

FALL 2018

GRAD STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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From the Dean of Graduate Studies

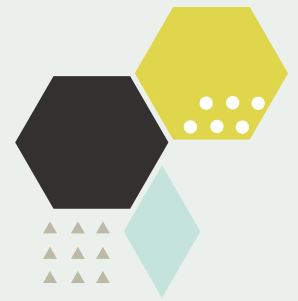
Rock Braithwaite Ed.D

Welcome to Humboldt State University. I am delighted that you have chosen this amazing campus to complete your graduate level studies. Humboldt State University proudly offers cutting-edge programs supported by phenomenal faculty. The graduate school community is dedicated to academic excellence and takes pride in student achievements and successful alumni.

The office of Graduate Studies is dedicated to your success while completing your master's degree. Graduate Studies works closely with various programs and resources that are dedicated to supporting your academic career. We work to connect graduate students to programs and resources that provide this critical support. I hope every single one of you will take advantage of these vital tools provided by the school for the graduate students.

Humboldt State graduate culture is dedicated to academic success, thriving both in and out of the classroom. It is the goal of the Graduate Studies that every graduate student feels comfortable and motivated to contribute to this culture and flourish in this community. I wish everyone the best of luck in their academia this year and look forward to hearing about your achievements.

Meet the student staff



EZRA MORENO

STUDENT ASSISTANT / WEB DESIGNER

Year I joined: 2017

My best memory: Exploring Arcata and the surrounding areas has been the best thing to happen to me while up here. Going on hikes and taking in the Redwood curtain is something I will never forget.

My message: Learn to be unapologetically yourself.

There is only one of you and you are the only one who can be you. One of my favorite quotes is "acknowledge and embrace the person you are, imperfections and all" - Dr. Paul Rodriguez.



MIYA NAMBA

STUDENT ASSISTANT / SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

Year I joined: 2017

My best memory: Convincing my friends to wake up at 3am to go watch the Super New Blue Blood Moon at Houda Point. It was spectacular, the moon was incredible but she was nothing compared to the stars. I don't think I've ever seen so many stars in my life; it was such a magical night, I hope I never forget it.

My message: Love others, love life, and never forget to love yourself. Drink water and get plenty of sleep. "When you want something, the entire universe conspires to give it to you" - The Alchemist.





Save the Date

Approval Deadline for Fall 2018 theses and projects (submit to Digital Commons one business day prior): December 10, 2018





Featured Faculty

Geneva Shaw

MSW Program Director, Lecturer

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

I am in my 5th year teaching at HSU in the Social Work Department. I am also a 2008 Alum of the MSW Program at HSU and a 2004 NAS Undergrad Alum from HSU. I am a second generation HSU alum, a second generation ITEPP graduate, and a second generation HSU Council of American Indian Faculty and Staff (CAIFS) member. Both of my parents worked at HSU for many years while I was growing up, and obtained their graduate degrees from HSU while raising my brother (who is also an HSU alum) and me so I spent many hours on campus as a youth. The HSU campus has always been a part of my life since I can remember.

Aside from my current teaching role here at HSU, my professional experience includes over 10 years in direct practice, program development, and administration in the Tribal Social Services field.

2. What is the focus and driving force of your work?

I really view myself as a community-based social work practitioner rather than an academic. As an Indigenous woman whose people descend from Humboldt County and surrounding areas since the beginning of time, my work involves honoring place always and being respectful guests while we are learning, researching, and practicing social work in and around the Humboldt County region. My work involves privileging the stories, voices, and untold history.

of those who have been historically and contemporarily marginalized, oppressed, and harmed by the social work profession. My work involves holding myself, students, and our department accountable to giving back to communities more than we are taking. My work involves efforts to decolonize the destructive confines of mainstream social services systems and higher education models and to reaching back to indigenous models of helping and healing. My work involves the weaving of traditional languages, cultures, values, and methods into teaching, supporting, mentoring and advising students. My work involves honoring the sacrifices of my ancestors which have paved the way for me to be here in this role and to the honor the future generations that will come after me. My work involves inspiring future generations of social workers to engage in practice that honors diversity and is grounded in humility and collaboration.

4. What is the favorite part of your job?

For starters I work with an incredible team of professionals in the Social Work Department. I have deep love and respect for my colleagues and their commitments to social justice. Our students continue to teach, inspire, and humble me every week and every semester and I love being a part of their journeys. I am honored to be a part of the HSU Campus American Indian Faculty and Staff whose 30+ membership encompasses diverse tribal perspectives and

cultural knowledge which serves as a conduit to the HSU administration while working directly with members of the HSU President's Native American Advisory Council which strengthens partnerships with Native American communities and Tribal Nations in an effort to support the recruitment, retention, and graduation of our Native scholars.

5. How do you spend your time outside of HSU?

I am a busy mother of three beautiful children and wife to a 4th generation Trinidad commercial crab fisherman. Our activities change with the seasons. We love playing and watching sports, the beaches/rivers/lagoons/forests, gathering and harvesting traditional indigenous foods, family/friend dinners and gatherings, and having fun. I also really love to cook for people I care about. Perhaps most importantly, we have a commitment and responsibility to our local tribal ceremonies, culture and community which is always a priority and a driving force in everything we do. That is our foundation.

6. Do you have any advice for current or prospective students?

Get involved in community. Get to know the peoples and communities that you are seeking to help. Take risks and be willing to sit with discomfort. Stay humble.

Student Spotlight

Kate is both a trained and a licensed teacher. Last year she worked as a lecturer of English at the University of Valenciennes in France assisting on practical and spoken English courses for science and math students from France and students from all over the world, including Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal, and China, who were studying in France. Currently, Kate is working as an English language teaching assistant through the Fulbright Program at the Lower Danube University in Galați, Romania. These opportunities allowed Kate to use the training to become a teacher at the Dominican University of California and Azusa Pacific University and cross-cultural anthropology training completed at Humboldt State.

Kate is really proud of the thesis she completed here at Humboldt. "Examining Veiled Muslim Women's Experiences in Educational Institutions in France and the United States and Decolonizing the Curriculum to Reflect Their Stories" allowed her to look at important questions of the roles of the dominant and minority cultures have in shaping a country's school system. The data Kate collected and theories she examined for this project helped her reflect on how to improve her own teaching and potential areas of educational policy reform.

When asked about what led Kate to focus her research on this topic, Kate talked about the underrepresentation of Muslim women in the media. While an undergraduate, Kate took a course on women in Islam at Mills College that took an objective look at women's status in the religion and included the writings of scholars who were Muslim women. This dispelled a lot of the stereotypes mainstream western culture perpetuates.

Deeply grateful to the anthropology department, Kate keeps with her the valuable skills she strengthened here at HSU. Through the master's program, Kate has gained the scientific skills that help answer large questions about society and culture. She leaves current grad students with two pieces of advice: appreciate the different backgrounds we encounter during collaborative assignments and to have faith in your own abilities. Kate reminds us that "every opportunity we have teaches us something new we can take to a future position, even if it is not directly related at the time".



Kate Ruprecht

College of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences



Keith Parker

College of Natural Resources & Sciences

Keith is a trained fisheries biologist and works closely with the Native American tribes. His graduate work focused on resolving Native American food security issues specifically concerning the Pacific lamprey. The Pacific lamprey are a protected tribal trust fish that provides direct subsistence when other high lipid foods (e.g., salmon) are unavailable in the Klamath River. Over 12 months, Keith has collected and studied over 200 returning Pacific lamprey with a traditional Native American "eel" hook.

Through genotype-phenotype association mapping, Keith's team identified two new ecotypes of Pacific lamprey in the Klamath River and named them. This is the research he is most proud of. The team distinguished river maturing and ocean-maturing ecotypes of Pacific lamprey by adopting the names ke'ween (lamprey "eel") and tewol (ocean), respectively, using terms from the Yurok language, in recognition of the importance of Pacific lamprey to Pacific Northwest fishing tribes. These findings have been submitted for peer reviewed publication in Molecular Ecology Journal.

As a member of the Yurok Tribe, Keith understands and appreciates the cultural, spiritual, and subsistence importance of the Pacific lamprey eels. The Klamath River Tribes have evolving ecological knowledge acquired by the indigenous people over thousands of years. This information was passed on through cultural transmissions and spiritual relationships. The goal of Keith's research was to increase understanding of the Pacific lamprey life history. Keith currently works as a Fisheries/ Molecular Biologist with the Yurok Tribe.

The most memorable moment Keith shared was the time he applied to the National Science Foundation - Graduate Research Fellowship Program for a fellowship. After working on the application for six months and enduring a six month waiting period, Keith finally received the anticipated email. Thanks to his hard work and with the support of HSU staff, Keith was awarded \$138,000 of funding over his 3 years of graduate school. He encourages current graduate students to never give up. The hard work put into graduate work positively impacts the next several decades of your life.

