

Tyrus Torres

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EDUCATION

CSU Monterey Bay - Seaside, CA

Graduation date: Spring 2019
Major: Japanese Language and Culture
Minor: Global Studies
Overall GPA: 3.4

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Bilingual Studies - Understand two cultures perspectives and use of language
Social Agency - Understand how systemic structures play into an individual's agency
Social Identity - How identity places an individual into a subjective or objective category
Transnational Issues - Look at how internal and external factors play into global politics

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Independent Undergraduate Scholar Summer 2018-Present

Homelessness in Japan

Mentors: Dr. Angie Tran
California State University Monterey Bay
After a year long study abroad in Japan, I am formulating a project that will focus on homelessness in Japan that will highlight Japan's unique demographics. Using a compare and contrast of existing policies with Japan and that of the US regarding homelessness, I will identify the causes, transformation, and projections for homelessness in Japan, as well as looking at other nation's homeless aid programs.

Independent Undergraduate Scholar Spring 2017-Present

Migrant Workers and Conditions in Japan

Mentors: Dr. Angie Tran
California State University Monterey Bay
Focusing on Vietnamese Migrant Workers in Japan, with the help of Dr. Angie Tran, I am working on a Literature Review regarding systemic agencies that help and harm Vietnamese migrant workers to obtain jobs in foreign countries and well as discussing a worker's agency in their employing nation. From these points I can better paint a picture of Japan's reliance on migrant workers in a modern setting.

Research Student

Summer 2017

Ethnographic Fieldwork in Coastal Ecuador

Mentors: Dr. Michael Harris

Museo Arqueológico De Salango, Ecuador

As a ethnographic fieldwork student, under the guidance of Dr. Michael Harris from Florida Atlantic University, I was able to conduct my own ethnographic project on the importance of housewives in a small fishing community. From this project I learned ethnographic procedures, daily communicative abilities in spanish, and worked with other students and locals from Salango regarding a myriad of topics from folklore of local communities to medical stereotypes from a community perspective.

Research Intern

Spring 2016 - Fall 2016

Monterey: Profiles in Courage and Compassion

Mentors: David Yamada, Tim Thomas, and Carolyn McCombs

Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), Monterey, CA

Within my local community at the JACL in Monterey, I identified and recorded signatures from the 1940's as well as located their descendents. While studying demographics I provided historical context and analyzed primary media to develop qualitative understanding, material culture handling, as well as presenting the findings. In the program I was able to work with videographer David Schendel and two other research interns to produce the ongoing documentary *Profiles in Courage and Compassion*.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Center Scholar (UROC)

2016-Present

The UROC Scholar program funds, challenges, and develops research experiences that provides training in courses on conducting academic research, using professional networking etiquette, and preparing for graduate school, all while being facilitated by professional staff and an academic mentor.

McNair's Scholar

2016 - Present

The McNair's Scholar program is a federally funded by the U.S. Department of Education to aid first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented students in getting into PhD programs and to provide unique opportunities to undergraduate researchers.

Dean's List CSUMB

2016-2017

The Dean's List is a list of students recognized for academic achievement during a semester by the dean of the college they attend.

President's Honor Roll Sierra College

2014-2015

The Presidential Honor Roll is to commend students for their academic standing.

LEADERSHIP and COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community Partnership with Youth Volunteer

Fall

2018

Supervisor: Ben Bruce

Ord Terrace Elementary School, Seaside CA

At the afterschool program once a week, I apply my Japanese cultural and linguistic knowledge, work in a multicultural setting, compare and contrast cultural components in daily life, create lesson plans that revolve in teaching life skills, and cultivate an environment for lifelong learning.

Dokkyo International Fair Volunteer

Summer 2018

Supervisor: Tamao Okamura

Dokkyo University, Saitama, Japan

As a foreign exchange student I had casual conversations in Japanese and English with community residents. For three hours I met with teachers, housewives, children, and businessmen, in order to help them practice their English, answer questions about America, and discuss my experiences in Japan.

Japanese Tea Ceremony Presenter

Spring 2017

Supervisor: Tomoko Ogaki

California State University Monterey Bay

As a volunteer I learned and practiced the way of Sado, Japanese Tea Ceremony, and presented to a wide variety of students at CSUMB. In front of an audience I prepared and served Japanese tea following the cultural etiquettes of Japan under the guidance of Tomoko Ogaki.

Japan Club Treasurer and President

Spring - Fall 2016

Supervisor: Dr. Shigeko Sekine

California State University Monterey Bay

Within the Japan Club my focus was to secure funds, organize events, host and present traditional Japanese events, provide community immersion in another culture, teach foreign customs, prepare foods, manage activities, and handle online orders.

JACL Informational Presenter and Helper

Summer 2016

Supervisors: David Yamada, Tim Thomas, and Carolyn McCombs

Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), Monterey, CA

For the ongoing documentary project *Profiles in Courage and Compassion* at a fundraising banquet, I set up the venue, tables, chairs, equipment, and food with the other interns. After the initial set-up, I then went on to present research findings and interesting points to intrigue potential donors for the JACL.

Orientation Leader

Summer 2016

Supervisor: Samantha Glazer

California State University Monterey Bay

As an orientation leader I was trained in planning schedules, assisting in online applications, presenting and facilitating workshops for new students and college parents, holding a live forum, and leading a small group independently and with other orientation leaders.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English: Native

Japanese: Intermediate Speaking, Writing and Listening

2015-Present

Spanish: Basic Speaking, Writing, and Listening

2017-Present

TECHNOLOGY SKILLS

Microsoft Office: Word documents, presentations, and spreadsheets

Adobe Creative Cloud: Creating and editing multimedia using various programs

Nvivo: Qualitative data analysis software to catalog and map records and research

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Qualitative Methodology SBS 362: Qualitative methodology, ethnography

Global Literatures GS 362: Global perspective, social identity

Social Issues in Japan JAPN 311: Systemic and social issues, causal analysis