

Remembering Vanessa Santos



It is with great sadness that we announce that Vanessa Santos, a double major in American Studies and Public Administration (class of 2021), was killed in a fatal car crash on January 27, 2021. She was twenty-one years old. Vanessa was a first-generation college student who enrolled in CSUF as a freshman in 2015. She was aiming for a future in public service.

Vanessa's professors remember her as a student who loved learning. She was intelligent, kind and generous to her classmates, and a joy to have in the classroom. Vanessa was always engaged, eager to learn, and on the edge of her seat. She was an ideal and absolutely amazing student -- curious, open, and always challenging herself to the fullest extent.

The Department of American Studies invites you to join us in "Remembering Vanessa Santos" on [Friday, March 5 from 4-5 pm via Zoom](#).

If you have recollections of Vanessa, you are welcome to share them at that time or you can also send written or recorded memories so that we can share them for you at the event. You can send your memories to the chair of American Studies, Terri Snyder (snyder@fullerton.edu) by 5 pm on Thursday, March 4, 2021.

Vanessa had been cleared to graduate in the Spring of 2021. Because she was very close to completing her units, we are hopeful that CSUF will award her posthumous degrees in American Studies and Politics, Administration, and Justice, and we will also honor her memory at our commencement ceremonies in the spring.

We extend our sincere sympathies to Vanessa's parents, siblings, extended family, and friends. Those who wish to read more about Vanessa or make a contribution to her funeral expenses can do so at her [GoFundMe page](#). May her memory be a blessing.