

WALTER H. CAPPS CENTER
FOR THE STUDY OF
ETHICS, RELIGION, AND PUBLIC LIFE

UC SANTA BARBARA

Fall 2023 Newsletter

Dear Capps Center community,

Greetings for the 2023-2024 academic year from the Capps Center!

We are eager to welcome students and community members back to campus, including new cohorts of [Mendell Fellows](#) and [McCune Interns](#), and a new class in the [Civic Engagement Scholars Program](#).

We continue our work on various [initiatives](#), including as host of UCSB's branch of the UC Disaster Resilience Network, with our partners on implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and in support of repatriation best practices at UCSB and beyond. Additionally, this year we have added a [new initiative](#) focused on best practices in wildfire management and tribal consultation, collaborating with partners from the UC Reserve System, UC Irvine, and several Native nations located in Payahuunadü (Owens Valley). Meanwhile, the Center's Associate Director, Dr. Dusty Hoesly has been developing new initiatives focused on addressing anti-Asian hate and religious freedom for Asian American communities. Stay tuned for developments on these initiatives and other Center activities.

Now the big news. This Fall Quarter the Capps Center is delighted to host [a two-day celebration](#) of Walter H. Capps on November 10th and 11th. The public is invited and encouraged to attend this free event, which will feature two receptions and other opportunities to reconnect with Capps's legacy and the broader community. We are especially eager to have former students join us, as the events will include sessions focused on Capps's famous courses, including his long-running Vietnam class and "Voices of the Stranger." Other sessions will feature notable scholars, politicians, and leaders in national humanities organizations. A full schedule with details will be available soon.

In addition to our Walter Capps celebration, this quarter we are sponsoring two events that are free and open to the public as well. On October 12th we are thrilled to be hosting UCSB Department of Religious Studies alumnus Anna Bigelow, now an Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Stanford University. Her presentation is entitled "[Thanatofuturism: Making Space for the Marginal at a Tomb Shrine in Bangalore.](#)" On October 26th we have a special panel presentation for our fall Ethics and Public Policy Forum entitled, "[Wildfire Management, Native Nations, and the Ethics of Consultation and Collaboration.](#)" This panel relates to our new initiative focused on [Payahuunadü](#) and the Eastern Sierra Nevada region. See our [events page](#) for more details and, soon, for information about our exciting Winter and Spring programming.

Finally, please reach out to us if you have questions about the Capps Center. We would be delighted to learn about your interests and to think with you about how we might best facilitate programming and initiatives that are relevant, engaging, and challenging.

Sincerely,
Greg Johnson, Director



Staff of the Capps Center

Dusty Hoesly is the Associate Director of the Capps Center. He earned a PhD in Religious Studies at UCSB in 2018. His research focuses on contemporary American religions, specializing in how new religious movements, Asian American religions, and the religiously unaffiliated shape modern American culture. He is co-chair of the Sociology of Religion Unit at the American Academy of Religion (AAR). Dusty joined the Capps Center in 2022.



Nonie Hamilton is the Academic Coordinator of the Capps Center's Sara Miller McCune Endowed Internship and Public Service Program. It is her privilege, each year, to work with a group of exceptional and civic-minded UCSB students, those with a passion for social change and an interest in public service. She has woven together her own public service career working at local, national, and international levels, in the nonprofit and government sectors, on issues of equity, justice, and public health. Nonie joined the Capps Center in 2013.



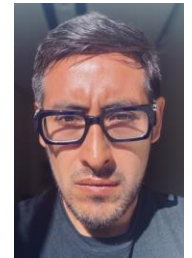
Gregory Jarrett is a Lecturer for the Capps Center and coordinates our Capps Forum on Ethics & Public Policy. He earned his PhD in Philosophy at USC, and studied environment law at Vermont Law School. He teaches a three-quarter series in applied ethics, including Environmental Ethics, Biomedical Ethics, and Ethics and the College Experience. Greg joined the Capps Center in 2009.



Mitchell Kauffman is a Lecturer for the Capps Center. He has an MBA and MSFP, and is a Certified Financial Planner and entrepreneur. He teaches courses in business ethics and managerial economics, including Wall Street Ethics, Have Ethics Gone Awry, and Ethical Investing to Impact Social Change. Mitch joined the Capps Center in 2016.



Adrián I. P-Flores is the ALCS Emerging Voices Fellow at the Capps Center. He earned a PhD in Gender & Women's Studies from the University of Arizona, and he is a former UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Comparative Literature at UCLA. His primary field of specialization is the racial and philosophical history of "suicide," with a focus on psychoanalysis, political theology, and Black feminist theory. Adrián joined the Capps Center in 2022.



Advisory Board: Gerardo Aldana (Chicana and Chicano Studies), Joseph Blankholm (Religious Studies), Elizabeth Pérez (Religious Studies), Amrah Salomón J. (English), David Walker (Religious Studies), Mayfair Yang (Religious Studies and East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies).

About the Capps Center

The Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at the University of California, Santa Barbara, promotes discussion of how ethical teachings and values relate to civic life -- at the local, national, and global levels. We are committed to the fundamental belief that public dialogue and an informed and engaged citizenry are vital to democratic society. Non-partisan and non-sectarian, the Center seeks to strengthen and extend the principles on which such diverse, modern society rests, namely, tolerance and respect for the views of others, the practice of civility, and efforts to achieve the common good.

Please follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [X \(Twitter\)](#)!



<https://www.cappscenter.ucsb.edu/>

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Programs

The [Sara Miller McCune Endowed Internship and Public Service Program](#) is a year-long service-learning program for undergraduate students that brings students and community partners together for personal and social transformation. It provides students with opportunities to engage effectively with the local community on issues such as socioeconomic inequities, education, the environment, immigration, and more. Students connect their classroom learning with community service, translating theory into real-world experience. Local organizations benefit from the support of energetic, talented students who help them to fulfill their missions more effectively.

The [Steve and Barbara Mendell Graduate Fellowship in Cultural Literacy](#) supports fellowship stipends each year for outstanding graduate students in the College of Letters and Science at UCSB whose research or programs of study advance the goals of broad-based cultural literacy and high ethical standards in our participative democracy. Support may be provided for dissertation fellowships, supplemental fellowships, summer stipends, or for special research projects. The fellowships encourage discussion and debate relating to the compelling questions of ethics and values in contemporary public life, and with particular attention to how these questions might be informed by knowledge of history and cultural traditions.

We offer a variety of [Ethics Courses](#) throughout the academic year, including courses on environmental, biomedical, and business ethics; diversity and social justice; and civic engagement and deliberative democracy.

A series of [Public Events](#) at UCSB and within the Santa Barbara community bring well-known speakers on a range of topics each year. Videos of many of our past events are available on our [website](#), [YouTube](#), and [UCTV](#). Our next events include:

- Anna Bigelow, Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Stanford, presents “[Thanatofuturism: Making Space for the Marginal at a Tomb Shrine in Bangalore](#)” (Oct. 12 at 5:00pm, HSSB 4080)
- Patricia Sekaquaptewa, Ethan Elkind, and Justin Richland, experts in Native American law and culture, present a panel discussion on “[Wildfire Management, Native Nations, and the Ethics of Consultation and Collaboration](#)” (Oct. 26 at 5:00pm, Loma Pelona Center 1100)
- “[Celebrating the Legacy of Walter H. Capps](#)” – a special two-day series of events to commemorate Walter’s contributions in scholarship, teaching, the humanities, and public service (Nov. 10-11, all day, McCune Conference Room and Campbell Hall)
- Check our website for Winter and Spring events—coming soon!

We are also working on a range of [other initiatives](#), including:

- Helping to lead the [UC Disaster Resilience Network](#) (DRN) Campus-based Committee at UCSB
- Collaborating with the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Implementation Project](#)
- Working with Chumash and other Native nations on [repatriation](#) of ancestral remains
- Connecting Indigenous communities with key decision makers in [wildfire management](#)

Make a Donation

A wide range of [giving opportunities](#) is available through the Capps Center for those friends, parents, community members, and UCSB alumni who wish to be a vital part of the Center’s future. The Capps Center benefits from annual unrestricted support and major gifts designated for special purposes. Your generosity plays a critical role in our ability to fulfill our mission and is truly appreciated. Every gift counts.

Celebrating the Legacy of Walter H. Capps

The Capps Center is pleased to present a [special two-day series of events](#) on **November 10 & 11, 2023**, to celebrate and commemorate the legacy of [Walter Capps](#) in scholarship, teaching, the humanities, and public service. Please **save these dates** as we hope you can join us. All events are **free and open to the public!** See our [website](#) for more details.

Confirmed topics and speakers include:

The Value of the Humanities (Nov. 10, 10:00am, McCune Conference Room, HSSB 6020)

David Marshall, Executive Vice Chancellor, UCSB; Phoebe Stein, President, Federation of State Humanities Councils; James Quay, former Executive Director, California Council for the Humanities; Ralph Lewin, former President and CEO, California Council for the Humanities

Walter Capps and the Study of Religion (Nov. 10, 1:00pm, McCune Conference Room, HSSB 6020)

Tomoko Masuzawa, Professor Emerita of Comparative Literature and History, University of Michigan; Edward Linenthal, Professor Emeritus of History, Indiana University Bloomington; Wendy M. Wright, Professor Emerita of Theology, Creighton University; Sarah McFarland Taylor, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Northwestern University; Julie Ingersoll, Professor of Religious Studies, University of North Florida

Remembering the Vietnam War Class (Nov. 11, 9:00am, Campbell Hall)

Richard Hecht, Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies, UCSB; Shad Meshad, Founder and President, National Veterans Foundation; Wilson Hubbell, Vietnam War veteran and guest speaker; Sharon L. Rapp, clinical psychologist and guest speaker

Teaching Ethics and Civic Values (Nov. 11, 10:45am, Campbell Hall)

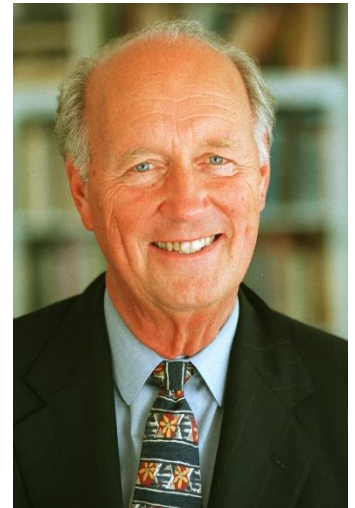
Katya Armistead, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Dean of Student Life, UCSB; Tim Kring, Screenwriter/Showrunner; Shawn Landres, Civic Strategist and Municipal Commissioner

Video Presentation (Nov. 11, 2:00pm, Campbell Hall)

Alessandro Duranti, Distinguished Research Professor of Anthropology, UCLA

The Value of Public Service (Nov. 11, 2:45pm, Campbell Hall)

Bob Kerrey, former U.S. Senator and Governor; Lois Capps, former U.S. Representative; Laura Capps, Santa Barbara County Supervisor; Lou Cannon, journalist and author



Winter and Spring 2024 Speakers

Winter 2024

- [Khiara Bridges](#), Professor of Law, UC Berkeley School of Law
- [Lerone Martin](#), Martin Luther King, Jr., Centennial Professor of Religious Studies and Director of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Research and Education Institute, Stanford University
- [Philip Gorski](#), Professor and Chair of Sociology, Yale University

Spring 2024

- [Russell Jeung](#), Professor of Asian American Studies, San Francisco State University
- Approaches to Transnational Anti-Nuclear Activism conference
- Stay tuned for more events!

<https://www.cappscenter.ucsb.edu/>