

Voices in Undergraduate Research

Meet the Panel Arts & Humanities



Lauren Casillas

Major: English Education: TESL
Class Level: Senior/Class of '22
Research Program:
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Iara Mantenuto
Career Goals: Pursue a Ph.D.,
Research and teaching in higher
education
Fun Facts: I enjoy surfing, hiking,
walking my four dogs, photography
and a Marvel & Star Wars fan



Cesar Ovando

Major: History
Class Level: Senior/Class of '22
Research Program: Mellon Mays
and Sally Casanova
Faculty Mentor: Drs. Doris Namala,
Kenneth Seligson, and Sarah Taylor
Career Goals: Pursue a Ph.D. and
teach at a public university
Fun Facts: I like to watch Japanese
Anime, American Reality Shows,
and spending my time drawing



Michelle Avila

Major: Art History
Class Level: Senior/Class of '23
Research Program: Mellon Mays
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kirstin L.
Ellsworth
Career Goals: Earn a Ph.D. in art
history, and become a professor,
academic writer and researcher in
higher education
Fun Facts: I love to visit museums
and galleries in my spare time



Nicole Figueroa

Major: Communication/Psychology
Class Level: Senior/Class of '22
Research Program: RISE
Faculty Mentor: Drs. Nancy Cheever
and Kevin Montes
Career Goals: To obtain a
Ph.D. media psychology and
become an innovative researcher
Fun Facts: I love to take pictures,
create videos, and spend time with
my 11 year old dachshund



Andrew Leung

Grad Institution: CSUDH
Grad Program: M.A. in
English/Single-Subject Teaching
Credential
Faculty Mentor: Drs. Iara
Mantenuto and Cheryl Fantuzzi
Career Goals: To obtain a Ph.D. and
become a professor
Fun Facts: I enjoy composing music
and I've won local and national
awards for my compositions



Daniel Diaz

Major: History
Class Level: Alum, Class of '21
Grad Program: MA Public History-
Museum Studies/Historical
Preservation (tentative)
Research Program: McNair
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Andrea Johnson
Career Goals: Historical Preservation
Fun Facts: I enjoy the outdoors;
hiking/backpacking in the summer
and snowboarding in the winter