Fall 2025

CREST-CATSUS Newsletter

Welcome back, CATSUS Fellows and Faculty!

Hope you had a restful and exciting summer. As the new semester gets underway, this newsletter is packed with updates, reminders, and upcoming opportunities to help you stay connected and make the most of what's ahead. Here's to a great fall!.

Highlights

Dr. J. Chris Bachman, associate professor of mechanical engineering at Cal State LA, has been awarded a 2025–26 **Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award** to teach and conduct research in Mexico.



He will collaborate with UABC Tijuana to advance sustainable automotive technologies and engineering education.

Dr. Arturo Pacheco-Vega has received a **Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award** to teach and conduct energy efficiency research at the Czech Technical University in Prague during the 2025–26 academic year.



His project will advance AI-informed simulation methods for sustainable building systems.

While Dr. Pacheco-Vega is away in Prague for his Fulbright, we're excited to share that **Dr. Jeffrey Santner** will be stepping into his role and continuing to support the CATSUS program!

IMPORTANT

We'd like to congratulate the participants of the **Summer BOOST program**, led by Dr. Won, for successfully completing three impressive research projects that address real challenges in our local community. Their work reflects the program's strong focus on innovation, collaboration, and community impact.

Congratulations to **Brandon De Jesus** for being recognized as a finalist in the Graduate Student Paper Competition at the 4th Pan-American Conference on Unsaturated Soils!



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We're happy to welcome all the students who recently joined us—it's great to have you as part of the team!

Oscar Ulloa
Chemistry

Elizabeth Miranda
Civil Engineering

Filiberto Zavala
Civil Engineering

Mallory Spillard
Civil Engineering

Zane Price
Mechanical Engineering

Andres Lopez
Material Science and Engineering

Henry Solares
Mechanical Engineering

Daniel Castillo-Lalyre
Mechanical Engineering

Nathan Venegas
Biochemistry

Frida Melgar
Civil Engineering

Heber Garcia
Mechanical Engineering

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Reminders

Don't forget to enroll in **ENGR 4970**—registration is required for all CATSUS Fellows!

The first seminar will be on **Thursday, August 28**, from 3:05 to 4:20 in E&T C256.

Fellows receive **$1,500** per academic year for research-related materials and supplies.

Upcoming Events

Fire Emergency Management and Disaster Control Conference

Hosted by the Sikand SITI Center, College of ECST

📅 Thursday, October 30, 2025

🕘 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (PST)

📍 Cal State LA – Golden Eagle Ballroom 2

New This Semester:

CATSUS Café

9–11 am | E&T C253A

Tuesday, **September 2nd**

Thursday, **September 19th**

Monday, **October 13th**

Friday, **October 31st**

Wednesday, **November 12th**

Campus closed / holidays:

- Monday, **September 1** – Labor Day
- Tuesday, **November 11** – Veterans Day
- Monday–Wednesday, **November 24–26** – Fall Recess (no classes, campus open)
- Thursday–Saturday, **November 27–29** – Thanksgiving Holiday
- Thursday, **December 25 – Thursday, January 1** – Winter Break

Contact Info

Email: catsus@calstatela.edu
Phone: (323) 343 5399
Location: E&T C253A
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM