

The CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice presents:

Hidden Heroes Recognition Awards and Dramatized Narratives Presentation



So that all may be one

Sunday, October 23, 2022
2PM via Virtual Platform

“CSJ” refers to “Congregation of St. Joseph” and is the set of initials used by the Sisters of Joseph of Orange for identification.



Loyola Marymount University
**CSJ Center for
Reconciliation
and Justice**

HIDDEN HEROES 2022

Directed by Judith Royer, C.S.J.
Edited by Doris Baizley
Production Coordinator - Stefani Mejia
Video Director - Keith Stevenson
Original Music - Frank Jansen
Production Manager - Jordan Lynne Fray

1 Introduction: Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange Directional Statement

Company: Catharine Dada
Erika Hoffman
Zilah Mendoza
Marco Rodriguez
Desean Terry

2 Joanna Carroll, C.S.J., Campus Ministry Emerita, Spiritual Director,
Chaplain Emerita for Marians Service Organization, LMU

Written by Doris Baizley
Performed by Catharine Dada

3 Luis De La O, Custodian, Facilities Management, LMU

Written by Luis Selgas
Performed by Marco Rodriguez

4 Cristina Cuellar, Executive Director, Operation Progress, Los Angeles
Erika Cuellar, Co-Founder Alma Backyard Farms, Los Angeles

Written by Mary O'Malley
Performed by Erika Hoffman and Zilah Mendoza

5 Bryant Keith Alexander, Dean, School of Communication and Fine Arts, LMU

Written by Bonnie Banfield
Performed by Desean Terry

6 Coda

Followed by a virtual meet-and-greet with awardees and members of the company.

AWARD RECIPIENTS – BIOGRAPHIES



Bryant Keith Alexander **Dean, College of Communication and Fine Arts, LMU**

Bryant Keith Alexander, Ph.D., is the fourth boy of five boys, the fifth child of seven children born to Velma Ray Bell-Alexander and Joseph Junius Alexander Sr. of Lafayette, Louisiana. Currently, he is Dean of the LMU College of Communication and Fine Arts and professor of Communication, Performance and Cultural Studies. Dean Alexander is an active scholar with a distinguished record of teaching, service, professional activity, and a regular performer and keynote speaker at universities and conferences around the country.

His nearly 200 scholarly publications appear in leading journals, edited volumes, and major handbooks that evidence the broad interdisciplinary and intellectual curiosity of his engagement. Dean Alexander has seven books. His scholarship and teaching have been recognized with a range of national and regional awards.

Dean Alexander has an earned Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. He holds a bachelor's and master's degree from what is now the University of Louisiana, Lafayette. At LMU, he holds tenure in the Department of Communication Studies and proudly serves as Affiliate Faculty in the Educational Leadership for Social Justice Doctoral Program in LMU's School of Education.

Before arriving at LMU, Dean Alexander was a Professor of Communication Studies and Affiliate Faculty of Theatre Arts and Dance at California State University Los Angeles, where he also served as the Director of Graduate Teaching Associates in the Department of Communication Studies, chair of the Department of Liberal Studies, Associate Dean, and Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Letters — a college that included many of the current disciplines in CFA as well as English, Liberal Studies, Modern Languages and Literatures, Philosophy, Television, Film and Media Studies, with master's and MFA degrees in film and art, along with course offerings, minor programs, and certificates in Journalism, Korean, Linguistics, Teaching Critical Thinking, as well as Women, Genders and Sexualities.

Dean Alexander has evidenced the ability to work successfully in diverse academic institutions, including the California State University Los Angeles, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Moorhead State University, MN and Texas A&M University-College Station, TX which informs his leadership at LMU.

Dean Alexander's administrative, teaching, and scholarly life celebrates integrative and interdisciplinary approaches to knowledge, and a demonstrated commitment to high-quality undergraduate and graduate programs. He has commitments in promoting leadership in/as collaboration and consensus building as well as an acknowledgment of administration, teaching, and scholarship as informing practices of active academic professionalism. He promotes and embodies the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of higher education and civic life.



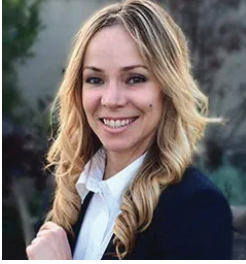
Joanna Carroll, CSJ **Campus Minister Emerita, Spiritual Director, Chaplain Emerita for Marians Service Organization, LMU**

Sr. Joanna Carroll, CSJ grew up in Compton, California with her five siblings in a close-knit family. Her parents and teachers raised her in the Catholic faith, and she was taught by Sisters of St. Joseph all her life. Sr. Joanna earned a bachelor's in Child Development from Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles and then joined the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange and began her long career in education and ministry. She continued her studies at St. Louis University and Chicago Loyola University, earning a certification in Religious Formation and a master's degree in Pastoral Studies.

Sr. Joanna taught in Catholic elementary schools in Southern and Northern California for twenty-one years, and she served as religion and sacramental program coordinator, vice-principal, liturgy and retreat director, and music minister. She has served as Vocation Director for her congregation. Sr. Joanna served as a Campus Minister in the Spiritual Direction Office for students at Loyola Marymount University for twenty years. After her cancer diagnosis and surgery, she decided to retire from LMU. Currently, she is happy as a volunteer, serving as a spiritual director and companion, whenever possible, as well as offering the ministry of presence on campus.

Sr. Joanna enjoys music and the arts, meditation, nature and animals, and spending time with her religious community, her family and friends, young adults, co-ministers, and co-workers. She has loved her time with students, parents, priests, sisters, faculty, and staff at LMU, and she is so grateful for having had this opportunity to be immersed in Ignatian spirituality. Sr. Joanna has a heart for the folks on the margins, and she hopes and prays

that she may continue to spread God's love, light, and peace wherever she goes, all for the greater glory of God.



Cristina Cuellar
Executive Director, Operation Progress

A native Angelino, Cristina Cuellar has over 18-years of experience in youth development and program management, currently serving as the Executive Director of Operation Progress LA and formerly as VP of Programming for Verbum Dei High School's Corporate Work Study Program. She is an alum of Loyola Marymount University and has a master's degree in Catholic School Administration and a bachelor's in Spanish with a minor in Communication Studies.

In the summer of 2021, Cristina joined the Operation Progress LA team to lead the organization in a strategic plan for continued growth and sustainability. Her vision is to increase the impact of students served by the organization annually through a myriad of services catered to individual student needs, specifically in academic case management, socioemotional wellbeing, and executive skill function development.

Prior to Operation Progress, Cristina led the Corporate Work Study Program at Verbum Dei to increase student work attendance from 87% to an average 98% beginning in 2006; improve performance at work placements to an average 97% of students meeting expectations of the job position consistently for 15 years; annually re-vamp on-boarding programs to improve student and supervisor preparation; and maintain a consistent 97% positive customer service satisfaction rate with the program's corporate partners. Her responsibilities included the day-to-day administration, which included 350+ student placements, training, coaching and student-centered development, corporate partner relationship management, academic and work study liaison with the high school's principal's team, Department of Labor compliance, safety in the workplace, and transportation management of students to-and-from work. From 2006 to 2010, Cristina taught a senior year elective, Studio Art: An Analysis of the Elements of Art and Design, focused on building students' self-confidence in their artistic abilities and expressions through an appreciation for art. Over the years, she served as a Spanish translator in various forms – simultaneous, one-on-one parent meetings and in written format. Before embarking on her journey with Verbum Dei, she was a student worker at Loyola Marymount University's Center for Service and Action.

Cristina is Vice Chair of Notre Dame Schools Los Angeles and serves on the boards of St. Lawrence Brindisi Catholic School. After several years of leading a Girl Scout troop in the inner city, she turned to mentoring new troop leaders for three years. When not enjoying the outdoors or the occasional binge-worthy show, Cristina is enjoying the company of family and friends.



Erika L. Cuellar
Co-Founder, Alma Backyard Farms

Erika Cuellar was born and raised in Los Angeles as a first-generation Mexican American. She grew up in South Central/Watts, where she witnessed how her community was fraught with challenges in education, food insecurity, and limited safe green spaces. Undeterred, Erika pursued a degree in Education/Liberal Studies at Loyola Marymount University. She applied her studies to empower previously incarcerated women at Homegirl Cafe, a division of Homeboy Industries. She used the kitchen/restaurant as her informal classroom to create a space where women regained love for themselves, trust in each other and care for their surroundings. Erika's time at Homegirl Cafe led her to explore the deeper, reciprocal relationship between people, plants and place. ALMA Backyard Farms (ALMA) was born out of this. Today, ALMA helps communities move from scarcity to abundance. An abundance of food, opportunity, and hope. She is grateful to partake in work that connects people to food, to each other and to our land.



Luis De La O **Custodian, Facilities Management, LMU**

Luis De La O was born in the city of Juárez in the state of Chihuahua, México in 1949. At the age of 16, he was brought to the United States along with his five siblings. Immigrating to the US was not a positive experience, Luis experienced lots of discrimination, including discrimination between Latinos – Latinos born in the US versus Latinos born in México. Faced with the challenges of a new country and a new language, Luis began to work instead of attending school. Throughout the years he learned various

jobs, including jewelry making, gardening, and custodial work. At first, Luis didn't have an absolute need to learn English because he spent much of his time working with other Latinos.

Eventually, Luis found himself working at a factory for a French bread-making company where he worked for 15 years. Influenced greatly by the work of labor rights activist, César Chávez, Luis kept a watchful eye over the way he and his fellow workers were treated and brought attention to labor violations. Soon after the company eliminated medical benefits to reduce costs, Luis helped mobilize workers to organize a strike. For years, Luis faced intimidation and pressure to leave the company. After suffering an injury at work, Luis took an extended leave of absence, but upon attempting to return, he was told that he no longer had a position with the company.

In 1997, Luis seized the opportunity to work at LMU. It's at LMU where Luis truly began to learn English, and he's eager to continue mastering the language. It's also at LMU where he began receiving full working benefits such as medical, dental, vision, and life insurance. However, after more than 24 years at LMU, Luis is still greatly influenced by César Chávez and plans to postpone retirement until students, staff, and faculty at LMU successfully advocate for custodial staff to finally earn a minimum livable wage of \$21 dollars per hour.

Luis has a wonderful wife and three beautiful children who continue to motivate his advocacy.

COMPANY – BIOGRAPHIES



Doris Baizley (Script Editor and Writer) teaches in the LMU Department of Theatre Arts. Her published plays *MRS. CALIFORNIA*, *SHILOH RULES*, and *A CHRISTMAS CAROL* were developed and premiered at the Mark Taper Forum, ACT Seattle, and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Her documentary and community-based plays include *SISTERS OF PEACE*, about four activist CSJ Sisters, *ONE DAY SARAH HOUSE: LIVING AND DREAMING IN HOSPICE*, winner of the Santa Barbara Independent Award for best original script; *PH*REAKS: THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES* (co-written with Victoria Ann Lewis); and *SEX STING*, based on an FBI internet case, listed as one of the *LA Weekly's* 10 best original plays in 2013. As story editor for documentary films, she has worked with Anne Makepeace on “*We Still Live Here! As Nutayanean*” and *Tribal Justice* winner of the American Indian Film Festival documentary award, both seen on the PBS series *POV*. Doris continues to work with Judith Royer CSJ on dramatized narrative projects, most recently *SPIRIT MOVES: The Life and Work of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange*.

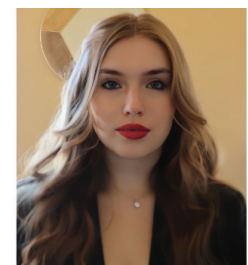


Bonnie Banfield (Writer) is a Playwright, Actor and founding member of LA Theatre Works. *The Circle*, a video presentation she worked on with Theatre Workers Project during the pandemic, was chosen as an official selection for the Monologues and Poetry International Film Fest 2020. A lyrical blend of spoken word and movement, written by men from California State Prison, Los Angeles County's Progressive Programming Facility, and performed by formerly incarcerated artists, *The Circle* was also presented as part of the inaugural Baltimore Micro Film Fest, and screened as part of the Opening Night of the Social Justice Film Festival in Seattle. Returning to Hidden Heroes for another season is a major highlight of her year.



Catharine Dada (Actor) received her Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of Kent, Canterbury, UK. The focus of her research was on modern experiences of spirituality in Western Theatre. She received her first degree in Theatre from LMU and subsequently trained as a classical actress at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School in England. Catharine has acted in several productions for the Royal Shakespeare Company - performing at theaters at Stratford and at the Barbican in London, as well as playing leading roles in many repertory theaters throughout the UK.

She was Artistic Director of the Sacred Performance Project - her company's work has been seen at festivals at Pari in Italy, and at Canterbury and Oxford in the UK. Catharine holds an MA (Hons) in the Study of Mysticism and Religious Experience also from the University of Kent at Canterbury, UK. Her first full length text was published by Routledge, Study of Religion Series, entitled *Rethinking Religion in the Theatre of Grotowski*, Oxford, UK: Routledge, 2017.



Jordan Fray (Production Manager) is a double major in Political Science and Peace and Justice Studies at Loyola Marymount University. Jordan is senior from Chicago, IL. This year, Jordan has the honor of being the Research Assistant for the CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice and is delighted to be working on Hidden Heroes. Jordan is dedicated to storytelling through her major in Peace and Justice Studies and her seat on the TRHT advisory council. Additionally, Jordan plans to continue her mission of social justice by attending law school to pursue her dream of becoming a civil rights lawyer.



Erika Hoffman Garcia (Actor) is an actor, singer and voice over artist that graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts. Half Panamanian and half German American, she was born in the U.S. but grew up in Costa Rica, Australia, and Chile.

Being half Latina and bilingual, she's always integrated her dual heritage into her work and is proud to represent third culture people. Theatre, Voiceover and Videography have always held a substantial importance in her way to connect with others and to help fuse gaps in cultural differences while maintaining individuality.



MaryAnne Huepper, CSJ (Award Presenter) is Associate Director at LMU's CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice and a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. She has served in the field of education in diverse roles: as an elementary teacher, principal, high school teacher, college administrator, adjunct instructor for Marymount College and the University of San Francisco. MaryAnne served the Diocese of Orange as an instructor for the Pastoral Ministry Institute and the Deaconate Program and as a member of the Commission for Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs. Before coming to LMU she was Director of the Center for Spiritual Development in Orange. MaryAnne also served at St. Joseph Health (now Providence St. Joseph

Health), as a trustee in two hospitals and as a board member of a hospital foundation. MaryAnne continues to provide presentations for programs of ministry formation namely, the Art of Spiritual Direction (CSD) program. She serves currently on the LMU Board of Trustees. MaryAnne has undergraduate degrees in Art History and Religious Studies from Loyola Marymount University and a master's degree in Sacred Theology and Religious Studies from Katholieke Universiteit (Leuven, Belgium).



Frank Jansen (Music) has been a professional musician for over 50 years. He holds a bachelor's degree in Music Composition from California State University at San Bernardino. He has a master's degree from Santa Clara University, where he received his degree in Liturgical Music Composition. He writes in a wide variety of styles including Sacred, Gospel, Rock, Country, Jazz and Classical. These works include choral music, piano music, String Quartets, Woodwind Quintets, and a Symphony.

Frank was the co-founder, keyboardist, composer, recording engineer, and co-producer for the original Rock band "Bonedust." In 2013, the band won an L.A. Music Award for Musical Group of the Year. Frank has performed as a keyboardist with noteworthy artists

such as: Grammy Award Winner Jay Migliori, Latin Grammy nominee Dr. Bobby Rodriguez, Nathan East, James East, Burleigh Drummond, Ricky Lawsen, Ted Perlman, and renowned studio artists Steve Hoffstader and Gary Herbig. He has toured with The Platters, The Coasters, and Jan Berry from Jan & Dean. Additionally, Frank has served in parish ministry for over 35 years. He now tours extensively as an accompanist for his wife, ValLimar Jansen. Frank has been a music educator for 30 years.



Zilah Mendoza's (Actor) work coincides with her lifelong activism around creative education, the natural environment, mental health, and cultural diversity, especially in Indigenous and Latina representation in the arts. She has a 14-year history working in community with Mentor Artists-MAPP as a producer, videographer, and professional actor. She is a nationally recognized actor who has originated roles in contemporary theatres across the country. Zilah has worked on original material with writers Lisa Loomer, Sarah Ruhl, Luis Alfaro, and Jose Rivera. She has had recurring and guest-starring roles on television on several shows including *The King of Queens* and *Grey's Anatomy*. Zilah has received multiple awards for her work in

the theatre becoming the first Chicana to receive an OBIE.



Mary O'Malley (Writer) graduated from LMU with her bachelor's degree in Theatre and RADA and King's College of London with a master's degree in Text and Performance Studies with an emphasis in Playwriting. Her short plays have been performed in Los Angeles, New York, and London. A member of InterACT Theatre Company in Los Angeles, Mary also sits on the Artistic committee. As a voice over actor, Mary has been the voice of the Louisville Zoo campaign and Korbel. Mary owns Green Door Learning, LLC, is an adjunct professor at Landmark College, a GTD Focus Coach, and occasionally gets to come to LMU to teach, which makes her very happy. She is so grateful to Judith and Doris for including her in this project. Thanks to all the heroes and

artists who came together to make today special.



Marco Rodriguez (Actor) is a veteran film, television and stage actor. A graduate of the University of Southern California, he made his professional theatre debut in as El Pachuco in the original Mark Taper Forum production of *ZOOT SUIT*, a role he reprised at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago. Other regional theatre credits include, *WAIT UNTIL DARK* at the Pennsylvania Stage Company, *LA POSADA MAGICA* at South Coast Repertory Theatre and *DEATH AND THE MAIDEN* at the San Diego Repertory Theatre. Film credits include *Once Upon a Time In Hollywood*, *Due Date*, *The Crow*, *A Man Apart* and the Academy Award winning *Million Dollar Baby*. *The Terminal List*, *Snowfall*, *Macgyver*, *Seinfeld*, and *Eastbound & Down* are among his numerous TV guest appearances. In addition, he was also a founding member of the East Los Angeles Classic Theatre an educational program exposing at-risk youth and underserved minority communities to the classical theatre experience. Marco has also participated as a teaching-artist with About Productions, the acclaimed theater company whose innovative educational programs introduce youth to the importance of writing and the power of communication through artistic expression and live performance.



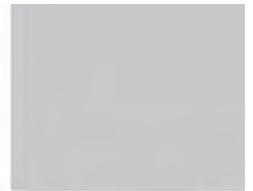
Judith Royer, CSJ (Director) is the Director of the CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice and Professor Emeritus of Theatre at Loyola Marymount University. She has worked as producer, director and dramaturg with new play development programs sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, California Council for the Humanities, Playwrights Theatre, The Mark Taper Forum, Southern Repertory Theatre, Theatre Gallery in Los Angeles, of which she was founder and former artistic director, and a series of Oral Histories/Documentary Theatre projects with seniors, cancer survivors, veterans and clients from agencies dealing with issues such as homelessness, human trafficking, immigration and restorative justice. Judith is a founding member of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE); former chair of that organization's Playwrights Program; former coordinator for the New Plays Production; and member of the respondent's workshop training team for the Region XIII Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.



Luis Selgas (Writer) is a Venezuelan-born actor living in Los Angeles. He has appeared on stages in Miami, Los Angeles, and New York City. Some TV/Film credits include: *Jane by Design* (ABC Family), *Recovery Road* (Freeform), *Coffee House Chronicles*, and *The Perfect Gentleman*. A feature-length comedy/thriller he wrote, *Sorry, Charlie*, is currently in development. www.LuisSelgas.com



Desean K. Terry (Actor) is an actor, director, artist, and educator. He is the Artistic Director of Collaborative Artists Bloc, a non-profit organization missioned to bring socially relevant theatre and media to underserved communities. He is a graduate of the Julliard School and Loyola Marymount University. He was honored as a recipient of the Stage Raw Award for best male leading performance for his role in *Les Blancs*. As a director, he helmed *BEHIND THE MASK*: a compilation of plays from the Negro Ensemble Company, James Baldwin's *BLUES FOR MR. CHARLIE*, George C Wolfe's *THE COLORED MUSEUM*, Susan Lori Park's *IMPERCEPTIBLE MUTABILITIES IN THE THIRD KINGDOM*, and more. As an educator, Desean is the Studio Administrator and a teacher at the Berg Studios where he works as protégé to his artist mentor, Gregory Berger – Sobeck. Acting credits include Suzan Lori Parks' *FATHER COMES HOME FROM THE WARS*, where he replaced Emmy winner Sterling K. Brown; *A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE AT THE BOSTON COURT* (for which he was nominated for a Stage Raw award), and *THE ROYALE* at the Kirk Douglas Theatre (for which he was nominated for a NAACP award). In film and TV you've seen him on such shows as *Shameless*, *Scorpion*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *House*, *Southland*, and most recently on *The Morning Show*.



Become a partner
in the mission
of reconciliation
and justice



CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice - Mission Statement

The CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice offers a forum for dialogue, a place of education and a resource for reflective action, to promote unity among all persons and with God. The Center gives tangible witness to the presence and tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange at Loyola Marymount University and in a wounded world in need of compassion and healing.

CSJ Social Justice Scholarship

The Center develops its annual programming with a focus on social justice issues, often intersecting the power of the arts. The scholarship will be awarded to students whose academic and extracurricular activities focus on social justice. Help us reach our goal!

For more information on how to support the CSJ Center, please visit our website at www.lmu.edu/csjcenter or contact Stefani Mejia, Senior Administrative Coordinator at the CSJ Center for Reconciliation and Justice, at Stefani.Mejia@lmu.edu or 310.568.6694.

SPECIAL THANKS

CSJ Center Hidden Heroes Recognition Committee:

Doris Baizley
Katherine Brown
John Flaherty
MaryAnne Huepper, CSJ
Lisha Maddox

Stefani Mejia
Christine Nangle-Koehl
Wayne Negrete, SJ
Alyssa Perez

Fred Puza
Olivia Rodriguez
Judith Royer, CSJ
Leticia Vidal

With gratitude to our LMU awardees for sharing their lives and work with us, their family and friends who support them, the wonderful artists, writers and actors who are telling their stories.

Special thanks to:

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Raymundo Andrade
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Robert Cogswell
Maria Corral
Dean Robbin D. Crabtree
Patrick Furlong
Dean Joanna Moore

Marc Reeves, SJ
Sylvia Rincon
John Sebastian
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Director

Judith Royer, CSJ

Script Editor

Doris Baizley

Award Presenter

MaryAnne Huepper, CSJ

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Jordan Lynne Fray

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Keith Stevenson


Original Music

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