



**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

HUMANITIES EXPLORE FELLOWS 2, 3

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

Emily Moua, Your Future Is Our Business

Leo Colletta, Santa Cruz Museum
of Art & History

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

Serena Ramirez, Santa Cruz Works

Paulina Garcia, The Hive Poetry Collective

Riley Ramos, Second Harvest Food Bank

Gabby Goss, United Way

Mac Rogers, Santa Cruz Youth Poet
Laureate Program

Janelle Harvey, United Way

Fatima Sanchez, Cabrillo Festival of
Contemporary Music

Brock Hurtado, The American Prospect

Haley Shuford, Leadership Santa Cruz

Esmeralda Hurtado, Santa Cruz Public Libraries

Eetai Shwartz, Lookout Santa Cruz

Kyle Johnson, Your Future Is Our Business

Morgan Woodley, Santa Cruz Museum of
Art & History

Gurleen Kaur, The Sikh Foundation

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”



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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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

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