



**The Maddy Institute**  
California State University, Fresno

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2019

## A Note From the Director...

The Maddy Institute's Legislative Intern Program continues Sen. Maddy's vision of providing college students from the Valley with the opportunity to learn, firsthand, how the political and legislative process works.

Moreover, our legislative interns learn "the Maddy Way" – developing the increasingly rare and valued ability to find bipartisan, common sense solutions to the challenges we face as a Nation, State, and Valley.

And because of your generous on-going support, our legislative scholar interns receive a scholarship to help defray their costs. The *Sacramento Bee* has noted that we are one of the few paid legislative intern programs at the State Capitol. Of course, this could not happen without the generous, on-going support, of people like you who care about restoring civility in politics.



In the following pages, we again provide you with a small sample of what our past and current Maddy interns are doing to make our region, state and nation a better place. As you read about their accomplishments, you should take pride in knowing that your support has given them the opportunity to acquire the skills necessary to make a positive impact.

Thank you for "paying it forward" by helping create the next generation of Valley political, civic and business leaders.

With Appreciation,

Mark Keppler

Kenneth L. Maddy Professor of Public Affairs

## Where Are They Now?



**Scott Braden**  
*Lawyer*

Scott interned in the Merced office of Senator Jeff Denham in the Fall of 2007 and in the Sacramento office of Assemblymember Michael Villines in the Summer of 2008.

He majored in Political Science with a minor in Philosophy at California State University, Fresno graduating summa cum laude.

*“My internships were an interesting and highly educational experience that I recall fondly. It showed me the importance of working in a professional and personable environment in which presentation is just as important as the actual work that is done.”*

Scott graduated from the University of San Diego School of Law and specializes in personal injury, business and real estate litigation in San Diego. His law practice extends throughout southern California.

**Selena Farnesi**  
*Deputy District Attorney – Fresno County*

Selena interned in Congressman Jim Costa’s Washington D.C. office in the Summer of 2010. She majored in Philosophy and Anthropology at California State University, Fresno.



*“Getting to live and work in Washington DC was an irreplaceable experience. I was able to meet some of the most influential people in government, experience the day to day life of working in politics, and contribute to issues that were important to me as a lifelong Central Valley resident.”*

Selena went onto graduate from the University of Pacific McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento where she continued to maintain an interest in politics and civic engagement. She works now as a Fresno County Deputy District Attorney, prosecuting felonies.

### *Maddy Associates*

#### President’s Circle



#### Governor’s Circle



E. & J. Gallo Winery



#### Senator’s Circle





**Lazaro Sandoval**  
*Senior Agricultural Attaché at the U.S. Consulate General in Mumbai, India.*

Lazaro interned in the Fall of 2008 in the USDA office of Rural Development in Fresno, the USDA office of Plant Protection and Quarantine in Fresno in the Spring of 2019 and his last scholarship through the Maddy Institute was with Congressman Jim Costa's Fresno office in the Spring of 2010.

Lazaro is originally from Santa Cruz, California. He received his bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business from California State University, Fresno and a master's degree in International Commerce and Policy from George Mason University in Virginia.

*"The Maddy Institute internship reinvigorated my commitment to public service and taught me the value of listening to constituent needs and concerns. This consideration is the bedrock of my work as a representative for U.S. farmers and ranchers overseas. I continue to greatly value the life experiences and professional growth I obtained through the internship program."*

Lazaro Sandoval is the new Senior Agricultural Attaché at the U.S. Consulate General in Mumbai, India. Prior to this position, he served as Agricultural Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires from 2015 to 2019.

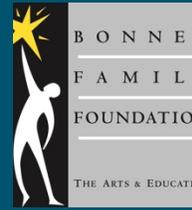
**Blake Zante**  
*Senate Fellow & Legislative Aide for CA State Senator Andreas Borgeas*



Blake interned in Assemblyman Jim Patterson's Sacramento office in the summer of 2016. In the summer of 2018, he interned in Congressman Devin Nunes' office in Washington, D.C.

While at Fresno State, Blake served as Student Body President working closely with local, state, and federal representatives and advocating for a better educational experience for all

Senator's Circle



Assemblymember's Circle

Mr. Henry Barkett

Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Gazarian

Mr. & Mrs. James and Coke  
 Hallowell

Mr. Don Jackson

Kern County Taxpayers  
 Association

The Mr. & Mrs. Lyles Fund

Mr. Phillip Maroot

Mr. Donald Peracchi

Spring 2019

students. He graduated with honors from the Smittcamp Family Honors College.

Following his D.C. internship, he joined the campaigns of Congressman Devin Nunes, Former Congressman David Valadao, and several local school board members. Blake now serves on the board of director for the Fresno State Alumni Association.

*“My internships with the Maddy Institute were incredibly valuable. As somebody who is passionate about the well-being of Fresno and the Central Valley, I feel that the Maddy Institute definitely equips future leaders with the critical skills, connections, and experiences necessary to make a positive difference. The scholarships that the Maddy Institute provides make it possible to have a great experience in a legislative office. I am thankful for the lifelong connections I have made and the valuable skills I gained as an intern.”*

Blake was selected as a Senate Fellow through the Capital Fellows program to serve in the Office of Senator Andreas Borgeas. A resident of Fresno, Senator Borgeas represents all or portions of the Central Valley, foothills, and the following counties: Amador, Calaveras, Fresno, Inyo, Madera, Mariposa, Mono, Sacramento, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Tuolumne.

MADDY INSTITUTE

### Assemblymember’s Circle

Ms. Jo-Ann Slinkard



*Thank you to our Maddy Associates*

## 2019 "Big 5" Fundraiser in Sacramento

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, the Maddy Institute hosted our annual “Big 5” reception and our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the California Museum in Sacramento to raise funds for the Maddy Institute programs, including our *Sen. Bob Beverly Sacramento Legislative Intern Scholar Program*.



Governor Gavin Newsom



Governor Newsom with past and current Maddy Interns



Senate Pro Tempore Kevin Mullin addressing some of the guests

For additional pictures click [HERE](#)

We were honored to be joined by Gov. Gavin Newsom, Senate Pro Tempore Kevin Mullin, Sen. Republican Leader Shannon Grove, Assembly Majority Leader Kevin Mullin, Assembly Republican Leader Marie Waldron as well as U.S. Congressman Jim Costa and California Senator Andreas Borgeas and Assemblymember Adam Gray – with former Assembly Speaker and San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown acting as MC.

It was a wonderful sight—elected leaders from both parties and across the political spectrum coming together in a spirit of bi-partisanship to celebrate and support the Maddy Institute’s programs, generally, and our legislative intern program, in particular.

***Thank you to our “Big 5” 2019 Major Sponsors***



**E&J Gallo Winery**



***And our “Big 5” 2019 Gold Sponsors***



## ***One of our Wonderful Public Service Fellow Graduate Fellow***



**Irene Calimlim**, is projected to graduate in May 2019 with a Masters in City & Regional Planning, as well as a Master in Public Health at UC Berkeley. Her passion is in building up grassroots capacity and power in low-income, communities of color.

Through her time at Berkeley, she has worked on the health equity team at Greenlining Institute's Bridges to Health Program, served as copresident of the College of Environmental Design's Students of Color group, and has helped coordinate environmental justice campaigns in Stockton including Transformative Climate Communities planning process. She was awarded the Roselyn Lindheim Awardee for her Masters project aimed at increasing the capacity of local residents to better advocate and integrate place-based initiatives and investments into Stockton's low income communities. Irene is also a Gates Millennium Scholar, which is a scholarship given to students that are first-generation and from underrepresented backgrounds to pursue higher education.

Irene graduated from Stanford University with a BA in Human Biology focused on health in underserved communities. After graduating, Irene worked in rural India with the Comprehensive Rural Health Project to learn about their model of empowerment and development working with women village health workers and in her hometown of Stockton to local community organizing in Stockton around health justice with Fathers & Families of San Joaquin and Reinvent South Stockton Coalition.

Upon graduation, Irene seeks to work on initiatives that bridge grassroots efforts with city planning and public health in the Central Valley.

### ***Introducing our Jim Costa Washington. D.C. Legislative Intern Scholars for the Summer of 2019***



**Claire Copher** - *Office of U.S. Congressman Jim Costa* - is a third year student in the Smittcamp Family Honors College at California State University, Fresno. She is majoring in Psychology, minoring in Communications, and pursuing a certificate in legal studies.

Claire is a national fellow with the HERLead initiative, sponsored by the nonprofit women's advocacy organization, Vital Voices. She also served as the Senator for Undergraduate and Graduate Affairs on CSU, Fresno's Associated Student's Inc., where she represented all of the institution's 25,000 students.

Upon graduation in May of 2020, she plans to attend law school. She is thrilled to be a Costa Scholar Intern with the Maddy Institute, and cannot wait to use the experiences gained by this opportunity to better her professional future.

**Hunter Caldwell** - - *Office of U.S. Congressman Devin Nunes* - will receive his B.S. International Business at California State University, Fresno in fall 2019. He was born in Fresno and soon moved to Visalia, CA. His mother came to this country as an immigrant in the 1970's. She worked in the fields with her 10 brothers and sisters. His father was the son of an oil rig worker.



During Hunter's time at California State University, Fresno he has volunteered with the chess team to go teach young children in vulnerable communities the game of chess as well as setting up chess teams with the local elementary schools.

Hunter will be the first in his family to graduate college. Upon graduation, he is looking to get more involved in politics so that he can benefit his local community.



**Sarid Morales** – *Office of U.S. Congressman Josh Harder* – is pursuing a degree in Political Science with a major of Chicano/Latin American Studies at California State University, Fresno.

In the Spring of 2019 she successfully completed an internship in the office of Fresno City Councilmember Paul Caprioglio as a recipient of the *Fresno State Community Service Scholarship* through the Maddy Institute Internship Program.

Sarid is involved in the Chamber Chorus, Camp Kesem, Kappa Alpha Theta, Pre-Law Fraternity Phi Alpha Delta, the student government on campus (ASI), and currently competes in the Mock Trial team.

Upon graduation, Sarid plans to attend law school and work for a non-profit organization.

### ***Introducing our Bob Beverly Sacramento Legislative Intern Scholars for the Summer of 2019***



**Kyle Corral** – *Office of Assembly Republican Leader Marie Waldron* – is a Speech Communications Major, with an interest in Public Policy and Government at California State University, Fresno. Born in Fresno, he returned to the Valley to continue his college education after in Santa Maria.

In the Spring of 2019 he successfully completed an internship in the office of Assemblymember Jim Patterson as an *ASI Legislative Intern Scholar* with the Maddy Institute Internship Program.

After graduating in Spring 2020, he plans to return to the Central Coast and run for public office. Kyle wants to show that young people the need to be involved in the political process to gain a better understanding of the needs of your community. In his spare time, you'll find him officiating soccer games all along Central and Southern California.

**Natalie Griswold** – *Office of Governor Gavin Newsom* – is a third year student at California State University, Fresno, pursuing a degree in Political Science. Natalie was born in Visalia and is a President's Scholar in the Smitcamp Family Honors College. She has previously served as a *Leon E. Panetta Congressional Intern* in the House of Representatives in Washington, DC. She has been a student assistant at the Maddy Institute since her freshman year.



After graduating, Natalie plans to pursue a graduate degree in public policy. Natalie is proud to represent the Maddy Institute as a *Bob Beverly Scholar* in Sacramento, and is thankful for the opportunity to continue serving the public.

### ***Introducing our San Joaquin Valley Maddy Legislative Interns for Summer 2019***



**Harkiran Kaur** – *Office of Fresno City Councilmember Esmeralda Soria* – is a senior at Fresno State pursuing a dual degree in Political Science and Economics. She has been a research assistant to her professors and a secretary for Pi Sigma Alpha, the Political Science Honor Society. Currently, she is also working as a student assistant at the College of Social Sciences Advising Center and as a service aide for the City of Fresno.

Upon graduating in August 2019, she hopes to continue working in a local government position and eventually plans to pursue a graduate degree in Public Policy.

**David Ochoa** - *Office of Congressman Josh Harder* - is currently working towards a B.A. in political science and a minor in Chicano studies at the University of California, Merced where he is projected to graduate from in the Spring of 2021.



As a first generation college student and son of Mexican immigrants, David has had to overcome many obstacles. He has established himself as a leader along the way. Coming from Santa Ana, he has seen the great disparity that his community faces and was inspired to make a difference. As he has attended UC Merced, he has realized that the problems facing the Central Valley are similar to those he saw in Santa Ana..

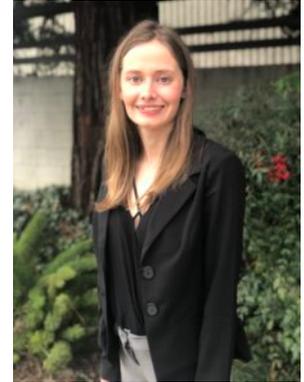
David's ultimate goal after graduation is to work on political campaigns and eventually run for office.

## ***Introducing our San Joaquin Valley Maddy Legislative Interns for Spring 2019***

**Maia DeMoss** – *Office of California State Senator Anna Caballero* – is a junior at the University of California, Merced, pursuing a degree in Political Science, she expects to graduate in May 2020.

Maia plans to pursue a graduate degree in Political Science with an emphasis in either Public Policy or Public Administration.

After her studies, she would like to continue to work in public service and make a difference in her community.



**Celida Garcia** – *Office of Fresno City Councilmember Esmeralda Soria* – is currently an undergraduate student at California State University, Fresno pursuing a degree in Political Science as well as a Legal Studies Certificate. She is a Central Valley native, born and raised in Fresno, she has always had an interest in politics.

Upon graduating, Celida plans on furthering her education by attending law school and focus on immigration law.

**Brooke Nawrocki**– *Office of U.S. Congressman Josh Harder* – is a student at California State University, Stanislaus pursuing an undergraduate degree in psychology. A Central Valley native, Brooke gained a love for public service when she attended the American Legion’s Girl’s State in 2015. In her free time, she has volunteered as a patient visitor for Community Hospice, and is also involved on the executive board of her sorority, Phi Sigma Sigma.



Following graduation, Brooke plans to go on to earn a master’s degree in forensic psychology and hopes to work in the prison system to help close the gap between mental health and the law. She is passionate about mental health awareness and hopes to implement rehabilitation programs in prisons.



**Megan Marie Owens**– *Superior Court of California, County of Fresno*– is pursuing a M.S. in Criminology at California State University, Fresno. Megan Marie is originally from Pittsburgh and earned a B.A. in Criminology and Psychology with a minor in Foreign Literature in Translation from West Virginia University (WVU) in 2014. During her undergraduate years, Megan Marie was president of the Violence Research and Awareness Association (VRAA). As president, Megan Marie assisted in organizing projects like the White Ribbon Campaign and Clothesline Project at WVU. Megan Marie also represented VRAA at Walk a Mile in Their Shoes in 2017. She is an alumna of the Inside Out Prison Exchange Program, which she took at Hazelton’s Federal Secure Female Facility.

Megan Marie has experience working as a psychometrician in forensic psychology and has also dedicated her time to volunteering in education programs in various federal prisons on the east coast.

Upon obtaining her M.S., Megan Marie plans to work improving the criminal justice system through research, education, and policy.

**Julissa Pena** - *Office of Congressman Jim Costa(Merced office)* – is a senior and pursuing a degree in Political Science at the University of California, Merced. After graduation, she plans to enroll in a Public Policy graduate program.



Julissa’s ultimate goal is to help improve immigration policies that are effecting millions of individuals in the United States, as well as those aspiring to one day reside legally in the United States.



**Mohammad Qureshi**– *Office of Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula /ASI Legislative Intern Scholar* –is currently an undergraduate business student with an emphasis in accountancy at California State University, Fresno.

Like many immigrants, his parents immigrated to the United States in order to secure the educational future for him and his siblings. Being part of an immigrant family have given him the core values which he abides by until this day. His goal is to apply what he has learned in business school and to help bring positive change in the Central Valley.

**Hisham Ayman Qutob** – *Office of U.S. Senator Kamala Harris / ASI Legislative Intern Scholar*– is majoring in Business (Finance) at California State University, Fresno. Hisham is also minoring in Political Science and Philosophy, as well as seeking a legal certificate.

He is involved in Fresno State’s Mock Trial and Moot Court programs, Camp Kesem, serves on Associated Students Incorporated legal committee and with Alpha Sigma Phi. He’s had several leadership roles on campus, including the Chair of the PR & Marketing committee for the USU Board of Directors and the Finance Committee chair for Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law fraternity.



Aside from school, Hisham’s hobbies include playing soccer which he also coaches a local Under 10 boys’ team. His other community involvement includes being a tutor, food server, camp counselor, and lecturer for the Central Valley Islamic youth.

Hisham is personally invested in bettering the Central Valley and plans on continuing to attend law school after he graduates.



**Paula Reynal** – *Office of Assemblymember Rudy Salas* – is currently working on a double B.A. in History and Political Science (Emphasis: Pre-Law & Global Politics) at California State University, Bakersfield. She is currently the Vice-President of CSUB’s chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (National History Honor Society), as well as a member of Alpha Chi (National College Honor Society) and the National Society for Leadership and Success.

Paula hopes to further pursue a graduate degree in Political Science. While not studying, Paula spends her time raising her two boys: William & Christopher.

**Nigma Shook** - *Office of Congressman Jim Costa* – is working towards achieving her B.A. in Economics at California State University, Fresno. Upon her graduation, she is planning on pursuing a graduate degree in Applied Economics.

Although she is not a Central Valley native, having been born and raised in Egypt, she moved to the United States to further her educational career. Many of the problems faced by the Central Valley today are similar to those faced by the people of Egypt. As a result, she is focused on working towards issues related to foreign relations and public policy in hopes of one day returning to Egypt and helping her country.





**Jaskarenpreet “Jas” Sohal** – *Office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein / ASI Legislative Intern Scholar*– is currently pursuing a Bachelor’s in History at California State University, Fresno. Her passion for politics was fostered by her grandfather, who was a Sikh immigrant from India who taught her the value of democracy, and to appreciate the United States as not just the home of the brave, but also the home of the free. Jas hopes to continue to help others through politics.

**Adriana Soto Alvarez**– *Office of Senator Melissa Hurtado /ASI Legislative Intern Scholar* – is currently pursuing a Bachelor’s in Political Science at California State University, Fresno. She is also part of the Political Science Honors Society Program, Pi Sigma Alpha.

Adriana is passionate about public policy and the problems our communities face in the Central Valley. Her goal is to do public policy work as it relates to the Central Valley. Upon graduation, she wants to pursue a Master’s degree in Public Administration.



**Kia Kelly Vang** - *Office of U.S. Congressman Jim Costa (Fresno office) / ASI Legislative Intern Scholar* – is currently working toward a Bachelor degree in Political Science at California State University, Fresno. After graduation, Kia plans to enroll in graduate school.

She hopes to make an impact in the Central Valley one day while having a career working for the local, state, or federal government.

**Maijoua Vang**– *Office of Councilmember Miguel Arias* – is pursuing a Bachelor’s in sociology and a bachelor’s in social work at California State University, Fresno.

As a daughter of refugees and a first-generation student, education has played a big role in her life. Her interest in public policy and advocating began as a youth journalist at The kNOW Youth Media, a non-profit organization that gives youth opportunities to enhance their writing skills for journalism, as well as learn advocating skills.

Through the Maddy internship, she hopes to gain more in depth knowledge about developing and implementing public programs to help the community. She plans to pursue



a graduate degree in social work or counseling. Her career goal is to advocate for and help create programs to meet the needs of students.



**Robert Wells** – *Office of Assemblymember Vince Fong* – is pursuing a Bachelor’s in History and Political at California State University, Bakersfield in international relations and European/Asian history.

Robert credits the Presidential election of 2016 for increasing his interest in politics. The events of the primary cycle and general election solidified Robert’s choice to pursue the path of politics.

Being born and raised in Bakersfield, Robert has come to know the intricacies of how the local government works and what issues affect Bakersfield and Kern County. Upon graduation Robert plans on attending graduate school in political science and international relations at either the University of Alabama or the University of Wyoming.

He hopes to return to Kern County to apply what he’s learned to help the Valley.

**If you are interested in becoming a Maddy Associate please contact Mark Keppler at [mkeppler@csufresno.edu](mailto:mkeppler@csufresno.edu)**

**[www.maddyinstitute.com](http://www.maddyinstitute.com)**