU for my MA, I focused on medical anthropology. For my PhD, I attended the University of Texas at Austin. I focused on warfare in the Maya Lowlands. It was a great graduate program that afforded me many opportunities.

### What kind of research are you involved with?

- I focus on ancient Maya and Aztec warfare. My research involves experimental archaeology to recreate ancient weaponry. I also direct an archaeological project in northwestern Belize. We work in ancient Maya households and map out settlements in the peripheries of site centers.

### Are any students involved in your research?

- Absolutely, one of my graduate students is focusing on Aztec weaponry. She made a *macuahuitl* (Aztec wooden sword) to study the breakage patterns on the obsidian blades. She is currently analyzing the obsidian fragments after I tested the weapon out for her experiment.



Above: *Macuahuitl* (Aztec wooden sword) made by HSU graduate students: Laurelyn Memmot

For my Belize project, my students assist in post-processing of field data. This includes creating maps and predictive models in ArcGIS, creating 3D of excavations in Agisoft, creating technical drawings of excavations in Adobe Illustrator, reconstruction of ceramic vessels and much more!



Above: Excavations at a small temple in Belize



# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:

## Dr. Marisol Cortes-Rincon

### What is your favorite part of your job?

- I love working with students. They provide a fresh perspective on analysis and make my job a lot more fun. We have a very close-knit community in the Archaeology Research Laboratory at HSU. It is great to see students progress academically and take on more projects. Most of our students start out in their freshmen year as interns and by the time they graduate they already have project supervision under their belt.

### How do you spend your time outside of HSU?

- I love CrossFit. It keeps me sane and in shape so I can keep up with my students while hiking through the jungle in Belize.



Above: Dr. Cortes-Rincon at Humboldt CrossFit



Penny Rincon (left) and Rosie Rincon (right)

I also have two dogs (Rosie and Penny) and we love to explore the beautiful forests and beaches of Humboldt County.

### Do you have any advice for current or prospective students?

- Yes, volunteer at local colleges, take advantage of any experience you can get. This is the best way to find out if a specific career is for you or not.

### Dr. Marisol Cortes-Rincon

Professor of Anthropology  
Department Chair  
Undergraduate & Graduate Advisor  
Director of Archaeology Research Lab  
**Email:** mc479@humboldt.edu  
**Call:** (707) 826-4335





# HSU Grad Program & Student Awards

## The Thesis Submission Process

1. Advancement to Candidacy
2. Intent to Submit Form
3. Attend Formatting Workshop
4. Request a Courtesy Format Review
5. Committee & Coordinator Approval on Digital Commons @ HSU
6. Official Format Review through Digital Commons @ HSU

### 2017-18 CDIP Award



Rebecca Robertson

Rebecca Robertson was chosen for the 2017-18 Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program among the 54 statewide recipients of the California State University Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (CDIP). The very competitive program aims to increase the number of promising doctoral students applying for future CSU instructional faculty positions by offering financial assistance in the form of a loan and mentorship by CSU faculty. Rebecca's faculty mentor is Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology, Marisol Cortes-Rincon. Rebecca has been teaching in the department of Anthropology since 2004, and has recently begun serving as the Graduate Coordinator for the Master of Arts Program in the department. Rebecca was accepted into a few doctoral programs and has accepted an offer at Oregon State University.



Zahra Shine

### "Overcoming Hardships, Student Honored by the CSU"

Read more about one of our amazing Counseling Psychology graduate students, Zahra Shine, being recognized for her work at the [Humboldt State NOW webpage...](#)





# Important Dates & Deadlines

- ♦ **October 14<sup>th</sup>:** Humboldt State Lumberjack's Homecoming
- ♦ **October 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Last day to withdraw from Fall semester with approved compelling reason
- ♦ **November 10<sup>th</sup>:** Veterans Day holiday observed
- ♦ **November 13<sup>th</sup>:** Deadline for Fall term graduates to send in a thesis or project draft to [cfr@humboldt.edu](mailto:cfr@humboldt.edu) for a Courtesy Format Review
- ♦ **November 20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>:** Fall Break observed
- ♦ **December 4<sup>th</sup>:** Deadline for initial BePress submission of Fall term theses and projects to Digital Commons @ HSU
- ♦ **December 11<sup>th</sup>:** Approval deadline for Fall 2017 theses and projects. Please submit your finalized thesis or project to Digital Commons @ Humboldt State University at least one business day before the deadline to allow your committee members time to electronically register their approval before the deadline.

## Future Newsletter Editions:

If you have ideas for future stories, notable events, or student profiles, please contact the Office of Academic Programs and Graduate Studies at [hsugrad@humboldt.edu](mailto:hsugrad@humboldt.edu) or (707) 826-3949. We would love to hear from you!

# Did you miss our New Graduate Student Orientation?



Above: Three members of our Graduate Studies Office team  
at Fall 2017 Orientation

If you were unable to make it to our Fall 2017 Graduate Student Orientation and Resource Fair, fret not! We were lucky enough to have a student volunteer film our Orientation event which you can find a link to on the Graduate Studies Website!

We thank all students as well presenters who were able to attend and who helped to make our Fall Orientation such a success! At the event, attendees heard from seven different presenters from departments around campus followed by a Tabling Session where we invited HSU student resource representatives to join us. These representatives were available to answer any questions that students may have regarding the specific services that they are offered as HSU students. Our presenters did an excellent job of outlining some of the steps you will take as a graduate student in the next few years or months as well as encouraged students that they can complete their degree! We were also very fortunate to have two HSU Masters Program alumni speakers who discussed their journey through HSU's graduate programs and helpful tips that assisted them along the way.

## Helpful Resources:

- **Institutional Review Board**
- **Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee**

[http://  
www2.humboldt.edu/irb/](http://www2.humboldt.edu/irb/)  
(707) 826-5165

[http://  
www2.humboldt.edu/  
iacuc/](http://www2.humboldt.edu/iacuc/)

(707) 826-3256

- **Office of the Registrar**
- [http://pine.humboldt.edu/  
registrar/students/](http://pine.humboldt.edu/registrar/students/)  
(707) 826-4101

- **College of eLearning & Extended Education**

[http://  
www2.humboldt.edu/  
extended/](http://www2.humboldt.edu/extended/)

(707) 826-3731

- **Academic & Career Advising Center**

[http://  
www2.humboldt.edu/acac/](http://www2.humboldt.edu/acac/)

(707) 826-3341

## Contacting Us:

### Office of Academic Programs & Graduate Studies

Humboldt State University

1 Harpst Street

Arcata, CA 95521

Siemens Hall 217A

**Phone:** (707) 826-5194

**Email:** [hsugrad@humboldt.edu](mailto:hsugrad@humboldt.edu)

[http://www2.humboldt.edu/  
gradprograms/current-students](http://www2.humboldt.edu/gradprograms/current-students)



# Thesis and Project Submission Process

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Scholarly Communications Office  
cfr@humboldt.edu  
(707) 826-5602

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## Advancement to Candidacy

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You can find the form Application for Advancement to Candidacy and Graduation with all other graduate forms here:

[forms.humboldt.edu](https://forms.humboldt.edu)

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## Formatting Workshop

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Attend one of our thesis and project formatting workshops. Workshops are scheduled for November, 6, 9, 15, and 16. Register for a workshop here:

[humboldt.libcal.com](https://humboldt.libcal.com)

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## Courtesy Format Review (Deadline: November 13)

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Submit a draft of your thesis or project for a courtesy format review to [cfr@humboldt.edu](mailto:cfr@humboldt.edu). Formatting guidelines can be found here:

[www2.humboldt.edu/gradprograms/thesis-format-requirements](https://www2.humboldt.edu/gradprograms/thesis-format-requirements)

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## Committee Approval (Deadline: December 11)

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Submit your final thesis or project to Digital Commons for committee approval. **SUBMIT EARLY** so they have time to approve before the deadline. Submit here:

[digitalcommons.humboldt.edu](https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu)

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## Official Format Review

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The Scholarly Communications Office will conduct a formal format review. Stay in contact as you will be instructed to make revisions and resubmit.

If you have questions please call (707) 826-5602 or email [cfr@humboldt.edu](mailto:cfr@humboldt.edu).

# Graduate Student & Alumni Profiles

## College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences



### Brandie Wilson, MA in Sociology 2009

“Brandie is the founder and current Executive Director of the Humboldt Area Center for Harm Reduction (HACHR). She started the organization in response to the high rates of overdose deaths and stigma experienced by people who use drugs in Humboldt County. With HACHR she has started a very successful syringe exchange program, and has worked hard to make testing for Hepatitis and HIV available to anyone who needs these services. She is a tireless advocate for the most marginalized members of our community—people who use drugs, many of whom are also experiencing issues with homelessness, mental health and other marginalizations. Where others have given up, or demonized, she uses research, best practices and compassion to create community. She keeps people safe and alive long enough to know their lives matter. She uses her training in Sociology every day to study, understand, and educate on how Harm Reduction practices save lives and make real systemic improvements in communities. She has become a leader in Harm Reduction in California, frequently asked to speak at conferences for groups like the Drug Policy Alliance and the Harm Reduction Coalition.”  
Submitted & written by Dr. Meredith Williams

## College of Natural Resources & Sciences



### Mindi Curran, MS in Environmental Systems: Geology

Mindi is an Environmental Systems graduate student focusing on improving anadromous fish spawning grounds in the Clackamas River, Oregon. Her work is partnered with consulting firm, McBain Associates, aimed at reducing the gravel augmentation in those areas. She introduced 250 tons of gravel in September of 2016 and 400 tons this September. She is using photogrammetry to create high resolution digital terrain models to capture topographic change as the augmented gravels route through the reach and compare the change year to year. She is most excited about the use of this technology and the opportunity to “have contributed to designing a workflow for photogrammetry focused on providing a cost effective method for researchers, and help improve understanding of the effectiveness for using this new technology.” She says that, “Studying at HSU has provided me the opportunity to do a significant amount of field work, study various research topics, and work one on one with many knowledgeable researchers.” Her plan after earning her degree is to advance her career in consulting. Mindi says that, “being able to partner my Masters project with McBain Associates has enabled me to gain work experience that is critical for my career path.”

## College of Professional Studies



### April Alexander, Masters in Social Work 2016

April, an alumni of the HSU Social Work Masters degree program, has had her article “A Student Volunteer Program Takes Patient Satisfaction to the Next Level” published as the cover story of the latest issue of the “Oncology Issues” Journal. April was the first student to enter this internship program at Providence St. Joseph Health Center Cancer Program during her undergraduate and graduate years at HSU. This internship is aimed at providing patients with a higher quality of care by alleviating some of the tasks performed by oncology nurses. Her Masters project done at HSU was a “collaboration with oncologists to create a psychosocial intervention manual for patients in treatment for cancer. The manual included substantial information on barriers to care in a rural cancer program, with these five main barriers identified: 1. Lack of certified oncologists 2. Proximity to cancer care 3. Poverty 4. Lack of and reduced access to medical insurance 5. Disparities in health outcomes among minority populations.”

To read more in April’s article visit: [www2.humboldt.edu/cps/sites/default/files/SO17-A-Student-Volunteer-Program-Takes-Patient-Satisfaction-to-the-Next-Level.pdf](http://www2.humboldt.edu/cps/sites/default/files/SO17-A-Student-Volunteer-Program-Takes-Patient-Satisfaction-to-the-Next-Level.pdf)