

Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program – Meet the Recipients

We are pleased to announce that four graduate students mentored by Cal State LA faculty were selected to receive funding from the 2016-2017 CSU Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program.

Samantha Lorenz (Faculty Mentor: Dr. James Brady) is pursuing a doctorate in Anthropology with a specialization in Bioarchaeology. Her thesis topic is "Child Sacrifice at Midnight Terror Cave, Belize." She has conducted extensive field and laboratory research in California, Belize, and Malta. In addition to her thesis research, she is currently performing dental analyses for biological profiles at the Autry Southwest Museum, America Indian Collection. Ms. Lorenz also completed a Forensic Anthropology internship with the County of Los Angeles, Department of Medical-Examiner Coroner. She has presented her work at professional conferences and has published her Malta excavation research. Ms. Lorenz has received numerous honors and awards for her academic scholarship. She received the CSU Trustee's Award for Outstanding Achievement in

Oscar Mejia (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Robert DeChaine) is pursuing a doctorate in Communication with an emphasis in Media and Culture. He has demonstrated promise as a budding scholar with one publication and multiple professional presentations at local, regional and national conferences in his discipline. Mr. Mejia is a graduate teaching associate and serves as the instructor of record for two undergraduate courses for the Department of Communication Studies at Cal State LA. As a first-generation college student, Mr. Mejia is motivated to excel and model academic excellence for his students. He is committed to increasing educational equity and access to technology for underrepresented students. He is a recipient of the Graduate Student Equity Fellowship, and was awarded a travel grant to present his research at a professional conference. His thesis focuses on Muslim American Identity through Realistic Fiction. According to his faculty mentor, his thesis project promises to make an innovative contribution to understandings of processes and tensions of identity construction in a globalized world.

Bryan Thorton (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lois Weinberg) is currently enrolled in the CSULA/UCLA Joint PhD program in Special Education with a specialization in Moderate-Severe Disabilities. This academic year, he was awarded the Philip and Aida Siff Educational Foundation Fellowship for promising research related to Inclusion and Youth with Developmental Disabilities. Mr. Thorton also completed a Graduate Summer Research Mentorship program at UCLA and is currently a co-investigator on an Inclusive Education Research project with one of his Cal State LA faculty mentors, Dr. Mary Falvey. He has presented this research at three professional conferences. Mr. Thorton has experience as a teaching assistant and adjunct lecturer for undergraduate courses in the Charter College of Education at Cal State LA. He is also scheduled to teach as an adjunct lecturer in Special Education at UCLA during Summer 2016. He has seven years of experience as a K-12 Special Education teacher and he brings this classroom experience into his college-level instruction as a teacher educator in the Applied and Advanced Studies in Education Program at Cal State LA.

William Wong (Faculty Mentor: Dr. Joanne Altschuler) is currently enrolled in a Doctor of Social Work program at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN. He completed his Master of Social Work degree at Cal State LA in 1999 and is currently a lecturer in our

School of Social Work. He completed his Master of Social Work degree at Cal State LA in 1999 and is currently a lecturer in our School of Social Work. He teaches four undergraduate courses including: "Institutional Racism to Cultural Competency," "Child Welfare", "Human Behavior and the Social Environment" and "Social Work Practice with Minority Communities." He is an exceptional social work practitioner with seventeen years of experience in child welfare with the County of Los Angeles, Department of Children and Family Services. He has received numerous awards for his service to the community, most notably is an Honorary Emmy in 2011 for co-producing "Wednesday's Child" a public service program that profiles a child seeking to be adopted. Mr. Wong is a proud graduate of Cal State LA and a very active member of the faculty as a lecturer. He has demonstrated a commitment to the CSU and looks forward to earning a tenure track position once he completes his doctorate.