Contents

WINTER 2016

2 FACULTY AND STUDENTS LEARN BY TEACHING
Current and emeritus faculty reflect on learn by teaching

10 COLLEGE & DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS
A look back at some of the year's highlights

12 SOLAR CAL POLY INHOUSE
Solar Cal Poly INhouse wins third overall in 2015 Solar Decathlon

14 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS
From national competitions to launching a new product, read about student achievements

16 ALUMNI NEWS
News and updates from your friends and classmates

19 CAED FACULTY & STAFF NEWS
Faculty accolades from around the college

21 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS
Recognizing supporters

24 CAL POLY SCHOLARS STARTS IN THE CAED
Alumni and friends pay it forward with support for Cal Poly Scholars

Do we have your current contact information?
To make updates, please visit alumni.calpoly.edu/info. Or for questions, please contact 805-756-5138.

ON THE COVER
Landscape Architecture Faculty David Watts and students Shannon O’Hehir and Mwinyi El-Kindiy review plans for the courtyard restoration project. See page 6 for complete story.

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Learn by Teaching

Our faculty and students Learn by Doing every day through hands-on, practical application of planning, designing and building. From designing a new patio for the college and testing sustainable building materials for developing nations, to constructing a water system in Ecuador, our family of dedicated learners transform themselves as they transform environments.

The theme for this edition of Connections is “Learn by Teaching.” We asked ourselves these questions: How does learning impact teaching? How does teaching impact learning?

The answers were everywhere. Faculty and students are active in practice and engaged with industry through sabbatical projects and summer internships, learning new concepts and methods to share in the classroom. They built a solar-powered home to compete in the Solar Decathlon in October, teaching themselves and the public about sustainable materials and technologies. They are learning to teach the next generation in our popular summer career workshop for high school students. At Cal Poly teaching is learning, as faculty experiment with new teaching methods and devise curricular innovations that maintain our leading edge in higher education. Emeritus faculty, many still engaged with the college, paved the way as they learned and taught.

Our faculty are professional learners — they track developments in practice to ensure that graduates understand the evolving contexts that affect built environments. They stretch students’ imaginations and creativity in ways that position them to challenge today’s paradigms and innovate toward the future. The path for learning is a two-way street — students learn from faculty, certainly, and they enrich our faculty, as well. They bring new perspectives, new outlooks, and even new technologies that inform the curriculum that faculty impart. I continue to be impressed with the openness for learning that occurs in both directions.

Turning our sights to the future, our talented faculty and ambitious students deserve opportunities to learn and teach in well-equipped facilities equal to our national rankings. We have identified aspirational goals for our learning places — the labs, shops and studios that inspire action. I invite your input and support as we build opportunities for learning in the College of Architecture & Environmental Design.

Christine Theodoropoulos
AIA, PE

“The path for learning is a two-way street — students learn from faculty, certainly, and they enrich our faculty, as well.”
Faculty and Students

Learn by Teaching

Cal Poly’s College of Architecture & Environmental Design is the only school in the nation where all five disciplines of the built environment — architectural engineering, architecture, city & regional planning, construction management, and landscape architecture — blend seamlessly to provide an unparalleled educational experience. Interdisciplinary, real-world projects are the norm, with Cal Poly’s signature Learn by Doing approach in full operation.

In this issue of Connections, we celebrate the adage, “To teach is to learn.”
Sustainable Environments Nationally Recognized

For 22 years, the college’s sustainable environments program has offered Cal Poly students from all majors an opportunity to shape their own education informed by the principles and problems of sustainable environmental design with global, regional and local significance. The program provides students with the knowledge and abilities needed to integrate concerns for ecology, social equity and economics within the context of human and natural resource systems and the built environment.

The award-winning sustainable environments minor is both interdisciplinary and comprehensive. Interdisciplinary student teams undertake projects on campus or in communities to develop tools, processes and designs for community-based projects at various scales to address the social, environmental and economic issues of sustainability. Projects range from policy and planning recommendations to design proposals, technical fixes, informational projects, organization forming and built works.

The minor includes two core courses team-taught by an interdisciplinary group of faculty from the College of Architecture & Environmental Design and electives offered by departments in almost every college. It involves collaboration with a rich array of people, organizations and entities at Cal Poly and in the local region, including most of the university’s five colleges, Cal Poly’s Facilities, Planning & Capital Projects Department, San Luis Obispo city and county governments, local school districts, public agencies, nonprofit organizations, the chamber of commerce, local businesses, local offices of national businesses, and others.

The sustainable environments program has led to a number of student projects, including the creation of Empower Poly (a coalition of student-led campus clubs that share goals

“Teaching forces me to dig into the subject matter to better grasp the meaning, principles of the subject, and to work out applications. This forces me to search for the broader relationships between the subject matter and daily life, society and the world.”

Margarida Yin
Faculty
Architecture
“Education is crucial for humans’ sustainable future,” said Joseph Ragsdale. “The truth and consequences of our actions may be disruptive of existing paradigms, difficult and uncomfortable to implement, but our options are even more limited the longer we take.”

— Joseph Ragsdale, Faculty, Landscape Architecture

related to sustainability), advocacy for green certifications of campus projects and a greener “WOW Week,” changes to university food service practices, proposed policies to improve waste management and water conservation, and analyzing and implementing actions with local school districts for “greening” local schools.

In response to the question about what he learns as a teacher of sustainable environments, Jonathan Reich replied, “I’m fortunate to have been employed to formally study and teach sustainability since the mid-’80s and to learn from the many guest speakers and students — especially from colleagues and collaborators. The lessons from 30-plus years of studying and teaching sustainability are clear — it is a very complex subject requiring broad empirically based interdisciplinary knowledge. Our own challenge as educators has been to provide a comprehensible interdisciplinary introduction to this complex set of conditions that will most influence our students’ lives and provide an opportunity for students to act on their knowledge, and thus help them shape their futures accordingly.”

More than 1,400 students, including students from every college at Cal Poly, have graduated with the sustainable environments minor and many of them have become influential in the field of sustainability in their various disciplines.

LEARN BY TEACHING

Ken Haggard
Emeritus Faculty
Architecture, 1967-1986

“It’s been said that you don’t really learn anything until you have to teach it. We live in such a dynamic society that teaching requires learning, which requires research to stay current and hopefully slightly ahead of the curve. I always considered learning, teaching and research an integrated synergetic whole.”

In 2015, Cal Poly’s sustainable environments minor won statewide recognition and a Best Practice Award for Sustainability in Academics at the California Higher Education Sustainability Conference (CHESC). Through the years, the sustainable environments program has been recognized locally and nationally for best practices. As a Senior Fulbright Scholar, Reich taught a version of the sustainable environments core in Italy.
Construction Management
Service Learning

Service learning projects allow students to learn by using their skills in construction management in a safe and friendly environment while providing community service.

Construction Service Learning (CM 420) was developed by Brett Mullinax (Construction Management, 2008) and his faculty advisor, Phil Barlow, as a senior project. It’s been taught each year since and has evolved to include students from other departments. The class now averages about 24 students who construct approximately six projects a year.

For the class, each student team is assigned a local service learning project on a scale that is deemed manageable in one quarter, is beneficial to the underprivileged, and that encapsulates most aspects of the construction curriculum. General contractors, including DPR, Clark, SUNDT, Hanover, NIBBI, and Hensel Phelps, provide funds to buy construction materials and tools needed to build the projects.

The course simulates the real-life construction process. Students are exposed to client meetings, project design, code review, contract documents, the permit process, risk analyses, safety plans, estimating, scheduling, procuring materials, job tracking, jobsite productivity, construction, and the close-out process — a true Learn by Doing experience.

What makes the service experience different from simply volunteering is the learning element, which includes reflection on best practices and lessons learned. The students are responsible for the project’s ultimate success or failure, and their active engagement helps bridge the gap between Cal Poly students and our host communities.

“I have learned that I must teach the basic technical skills for a student to be successful — but coaching and putting students in positions that help them grow as individuals result in even better teaching opportunities,” Barlow said.

By the Numbers
Improving the lives of local residents in need through construction service-learning projects

- $70,000+ worth of construction materials
- 35+ local service learning projects
- 150+ Cal Poly students
- 10,000+ volunteer hours
- 2008 Cal Poly University President’s Community Service Award for Service Learning

LEARN BY TEACHING

Jim Rodger
Emeritus Faculty
Construction Management
1986-2002

“In every course I taught, it was the interaction with the students that was the most enjoyable. The teacher needs to understand the underlying principles of the subject matter to better present the whole picture. Learning the whole story — the detail — allows the instructor to teach the ‘why’ as well as the ‘what.’ Practical project-based lessons provide the best teaching opportunities.”
Originally constructed in 1979 by architecture students, the courtyard behind the Neel Resource Center and the Berg Gallery has served the college as an active workplace for thousands of student projects and a gathering place for college events, serving every department in the CAED. But time has taken its toll, and the courtyard is in dire need of renewal to better serve our needs in the future. It is a very special place for the college and an important priority for renovation. It provides a perfect opportunity to Learn by Doing and learn by teaching.

Last spring, Joe Dunstan’s landscape architecture students presented designs for consideration. The jury of faculty and administration identified several design features for further development. This year, David Watts, landscape architecture faculty, will lead landscape architecture and construction management students as they work together to finalize the design and build the project.

Paul Neel, emeritus professor and dean and a 1958 architectural engineering alumnus, is spearheading efforts to renew this important place. Through his outreach, the classes of ’63-’65 and ’79-’80 adopted the Legacies Courtyard as their class project and have assisted in raising $15,000 toward the project’s $50,000 budget.

Respecting the project completed in 1979, current CAED students will work to achieve the goals for the courtyard and our college campus by providing a quality place for active learning and passive refuge for students and faculty alike.

“This unique opportunity to engage in teaching a design/build course epitomizes the Cal Poly motto of Learn by Doing and will enrich each of the student’s experiences and advance their future work as professionals.”

— David Watts, Faculty, Landscape Architecture

We are accepting donations to complete this project. Please contact Natalie Schaefer, assistant dean for external relations, at 805-756-5138 or njschaef@calpoly.edu.

“With each project students had the opportunity to present their work both on and off campus to professionals with a vested interest. This sharing and feedback of knowledge with the greater community was always an important part of learning for students and faculty.”

Gere Smith
Emeritus Faculty
Landscape Architecture
1980-2001
Building Sandcastles Teaches Others to Learn

The Sandcastle Competition gives elementary students a chance to construct a sand sculpture as architectural engineering students and professionals from local engineering, design and construction firms learn by teaching.

Architectural engineering students, working with upper-level students enrolled in the teacher credential program, developed a curriculum to teach basic engineering and design concepts, then taught it to children in five local fifth-grade classrooms.

The first two lessons introduced plans and elevations, then students in small groups explored these definitions through an activity in which they designed and built a structure out of Linker Cubes. These buildings were placed in a skyline. The students were then assigned a section of skyline and instructed to draw the elevation on grid paper. Finally, the students lined up their drawn elevations to see if they correctly represented the skyline arranged by their buildings.

The last two lessons focused on the design process and how planners, architects, engineers and contractors work together to complete a project. They use these concepts to design a sand sculpture, which is eventually built at the beach in a competition with other schools. Judges hand out awards to each classroom based on teamwork, creativity and best representation of the theme.

Architectural engineering student Sydney Patrick was this year’s event organizer. “This experience taught me a lot about communication because I had to think about the students’ vocabulary and what they were able to understand. I often explained one concept five different ways to account for their different learning styles. This made a huge impact on the way I thought about my future career … realizing that if I am working with someone from a different field and they aren’t understanding what I am trying to explain, I may need to rephrase that information so that they will be able to understand it better.”

Pamalee Brady, architectural engineering faculty member, is the activity advisor.

“There aren’t enough professionals to enter every classroom and introduce students to the excitement of engineering. This project enables future teachers to make the message their own and relate the math they are teaching to engineering design.”

— Pamalee Brady, Faculty, Architectural Engineering

Jill Nelson
Faculty
Architectural Engineering

“For me teaching and learning are so intertwined that it is a continual cyclical process. I am always learning how to be a better teacher, and I am always improving my teaching because I can’t stop learning.”
Strategic Affordable Housing

Students of city and regional planning, architecture, construction management, business and biology took CRP 442: Housing and Planning taught by Hemalata Dandekar, City & Regional Planning Department head. They spent many hours listening to developers, city planners, economists, architects, builders, state-level strategists, and policymakers explain how they think about, and act, to help build housing for low- and moderate-income families in California.

Students were challenged to seek out and analyze built projects that have successfully innovated in the areas of design, planning and finance to create affordable housing without any state or federal government subsidy. They were successful in finding excellent projects, all built within the last decade, that demonstrate how the private sector is able to build housing for this population, whose income precludes them from access to subsidized housing that goes largely to families with very low incomes.

The student-identified projects embody a complex and interactive array of innovations using a range of design strategies, including smaller-by-design, flexible design and adaptive reuse. These were often coupled with innovations in planning regulation with respect to parking, density, heights, setbacks and financing structures that allowed a developer to cover pre-construction costs and move forward to obtain construction loans on entitled projects.

Dandekar is developing a report to the California Housing and Community Development Department, the agency charged with writing the California Statewide Housing Strategy/Plan 2015-25. Her report builds on and amplifies the student work to outline policy and strategies that can strengthen the role of private sector housing developers in designing and building homes for working families with low and moderate incomes. The viability of California’s industry greatly depends on these workers, and the ability to produce housing for them — proximate to their work — is key to the economic vitality of the state.

"My research effort is to identify the ways in which partnerships have engendered success in creating housing for low- and moderate-income people in California without deep state and federal subsidies. The students learned how to find cutting-edge professional activity and to analyze it to see how government, developers, designers and nonprofits contributed to the success. They learned to approach housing from an interdisciplinary perspective."

— Hemalata Dandekar, Faculty, City & Regional Planning

LEARN BY TEACHING

Paul Wack
Emeritus Faculty
City & Regional Planning 1979-2014

"I view teaching and learning as a two-way street. I’ve learned just as much from class members as they have from me. Learning from my 45 years of professional practice informs the content of my teaching. Learning from my cumulative classroom experiences guides how course content is organized and presented."

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— Hemalata Dandekar, Faculty, City & Regional Planning
With the growing number of LEED-certified buildings on campus, faculty and students have ready access to case study fieldwork. Using the campus as a living laboratory, students investigate building performance while gathering useful information for LEED documentation and post-occupancy assessments.

Over the past two years, architecture students in a second-year environmental controls systems class studied the Baker Center for Science and Mathematics, which was designed by ZGF Architects LLP and opened in fall 2013.

Thanks to a systemwide sustainability grant from the California State University Chancellor’s Office, students and faculty explored shading design and daylighting performance in several different space types for this building, including offices and classrooms.

“We feel incredibly honored to have received this grant in an inaugural year for the CSU Campus as a Living Lab program,” said Architecture Department Head Margot McDonald, who is the lead on the project. “To invite students to bring their natural curiosity and ingenuity to real-world studies through a funded opportunity for course design focused in their own backyard was brilliant. It created synergies between facilities, faculty and fellow students that had not existed previously.

Through this program, students are engaged in coursework that provides tangible, hands-on measurement and evaluative activities related to sustainability, informing their design education.

The curriculum design project was presented at a National Science Foundation (NSF) convocation on undergraduate research held at the National Academy of Sciences and in an Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture/American Institute of Architects Professional Practice Intersections Workshop in May 2015. Participants included faculty members Margot McDonald, Clare Olsen, Stacey White and Jeff Landreth, with architecture students Lisa Hayden and Katie Worden, in collaboration with alumnus Ted Hyman (ARCH, 1979) and the Los Angeles office of ZGF Architects LLP.

“George Hasslein taught me to always try to find a way to give back. Teaching fundamental skills is great, but being able to teach students the current technology to get a leap ahead really excites me. I’m learning more now with these new tools than I ever have in my life.”

Elbert Speidel
Faculty
Construction Management
**College & Department Highlights**

**Learn by Making and Engaging**

**Places. Projects. People**

We are nationally recognized for outstanding programs that prepare professionals to dream, design and do. “Places. Projects. People” is an initiative that forms the foundation of the college’s efforts to advance this legacy.

The $50 million campaign will help build inspirational places, support innovative projects, and develop phenomenal people who will be the industry leaders and design professionals of the future.

“Students and faculty deserve facilities and support equal to our national rankings,” said Dean Christine Theodoropoulos. “We must ensure tomorrow’s College of Architecture & Environmental Design provides access to current equipment and technology, opportunities for more interdisciplinary projects, and engagement with industry for students, staff and faculty.”

A volunteer committee of faculty, administration and industry professionals developed a program for renovation. Architectural firms Mode, Cumming and LPA provided cost estimates and renderings for our future places.

**Student Concrete Reinforcement Research Published**

Students Daniel Berger and Caleb Dunne were recently recognized and published by the American Society of Testing and Materials for their study of the use of bamboo for out-of-plane reinforcement in concrete masonry unit walls. They also recently presented their work at the Structural Engineers Association of California convention.

As a result of their experiments, Berger and Dunne concluded that bamboo-reinforced concrete walls performed significantly better than unreinforced masonry walls and that the failure method of bamboo was similar to steel, warranting further testing of bamboo as a viable reinforcement material.

Bamboo reinforcing can be significantly less costly than steel, and the work demonstrated that it might prove to be especially appropriate in developing nations in tropical, seismically active areas.

Jim Guthrie and James Mwangi served as the faculty advisors, and many other students helped grout the walls.

“Daniel and Caleb’s work was excellent and their approach has the potential to lead to significant advances in seismic safety in developing nations,” Guthrie said.

**Designing Phenomena-based Learning Environments | Fostering Connections with the Natural World**

Students in Kelle Brooks’ class visited two local elementary schools observing children using outdoor learning environments.

Elementary school student “clients” visited Cal Poly, getting a chance to see what studying design at college is like. They were exposed to design principles and learned how the design of an environment can affect the way they learn. They were also introduced to the “critique” method in design, offering their own to the architecture students.

The architecture students learned firsthand how children interact with learning environments. They enjoyed getting feedback on their design projects from young users of the built environment and gained experience presenting their projects to a dynamic and curious group. They observed that it was much different than a typical review because the children were so specific with their observations and insisted that the projects “get built as soon as possible!”
Urban Design Vision for San Clemente

San Clemente’s Planning Department engaged Vicente del Rio’s graduate studio to work on an urban design vision to revitalize the South El Camino Real corridor.

The project’s goal was to make the corridor more reflective of community needs, more appealing and safer to pedestrians and bicyclists, and better connected to its vicinities and the rest of San Clemente. Students assessed opportunities and constraints through field studies and interviews, an online survey with almost 150 respondents, an active project website, and a community meeting.

The students proposed an ambitious streetscape transformation, including traffic-calming solutions, Class 1 bike lanes, and public art; intense infill development, particularly vertical mixed-use; three anchor developments to serve as gateways and a community core; and new connections, including the redesign of the existing pedestrian bridge over Interstate 5.

The students presented the final project in public meetings for the San Clemente City Council and Planning Commission.

Professors and Students Assist In Ecuador

Solar-powered energy has made it all the way to the Amazon jungle, thanks in part to faculty Thomas Korman and Lonny Simonian.

Joining students Adam Poffenbarger and Wesley McGuire, the four traveled to Ecuador to help deliver clean spring water to about 200 indigenous people in the Amazon Basin — a project, noted Korman, that would “benefit so many who have so little.”

They went there to help install a system to pump water from a spring to a village about 5,000 meters away. By the time the students arrived, some trenches had been dug, and construction at the spring had started. The students experienced a whole new level of Learn by Doing. They carried machetes and cleared underbrush. They worked in a large, open-walled structure, assembling small components, prefabricating pipes, valves and fittings.

“It was great to be part of a team helping a community of people install a system that will dramatically improve their lives,” Simonian said.

The President’s Garden

At the invitation of Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong and his wife, Sharon Armstrong, landscape architecture students designed four low-water, high-performance alternatives for a new project planned for construction at the University House during the winter 2015 quarter. Student proposals reduced water used for irrigation by up to 60 percent while creating biologically rich gardens.

Students, led by faculty member Ellen Burke, were challenged to create an aesthetically pleasing and drought-tolerant alternative to the current lawn. President and Mrs. Armstrong were involved throughout the process, including attending the mid-term review to offer feedback on proposals. Students also worked closely with the university’s Facilities Management office.

Supported by a grant from the Landscape Architecture Foundation, students expanded their investigations at the University House to include increased sustainability in the landscape including improved storm-water management, creation of habitat for birds and insects, carbon sequestration, food production, and sustainable maintenance regimes.
The Solar Decathlon is a competition sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, which challenges collegiate teams from across the nation to design, engineer and construct a net zero home. An interdisciplinary team of more than 100 Cal Poly students and faculty across 12 majors and five colleges participated, with the CAED taking the lead on organizing and fundraising for the award-winning project.

Teams apply to participate. From an initial field of 20 universities selected, the final competition involved 14 campuses from across the state and nation. Each team competed in a series of ten different contests, ranging from architectural design and lighting, to using their appliances to cook a meal, and charging an electric car which was driven daily during the competition.

This year’s home was dubbed “INhouse,” due to its intuitive, interactive and integrated design. INhouse explored the link between systems and residents, with the goal of making operation and management of the home simple, energy affordable, and waste minimal. Additionally, the home was built to take full advantage of the Central Coast climate, with indoor and outdoor living spaces melding seamlessly to create an attractive and comfortable home.

“The team created and realized a project that we are all incredibly proud of — a very beautiful, well-crafted net zero home.”

— Sandy Stannard, Faculty, Architecture
Net-zero features of the home include:

Landscape irrigation – The roof redirects storm water to planter boxes that naturally filter the water through the landscape and soil.

Constructed wetlands system – The system cleans and recycles all gray-water and directs it to be used for landscape irrigation.

Bifacial solar panels – Making up half of the photovoltaic array, these panels have photovoltaic cells on both the top and the bottom of the panels, collecting energy from the sun’s radiation directly, then again indirectly as the radiation bounces back from the deck.

Phase-change material duct – A duct which uses a natural oil product that changes phase with temperature. Energy (in the form of heat) is absorbed or released as needed.

Cal Poly last competed in 2005, taking 3rd place overall. Since that competition was held in Washington, D.C., the home was designed to travel across country, which limited its size. This year, with a home field advantage (the competition took place in Irvine, Calif.), the home was 1,000 square feet – the maximum square footage allowed – with an additional 700 square feet of outdoor living area.

Future Plans
The INhouse will make its final home on Cal Poly’s campus, providing years of post-occupancy studies to measure building performance. The residents of INhouse will face the challenge of learning how to achieve net zero, with the house itself being the vehicle of their education.
1 Nicole O’Hearne Receives Outstanding Woman in Engineering Award

Nicole O’Hearne (ARCE 2015) was recognized as a 2015 Outstanding Woman in Engineering by the Society of Women Engineers. She and four others were chosen based on faculty recommendations, demonstrated leadership, related work experience, and academic performance.

At Cal Poly, O’Hearne served as president of the Structural Engineers Association of California student chapter and was in the Honors Program. She is pursuing graduate studies in Italy.

2 Architecture Students Recognized with Design Awards

Emily Saunders, and Penn State alumna Michelle Zucker, won the AECOM (Architecture, Engineering, Consulting, Operations and Maintenance) 2014 Urban SOS open ideas competition. Their project, “Restart Tirupur in India,” proposed to re-open abandoned textile factories as water-filter systems and startup community factories.

Zach Williams, received the Design Excellence Award in May at the Danish Institute for Study Abroad. He distinguished himself through diligence, commitment and academic performance, and by contributing to a collaborative learning environment.

3 City & Regional Planning Student Receives National Scholarship

Graduate student Daniel Audelo received one of two national scholarships awarded by the Latinos and Planning Division of the American Planning Association. The 2015 scholarship fosters increased interest in the study of urban planning within the Latino student population at the advanced undergraduate and graduate levels.

Audelo assisted with a comprehensive planning studio in Sanger, Calif., and is pursuing a dual master’s degree in city and regional planning and transportation engineering at Cal Poly.

4 Construction Management Students Win Top Honors at ASC

Students earned top honors at the Associated Schools of Construction competition in Reno, Nev. Seven out of 12 Cal Poly teams placed in the top three spots in their respective categories.

Students placed first in the Mechanical category (shown above); second in Mixed Use, Design Build, and Marine Construction; and third in Heavy Civil, Concrete, and Risk Management. Of the 43 universities competing, Cal Poly was awarded the most trophies overall.
Alex Henige (LA 2015) received national media attention for developing a coffee cup embedded with California wildflower seeds. His Reduce. Reuse. Grow. cup allows consumers to soak the cup in water after using, then plant it and watch it grow. Henige is minored in industrial technology and packaging.

Planning Committee director Kate Cannon, worked with department students to host LABash, the national student landscape architecture conference held at different universities throughout the U.S. and Canada every year. Professionals, alumni and current students from related fields gathered to celebrate landscape architecture, learn new skills, network, and gain new insights into the discipline.

Intercollegiate Team Captures Second at NAHB

CAED students achieved second place among 54 teams in the four-year college category at the 2015 National Association of Home Builders Residential Construction Management Competition in Las Vegas last January.

Team members included students Josh Gleason and Eric Sanchez, both construction management; Derik DeLonzor, architecture; Darya Oreizi, city and regional planning; and business administration students Chris Bet and Anna Costa. Nick Gibson, construction management, and Scott Heath, business administration, assisted with preparing the proposal, which included market research and sales strategy, product and site design, green building initiatives, land development, estimates, schedules and a financial analysis.

Scott Kelting, construction management, served as faculty advisor along with business faculty, Pratish Patel.

Team Project Garners Second Place in B of A Challenge

Cal Poly's Green Team partnered with People's Self-Help Housing to develop plans that earned them a second-place finish in the Bank of America Merrill Lynch Low-Income Housing Challenge in May.

Their project, Vestri Vita — “your life” in Latin — is a 30-unit affordable housing complex for at-risk and homeless veterans in Atascadero, Calif. The team created an ADA-compliant design, including a counseling center, first aid resources, and a “maker space” geared to help veterans reintegrate into the community.

The faculty advisers were Kent Macdonald, architecture, and Pratish Patel, finance.

Students Sweep Top Awards in Steel Design

Architecture students won the 2014-15 Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture/American Institute of Steel Construction (ACSA/AISC) Steel Design Student Competition.

Natacha Schnider, and Stephen “Chip” Hubert, won first place in Category I – Library, with their entry, “Rebound,” which embodies the dynamics of new and old forms of media.

Caroline Angell, garnered first place in Category II – Open, with her selected site and building program for the Murshidibad Women’s Resource Center.

Each entry earned $2,500. Their faculty advisors were Margarida Yin, and James Guthrie. Overall the jury selected six prizewinners and 10 honorable mentions out of more than 500 entries. The projects will be displayed next year at the 104th ACSA Annual Meeting in Seattle and at the AIA National Convention in Philadelphia.
Mario Aiello (ARCH 1978) was pleasantly surprised to receive a call from CAED staff inquiring about artwork from his college days. He returned to the CAED’s main lobby with his wife, Cynthia, to be reunited with his vintage handwriting.

Joseph Baltar (ARCE 1979) has served as a staff engineer for the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy in Europe for more than 20 years.

Nicholas Bleich (CRP/MSE 2015) and Elissa McDade (CRP/MSE 2014) were selected as Presidential Management Fellows, accepting positions with the U.S. Department of Energy and the Federal Transit Administration, respectively.


Ann (Wessel) Desautels (ARCE 1981) and Bob Desautels (ARCE 1981) launched PrimiDEA Building Solutions Inc., an engineering consulting firm in Walnut Creek, Calif.

Nick Dzubnar (CM 2015) fulfilled his dream of becoming a linebacker with the San Diego Chargers, making it on the NFL team’s 53-man roster. As a Mustang, he broke Cal Poly’s school record for most tackles in a single season.

Eric Flodine (LA 1996) is director of community development for Strata Equity Group in San Diego. He lives in San Marcos with his wife, Lu Flodine (Psychology 1995), and family and serves as a planning commissioner.

Douglas Ghiselin (ARCE 1964) is enjoying retirement in Sonoma, Calif., tending to small vineyards.

Enrique Guzman (LA 2014) received an Award of Honor from the Southern California Chapter of the American Society for Landscape Architects for his entry in the 2014 Quality of Life Design Competition. Jeff Ferber (LA 1985), Brian Hannegan (LA 1990) and Mike Sherrod (LA 1994) received Awards of Merit.

Michael Heater (CRP 2013), above, and his wife, GraceAnne, are in the Peace Corps primarily teaching English in the village of Murunda, Rwanda, in central Africa.

He is working on a vision plan for the school where they teach and is renovating the sports field.

Kenneth Alcazar and Sang Yoon Soon, both ARCE students, along with Carly Althoff (ARCH 2015) and Ethan Peper (CM 2015) prepared theses to design and construct a community center in the Philippines. Maddie Pfeffer (ARCH 2013) of BAR Architects accompanied Althoff to the site. Peper is remodeling an existing structure in Tacoloban in association with Journeyman International.

William (Bill) Holland (ARCH 1969) relocated to Georgia after retiring as city architect for Los Angeles. For the past two years, he’s served on the board of directors for a water reclamation plant and was elected chairman.

Doug Ide (CM 1980) has been with Parsons Corp. 18 years, most recently as senior project manager/mechanical estimator in Sumner, Wash., focusing on water and wastewater treatment facilities. He and his wife, Nancy, have three children and two grandchildren.

David Keeton (ARCE 1981) is president of a new east coast company, AeroEdge USA, that manufactures a patented roof edge designed to reduce wind uplift and hurricane damage.

Megan Kosaka Caldera (ARCH 2007) and Ryan Caldera (ARCH 2007), shown here at their wedding, co-founded Caldera Kosaka Design Studio in Los Angeles, focusing on cultural, residential and commercial projects.

Michael Krakower (ARCE 1975) and team at Krakower & Associates Structural Engineers received an historic preservation design award from the Los Angeles Conservancy for the rehabilitation project of the
102-year-old Pacific Electric Railway-El Prado Railroad Bridge in Torrance, Calif.

Anna Lang (ARCE 2001) earned her doctorate in structural engineering from UC San Diego and is currently studying remote sensing technologies with predictive catastrophe models at the Rochester Institute of Technology. She and husband, Tyler Ofstad, are expecting their second child.

Dominic Leong (ARCH 2001) a partner at Leong Leong, announced the firm was selected by the Los Angeles LGBT Center to design the master plan and architecture for the center’s new, mixed-use site in Hollywood, Calif., in collaboration with Killefer Flammang Architects.

Monica Lubag (CM 2010) and her husband, Chaz Thomas, welcomed their baby girl, Harper Lucia Thomas, in August. Lubag is a development and construction project manager with Pristine Sun in San Francisco. The company specializes in utility-scale solar projects.

Ashley Marquez (LA 2014) finished her FoodCorps service membership with the San Diego Unified School District. Her work included community outreach events, managing farm-to-school social media platforms, and conducting garden and nutrition education lessons.

Sam Nunes (ARCH 1986) and John Ruffo (ARCH 1976), two of the founding partners at WRNS Studio, are celebrating the firm’s 10-year anniversary.

Maggie Redfern (ARCH 1996) is assistant director of the Connecticut College Arboretum in New London, Conn. Her husband, Jon Goodhue (ARCH 1997), is a sole practitioner in Boston specializing in the zoning and permitting process.

Arnoldo Rodriguez (CRP 2004) is Yuba City’s new development services director, overseeing inspections and federal Community Development Block Grant funds.

Ken Scofield (ARCE 1974) is a sole practitioner and occasionally works on projects with his old dorm mate, Michael Krakower. They recently worked on a seismic facade upgrade near downtown Los Angeles.

Barry Shaw (ARCH 1980) of Barry Shaw & Associates Inc. in Los Angeles is mentoring the next generation of architects through local career day programs and summer internships.

Thomas Simonson (MCRP 1997) is a principal regulatory analyst for the nonprofit Local Government New Zealand in Wellington.

Jessica Steely (CM 2004) was hired by Semmes & Co. Builders Inc. after graduation and is now part owner and general manager along with founder Turko Semmes (CM 1978). The firm builds custom homes in San Luis Obispo County.

Alfred “Weird Al” Yankovic (ARCH 1980) received his fourth Grammy Award for Best Comedy Album of 2015, for “Mandatory Fun.” Yankovic also received a lifetime achievement award from the CollegeHumor Comedy Music Hall of Fame.

The ARCE and ARCH classes of 1963, ’64 and ’65 joined together to celebrate their 50-year reunions in early May. Alumni toured Poly Canyon, met with former Dean Paul Neel to view the Legacies Courtyard project, and enjoyed dining with faculty over the weekend.
Scott Gaudineer, 2015 CAED Honored Alumnus

Scott F. Gaudineer, AIA, is the college’s 2015 Honored Alumnus.

Gaudineer has served the college in various capacities for many years. A 1979 graduate of the architecture program, he was a founding member of the Daedalus chapter of Alpha Rho Chi (the national architecture fraternity), participated in the student senate, and co-chaired the CAED Student Council. He was a member of the National Honor Society and was a Julia Morgan-Phoebe Hearst scholarship recipient.

Gaudineer knew he wanted to be an architect by the time he was 11 years old. As president/CEO of Flewelling & Moody, he has overseen the facilitation of numerous K-12 and higher education buildings throughout the state. “I consider myself so lucky to have been offered the opportunity to attend and graduate from Cal Poly and pursue my passion of creating great school facilities for the next generation. My best days are when I get to create, design and build something special that will make a difference in someone’s life.”

Gaudineer is passionate about supporting the profession he loves, whether through the role of architect advocate or mentoring and supporting students, emerging professionals and citizen architects.

“I derive true joy seeing our students blossom and grow as they matriculate through college and enter their careers,”

— Scott Gaudineer

He is an active member of his local AIA and the Trustee Division of the State Architect Advisory Board. He received the Presidential Citation from the AIA California Council in 2013. Gaudineer chaired the college’s Dean’s Leadership Council from 2011-15, and he and his wife, Leslie Gaudineer (Social Sciences, 1980), are longtime supporters of the college.

Alumni News

AIA and ASLA Professional Fellowships Awarded

The college is proud to recognize the induction this year of five alumni:


David Diamond, FAIA (ARCH 1989) Associate director/technical designer, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM), San Francisco, Calif.

Nathan Good, FAIA (ARCH 1978) Principal/owner, Nathan Good Architects, Salem, Ore.


René Bihan, FASLA (LA 1988), managing principal at SWA Group, San Francisco, Calif. In addition, Bihan was inducted into the American Society of Landscape Architects Council of Fellows.
Philip Barlow completed his doctorate at the University of Florida and was awarded the AGC Faculty Internship award. One of Barlow’s studies on the slow rate of leveraging technology by contractors was recently cited on ConstructionDIVE.com. He is serving as CM’s interim department head during fall quarter while Allan Hauck is on sabbatical.

UN-Habitat invited Michael Boswell (CRP) to provide two presentations in Oslo, Norway, at a meeting on Guidelines for City Climate Action Plans, in conjunction with the 2015 Cities & Climate Change Initiative Advisory Committee meeting. Boswell co-authored the leading text on Local Climate Action Planning with Adrienne Greve (CRP) and Tammy Seale of Michael Baker International.

Boswell and Greve also organized the 2015 Climate Action Planning Conference at Cal Poly in partnership with the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research.

The conference focused on greenhouse gas emissions reduction and climate adaptation at the local and regional level.

Ellen Burke (LA) received a $150,000 national grant from Art Place America for her project SLO Map. The grant involves CAED students in research, GIS mapping of local food systems, and planning community participation.

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning presented Emeritus Department Head Linda Dalton (CRP) with the Margarita McCoy Advancement of Women in Planning Award 2014.

Department Head Hemalata Dandekar (CRP) announced the formation of the City & Regional Planning Advisory Council, CirPAC. The committee recently hosted an alumni event in association with the American Planning Association conference in Oakland.

Vicente del Rio (CRP) was a team member in a runner-up entry for the Olympic Park Master Plan of the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Christine Edstrom O’Hara (LA) was awarded the 2015 Charles E. Beveridge Research Fellowship for her proposal “Proto-Ecological Planning by the Olmsted Brothers in 1920’s Los Angeles: Using Georeferencing as a Mapping Tool to Understand Spatial Reasoning and Ecological Function.”

Omar Faruque (LA) is the new chair of the LA Department. He received his degrees in landscape architecture and architecture from Texas A&M University and began teaching at Cal Poly in 1989.

Donald Grant (ARCH), emeritus faculty member, completed another issue of the Design Methods, a quarterly journal with a focus on the graphic analysis of building value.

CM Department Head Allan Hauck is the chair of the board of trustees for the American Council for Construction Education, the national accreditation body for construction management programs in higher education. He successfully launched the Carpenters Internship Program with 12 students this summer.

Barry Jones (CM) returned from Indonesia, where he was teaching Infrastructure Project Management to civil engineering students at various universities as part of a Senior Fulbright Scholar award.

Two studies by William Riggs (CRP) received online exposure: “Technology Use by City Planning Departments” reveals how emerging technologies are changing urban planning. “Walking is Good for You,” an article that appeared in CityLab, examines the importance of walkable neighborhoods.

Sandy Stannard (ARCH) was one of three faculty selected for the Distinguished Teaching Award for the 2014-15 academic year.

Brian Osborn (ARCH) and Carmen Trudell (ARCH) announced the June arrival of their son, Edro Osborn.
Architecture Department Head Margot McDonald led the formation of the new Cal Poly Architecture Advisory Council (CPAAC). The council’s inaugural meeting was this summer.

Barry Williams (ARCH) was appointed by Gov. Brown to the California Architects Board. He has been a lecturer for the ARCH Department for more than 35 years and is the president of the CAED Foundation Board.

Donald Woolard (ARCH) (retired) has moved “Down Under” to Paradise Point, Queensland, Australia.

Congratulations and thank you to these retirees for their years of service.

A few will continue to teach in the Faculty Early Retirement Program*: Abe Lynn, faculty (ARCH); Donna Parker, administrative analyst, Dean’s Office; Bill Siembieda*, former department head, (CRP); Paul Wack*, faculty (CRP); Barry Williams, faculty (ARCH); and Christopher Yip*, faculty (ARCH).

The CAED welcomes:

Kate Auslen, personnel analyst, Dean’s Office; Casey Benito, equipment technician, Support Shop; Ellen Burke, faculty, landscape architecture; Miran Day, faculty, landscape architecture; Mariam Emyan, associate dean for finance and data, Dean’s Office; Brenda Flood, administrative analyst/specialist, External Relations; Amir Hajrasouliha, faculty, City & Regional Planning; David Kempken, instructional shops manager, Support Shop; Brigette Olmos-Arreola, program specialist, Construction Management; Brian Osborn, faculty, Architecture; Jennifer Shields, faculty, Architecture; Adriana Sousa, administrative support coordinator, Architectural Engineering; Carmen Trudell, faculty, Architecture; Kristina Van Wert, administrative support assistant, Architecture; Susan Waterman, administrative support coordinator, Architecture; Emily White, faculty, Architecture; Melanni Wiedrich, administrative support coordinator, City & Regional Planning; Julie Zafiratos, administrative support coordinator, Construction Management; and Garret Zook, gallery specialist, Dean’s Office.

Sustainability Champion Margot McDonald

Architecture Department Head Margot McDonald received the Sustainability Champion Award at the California Higher Education Sustainability Conference (CHESC). The award is the highest level and the only individual award given at the conference. She was selected for her work on the sustainable environments minor; for planning the 2008 UC/CSU/CCC Sustainability Conference; for serving as a member of the Chancellor’s Office Committee on Sustainability in Education and Research and the President’s Advisory Committee at Cal Poly; and as a longstanding member of the Sustainability Conference Steering Committee.

With gratitude, we bid farewell to these former faculty and staff members as they transition to off-campus positions: Jessica Frazier, (CM) Cameron Man, (LA) Fred Potthast, (ARCH)

For more information, go to caed.calpoly.edu, and click on Recent News or the department links in the right-hand column.
The College of Architecture & Environmental Design thanks all of our alumni, parents and friends for their support. This honor roll recognizes gifts of $1,000 or greater received during the 2014-15 fiscal year.

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The Poly Canyon Fund

The college plans to restore the Poly Canyon Structural Design Laboratory and continue its legacy. This fund empowers students to engage in learn by making opportunities that include new student structures and Design Village. Go to caed.calpoly.edu/caed-giving for more information.

TO NOTIFY the college of your bequest, or to receive more information on planned giving, please contact the CAED External Relations Office at 805-756-5138.
Cal Poly Scholars Starts in the CAED

What do Ken and Jeanne Stone, Bruno Giberti, and several other CAED alumni and friends have in common? Together they have funded the first CAED Cal Poly Scholars.

The Cal Poly Scholars program targets high school students who are very successful academically and desire a higher education, but their families are challenged financially to send them to college. It is not uncommon for these students to be the first in their families ever to attend college. Cal Poly Scholars is a universitywide program, with collaboration between Admissions, Housing, Financial Aid & Scholarships, Student Academic Services, the Mustang Success Center, and participating colleges.

First piloted in fall 2012 in the College of Engineering, Cal Poly is welcoming 70 new scholars in engineering, business — and this year, architecture and environmental design — bringing the total population of Cal Poly Scholars to approximately 210.

“I enjoyed an essentially free public education,” says Giberti, a 1979 graduate and current faculty member. “The Cal Poly Scholars program helps me to give back to students who may struggle to attend the university. With a relatively low investment, I can help a specific student get an education in a particular department at Cal Poly.” His contribution has been paired with another alumnus’ investment in this program to fully support a Cal Poly Scholar in the Architecture Department during the 2015-16 academic year.

Ken Stone (ARCH, 1980) and Jeanne Stone (Liberal Studies, 1978) felt the same way, adding an additional perspective. Both Cal Poly graduates, their three sons also attended Cal Poly — two in the CAED. When their youngest was beginning his last year in fall 2013, Jeanne mentioned to Ken that now that they were close to the end of an eight-plus year run of college expenses, she would like to take a portion of that “savings” and support an incoming student who could not otherwise afford to attend Cal Poly. Ultimately, they chose to help launch Cal Poly Scholars in the College of Architecture & Environmental Design by making an annual commitment to help support three students throughout their four to five years at Cal Poly. Two architecture students and one architectural engineering student are supported through their philanthropy.

A fifth Cal Poly Scholar position was funded to support a construction management student who comes from the East Bay area.

“Thinking about the benefits my peers and I enjoyed as students at Cal Poly, I hope my investment is a challenge to them,” said Giberti. “Perhaps they’ve reached a point in their lives where money isn’t such a struggle, and they can afford to give back to another generation of students. Supporting them will increase Cal Poly’s diversity and the diversity of the architecture profession as a whole.”

The Stones look forward to providing an opportunity for students to benefit from a Cal Poly education, and they hope that many other Cal Poly alumni, parents and friends will consider joining them and Bruno Giberti in supporting Cal Poly Scholars. Their goal is for the CAED to raise the funds to support five more scholars to start in fall 2016, with a target of 20 or more Cal Poly Scholars in the near future.

To be eligible to participate –

Students must graduate from one of the more than 200 California Partner High Schools (which are identified by a majority of students receiving Free/Reduced Lunch).

Family income is $80,000 or less per year, and their annual contribution to their child’s college education is $12,000 or less per year.

Students must agree to live on campus their freshmen and sophomore years.

If you have questions about the program or wish to support a Cal Poly Scholar, please contact Natalie Schaefer, assistant dean for external relations at 805-756-5138 or njschaef@calpoly.edu.
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How to Name Cal Poly as a Beneficiary

1. Contact the administrator of your retirement account or insurance company for a change-of-beneficiary form.

2. Name Cal Poly as the beneficiary of a specific percentage of your plan. California Polytechnic State University Foundation Federal Tax ID: 20-4927897

3. Return the form to your plan administrator and send a copy to Cal Poly.

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Cal Poly students helped construct the 2015 Rose Float, “Soaring Stories,” with their counterparts at Cal Poly Pomona. It won the Lathrop K. Leishman Trophy for the most beautiful non-commercial float in the 2015 Rose Parade. Landscape architecture (LA) major Young Choi served as the float’s production manager, and he designed, constructed and planted the float’s green wall. Assistant design chair Jo-Annie Tran and Liang Kai “Ryan” Wang, both LA, were on the design committee.

This year’s float is titled “Sweet Shenanigans.” Look for it on New Year’s Day.