Connections

All roads lead back to SLO
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### CONTRIBUTORS:

### PHOTOGRAPHY:
Gary Dwyer, Josef Kasperovich, Jay Thompson, University Archives, Cal Poly.

### DESIGN: Sound5.nyc
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Every day, I am impressed by the accomplishments of CAED students and by their desire to engage with the world. From their award-winning performance in national and international competitions to their volunteer work helping people across the globe improve environments, they are passionate about creating places that transform communities and optimistic about the future.

Thanks to our inspiring faculty, our programs receive national and international recognition and attract exciting opportunities for collaboration in the U.S. and abroad. This past year, CAED faculty and students journeyed to Belize, Brazil, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, El Salvador, Germany, Ghana, Haiti, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Nepal, Lithuania, France, Portugal, Tanzania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Spain, South Africa, Switzerland, and Uganda!

As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of our founding, it is a good time to reflect on our shared journey—how far we have come as a school and how much we have grown as a community.

I am delighted to announce that we will be hosting a college reunion organized by our wonderful external relations team. You and your families are invited to join me and new graduates from the class of 2017 in June to connect with friends and faculty and enjoy a little Learn by Doing. We’d like to extend a special invitation to our classes with anniversary years ’52, ’57, ’62, ’67, ’72, ’77, ’82, ’87, ’92, ’97, ’02, ’07 and ’12.

Our students travel far in pursuit of learning, and our alumni’s influence is far reaching, but there is no place like home. All roads lead back to SLO.

I look forward to seeing you at Cal Poly sometime soon.

Christine Theodoropoulos
AIA, PE
CAED Celebrates 70 Years of Success!

FROM A ROCKY START TO NATIONAL RECOGNITION

A foundation was laid in the earliest days of Cal Poly’s history for what would become the College of Architecture and Environmental Design (CAED). A 1901 letter spelled out the need for students to be able to “construct barns and ag buildings.”

In the 1940s the Architectural Engineering (ARCE) Program got off to a rocky start when an architect from the state of Washington hired to head the new program didn’t like what he saw upon arrival and departed without unpacking.

The students protested to President Julian McPhee about the lack of faculty. Enter Chicago architect Ralph Priestly, whose goal for the program from the start was national recognition. He persevered and in the Engineering and Industrial Division’s 1947-1948 catalog, ARCE was launched, eventually graduating 13 students in its first class.

In ’51 Priestly was named the dean of engineering and George Hasslein the ARCE Department head. Hasslein would later become the dean of the School of Architecture and Environmental Design (SAED) and provide the vision for what would evolve into the present day college with its unique blend of disciplines.

Over the years a well-earned reputation solidified through faculty dedication, student accomplishments and alumni who confidently ventured around the world to shape the built environment.

1957
Students exhibit integrity of the Geodesic Dome when the program was centered near the present day Administration Building.

1964
Pre-stressed Concrete “Flower” rises in Poly Canyon, one of many ongoing experimental structures.

Circa 1959
Buckminster Fuller (left) meets with ARCE Department Head George Hasslein

Circa 1960
ARCE students pose on thin-shell concrete vault.

Recent Decades

1992
The SAED transitions into the CAED

2008 and 2010
The college and donors dedicate the new Construction Innovations Center (background) followed by the Simpson Strong-Tie Demonstration Lab (foreground)
From a humble seed and seven decades of achievements, the college has emerged as one of the nation’s premier polytechnic institutions. Benefiting from the engagement of our industry partners, an estimated 350 students graduate annually.

This year, students earned third place in the Solar Decathlon Competition and placed first in the Bank of America Low-Income Housing Challenge. In the just-released DesignIntelligence survey, practitioners ranked Cal Poly’s undergraduate architecture program as the nation’s finest at a public university, and among all programs, including graduate, No. 1 in sustainability, and No. 1 in construction methods and materials.

In the same survey, practitioners ranked the undergraduate landscape architecture program as third in the nation and No. 1 in construction methods and materials.

These snapshots illustrate the college’s history and illuminate its bright future!

In 2017 we will celebrate the 70-year anniversary of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design and its first program, architectural engineering. I am reminded that the program’s first dean, George Hasslein, served Cal Poly for 50 of those 70 years.

The roots of the college trace to Cal Poly’s first days, with engineering evolving into architectural engineering within the engineering program in the late 1940s. Eventually it branched out to include architecture, city and regional planning, construction management and landscape architecture, becoming a college with five departments focused on the built environment.

The story of the college is the story of Cal Poly, born from interdisciplinary collaboration, student drive and initiative in true Learn by Doing fashion. It also has at its foundation community and industry partnerships and a never-ending faculty and staff commitment to student success.

The college has come a long way since architectural engineering first appeared in Cal Poly’s 1947-48 Catalog, and we’re not resting on our laurels. The college’s reach spans the globe, including the new study-abroad program in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

Private giving supports excellence, and with your help the college has come far. Please join us at this critical time in the history of Cal Poly and the CAED. With your help, our reputation for excellence will continue to grow.

Jeffrey D. Armstrong
2016-17 DESIGNINTELLIGENCE RANKINGS AT A GLANCE

Architecture

Top Architecture Program at a Public University

Top Architecture Program According to Hiring Professionals

Landscape Architecture

Most Admired Undergraduate Program by Academic Leaders

Top Landscape Architecture Program According to Hiring Professionals

ARCHITECTURE SKILLS ASSESSMENT
Graduate and Undergraduate Programs Combined

1. Construction Methods & Materials
2. Sustainable Design Practices & Principles
3. Cross-Disciplinary Teamwork
4. Computer Application
5. Communication
6. Research

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE SKILLS ASSESSMENT
Graduate and Undergraduate Programs Combined

1. Construction Methods & Materials
2. Cross-Disciplinary Teamwork
4. Planning
5. Communication
6. Design

“MOST ADIMIRE D EDUCATOR”
Michael Lucas, Associate Dean

Why is the profession so impressed with Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo? Because of this educator and others who get enthusiastic letters of nomination from students and alumni. He is passionate and sincere. His lectures are inspiring. He is an outstanding teacher. He understands today’s realities and makes the most of them. Through it all he keeps it light-hearted and full of positive spirit.

94% of landscape architecture students believe they will be well prepared for their profession upon graduation.
What enables Cal Poly to remain ranked by DesignIntelligence, year after year, among the country’s top five architecture programs?

One would assume that many of the firms surveyed are most impressed with graduates who are Day One ready to work. These graduates invariably come from programs that emphasize technical subject material, as compared to programs that take a purely theoretical approach. Cal Poly successfully melds history, technology, theory, and criticism to achieve a well-rounded architectural education and successful student outcomes.

Most importantly, the commitment and passion of both faculty and students are exceptional. Cal Poly’s competitive admissions yield a student body that is geographically and demographically diverse in ways that mirror the world we live in today. Many of our students are first generation Americans or first-generation college graduates and, as such, take their educations very seriously. This mix of backgrounds and perspectives enhances the studio environment.

Equally important is success recruiting and retaining faculty who are excellent teachers. Cal Poly’s Architecture Program attracts more than 100 applicants for tenure track positions. The faculty selection process focuses on potential for teaching excellence above all other criteria and seeks individuals who inspire and collaborate. This leads to faculty success and career-long commitments to the university.

The CAED’s five related fields give rise to multidisciplinary classes, double majors, minors and collaborations that tap into emerging professional markets at the interface of traditional disciplinary boundaries. Students learn the value of working across disciplines from the early planning stages all the way through to construction. With this in mind the college offers minors in allied fields including planning, engineering, construction management, and interdisciplinary studies including real property development, and sustainable environments.

The amount of time faculty spend with students is a strong contributor to their success after graduation. With few distractions from studio life, Cal Poly’s residential campus, where advanced students spend 18 or more hours per week with design faculty, brings about collaboration and forges innovative teaching. In addition, the quarter calendar offers three intensive cycles of design studio each academic year leading to more practiced design abilities among Cal Poly graduates.

Hiring industry-experienced faculty is another key to the program’s success. Faculty who have a command of what it means to be a competent architect and who can blend this knowledge successfully into design theory are more effective educators guiding well-rounded graduates; graduates who are more highly regarded and who will quickly become capable and welcome additions to any firm.

Successful programs are either well funded or well endowed. However, architectural programs across the country, especially those in state-supported universities, are becoming increasingly financially stressed. The added costs of studio-based learning are often misunderstood and state schools have to compete for fewer dollars. California subsidized 90% of the overall costs of a college education in 1960 but underwrites only 40% of the costs today. This shortfall has to come from other sources, including tuition and fees, often resulting in loan repayment responsibilities for graduates.

With this in mind, all alumni have a moral imperative to support the program that helped shape who they are today, and every employer must partner with programs to assist schools in preparing the next generation of architects. There is nothing more satisfying than to know you have played some part in a young person’s success. Whatever successes you have had are directly linked to the education you and your team received. I ask you to consider rekindling a relationship with Cal Poly. We not only should — we must! It is up to those who have gone before to strengthen the advantage of those who follow.
Poly Canyon came to life once again during the annual Design Village Competition, held April 15-17, 2016. This year’s theme, Aura, explored the metaphysical properties of designed space. Raymond Tang reflected on his experience as a first-year architecture student.

“I had never seen Design Village before and I had no idea it was coming. I saw the project brief. Then my professor said, ‘Knock out a design in 10 minutes,’ and all of us thought, ‘No way. We can’t do this. Who can make a great idea in 10 minutes?’”

And then the students did it. Tang said going from an abstract design to a physical structure is a big leap. “I think for many of us in the program, it’s the first time that we have actually designed and built something meant for human habitation. All of your drawings, all the drafts you made, now come to life.”

 Spending the night in the team’s structure helped ready Tang and his team for their next four years in the Architecture Program. “Ultimately, we are human beings creating for human beings. I think Design Village was the keystone that started this off for us.”

The project was also very helpful in grounding the students, according to Tang.

“A lot of us architects would be working in the studio, and our ideas would fly out of proportion. The ARCEs in the studio with us were always there to say, ‘Oh, no, no, no, that’s not possible. That thing you just thought of will fall down.’ Ultimately we’re going to be working together in the professional world, so it’s good to have a sense of reality. We can do things within reason, and they will always be there to remind us. But our role in their lives is to say ‘Look at all the possibilities!’ I think that’s a great thing, a great collaboration between two different fields.”

Tang found the process challenging, but in the end, “having so many people in a group giving input and having so many ideas coalesce is a very beautiful thing.”

Although earlier class projects hadn’t captured the same feeling for Tang, he said, “They were all leading up to this one moment. I feel a great sense of camaraderie among all of us. I want to keep that throughout my five years here. I’m sure that the program will foster that greatly.”
South Africa Service Learning Program Changes Landscape and Lives

Landscape architecture faculty member David Watts and eight students traveled to South Africa as part of a service learning internship program. The Cal Poly group worked in the Baviaanskloof nature reserve. Baviaanskloof is a UN World Heritage Site and the primary watershed for Port Elizabeth.

The region is currently transitioning from an ag-based economy to a tourist-based economy. The landscape reclamation is being done to improve the region’s water holding capacity in order to ensure a water supply for nearby cities.

As part of the 2016 summer program, the Cal Poly team helped build an eco-campground for educational and recreational uses. Projects included creation of signage, sleeping platforms and physical fitness circuit programs within the campground.

This year’s trip included two architecture students, one construction management student and five landscape architecture students. The interdisciplinary nature of the group allowed for collaboration and innovation as they faced daily challenges brought on by nature and unforeseen circumstances.

Watts has led six service learning programs in Africa. Previous programs were for an AIDS orphanage. The 2016 program was the first to benefit the community at large. “Our students didn’t just push themselves physically and mentally. They learned how design can make an impact on daily lives, connected with people, and participated in strengthening a community,” Watts explained.

Participating students organized and planned the trip in an introductory course at Cal Poly. Upon their return, students will review their master plan and execution, as well as follow-up with their client.
EXPERIENCES IN LIFE AND LEARNING OFFERED IN MEXICO

Cal Poly students and faculty are exploring and creating in a new study abroad program in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Participating students study facets of architecture in the historic city through faculty-led studios that include cultural activities and field study components. The facility, named Los Arcos by its creator Rafael Franco, also hosted a summer session on urban design for city and regional planning students, and has many more programs planned for the future. Here is the story of how Los Arcos—a creative learning community offering studio space, housing, classroom and research facilities for students of architecture and environmental design—came to be.
GIFTS RECEIVED IN SLO PAID FORWARD IN SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE

Rafael Franco’s Adventures in Learning, Living and Giving

Rafael Franco and his wife, Linda, moved to San Luis Obispo to attend Cal Poly. While both placed great value on the educations they received, it was the lessons bestowed by people, not books, that they cherished most.

“We were both in school, living on $210 a month from the GI Bill. Things were tight. One of my professors, R.L. Graves, would come up to my drawing table, blowing smoke in my face as he spoke. One day he told me I needed to stop worrying about money and housing all the time. He told me to take out a student loan and go buy a house. So I took out a student loan.”

It was 1970. With $4,000 down and the help of his landlord, Mrs. Faulstich, who was willing to sell her property and finance the purchase, Franco bought two homes. He and Linda slept on a mattress on the floor in one of them until the day a furniture truck pulled up with a bedroom set. Confused, Franco tried to send the truck away until he was told that another neighbor, Mrs. Wells, had sent the set as a gift.

Frances fond memories of his time in San Luis Obispo don’t end there. He remembers it as a time of exploration. “The teachers supported our ideas and inspired us. They weren’t just teaching architecture, they were teaching problem solving. There’s a big difference.”

Franco still relies daily on the lessons learned from The Universal Traveler, which he keeps by his bed. Written by professors Don Koberg and Jim Bagnall, the book bills itself as “a Soft-Systems guide to creativity, problem-solving, and the process of reaching goals.” Franco found the guide especially essential as he established Rafael Franco and Associates, a full-service architectural, interiors and project management firm, in 1981. Franco’s daughter, Ana (Franco) Deziengel (Architecture, ‘97) also worked at the firm as a designer before starting BabbleDabbleDo.com, a blog that offers ideas and information for parents who believe in education through exploration and experimentation.

Today, with a successful career behind him and memories of times with his late wife, Linda, in his heart, Franco is finding new ways to pay forward the kindness and lessons that helped shape his life. Much of this is done at Los Arcos, a property in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico a farmer supermarket Franco transformed into a place for students and their ideas to grow.

“My goal for the school is the renaissance of curiosity and imagination. Those are two gifts every child is born with. The curiosity we’re born with helps us learn to walk, talk and eat. It is the mother of discovery.
The second gift is imagination. Give a child a box. Watch them put wheels or a chimney on it. Imagination grows exponentially.

At Los Arcos, Franco wants to help restore the freedom of thought and exploration that comes naturally in childhood. He also wants to show students that there is “more to the story of Mexico than they have learned.”

“San Miguel de Allende is a city of discovery,” says fifth-year architecture student Alyssa Parr. “Every corner you turn inspires a unique experience that is special to that place. Through the program, we have been introduced to local architects, artists and inventors who have shared their work with us.”

The Los Arcos programs are already drawing interest from locals as well as students from Cal Poly and elsewhere. Barry Williams, who led the 2016 fall program says, “Los Arcos is a magnet for people who want to get involved. They seem to just flow through the doors. Rafael’s energy and vision is a draw. Many new ideas are still being developed, but the energy and excitement? Those things are already there.”

Margot McDonald, head of the Architecture Department, explains that Franco’s contribution to Cal Poly includes more than the use of the Los Arcos facilities and programs. He has also committed generous financial support of the program, allowing students to spend a summer studying in Mexico for less than the cost of a typical summer quarter. “He has created an affordable, exciting study abroad program that’s close to home and encourages students to expand their knowledge culturally, creatively, and independently.”

For Franco, Los Arcos is an extension of the hand offered him in the past. “If you pass goodness on, it’s like passing a baton. What I’m doing right now is basically passing on the baton that other people passed to me. Whether it’s a bedroom set that Mrs. Wells gave me, or the advice that R.L. Graves blew in my face along with the smoke, those are lessons that people gave me. I want to pass that on to others.”

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH EARNs CAL POLY MEMBERSHIP IN NATIONAL RESILIENCE INITIATIVE

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo’s College of Architecture and Environmental Design has been selected to aid in a national effort to make communities safer and more resilient as a member of the National Resilience Initiative (NRI). As one of six members representing regional areas of need for resilience planning, Cal Poly joins the network of community and university-based design studios dedicated to helping communities become better prepared for natural disasters and climate change.

NRI is a joint program of the AIA and the Architects Foundation, established in 2013 with partners such as the Rockefeller Foundation’s 100 Resilient Cities, the Clinton Global Initiative, the Association for Collegiate Schools of Architecture, and charitable organization Public Architecture. The first annual convening of all six NRI charter members took place in summer of 2016 in Washington, D.C.

Architecture Department Head Margot McDonald sees Cal Poly’s role in NRI as an especially vital one. “Using our campus as a living laboratory lets us demonstrate how to respond to disasters in an interdisciplinary manner. This approach will allow our design hub to address issues important to the West Coast, such as drought, seismic activity, fire, flooding, sea level rise and other tidal issues. The matrices we develop can be used across the CSU system as they contribute to the knowledge pool used to create resilient communities.”

Resilience is a hot topic worldwide, but even those leading the discussions are still refining the term’s definition. At its core, resilience is the ability to anticipate, plan for, absorb, resist, adapt to, and recover from changing conditions and adverse events. The definition continues to expand and nuance is added as different geographic regions and various disciplines join resilience initiatives.
Jim Bickel (Architecture, ’86) has always liked being prepared. On the advice of a family friend who was an architect, the young architecture student took a long list of business classes while attending Cal Poly. Bickel wanted to understand and be ready for the management side of his future career. When he eventually started his own firm, Bickel Group Architecture, Bickel’s business plan included targeting a range of market sectors that would allow his business to remain strong during industry changes and economic shifts. “My outlook has always been that my life and my career are marathons, not sprints. That’s my personality. I like to plan and work to increase our stability in the future. I’m willing to make sacrifices in the present to ensure long term gains.”

Bickel’s strategy has paid off. Best known for its commercial and institutional architecture, Bickel Group Architecture’s projects include buildings for retail, office, restaurant, health care, residential, educational and religious uses. The variety allows members of the Bickel Group team to remain excited and explore new ideas.

“This is a great time to be in architecture,” Bickel says. “Our clients are exposed to great design every day now, whether in real life or online. They come to us with ideas and share examples that are the best of the best. It’s exciting to work with people who value the experiential and aesthetic contributions of good architecture.

“The most significant aspect of my architectural education at Cal Poly is the fact that I was educated in all areas. Many other programs emphasize only one discipline of the architectural process; such as conceptual design, sustainability or modeling. The Cal Poly experience gave me the opportunity to be exposed to materials and methods, engineering systems, building codes, and general drafting. This additional knowledge jump-started my career.”

Bickel has had great luck recruiting from Cal Poly. Both project managers at Bickel Group Architecture are Cal Poly graduates. Bickel’s first and perhaps most successful Cal Poly recruit, however, was his wife of 28 years, Lori, who earned her English degree at Cal Poly. The two currently have two sons in college, with Luke at Cal Poly and Tyler at San Jose State University.

Whether it’s raising a family or designing new built environments, Bickel still embraces Cal Poly’s Learn by Doing philosophy. “Whatever I’m doing contributes to the future. Each undertaking teaches me some way to improve the next. It can be a giant mixed use project or a small boutique retail environment. Constant improvement has helped build our firm’s reputation. Our reputation, in turn, feeds our project stream. That’s how I always wanted it to be.”
Fifth-year architecture students shared their thesis projects with their peers in a show titled Spotlights Unlicensed. Here are some of the projects featured in the show, along with concept statements by the students.

**Shaler Campbell**  |  *Microcosms of Social Emergence*

“In the urban environment we are brought together for work, home, leisure, or otherwise and it’s these separate tasks that have segregated different use types within the city. The movement between these zones has compromised the possibility for unplanned social encounters or social exchanges. Unused space within our city affords the opportunity for microcosms of social emergence to use spatial strategies to allow for individuals to break free from the environment of the city and allow for unplanned social encounters to take place.”

**David Hupp**  |  *Toward A Monstrous Architecture*

“A formal exploration of ‘productive mutations’ and how principles of genetics, evolution, disease and deformity can inspire emergent works of architecture. This non-distinguishable ‘genetic flesh’ carries architectural DNA acting as a melting pot of traits that never successfully become recognizable, leading to reinterpreted ergonomic and programmatic innovation. Pripyat, Ukraine (the ghost-city evacuated after the Chernobyl disaster in 1986) serves as a tabula rasa for this new design language to grow and exist, having zero contextual sympathy or regard for pre-existing laws.”
Lisa Rocha-Nichols | Embodied Catalyst

“This prosthetic rehabilitation, research and development center was designed to reestablish and investigate the positive affects physical activity has on our happiness as individuals, psychologically and physically. My intention was to provide a place encouraging social interaction between users and the community via public walking paths through the building. In addition to this, enhancing performance, thus restoring overall confidence levels improving body image, and creating a greater overall holistic understanding of their body schema therefore increasing the patients’ quality of life.”

Dante Testolini | Free New York

“Free New York is a user-driven architectural park sited at the developing Hudson Yards in New York. The park allows users to create and appropriate unique spaces by arranging a field of environmental modifiers and accessories. Park guests utilize the network to interact with one another, recombining potent spatial elements to produce new atmospheric conditions and catalyze spontaneous events. The project extends authorship to its users, who assume a new role as bottom-up agents of architecture.”

Oretola Thomas | Rwanda Dairy Education Center

“My dairy education center teaches the locals how to properly make and process dairy products. This design focuses on making the process transparent to users. The massing of the project is divided into distinct areas that follow the process from animal to the dinner table. In between these areas are teaching spaces that let users view the live production spaces up close. The hope is that this project will be a catalyst to engage the local community to become participants in the process of making products for the country and not passive consumers.”
New Career and Strong Family Ties Established at Cal Poly

“If I had it to do all over again, I’d work with buildings.”

That statement, made in the mid-1970s, changed Patricia Kutzmann’s future. When her husband, David, immediately encouraged her to pursue her dream, Kutzmann started planning their move to San Luis Obispo. She arrived at Cal Poly with a sociology degree from UC Berkeley and a new plan to be an architect. When her mathematics skills proved heartier than her drafting prowess, Kutzmann decided to pursue a degree in architectural engineering.

After earning her degree at Cal Poly in 1978, Kutzmann spent 11 years working as a structural designer, civil engineer and plans examiner before starting Kutzmann & Associates in 1989. Based in Fremont, California, her company offers plan review services for municipalities and commercial clients. While municipal clients provide most of the company’s work, the expansion of Facebook’s Menlo Park campus has also been keeping Kutzmann & Associates busy. With the continuing growth of the social media giant’s headquarters, Kutzmann’s company looks forward to enjoying the energy and excitement surrounding the project for the next few years as well.

Kutzmann’s team of approximately ten people has included several Cal Poly graduates over the years. She is not shy about sharing her enthusiasm for Cal Poly and the engineers it produces. “Employees from Cal Poly are very well-rounded. They come out of school with extensive knowledge gained from the college’s interdisciplinary approach. They don’t just understand wood, steel and concrete. They know about architecture, planning and landscape. They are ready to hit the ground running. In fact, I’d love to find another Cal Poly graduate to hire right now!”

There’s no shortage of Cal Poly fans in Kutzmann’s family. Prior to Kutzmann’s arrival in San Luis Obispo, her brother Robert Knowles (History, ’73) and his wife, Susan Knowles (Business Administration, ’71), attended Cal Poly, with Susan returning to earn her Master of Arts in Education in 1982. The Knowles’ daughter and her husband attended Cal Poly as well.

One of Kutzmann’s sons, Aaron (Aeronautical Engineering, ’01), met his wife Kristina (Human Development, ’99) while the two were working as team captains on Cal Poly’s Rose Parade float. Kristina’s parents are also Cal Poly graduates. Aaron Kutzmann is now an aeronautical engineer and inventor working for Boeing.

Like others in her family, Kutzmann is proud of her Cal Poly roots. Visitors to her office see her diploma displayed prominently in the entrance, and a Cal Poly license plate frame adorns her car. “I don’t think there’s a better program out there, especially for the money. Cal Poly offers more experience and in-depth training than any school I’ve seen.”
Nearly 30 years after earning his diploma, Kurt Buxton (Landscape Architecture, ’87) still has his first job. But his career certainly hasn’t been standing still. After going to work for Hogan Roy Partners (HRP) following graduation, Buxton became a partner in 2002. Since then, the company has grown tremendously, combining its resources with other entities. In 2006 the company, then known as HRP LandDesign, was sold to ValleyCrest Companies, adding an established landscape architecture branch to the legacy landscape development and maintenance company. In 2014, ValleyCrest Companies and The Brickman Group merged, creating a $2 billion firm with 22,000 employees. In 2015, the organization announced that it would be working under the shared name BrightView, becoming what is considered the nation’s largest landscape services company.

Currently managing principal and vice president of BrightView Design Group, Buxton says, “You never know what your career holds until you get into it and get going. So much of my initial vision came true, but other parts of my career were more of a surprise. Cal Poly’s education went beyond theoretical to practical application, which taught me to adapt and gave me the confidence to succeed. I matured a lot in my five years at Cal Poly. I attribute much of that to the way I was taught.”

BrightView Design Group has more than 100 landscape architects and designers. The group’s portfolio spans the spectrum of project types and includes projects such as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Beacon Park. Buxton first met some members of his team when he was a member of the Cal Poly Landscape Architecture Department Advisory Council. Buxton says his alma mater’s Learn by Doing philosophy creates graduates who are used to working collaboratively, feel confident exploring and sharing unique ideas, and fit well in BrightView’s culture.

“The people in our group understand that our work is improved by our culture. We hire for personality, desire and passion, not just skill. We all enjoy our lives outside of work and enjoy sharing our creative pursuits with each other. A couple of times each year we all come together and share what we’re working on, just for fun. There could be art, furniture, orchids, culinary skills, music, and all kinds of other talents on display. You look around and realize how lucky you are to be surrounded by these people, and you feel honored to be a part of it all.”

Buxton’s recent pursuits include oil painting. His work covers various subjects and styles including landscapes, still life and abstracts. Traveling with his wife has lent itself well to the expansion of one of Buxton’s newer talents, plein air painting. Even after almost 30 years in the industry, Kurt Buxton is still finding new ways to enjoy the landscape.
Eighteen landscape architecture students presented their senior capstone projects addressing landscape justice in their “20 Shades of Green” show. The projects ranged in scale, showcasing unique and creative design solutions. The students’ work examined climate change in the city, housing for the homeless, urban revitalization, and forest, habitat, and river restoration that characterize current concerns facing our society. Best of Show was awarded to Thuy Michelle Tran for her project A Neighborhood's Ascension into the Past Future: Little Woods in New Orleans.
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE STUDENT WINS AWARD

Brandon Cornejo (Landscape Architecture, ‘16) earned the American Society of Landscape Architects’ student Award of Excellence in the research category. Cornejo conducted an experiment to discern the viability of epiphyte growth on hardscape surfaces. Epiphytes are a family of plants that do not require soil as a growing medium. His project was featured in the September issue of Landscape Architecture Magazine.

Cornejo’s research is significant because if these plants are shown to be viable on hardscape surfaces, they could be used to mitigate urban micro-climates by reducing heat sinks and increasing atmospheric water capture and storage. The results from his experiment lend credence to the potential inclusion of epiphytes as part of the urban landscape.

David Watts, Cornejo’s advisor, says, “Brandon’s engagement with the scientific method has contributed to the identification of a research area that will broaden the foundation of knowledge in landscape architecture and contribute to the conversation of climate change.”

Cornejo is a member of the design staff at Raymond Jungles, Inc., a landscape architecture practice in Coconut Grove, Fla.
NEW COURSE EXPLORES BIKING, WALKING AND THE CITY

A new course will keep students at the forefront of city and regional planning as they explore the connections between buildings, the spaces that are influenced by them, and the people who experience them. City and Regional Planning course CRP425: Biking, Walking and the City, focuses on the history of the bicycle and pedestrian environment, current practices in planning, and implementation of cities for biking and walking. Students will practice the development of data gathering, concept planning, policy analysis, writing, and advocacy skills to shape streets that are more accessible for all modes of travel.

Faculty member William “Billy” Riggs says, “Throughout the world, planners are focusing on creating less auto-intensive streets. This yields streets that are more comfortable for walkers and cyclists and reveals provable and compelling benefits to the pedestrians, cyclists and buildings. This course allows our students to delve into the theoretical and practical ways in which the integration of planning and design improves the relationship between what’s outside the building and the building itself.”

PERRY CHAPMAN PRIZE WILL FUND CRP RESEARCH

The Society of College and University Planning (SCUP) has awarded its 2016-2017 Perry Chapman Prize to a group of city and regional planning professionals at Cal Poly. Faculty members Amir Hajrasouliha and Billy Riggs will work with Linda C. Dalton, retired vice provost for Institutional Planning, on a project titled “Connecting the Dots: Campus Form, Student Satisfaction, and Academic Performance.”

The award, in the amount of $10,000, will fund research that will determine the significance of the relationship between the physical campus and student satisfaction with college life, and ultimately academic performance. The project intends to pave the path for a return on investment for particular approaches to campus design, identifying the effects of investments in specific campus forms and strategies.

The Cal Poly team’s research proposal explains that the work will provide evidence-based insights for university administrators, campus planners, and higher education researchers about investments in campus planning and development.

The Perry Chapman Prize, supported by The Hideo Sasaki Foundation, funds research in the planning and design of institutions of higher education. The prize is intended to further the research, development and dissemination of emerging knowledge to improve campus environments in support of their institution’s mission.
Many Cal Poly students and local residents watched Brian Curley (City and Regional Planning, ’82) and his bandmates perform at San Luis Obispo watering holes while he was attending Cal Poly. Today, he’s more likely to be found playing in Asian clubs or jamming with a well-known performer such as Kenny G, at the World Celebrity golf tournament at Mission Hills on tropical Hainan Island in China.

But Curley, principal at Schmidt-Curley Golf Design, didn’t put his career ambitions aside to pursue music. Instead, the award-winning golf course designer learned early in his career that music can help him bond with clients.

With the majority of the firm’s projects being built in Asia, the English-speaking Curley has found his innate creativity helps him overcome communication challenges.

“It doesn’t matter how good your work is, you have to be able to do business,” he said. “And doing business gets more difficult when it’s all done through translators. I’ve found that music helps me connect with clients in ways that we couldn’t accomplish through third parties. We might spend all day exchanging translated snippets, but it’s not until we go out that evening and enjoy a couple of hours at an Open Mic Night or a karaoke bar that we really find a connection. Your heart is on your sleeve when you perform. You show creativity and passion. People bond more over shared experiences than they do over a stack of plans.”

Curley’s career has never traveled well-worn paths. As a teen, he knew he was going to design golf courses and chose Cal Poly as the school that would prepare him for it. “It’s not a traditional career. You know the song ‘Career Opportunities’ by The Clash? It talks about the bus driver, ambulance man, ticket inspector. It doesn’t mention golf course designer. You can’t get this job without an education, but you won’t find a school offering a degree in Golf Course Architecture. I knew Cal Poly’s hands-on approach would give me the discipline, experience and flexibility I needed to design my own career.

“When I started working in my field, I had some amazing mentors. And I learned that there’s no ‘certain way’ to do things in this industry. You have to be a complete nonconformist to excel in the very confirming, buttoned-down golf world. Cal Poly prepared me for that.”

As awards continue to pile up from the world’s most respected golf organizations and industry magazines, Curley says he was never aiming for fame and fortune. “I want to do good business with good people. I want to be fairly compensated, but I’m driven by experiences. I encourage students in the design-build disciplines to take the time to learn how good business is done, and recognize that there’s a big world out there. Set your sites on not just the U.S., but other countries. Enjoy living the life you’re making. And don’t underestimate the power of karaoke.”
STUDENTS GIVE CAMPUS CASTOFFS NEW LIFE

COLLABORATION IS KEY TO MUSTANG SCULPTURE’S QUICK CREATION

Springtime visitors to the Robert E. Kennedy Library were greeted by the Living Library exhibit, featuring an 11-foot-tall mustang sculpture created from reclaimed materials that were found on campus and donated by industry. The piece honored Cal Poly’s 2016 Open House theme, “Celebrating the Mustang Legacy.”

The mustang was created in just 10 weeks by architectural engineering students in collaboration with students from the architecture, and art and design programs, and Horticulture Club members. The process included site visits, animal observation, and consultations with sculptor Ivan McLean.

Students worked with faculty member Craig Baltimore (Architectural Engineering), and Library Curator Catherine Trujillo. Numerous staff throughout the college and university also assisted in meeting the ambitious deadline.

The Living Library concept grew out of a challenge, set forth by Kennedy Library’s Advisory Board, for the library to become a “green lab” for Cal Poly students, faculty and others, and to exemplify the university’s commitment to sustainable research and learning.
This project was made possible by the following campus supporters: Curatorial Advisor, Catherine J. Trujillo, Kennedy Library; Artist Advisor, Ivan McLean; David Kempken, Support Shop Manager (CAED); Kevin Piper, Director of Agricultural Operations (CAFES); Ladd Caine, Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering (CENG); Ray Ward, Architectural Engineering (CAED); Richard Wagner “Recycle Rick”; Kevin Shaw, Facilities Operations; and Brianna Kufa (ARCE). Community and industry supporters included: Alan Hanson, Simpson-Strong-Tie; Brian Bogh, Nucor; and Chris Eberle, Eberle Winery.

Back Row (L-R): Emmanuel Castano, Alejandro Lopez, and Aaron Boucher. Front Row (L-R): Sean Westphal, Kevin Church, Lacy Williams, Emily Setoudeh, Nicholas Reindel, Nicholas Petraca, Nathaniel Hall, Leesa Choy, and advisor Craig Baltimore.
Neumayr, chief development officer at San Francisco International Airport (SFO), loves his job. He oversees the planning, project management, engineering, architecture and infrastructure information management sections of the $7.4 billion expansion and modernization project SFO started in 2009.

The Big Room is where the action is. All SFO staff, consulting architects, and contracted vendors involved in the reconstruction can be found there.

Sitting on the deck of his Lake Tahoe vacation home, Geoffrey Neumayr (Architectural Engineering, ’84) talks enthusiastically about things to come. But it isn’t the view or the day’s activities that have him so excited. Despite enjoying several days of relaxation and fun, it’s his return to The Big Room that Neumayr is looking forward to.

The Big Room team of approximately 120 includes several architects, architectural engineers, and project managers who are alumni of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design. Nearly half of the airport’s civil engineering department also studied at Cal Poly. Neumayr claims he can spot Cal Poly graduates “a mile away” and is sure to include Cal Poly when discussing the expansion project’s success. “It’s not just about how we do things here. Much is attributable to the fact that Cal Poly just produces a wonderful product.”

The unique project management methods Neumayr uses include the elimination of traditional commodity-based silos that can result in contracts being awarded to “the contractor who made the biggest mistake on the bid price.” Instead, SFO’s development chief focuses on building strong understanding of the project and collaboration among potential builders, architects and other stakeholders before any discussion of cost or schedule. Once everyone understands the project and the needs of others in the room, the design phase starts.

Continued on page 23
A 28-Year Round Trip

Since earning a degree in Civil Engineering in 1980, Guy Conversano has remained connected to Cal Poly. Currently co-founding partner and past chairman at DCI Engineering, Inc., he’s hired many Cal Poly graduates over the last 28 years.

“I see an amazing difference between Cal Poly graduates and people from other schools. For example, engineers all understand the mathematics, but Cal Poly teaches its students about building codes, how codes work with design, and how to work with the people in other disciplines. We’ve had tremendous results with team members from Cal Poly,” Conversano said.

Cal Poly’s emphasis on multidisciplinary training has stuck with Conversano who shares his expertise with architectural engineering students and sponsors the Structural Forum, an annual event hosted by Cal Poly’s student chapter of the Structural Engineering Association of California (SEAOC).

Conversano is now in the process of handing over the reins of DCI, the engineering firm he started with friend Mark D’Amato in a basement in 1988. Their company grew to include its headquarters in Seattle and offices in Spokane, Portland, San Diego, Austin, Irvine, San Francisco, Anchorage and Los Angeles. DCI is licensed in all 50 states and most Canadian provinces.

While some would consider retirement at this stage in life, Conversano said the transition is just creating time for new projects. Since 2006, he’s also been working on his company RediStair, which uses a proprietary system of precast concrete components that allow installation of the stair system as a building rises. This reduces or eliminates the need for temporary stairs. Having the permanent stair system in place improves jobsite safety and efficiency without the redundancy and cost of temporary stair construction.

In yet another connection between Conversano and Cal Poly, RediStair is now providing stairs for Student Housing South, a new residential building project. Conversano is looking forward to working with other Cal Poly alumni from various disciplines on the project team.

Returning to Cal Poly to contribute to the university’s growth seems fitting to Conversano. Cal Poly helped him grow and provided the stairway to his success. Now, with RediStair’s participation in the campus expansion, he’s returning the favor.

Once the project is underway, an uncommon stakeholder engagement process allows for constant evaluation, input and collaboration. “In other words, we’re not going to tell you how to do your business, because you’re responsible for your part of the project. But if you get stuck on something, you can go over to the other side of the room and get help from the rest of the team, so you’re all engaged in the solution.”

The combination of a dedicated, engaged staff and unique processes is a winning one for SFO. The airport’s air traffic control tower recently added the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Top Engineering Project title to SFO’s long list of awards. Neumayer expects the airport’s rankings to continue to gain altitude as the expansion continues.

Neumayer, who is also on the Industry Advisory Board for Cal Poly’s Architectural Engineering Program, goes on to say, “What I really admire about our Cal Poly grads is the understanding that in order to deliver a project, you need to have empathy for everybody involved in it. The Cal Poly grads love architecture and are wonderful at that, but then they also understand how they can serve other people on the project team. And the only way they know that is because they have empathy for other people’s challenges. They are there to help them get through it. It’s not just about them. It’s everybody together. And that’s really powerful.”
Dean Christine Theodoropoulos and Assistant Dean Lorna Malcolm met with 30 Seattle-area design and construction industry leaders on April 4, 2016.

The gathering, hosted by John Pangrazio, FAIA (Architecture ’67) at Seattle’s historic Rainier Club, attracted industry leaders in Washington who were already familiar with Cal Poly’s reputation for career-ready graduates and interested in learning more about the college’s programs. There was discussion of career opportunities, and strategies for attracting Cal Poly interns and alumni to the Pacific Northwest.

Chair elect of the CAED Dean’s Leadership Council, Pangrazio is a consulting partner at NBBJ’s Seattle office. NBBJ is a global architecture firm known for its use of “renaissance teams” that partner planners, architects and interior designers with researchers, strategists, nurses, anthropologists, and other experts to further knowledge-based innovations. In his 40-year career devoted to the relationship between the physical environment and healing, Pangrazio has promoted collaboration between design professionals and health care stakeholders to shape NBBJ’s globally renowned health care practice.

He is proud to introduce his peers to his alma mater. “I’ve had a love affair with the university for a long time. Attending Cal Poly was a transformational time of my life. I learned immensely valuable skills, but I also learned to see the world differently. During a period so heavily influenced by the realities of the Vietnam War, I learned to expand my vision and embrace aesthetics. I gained a lasting appreciation for the physical and natural environment. I believe today’s students are learning their own important lessons at Cal Poly. I’m happy they’ll get to use these lessons to enhance their own careers and for the benefit of Washington’s businesses and communities.”
STUDENTS TRAVEL NEW ROADS TO LEARNING WITH GLOBAL PROGRAMS

Cal Poly's Global Programs allow students to expand their knowledge and engage with other cultures while studying abroad. Here are some of the recent and current programs being explored by students from the College of Architecture and Environmental Design.

- **Architectural Engineering in Lithuania**
  *Summer* | Vilnius, Lithuania

- **Architecture in Japan**
  *Fall* | Tokyo, Japan

- **Architecture in Mexico**
  *Summer and Fall* | San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

- **Architecture in Rome**
  *Fall* | Rome, Italy

- **Architecture in Switzerland**
  *Summer* | Ticino, Switzerland

- **Construction Management in Prague**
  *Summer* | Prague, Czech Republic

- **Sustainability in Nicaragua**
  *Spring Break* | San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua

SURVEY OF CAED CLASS OF 2015 SHOWS GRADUATES IN HIGH DEMAND BY EMPLOYERS AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS

**TOP EMPLOYERS**
- CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
- DAHLIN GROUP
- GENSLER
- HERRERO BUILDERS
- MBH ARCHITECTS
- MCCARTHY BUILDING CO
- MIYAMOTO INTERNATIONAL
- RRM DESIGN GROUP
- WEBCOR BUILDERS
- XL CONSTRUCTION

**TOP GRADUATE PROGRAMS**
- M.S. ADVANCED ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN, COLUMBIA
- M.S. CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING, CAL POLY
- M.S. CIVIL ENGINEERING, NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY
- M.S. CIVIL ENGINEERING, UC BERKELEY
- M.S. CIVIL ENGINEERING, UNIV. OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
- M.S. STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING, STANFORD UNIVERSITY
- M.S. STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING, UC SAN DIEGO
- M. ARCHITECTURE, HARVARD UNIVERSITY
- M. URBAN DESIGN, UNIV. OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
- M. CRP/M.S. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING, CAL POLY

**TOP JOB LOCATIONS**
- IRVINE, CA
- LOS ANGELES, CA
- OAKLAND, CA
- SACRAMENTO, CA
- SAN DIEGO, CA
- SAN FRANCISCO, CA
- SAN JOSE, CA
- SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA
- SANTA BARBARA, CA
- SEATTLE, WA

Data is based on 177 student responses collected within nine months of graduation, 56% overall response rate. For detail breakdown by college and major, go to: careerservices.calpoly.edu/gsr. Other pursuits include intentional plans such as travel, gap year experience, artistic pursuits, and personal commitments.

Are you an employer who would like to partner with Career Services? Please contact Seth Igarta, CAED Career Counselor at sigarta@calpoly.edu or 805-756-2501 to get started and build your brand at Cal Poly.
Graduates from Cal Poly’s College of Architecture and Environmental Design work for leading firms around the world. HOK, an international employer with offices in California, is consistently ranked by Design-Intelligence as a leader in sustainable, high-performance design and technology innovation. HOK relies on Cal Poly for candidates who can contribute the level of design excellence and innovation the firm is known for.

HOK is a global design, architecture, engineering and planning firm with a network of 23 offices worldwide. In 2015, HOK was involved in the planning and design of more than 3,250 projects for 1,400 clients in 85 countries.

Jan Harmon, director of human resources at HOK, says she has been recruiting from Cal Poly for at least 25 years. The firm’s Los Angeles and San Francisco offices are involved in many campus events, with representatives often giving presentations, speaking at professional practice classes, acting as jurors, offering design critiques, participating in lectures and panel discussions, and attending recruitment fairs.

“We have a great relationship with Cal Poly. They turn out well-prepared students who are ready to start careers,” says Harmon. “I particularly appreciate the well-rounded nature of Cal Poly’s CAED programs. While most of our Cal Poly grads are architects, we have hired Cal Poly grads from several disciplines. They all have something in common. They’re not just focused on design and technical issues. These programs teach the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration. That is essential in a firm like ours.”

Ernest Cirangle, FAIA, LEED AP BD+C, design principal in HOK’s Los Angeles office, agrees. “HOK looks for a combination of talent and the ability to communicate in various ways. What we do is a team sport. Being able to work well with others who have different capabilities allows for the enhancement of what each individual does. People from Cal Poly just seem to have the characteristics we need.”

Cal Poly’s CAED is proud to have such strong support from HOK. The firm is known worldwide for iconic and visually expressive projects that place a high priority on intelligent and intuitive functionality. HOK’s work can be found throughout the regions of Asia Pacific, Canada, Europe, India, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa, as well as the United States.

Closer to home, recent HOK projects in California include design of the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center (ARTIC), the Long Beach Airport Modernization, the San Francisco Public Safety Campus, the Pritzker Group’s Headquarters in Los Angeles, and the Advanced Health Sciences Pavilion at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Cal Poly gave me a deeper appreciation for what other disciplines contribute to designing and constructing the built environment.

— Alexander Nash (‘12)
A anyone who has met Bob Stephens (Construction Management, ’86), project executive at Morley Builders in Santa Monica, Calif., would have trouble believing he was “not a very good student with a mediocre GPA” in high school. But Stephens credits Cal Poly with turning his life around after he earned an associate of arts degree in construction technology at a community college in Southern California. “I was never a book person when I was young, but I’ve always been a builder. I can see something drawn and implement it. I heard Cal Poly had a Construction Management Program, so that was the only place I applied. It was life-changing. The Learn by Doing philosophy really worked for me. I credit Cal Poly for taking a chance on me,” he says with a chuckle.

After earning his degree, Stephens established a career at Morley Builders and later took his management skills further through the executive program at the UCLA Anderson School of Management. Now, as an executive with more than 24 years with the company, Stephens relies on other Cal Poly graduates at Morley Builders every day. At last count, the organization had more than 20 Cal Poly graduates on staff, including most members of the executive team. Many attended Cal Poly together.

“The Construction Management Department at Cal Poly keeps up with the industry and is very supportive of its students. We know their graduates will be ready to work and hit the ground running. We get our money’s worth from Day One,” Stephens says.

Continuing the discussion, he adds, “Sometimes I bore people. Construction and Cal Poly are my two favorite subjects!”

Stephens’s passion is shown throughout his career, hobbies and volunteer life, which includes being a member of the CAED’s Parent Advisory Council. Although encouraged to follow their own paths, Stephens’s children Ashley and Matthew both chose Cal Poly, perhaps due to their time spent exploring the university and San Luis Obispo area with their father.

Ashley (Political Science ’15) and Matthew (Construction Management ’17), have both been involved in outreach that promotes and supports Cal Poly programs.

Stephens, who says he’ll never get tired of building things, says construction management is a way of life for him. “You live and breathe building. It’s big, it’s loud, it’s dirty, and it’s fun. And when you’re done, you’ve left something permanent. I can go into my backyard, look at the skyline, and point to buildings I’m proud of. The people I work with, when we finish a project, we all stand back and look at it together. It’s satisfying to share those moments and share a history in this company and our community.”

...Cal Poly keeps up with the industry and is very supportive of its students. We know their graduates will be ready to work and hit the ground running. We get our money’s worth from Day One. ///
The Legacies Courtyard Restoration Project is more than half funded, thanks to participants of the inaugural Dean’s Cup Golf Tournament. The tournament’s 16 players shared camaraderie, collegiality, fresh air and memories as they raised $22,000. The first half of the tournament was held September 9 and 10, 2016, at the Monterey Peninsula Country Club. The second half is scheduled for January 27 in San Diego. Players included President Jeffrey A. Armstrong, alumni and friends of the college. Thank you, players and supporters!

Special thanks to Wally Gordon, chair of the Dean’s Leadership Council, council member Kelly Givens, and Scott Gaudineer, CAED’s representative to the Cal Poly Alumni Association Board, for planning the tournament.
Dear CAED Alumni,

It is a joy to introduce myself to you as your new assistant dean of development and external relations. I’m excited about my role here at the College of Architecture and Environmental Design. I anticipate challenges ahead but strongly believe they will only lead to great opportunities. It is my hope to build a strong partnership with you on behalf of the college, our current students who will be future alumni.

It is an exciting time to become engaged or re-engaged with the CAED. We are holding strong as the nation’s No. 1 public undergraduate architecture program. Our students are doing exceptionally well in national competitions, such as our fifth-year landscape architecture student Brandon Cornejo winning the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Award of Excellence in Research, or our faculty influencing the built environment through research, innovation, entrepreneurial and partnership opportunities.

As alumni, you are influencing the current and future built environment in your own unique ways as well, and we are so very proud of you. I am encouraging all CAED alumni to become active with the college. We want to hear from you, and we want to see you. Come back often and tell us what you’re doing so that we can celebrate you and your accomplishments. I welcome your ideas and suggestions on alumni programming that would best suit your interests.

I also want to encourage you to give back to the college. Your support of the CAED through your time, talent and treasure makes a difference in the lives of our students and faculty. Scholarship support such as the generous gift from the Errett Fischer Foundation this year will provide several city and regional planning (CRP) students with much needed funds to continue their studies and graduate. Grant support from AVRP Studios has allowed faculty members to do research around housing innovation, which directly ties back to teaching our students. Your support matters. Your gifts, whatever the size, send the message to our students and faculty that you care.

Finally, in June 2017, the college will celebrate its 70th anniversary, which began with the Architectural Engineering Program. We look forward to seeing as many of you on campus as possible. Throughout the year, many activities are being planned both locally and regionally. So please check out our website, your email, your snail mail, and social media for the latest news and upcoming events.

Thank you for your support. I look forward to meeting you and go Mustangs!

Lorna
Support from Emeritus Professor John W. Edmisten and the late Yvonne Y. Hsu Edmisten includes:

**John W. and Yvonne Y. Hsu Edmisten Architectural Engineering Scholarship Endowment:** To support a student who demonstrates academic excellence and shows promise in architectural and/or structural engineering with design application.

**John W. and Yvonne Y. Hsu Edmisten Architectural Engineering Laboratory Endowment:** To support the third-year structural systems laboratory course.

**John W. and Yvonne Y. Hsu Edmisten Operatic Voice Scholarship Endowment:** To support a student who demonstrates academic excellence, shows demonstrated operatic aptitude, and participates in the Music Department’s activities.

**John W. and Yvonne Y. Hsu Edmisten Opera Theatre:** To support Cal Poly’s Student Opera Theatre.

**Hans Mager Scholarship:** The Edmistens provide matching funds to this scholarship, established in memory of late ARCE founding faculty member, Hans L. Mager. The award recognizes a student demonstrating exceptional understanding of the relationship of structure and form in its relationship to structural engineering.

### Generous Support Engineered by a Partnership of More Than 50 Years

**JOHN W. AND YVONNE Y. HSU EDMISTEN BEQUEST AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

While John Edmisten (Architectural Engineering, ’65) was teaching a variety of architectural engineering courses at Cal Poly, his wife, Yvonne Hsu Edmisten (Home Economics, ’64) was putting her financial skills to work. Speaking fondly of his late wife, the emeritus professor says, “Yvonne’s father was an investment banker, and she was her father’s daughter. She handled all the money in our partnership. It’s all her doing. She made a lot more money investing from our kitchen table than she did as a dietitian.”

According to Mr. Edmisten, his wife’s penchant is what has allowed the couple to provide educational opportunities for students today and into the future. Through a series of planned giving bequests and ongoing scholarships, the Edmistens’ support extends to student pursuits focused on architectural and structural engineering, and performing arts.

Throughout their 53-year marriage, Mr. Edmisten shared his wife’s other love, opera. Mrs. Edmisten became enamored with opera when the newlyweds were living and working in San Francisco after earning their degrees at Cal Poly. Mrs. Edmisten was a volunteer at the San Francisco Opera. Upon her return to San Luis Obispo, she became one of the founders of a local group, Opera Lovers Meet, and was its director for many years. She supported Cal Poly’s Student Opera Workshop and generously donated volunteer time and financial support to the Cal Poly Performing Arts Center. She was a devoted supporter of the Pacific Repertory Opera and its successor, Opera San Luis Obispo, and several other local performing arts programs. High school and community college students in San Luis Obispo also benefit from the couple’s generosity as they pursue university educations, via scholarship funds and bequests established with Community Foundation San Luis Obispo County.

Mr. Edmisten reflects fondly on his 26 years teaching at Cal Poly, and affectionately on the time he had with his wife, who was both his constant companion and muse. “I loved teaching and really enjoyed my students. Without Yvonne by my side, I probably never would have become a professor. We had a great life together. It was a true partnership.”
ALUMNI NEWS

2016 AIA Young Architects Awards

The CAED is pleased to announce two alumnae were recognized for their efforts to elevate the profession through leadership, service and advocacy.

Stephanie Silkwood (ARCH 2008), associate, RMW Architecture & Interiors, San Jose, Calif.

Carissa Shrock Oyedele (ARCH 2003), senior associate, Moore Ruble Yudell Architects & Planners, Santa Monica, Calif., who married Akin Oyedele in June in Jamaica.

AIA PROFESSIONAL FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED


2016 HONORED ALUMNI

Wendy Ornelas-Condia, FAIA (ARCH 80), is the college’s 2016 Honored Alumna. She is a professor of architecture at Kansas State University and is active in several professional associations. She was inducted in the AIA College of Fellows in 2005.


Peter Arnet (ARCH 1981/MBA 1984) was one of five managing project directors on the Shanghai Disneyland Resort Project, which opened in June. Over a five-year period his responsibilities encompassed nearly half the theme park, including Disney’s largest castle.

Omar Bárcena (ARCH 2004) is the architect of record for the regional Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development projects of KMD Architects, Los Angeles. His wife Lizbeth (Gonzalez) Bárcena (ARCH 2004) works for Gehry Partners on the development of Facebook offices in the USA.
Edward Batchelder (LA 1984) retired from the City of Chula Vista after nearly 30 years. He has transitioned from being a supervisor and planning manager for the city, to chair of Cal Poly’s Landscape Architecture Department Advisory Council.

Brandon Blakeman (ARCH 2007) received his MS ARCH in Real Estate Development from Woodbury University in 2014 and owns Workshop B Architecture + Development, a vertically integrated design-develop-build firm in San Diego, Calif.

After years as a luthier, Butch Boswell (ARCE 1998) opened his own shop, Boswell Guitars, this July in Bend, Ore. He does high-end repair, restoration and building of guitars.

Beth Anna Cornett (MCRP 2010) joins People’s Self-Help Housing’s Multi-Family Housing Development Department in thetri-counties area as a project manager, and Andrew “Darya” Oreizi (CRP 2015) project coordinator.

Chuck Durrett (ARCH 1982), principal at McCamant & Durrett Architects, notes the firm was nominated for the 2016 Global Over 50s Housing/Healthcare Award for excellence in architectural design for senior cohousing communities.

George Garcia (ARCH 1989) and his firm in conjunction with MOCA, LLC, opened the “retro-tech” Butler Hotel in San Luis Obispo’s uptown MOJO (Monterey & Johnson) District.

Sandra Gonzalez, FASLA (LA 1985) is the director of community services for Placentia, Calif., and a member of the Landscape Architecture Department Advisory Council.

David Gorcey (LA 1974) retired from the position of chief landscape architect and park development supervisor, after 38 years with the City of Oxnard.


Enrique Guzman (LA 2014) and Julianna Wild (LA 2014) got engaged in May in the Kenai Fjord National Park in Alaska. They plan to tie the knot near Cal Poly where they met in Studio 252.

Brian Harms (ARCH 2011) who earned his Masters in Design Research at SCI-Arc in 2013, is a senior research engineer at Samsung Research America in the Silicon Valley focusing on the development of digital tools and physical prototypes.

Stephen Hicks (ARCH 1976) retired after 32 years in government work, and is teaching building codes at Cuesta College and part-time in Cal Poly’s Construction Management Department.

Michael Holliday, FAIA (ARCH 1983) received the 2016 Distinguished Leader Award from Leadership Santa Barbara County. He serves on the boards of the UCSB Economic Forecast Project and SB County Economic Vitality Team, and heads the MIT Enterprise Forum Central Coast.

Steven Johnson (ARCH 1988) is an associate architect for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. He plans to join other alumni to spruce up Poly Canyon.

Ben Londo (CM 2007), Cal Poly’s rodeo coach, led by example and was crowned champion of Saddle Bronc Riding at the 73rd Annual Santa Maria Elks Rodeo.
Hollister resident Mirian Martinez (ARCE 2013) organized the Baja Challenge fundraiser, which supports a large volunteer effort to build homes in Tecate, Mexico.

Jordan Moffett (ARCH 2005) of McCarthy Building Companies received the Distinguished Leadership Award in the Young Professional Category at the Design-Build Conference & Expo in Denver, Colo., for his leadership and achievements toward the understanding, use and advancement of design-build practices as an effective and efficient project delivery method.

Craig Park (ARCH 1978) was named to a 3-year term as program vice chair for the North Central Region of the Society of College & University Planners in Nebraska. He provides strategic direction for regional program content and delivery for conferences and symposiums.

William Rosenblatt (MS ARCH 2016, Spec. in ARCE) received the Outstanding Thesis Award from the graduate faculty for his structural damage detection research. As shown above, he is achieving new heights.

As a founding principal, Dan Rossetto (ARCH 1973) is celebrating his tenth year as president of Nichols, Melburg & Rossetto Architects + Engineers in Redding, which opened their third California office in Santa Rosa this year.

Eric “Joe” Shaw (ARCH 1963) has retired after 49 years of work with Caltrans, the Department of Water Resources and several cities, and has transitioned to being a semi-retired consulting engineer, and chairman of the City of Banning Planning Commission. One of his projects included civil engineering design at Walt Disney World in Fla.

CRSA Architecture and Craig Smith (ARCH 1976) owner and principal architect, won the 2016 CCCAIA design award citation for the Almond Grower’s Building. This historical restoration project converted the 1930 Farmer’s Alliance Building into a tasting room and production facility for Derby Winery Estates in Paso Robles. To view other winners, visit bit.ly/CCCAIA_Awards.

Michael Sudolsky (ARCH 2013) won the AIA Travelling Scholarship to India, where he will study slum developments to uncover how non-architected developments bring about a sense of community, entrepreneurship and discarded reuse, with a goal to apply it toward functional and affordable housing in the US. His adviser for the study is Chandrika Jaggia (Architecture).

Alicia Daniels Uhlig (ARCH 1996) is the director of Living Community Challenge + Policy at the International Living Future Institute’s Seattle office.

Alfred “Weird Al” Yankovic (ARCH 1980) was inducted into Cal Poly’s new Mustang Media Hall of Fame in October. Once active on campus radio, his musical parody career spans 35 years and he has sold more than 15 million albums. Read more at bit.ly/MustangHallOfFame.
CAED FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

CAED Student and Teacher Scholar Award Recipients

We thank Ted Hyman of ZGF, and the William Randolph Hearst Foundation for their generous support of this awards program, which has made it possible for students to collaborate with faculty on their research projects.

THE HEARST STUDENT SCHOLAR FELLOWS are working with architecture faculty member Don Choi on his project: Developing Digital Methods for Historical Research, and city and regional planning faculty members Vicente Del Rio and Amir Hajrasouliha on their project: Elements of City Form – Best Practices.

THE ZGF BUILDING PERFORMANCE EVALUATION STUDIES AWARD recipients are faculty members Kevin Dong (Architectural Engineering) and Tom Fowler (Architecture) for their project: Design Collaboratory in Grasshopper: Parametrically Modeling a New University for Tanzania.

THE HEARST TEACHER SCHOLAR FELLOWSHIP recipient is city and regional planning faculty member Amir Hajrasouliha for his project: The Impact of Campus Form on Students’ Success and College Life Satisfaction – Studying the 23 campuses of the California State University.

THE HEARST SCHOLARSHIP IN EDUCATION recipient is architecture faculty member Umut Toker for his project: New Frontiers in Teaching Parametric Design and Digital Fabrication.

Robert Arens was appointed associate department head for architecture and the new faculty director of the college’s Neel Resource Center. He was awarded the Teacher Scholar Fellowship funded by Majid Zarrinkelk, for his resilient housing research project: Housing the World’s Most Vulnerable: Best Practice. In addition, Arens spent the 2015-16 academic year studying urbanism patterns in Detroit that show how the city is thriving but not in ways measured by traditional metrics.

Jessica Darin, chief of staff in the Cal Poly President’s Office, presented the President’s Community Service Award to construction management faculty members Phil Barlow and Troy Hart (shown left to right) in the category Service Learning – Faculty Team for their teaching in CM429 on CM420. In the course students plan projects on behalf of charitable organizations in the Five Cities region.

Newly appointed City and Regional Planning Department Head Michael Boswell has been selected to participate in Guidelines for City Climate Action Plans, a United Nations program designed to promote sustainable and adequate shelters for all.

Ryan Brockett (Architecture) and wife, Julianne, welcomed their daughter Cora to the family on March 12.
In June, Ellen Burke (Landscape Architecture) gave a presentation on “Iterative Mappings: Spatial Analysis for Community Food Resilience” at the Urban Food Systems Symposiums held at Kansas State University. Burke also gave a presentation in October on “Small Acts: Catalyzing Consumer Action through Creative Practice” at the International Food Studies Conference held at U.C. Berkeley.

Dale Clifford (Architecture) received a three-year National Science Foundation Grant to study responsive building envelopes made from shape memory polymers. The research team, composed of Cal Poly staff and undergraduate and graduate students, will look to systems in nature to inspire development of building technologies that enable buildings to more actively respond to environmental changes.

Resilient Communities Research Institute members presented to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection the preliminary results of research on dead-end roads. The research is intended to provide a rational basis for possible regulatory improvements. The team consists of project director David Conn (Emeritus City and Regional Planning), Cornelius Nuworsoo (City and Regional Planning), Chris Dicus (Natural Resource Management and Environmental Science), Senior Advisor Ken Topping, Senior Consultant Dan Turner, and Cal Poly graduate students.

David Conn (City and Regional Planning Emeritus) is a member of the Community Affairs Council of SLO and chair of the Five Cities Diversity Coalition to promote the inclusion and affirmation of diversity in our community. Conn also designed and led three workshops for local jurisdictions across the state that focused on the implementation of successful curbside oil collection programs.

Hemalata Dandekar (City and Regional Planning) and her colleague Michael Hibbard of the University of Oregon co-edited an issue of International Planning Studies, which presents an international comparison of rural planning between the United States and India.

Articles by Amir Hajrasouliha and William Riggs (City and Regional Planning) were published in the Journal of Planning Education and Research Spring 2016 edition. In collaboration with colleagues, Hajrasouliha wrote Streetscape Features Related to Pedestrian Activity, and Riggs authored Two-Way Street Conversion: Evidence of Increased Livability in Louisville.

Dean Emeritus Tom Jones received a Fulbright Fellowship to go to the Welsh School of Architecture in Cardiff, UK. Jones will be joining an interdisciplinary community design project funded by a European Union grant and presenting lectures on urban planning and affordable housing found in California’s Bay Area.

Road Stories

Gary Dwyer (Emeritus Landscape Architecture) published Road Stories, a light-hearted, humorous book that features photographs and anecdotes about how users perceive the relationship between vehicles and locations all over the world.

Architectural engineering faculty members Cole McDaniel and Peter Laursen, with the help of intern and student Shannon Abeling (shown L-R) performed Ultra-low Forced Vibration Testing (UL-FVT) on the earthquake-damaged Piedras Blancas Light House to confirm the accuracy of the finite element models created by Shoreline Engineering.
Kelly Main (City and Regional Planning) was given the 2016 Ally of the Year Award by the Cal Poly Pride Center. This student-nominated award is given at the Lavender Commencement held each year and is in recognition of faculty members who have shown exceptional support and advocacy for queer students and communities.

Academic Advisor Mitra Nafisi received an award of honor for excellent student service from the Student Affairs University Housing Living Learning Program.

Christine O’Hara (Landscape Architecture) was featured in the national magazine Garden Design for the article “Designing for Drought and Living with It.” O’Hara also published a case study in the Landscape Journal, an essay in Eden, the journal for the California Garden and Landscape History Society, and presented a case study on Los Angeles parkways at the International Conference for the Society of Architectural Historians.

Clare Olsen (Architecture) joined the editorial board for Technology | Architecture + Design (TAD), which is a peer-reviewed international journal dedicated to the advancement of scholarship in the field of building technology with a focus on its impact on architecture and design.

Work by Stephen Phillips (Architecture) of Stephen Phillips Architects was published in more than 25 books and magazines in addition to his newest publication in Domus, “Black Mass: Linden Street Apartments,” which is a feature on a residential building that challenges San Francisco’s standard housing typologies.


William Siembieda (City and Regional Planning) is the first CAED faculty member to receive the competitive 2015-16 Cal Poly Distinguished Scholarship Award. Siembieda was recognized for his 15 years of research on reducing natural hazard risk and impact by utilizing land use planning techniques. Siembieda also was appointed to the International Advisory Board of the Chilean National Center for Integrated Natural Hazard Management.

City and Regional Planning Emeritus Prof. Paul Wack has established a new $1,000 annual scholarship for undergraduate and graduate city and regional planning students that compliments an existing scholarship Wack established five years ago.

Construction management faculty member Paul Weber and staff member Julie Zafiratos developed the “Great Women of CM” video series, which profiles female students and alumni career paths that are changing the status quo of the industry for the benefit of future students. Watch the full series at http://bit.ly/Great-WomenofCM.

Faculty and Staff Announcements:

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU TO THESE RETIREES FOR THEIR YEARS OF DEDICATION TO CAL POLY. They include Richard Beller (Architecture), Dennis Combrink (Architectural Engineering), James Guthrie (Architectural Engineering), Kathy Mastako (Landscape Architecture), and Howard Weisenthal (Architecture). Thomas Jones (Architecture), will continue to teach in the Faculty Early Retirement Program.

THE CAED WELCOMES: Christi Banks (Construction Management), Anahid Behrouzi (Architectural Engineering), Kathy Carpenter (Landscape Architecture), Jason Hailer (Construction Management), Amir Hajrasouliha (City and Regional Planning), Dan Knight (Construction Management), Lorna Malcolm (Development and External Relations), and Thom Perlmutter (Shops).
College of Architecture and Environmental Design outstanding senior student awards went to:

**Chip Hubert** (Architecture), Academic Excellence Award; **Kyle Kithas** (Architecture), Academic Excellence Award; **Emily Setoudeh** (Architectural Engineering), Contributions to Objectives and Public Image of the College Award; **Tanner Shelton** (City and Regional Planning, pictured), Contributions to Objectives and Public Image of the University Award; **Rachel SantaOlalla** (Landscape Architecture), Contributions to Objectives and Public Image of the University Award; **Parker Helene Haerr** (Construction Management) Service to the Community Award.

Junior **Trevor Houghton** (Construction Management) received second place in the ARCHICAD Student Design Competition. The inaugural competition challenged students to design temporary, mobile visitor centers in ARCHICAD, using shipping containers.

Architecture student **Andrew Stephen Minnich** earned the Design Excellence Award from the Danish Institute for Study Abroad Program in Copenhagen, Denmark, for his work on two projects *Microclimatic Shelter: a Place for Hygge*, and *Orestad Chapel: a Place of Silence*.

**Justin Sauder** and **Augustina Remedios** (City and Regional Planning) were selected for the globally coveted New Zealand National Expedition and Internship. Their work focused on risk reduction in the natural and built environment.

PolyCAP, Cal Poly’s first Climate Action Plan, was developed by a team of 27 students and faculty members, **Adrienne Greve**, **Chris Clark**, and **Billy Riggs** from the City and Regional Planning Department.

**Edern Audrain** (Architecture) received second place in the Open Category of The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture sixteenth annual steel student design competition for *THE NEST - Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes Wildlife Refuge Interpretive Center*. 
Cal Poly received the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) Chapter Honor Award at the AIAS Forum, for its consistent growth and stability and for providing outstanding education and professional programs to its members.

A multidisciplinary team of Cal Poly students from architecture, construction management and business, captured second place in the four-year college category at the 2016 National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Residential Construction Management Competition. This year’s second-place award marks the 11th time since 2001 that Cal Poly has finished in the top five at the competition. Cal Poly placed first in 2005, 2006 and 2011.

Cal Poly tied for first place in the 2016 Bank of America Merrill Lynch Low-Income Housing Challenge with Sanctuary 6 veteran’s housing project. The multidisciplinary team partnered with more than 17 community groups including People’s Self Help Housing, the Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo, and Supportive Services for Veteran Families to develop a project that incorporated six key pillars specific to the veteran community: a veteran population, independence, support, camaraderie, connectivity and sustainability. The team included students from architecture, economics, finance, city and regional planning, and construction management.

A joint community service project between the Student Chapters of Mechanical Contractors Association of America and National Electrical Contractors Association provided the opportunity to aid in the construction of a solar-powered clean water distribution system for the village of Santa Rosa in the Amazon rain forest of Ecuador. The project was funded in part by a grant from Electri International.

City and regional planning students taught by Vicente del Río received academic accolades from both the Central Coast and the Orange County sections of the American Planning Association California Chapter for their re-design of the corridor and south gateway for the City of San Clemente.

Zachary Cooperband (ARCE), Charlie Crowe (ARCH), Jo-Annie Tran (LA), and Ryan Wang (LA) represented the CAED on the Rose Float team. Cal Poly’s Sweet Shenanigans won the Lathrop K. Leishman Trophy for the most beautiful non-commercial entry. This marks the 53rd time the Cal Poly Rose Float earned special honors at the Tournament of Roses Parade.

Construction management students swept the 29th Annual Associated Schools of Construction Region 6 and 7 Competition, landing four first-place wins in the categories of Heavy-Civil, Virtual Design and Construction, Pre-construction Services, and Electrical Systems.
SAVE THE DATE

REUNION WEEKEND
June 23-25, 2017
All alumni and friends are invited
with a special recognition of CAED classes of:

For more info and to register visit caed.calpoly.edu/caed-70th-reunion, or contact caed-events@calpoly.edu / 805-756-7432
CAED EVENTS

JAN 25-26, 2017
Winter Career Fair
All Cal Poly majors

JAN 27
Dean's Cup Golf Tournament
caed-events@calpoly.edu

FEB 11
ARCE Structural Forum

FEB 16
CAED Career Fair

FEB 21
Construction Management Career Fair

MAR 17
Winter Landscape
Architecture Fifth-Year Senior Thesis Show

APR 7-9
Open House
Design Village Competition & Alumni Gathering

APR 19-20
Spring Career Fair
All Cal Poly majors

APR 27
AIA Alumni Gathering
Orlando, FL
architecture@calpoly.edu

MAY 26-27
Architecture Fifth-Year Senior Thesis Show

MAY 25-28
Reunion of all Cal Poly Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center (WAAC) participants
architecture@calpoly.edu

JUN 9
Spring Landscape
Architecture Fifth-Year Senior Thesis Show

JUNE 17
Spring Commencement

JUNE 23-25
CAED Reunion Weekend
caed-events@calpoly.edu

JUNE 24
CAED 70th Anniversary & Dean’s Day Event
caed-events@calpoly.edu

ONGOING
For the Hearst Lecture Series and event updates, go to caed.calpoly.edu or email caed-events@calpoly.edu

For career fairs explore:
careerservices.calpoly.edu