

Academic Affairs Faculty & Staff Arrivals

Since April 1, 2024



Please Note: The information provided here is based on our best understanding and current knowledge. While we strive for accuracy and completeness, some names or specifics may inadvertently be omitted. If we've missed someone, please email OAAVP@humboldt.edu to alert us. Thank you!

Sidney Afsarzadeh (CAHSS ASA in English, Philosophy, Communication, and Journalism) - I started December 4th 2023 as Administrative Support Assistant II for the departments of English, Philosophy, Communication, Journalism & Mass Communication. Previously, I was a server at Campground Restaurant. I am also a part time Realtor. Fun fact: I graduated from the comm department in 2022.

Rae Basham (CAHSS ASA in the Food Sovereignty Lab) - My start date was May 20, 2024, my new role is Administrative Assistant for the Rou Dalagurr Food Sovereignty Lab & Traditional Ecological Knowledge Institute and I worked previously for the Native American Studies Department as the Student Office Assistant.

Amanda Beardsley, EdM (CNRS, COMPASS/INRSEP) McNair Scholars Program Coordinator. Amanda Marie Beardsley, Ed.M., has worked with children and families for over twenty years. Some of her previous roles include working for CASA as a children's advocate, teaching for Karuk Tribal Head Start, and working as a teacher for parenting classes with families in recovery programs. She has served as Assistant Professor for National Universities Sanford College of Education, and Instructor for CSU Stanislaus Department of Psychology and Child Development, and Early Childhood Education Department at Umpqua Community College. Amanda, the McNair Scholars Program Coordinator at Cal Poly Humboldt, holds a Masters Degree in Adult and Higher Education from Oregon State University and BS in Child Development from Southern Oregon University.

Carolyn Belak (CNRS, Oceanography) joins the Department of Oceanography as a lecturer in the Fall 2024 semester

Dr. Pascal Biwole (CNRS, Engineering), joined the School of Engineering as a Professor in Spring of 2024. He is an expert on Energy Systems Engineering and will be serving as Program Lead for that program and also playing a role at Schatz Energy Research Center.

Academic Affairs Faculty & Staff Arrivals

Since April 1, 2024



H.

Dr. Allison Bronson (CNRS, Biological Sciences) joins the Department of Biological Sciences as an Assistant Professor in the Fall of 2024, having served formerly as Lecturer in the department. Dr. Bronson is a vertebrate biologist/paleontologist specializing in fossil and living fish. Dr. Bronson also teaches in the Department of Fisheries Biology.

Patrick Burkart, Ph.D. (Academic Personnel Services) Patrick joined APS in May and holds a Ph.D. in international communication. Prior to joining the Humboldt team, Patrick retired as a full professor of Communication and Journalism at Texas A&M, College Station. Patrick brings his personal experience and faculty background to APS with the specific goal of advising faculty undergoing the retention, tenure and promotion process while facilitating and optimizing the process at Cal Poly Humboldt. APS is pleased to add Patrick to their team; his skills, background, and dedication will enhance APS's ability to provide faculty with strategic, timely, and high quality support.

Brian Campbell (CNRS, Computer Science) joins the Department of Computer Science as a Lecturer, teaching in the Software Engineering program. He also continues his service as a member of the university IT staff.

Patti Carr (CAHSS Lecturer - Film) My start date is August 2024, I am teaching FILM 210 Screenwriting, I've been teaching at Cal State Northridge since 2019 and I've been a professional TV writer in Los Angeles for about 27 years.

Dr. Alana Chin (CNRS, Biological Sciences) joined the Department of Biological Sciences as an Assistant Professor in the Spring of 2024. Dr. Chin formerly was a postdoctoral scholar at ETH in Zürich. Dr. Chin is a plant physiologist specializing in tree biology and forest ecosystems.

Barry Chin (CNRS, Mathematics) joins the Department of Mathematics as a lecturer in the Fall 2024 semester

Academic Affairs Faculty & Staff Arrivals

Since April 1, 2024



Leah Choi, MLIS (Library) Leah Choi has been selected as Cal Poly Humboldt's new College of Natural Resources & Sciences Librarian, effective August 15, 2024. Leah Choi (she/her) holds a Master's in Library and Information Science with an Advanced Certificate in Strategic Management of Digital Assets and Services from San José State University's School of Information, and a BFA in Photography with a minor in International Studies from the University of Washington. She was most recently the Digital Asset Coordinator for The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens and a Co-Project Manager for Reading Nation Waterfall, an IMLS-funded project addressing equitable access to books and libraries for Native American children through community partnerships and culturally relevant books and programming. Leah is an American Library Association Spectrum Scholar and the most recent Rare and Distinctive Collections Apprentice at the University of Colorado Boulder's Earth Sciences and Map Library. She is committed to inclusive and equitable services with a focus on historically-marginalized and under-resourced groups, expanding access through digital asset management and curation, and digital stewardship and preservation of Indigenous cultural heritage materials owned and driven by their communities. Leah is excited to join the Cal Poly Humboldt community and to serve as the CNRS Librarian. Please join the library in welcoming our new colleague to Humboldt. Leah Choi's email address will be: Leah.Choi@humboldt.edu

Jared Coyle (CAHSS Lecturer - Music) - Teaching clarinet in the music department clarinet studio Where I worked previously: Currently, I am a music teacher, teaching K-8 grade instrumental and vocal music classes in the Fortuna Elementary School District

Michael Crispin (Information Technology Services, Application Development & Design Team (ADD), Analyst Programmer, was hired on 4/1/2024.

Chris Dubois (CAHSS Ceramics Tech in Art + Film) - Chris began as the Ceramics Tech in March 2024.

Academic Affairs Faculty & Staff Arrivals

Since April 1, 2024



Nanette Durbin, (CNRS, COMPASS/INRSEP) MEd CSU-LSAMP Coordinator, INRSEP advisor, environmental education and connections to Native culture. Nanette Durbin M.Ed. is an enrolled citizen of the Osage and Cherokee Nations. Through community-based participatory research, her focus is land and its connection to art and culture. A contributor to Indigenous publications, a documentary filmmaker, and a Native American Studies model curriculum writer, Nanette received a commendation from the California State Legislature for her collaboration with communities. The only person in her family to attend college, Nanette earned a Master of Indigenous Education from the School of Social Transformation, Arizona State University (student retention, curriculum development); BA Communications, Rogers State University (multimedia community outreach); and BA in Art (wildlife interpretation), Humboldt State University where Nanette was an EOP student. She is pleased to return to Humboldt as an Indian Natural Resources, Science & Engineering Program/CSU-LSAMP Advisor & Coordinator and COMPASS Administrative Support. She is a traditional leatherworker and painter, and her spare time is dictated by a flock of ducks.

Angie Edmunds (CNRS, ESM) joins the Department of Environmental Science and Management as a Lecturer. They will teach in the Environmental Communication course.

Lydia Evers (CNRS, Dean's Office) joined the CNRS Dean's Office as College Resource Analyst, leaving her former position as Administrative Coordinator II in the Department of Biological Sciences.

Kelly Fortner (CAHSS Lecturer - Politics) Role: Lecturer for Political Science 482 internship class Start date: August 19 Where I worked previously (this is where I still currently work as a staff member on campus): Center for Community Based Learning, Cal Poly Humboldt

Delo Freitas (CNRS, ESM) joins the Department of Environmental Science and Management as a Lecturer. They will teach Intro to Environmental Planning

Troy Furlow (Information Technology Services) ITS Direct Support Team, Technical Support Specialist, was hired on 06/03/2024.

Academic Affairs Faculty & Staff Arrivals

Since April 1, 2024



Kevin Gatter (CAHSS Lecturer - Politics) Start date: Fall Semester 2024
Role: Lecturer, Department of Politics Where I Worked Previously: PhD in political science at UCLA

Daysi Hilario (CTL) joined the Center for Teaching & Learning in July as our new Canvas administrator and academic technology consultant. Daysi previously worked in ITS and in the CTL as an emergency hire last spring. She brings computer science experience from her education at Cal Poly Humboldt. We are so excited that she is part of our team

Alyssa Hughlett (CAHSS, ASC in World Languages and Cultures and International Studies) - Start Date: Jan 18, 2024 and previously worked at Dell'Arte International in Blue Lake CA

Andrea Humphreys (Information Technology Services) Administrative Support Team, Admin Support Coordinator (ASC), was hired on 3/4/2024.

Mohamed Kaheal (CNRS, Engineering) joins the School of Engineering as a full time lecturer in the Fall 2024 semester, teaching in the Mechanical Engineering and Physics programs

Michael Kibbe (CAHSS Lecturer - Music) - - Started August 19 in Music and will be teaching Woodwind Chamber Music, Studio Oboe, and Studio Bassoon.

Gabi Kirk (CAHSS Tenured Faculty) Department of Geography, Environment & Spatial Analysis) I started January 2024. My new role is assistant professor in the Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Analysis. I came here right after finishing my PhD in fall 2023 in geography with a designated emphasis in feminist theory and research from University of California, Davis.

Khristan Lamb (Curriculum Office) The Curriculum Office is excited to announce that Khristan Lamb has permanently joined our team as the Curriculum and Assessment Specialist during April 2024. She initially came to us as an emergency hire last fall and jumped in quickly to leverage her skills in supporting our curricular process here on campus. Khristan will be supporting the curriculum office and specifically GE and Assessment processes. She has experience teaching college English at the community college level and is a small business owner. We are thrilled with the unique expertise she brings to our department.

Academic Affairs Faculty & Staff Arrivals

Since April 1, 2024



Amir Malikyar (CNRS, COMPASS/INRSEP) Natural Resources Career Development Program Coordinator, Federal agency employment, wildlife. Amir Malikyar is a dedicated student advisor and internship coordinator with Cal Poly Humboldt's COMPASS program. An alumnus from Cal Poly Humboldt's Department of Wildlife, Amir brings a wealth of local practical experience to the role. In the natural sciences, Amir has worked professionally with diverse organizations and projects that utilize scientific and practical concepts to study, conserve, and utilize our natural resources, including the National Audubon Society, Humboldt County Resource Conservation District, Humboldt Waterfowl Research Initiative, and Klamath Bird Observatory. Amir has also successfully mentored students and peers, coordinated workshops and lectures, and developed programs that bridge the gap between theory and real-world application. Committed to helping students achieve their goals, Amir provides personalized guidance and facilitates meaningful internship opportunities. As the coordinator for the Natural Resources Career Development Program (NRCDP), he supports a cohort of students gaining valuable federal work experience with the USDA-NRCS, leading to potential full-time positions upon completing 480 hours.

David McDonald (CAHSS Lecturer - Theatre) I am starting on August 26. I will be an adjunct in Theatre, teaching voice, movement, and acting.

Kerry McNamee (CNRS, ESM) joins the Department of Environmental Science and Management as a Lecturer. They are an alumnus of the ESM program and will teach in the Environmental Impact Assessment course

Michele Miyamoto, MA, Ed. joins the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI) on October 1, 2024 as the ODEI Associate Director.

Grace Milburn (CNRS, Biological Sciences) joined the Department of Biological Sciences as a Botanical Preparator supporting the Botany program.

Shelley Mitchell (CNRS, ESM) joins the Department of Environmental Science and Management as a Lecturer. They will teach Grant Proposal Writing

Academic Affairs Faculty & Staff Arrivals

Since April 1, 2024



H.

Keshnee Naidoo has joined the School of Education as the Program Coordinator for the Elementary and Secondary Education programs. She brings extensive experience as an elementary/secondary educator and district teacher leader, holding a Bachelor's degree from UC Davis and a Master's degree in Developmental Teacher Education from UC Berkeley. Keshnee has also served as a lecturer in our Elementary Education Program and has experience in adult leadership education. She is enjoying her work as the Program Coordinator so far and is looking forward to supporting the teacher candidates in the School of Education this year and beyond.

Jeremy Nichols (CAHSS ASA in Critical Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Native American Studies) - My new start date was June 11, 2024 (though I started as an emergency hire in September of 2023). I'm the Administrative Support Assistant to the departments of Critical Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Native American Studies. Previous to working here I was working on-campus during my education in the Child Development Lab as one of the assistant head teachers. I was also a student office assistant for the Child Development Department during my schooling here.

Dr. Chelsea Obeidy (CNRS, FFRM) joins the Department of Forestry, Fire and Rangeland Management as an Assistant Professor of Soil Science. Dr. Obeidy comes to from the University of Oregon where she recently completed her Ph.D. She is an expert on the interaction of geochemical systems in soil and fire.

Emily Oparowski (Information Technology Services) ITS Direct Support Team, Lead of Direct Support, was hired 07/01/2024.

Patrick Orona (Director of Academic Resources) joins the Office of Academic Affairs on October 1, 2024.

Abdullah Ozer (CNRS, Engineering) joins the School of Engineering as a full time lecturer in the Fall 2024 semester, teaching in the Mechanical Engineering program

Anna Pinsky (CAHSS Lecturer - Music) - Started August 19 in the Music department and will be teaching MUS 319 Elementary Music Methods.

Academic Affairs Faculty & Staff Arrivals

Since April 1, 2024



Kelly Robinson (CNRS, Wildlife) joins the Department of Wildlife as a full time lecturer in the Fall 2024 semester

Dr. Michelle Selvans, (CNRS, Geology). Dr. Selvans joins the Department of Geology as a Visiting Assistant Professor for the 24-25 academic year. Dr. Selvans is on leave from Clovis Community College in Fresno and has broad expertise in planetary geology and surface processes.

Byron Smith (CAHSS Lecturer - Anthropology) - Started August 19 in Anthropology. He will be teaching ANTH 105 – Archaeology & World Prehistory, ANTH 350 – Method & Theory in Archaeology in addition to being the Archaeology Lab Director

Henry Solares (CAHSS Lecturer - Anthropology) - Aug 19th 2024, Lecturer, and I currently work as professional staff in the RAMP Department as a Program Coordinator.

Dr. Nick Som (CNRS, USGS) joined the College as the Unit Leader of the U.S. Geological Survey California Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and as Adjunct Professor in the Department of Fisheries Biology. Dr. Som comes to Cal Poly Humboldt after a career with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Mark Taylor joined Project Rebound in a new role, as the Program Coordinator. Before that, Mark worked for PR for 2 years as the Youth Outreach Coordinator, delivering an empowerment program and academic and career planning in Humboldt County Juvenile Hall. Mark brings a wealth of experience and education to his role as Program Coordinator. He earned 6 Associate's degrees in Ironwood State Prison when education became a true passion. He earned his Bachelor's in Social Work at Humboldt in 2022, and his Master's in Social Work at Humboldt in May of 2024. Mark cares deeply for the work he does with system-impacted individuals and is a true leader in the work.

Terra Tolley (CAHSS Lecturer - Religious Studies) My new role is Lecturer - AY in the Religious Studies Department. My start date is 8/19/24. I taught at George Mason University, as well as internationally in Mongolia, China, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Bosnia, Albania, India and beyond. I am the International Program Director at Newborn Foundation and work in Clinical Informatics at Providence Health.

Academic Affairs Faculty & Staff Arrivals

Since April 1, 2024



H.

Dr. Rachel Torres, (CNRS, COMPASS/INRSEP) Postdoctoral Scholar, Ecological Forecasting Initiative LSAMP advisor; ecological forecasting, modeling with environmental data. Dr. Torres works with LSAMP students, introducing them to the research process, data analysis and R-studio, preparing students for graduate school, and writing curriculum with the Ecological Forecasting Initiative. She completed her Ph.D. at UC Santa Barbara's Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, where her dissertation work explored drought resilience of urban trees in Santa Barbara using remote sensing data paired with an ecohydrologic model. Her current research interests include urban ecohydrology, green infrastructure, and climate change. Prior to receiving her Ph.D., Dr. Torres completed a BS in Physics at North Park University in Chicago, Illinois. When she is not working, she enjoys going on outdoor adventures or watching reality tv.

Christina Tusei (CNRS, Chemistry) joined the Department of Chemistry as the Stockroom Coordinator after having served as an assistant to the former coordinator in that facility.

Kearney Vander Sal (CAHSS Lecturer - Music) - Started August 19 in Music and will be teaching MUS 370F Woodwind Techniques

Yvonne Verkuil (CNRS, Wildlife) joins the Department of Wildlife as a lecturer in the Fall 2024 semester

Dr. Rachael Wade (CNRS, Biological Sciences) joined the Department of Biological Sciences as an Assistant Professor in the Spring of 2024. Dr. Wade formerly was a postdoctoral scholar at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Her research focuses on the diversity of marine macroalgae and the evolutionary processes that determine and support their current distributions.

Megan Watson (CAHSS Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation (NAGPRA) Program Coordinator) - Start Date: January 16th, 2024 and previously worked as an Archaeologist at ICF, International Inc.

Academic Affairs Faculty & Staff Arrivals

Since April 1, 2024



H.

Dr. Tess Weathers (CNRS, Engineering) joins the School of Engineering as an Assistant Professor of Environmental Engineering in the Fall of 2024. She comes to Humboldt from a faculty position at Chabot College in Hayward. Her research interests include the intersection of hydrology, microbiology, and chemistry in groundwater systems.

Jeremy Webb (CAHSS, Performing Arts Technician in Music, Dance and Theatre) - I've been working in the Dept. of Dance Music & Theatre as an Instructional Aide 1 since 2 November 2021 under COVID19 emergency temporary hiring. I was officially hired as a Performing Arts Tech 1 in April 2024

Deseret Weeks (CAHSS Lecturer - Environmental Studies) Start date: Fall 2024 semester My role: Lecturer Previous place of employment: UC Merced - PhD student, instructor of record of climate justice; adjunct professor of physical geography at two California State Prisons through the Rising Scholars Program via Merced Community College.

Kyle Weis (CNRS, R/V Coral Sea) assumed the duties as Engineer and Reserve Captain of the R/V Coral Sea after leaving his former position as Equipment Technician III at the Telsonicher Marine Laboratory.

James White (CNRS, FFRM) joins the Department of Forestry, Fire and Rangeland Management as a Lecturer. He will be teaching courses on fire weather, and is also a scientist with NOAA.

Emily Worm joined us as the new Director of Community Based Learning (CCBL) in May. She comes from Colorado where she built partnerships to expand AmeriCorps programs as the Communications and External Affairs Officer at Serve Colorado, out of the Lt. Governor's Office. She has already hit the ground running and will lead efforts for internships and service learning. Emily loves to explore the woods and beaches of Humboldt County, so look for her out on the trail when she's not in the office!

Academic Affairs Faculty & Staff Departures

Since April 1, 2024

A diamond-shaped logo with a black border containing the letter 'H.' in a bold, serif font.

Please Note: The information provided here is based on our best understanding and current knowledge. While we strive for accuracy and completeness, some names or specifics may inadvertently be omitted. If we've missed someone, please email OAAVP@humboldt.edu to alert us. Thank you!

Dr. Cesar Abarca, Associate Professor of Social Work, moved on from our department to serve as New Mexico Highlands University Names New Dean of the Facundo Valdez School of Social Work. Dr. Abarca has been a valued member of our faculty since 2013, teaching both undergraduate and graduate social work courses at Cal Poly Humboldt. His bilingual and bicultural presence enriched our community, and his contributions will be greatly missed.

Anthony Baker Ortiz, (CNRS, Dean's Office) left the role as CNRS Budget Analyst to take a new role Director of Recruitment and Compliance in Human Resources at Cal Poly Humboldt

Dr. Sara Chase Merrick departed from the department after one year of professional leave to transition into working full time for the Hupa Language Immersion Nest that she piloted during the professional leave. The program offers services to children (18-35 months) and families to learn and speak Hupa language through traditional stories and day-to-day activities every day. Dr. Chase Merrick joined the department as tenure line Assistant Professor in fall 2019.

Dr. Mark Colwell (CNRS, Wildlife) ended his FERP and fully retired, ending decades of service as Professor of Wildlife in the Department of Wildlife. Dr. Colwell is an expert on shorebird ecology, management of wetlands for shorebirds and refuge design. He taught Ornithology, Conservation Biology, Management of Shorebirds and Birds and Human Society.

Michelle Dostal (CNRS, Chemistry) retired at the end of Fall semester 2023 after decades of services as a Chemistry department Stockroom Coordinator.

Academic Affairs Faculty & Staff Departures

Since April 1, 2024



H.

Kelda Quintana, The Academic Advising Center and Academic Programs would like to thank Kelda Quintana for over 15 years of service as an Academic Advisor. Kelda a Humboldt Alum received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Social Work. Over the years Kelda advised Undeclared, Criminology, Sociology, and Cannabis students to reach academic goals. She always tried to connect their personal passions, goals, and strengths to be successful in their college careers. Kelda will be very missed but we wish her the best in her retirement!

Dr. Eli Lankford was an associate professor in the School of Applied Health who specialized in exercise science. Dr. Lankford joined the department as tenure line Assistant Professor in Fall 2021.

Dr. Susan Marshall (CNRS, FFRM) ended her FERP and fully retired, ending decades of service as Professor of Soil Science in the department of Forestry, Fire and Rangeland Management. Dr. Marshall was a tireless advocate for Rangeland Management careers, advising hundreds of students in the Range program over her career and leading engagement of the university with agricultural communities across the region and working closely to advance USDA efforts on our campus to diversify agricultural education

Robert Mizer (CNRS, R/V Coral Sea) left his position as Engineer and Reserve Captain of the R/V Coral Sea to pursue other opportunities in the maritime industry

Dr. Margarita Ortero-Diaz (CNRS, Engineering). Dr. Ortero-Diaz resigned her position in as Associate Professor in Environmental Engineering to pursue other opportunities in diversity and education at ESCALA.

Dr. Sintana Vergara (CNRS, Engineering) left her position as Associate Professor of Environmental Engineering to take a position at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania.

Academic Affairs Faculty & Staff Departures

Since April 1, 2024



H.

Tony Wallin-Sato left Cal Poly Humboldt Project Rebound in February 2024. He is now working at CSU Long Beach in the Project Rebound office coordinating a Research Lab designed to give PR students access and support in rigorous research. He is also working on bringing a Certificate program for CSULB into a nearby federal prison.

Kumi Watanabe-Schock retired June 30, 2024 after 36 years of outstanding service and fostering inclusive community building at Cal Poly Humboldt, and effectively serving as the Library Media and Community Outreach Coordinator.

Arlene Wynn (CNRS, Dean's Office) left her position as CNRS Administrative Coordinator to take a role as Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Instruction at College of the Redwoods

Dr. Rick Zechman (CNRS, Dean's Office) retired as Associate Dean for Marine Operations and Professor of Biological Sciences after a 12 year career at Cal Poly Humboldt and a career as a faculty member at Fresno State University.

Academic Affairs Strategic Priorities for Academic Year 2024-2025



Priority #1: New academic programs for polytechnic 2026 with an emphasis in health

Priority #2: Partnership with enrollment management and student success to increase enrollment and retention

Priority #3: Strategic Resource Management

Priority #4: Prepare for a successful WASC reaccreditation visit

Priority #5: Increase trust and improve relationships