

A Mustang Forever

I am so privileged to have served as dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Cal Poly for the past six years! With the support of a superb team of department chairs, outstanding faculty and staff, and engaged alumni, we have achieved some major milestones. These include record enrollments in our distinctive CLA majors, creation of many popular interdisciplinary minors, growth of our tenure-line faculty with dramatically enhanced support for their excellence as teachers and scholars, increased philanthropic giving to the

college, and greater quality and consistency in our communications with alumni. In addition, the CLA has always been a leader on campus in the area of diversity and inclusion, and



we have accelerated that leadership over the past few years in response to growing national and local concerns. I will leave Cal Poly with confidence that the structures are in place to support our continued growth of interdisciplinary opportunities for students and faculty and continued leadership in working for inclusion every day at Cal Poly.

There are so many wonderful, truly good people at Cal Poly that it is, frankly, difficult to imagine a life in which I am not surrounded by them and facilitating their concerted efforts to advance the college. Although I recently learned that I have not been at Cal Poly long enough to be formally granted emeritus status, rest assured that I will be a Mustang forever. The search for my successor is in the final stages, and whoever is selected will be very fortunate and well situated to lead the CLA to new heights!

Best regards,
Douglas Epperson
Dean, College of Liberal Arts

CAL POLY

College of Liberal Arts

impact

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On the cover:
Dean Douglas Epperson
retires this summer.



History Professor Christina Firpo

Features

6 A Voice for Collaboration

Retiring Dean Douglas Epperson leaves behind a record of achievement that reflects growth, inclusivity and teamwork.

10 Making Connections

Students find new opportunities at the first-ever CLA Career Month.

12 Discovering the Uprooted

Professor Christina Firpo explores the untold stories of Southeast Asian children with French fathers who were removed from their families.



Extras

3 News & Notes

From accolades to published works, learn the latest about CLA people and events on campus and beyond.

14 Alumni

Three graduates are recognized for their commitment to Cal Poly, and former students share major milestones.

AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Cal Poly students and faculty demonstrate excellence — on and off campus

STUDENTS

Sam Baber's (Art and Design) startup, Atsá Foods LLC; **Nesrine Majzoub's** (Sociology) startup, The Lens; and **Cameron Wiese's** (Psychology) startup, PolyRents, all earned spots in the 2017 SLO HotHouse Summer Accelerator. / **Allie Blaising** (Communication Studies) was one of 20 students in the United States selected as a research intern in the Human Computer Interaction Lab at Carnegie Mellon University last summer. / **Ian Feters** (English) won a prestigious fellowship to study H. P. Lovecraft at Brown University. / **A team of graphic communication students** won Best Concept at the 2017 Phoenix Challenge Flexo Packaging Competition. / **Sophie Rosales** and **Jensen Welton** (History) won scholarships to study Chinese in Taiwan last summer through the education division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Offices. / **Bianka Pantoja** (Journalism) was selected as a fellow for the 2018 College Media Business and Advertising Managers (CMBAM) convention. / For the fifth year in a row, the **Cal Poly Mustang Band** placed in the Adult Marching Band category at the Southwest Airlines Chinese New Year Parade in San Francisco. / **Gina Welisch** (Philosophy) earned the Rise to the Occasion Award from the nonprofit group RISE (Respect Inspire Support Empower) for reaching more than 300 volunteer crisis-counseling hours. / **Cal Poly's Mock Trial Team** earned a bid to compete in the 2017 National Championship Tournament. Co-captain of the team, **Zack Michaelson** (Political Science), earned an All Regional Attorney Award at the Regional Competition. / **Maryam Quasto** (Political Science) was Cal Poly's 2017 representative to the Panetta Institute for Public Policy's Congressional Internship Program. / The **Cal Poly Ethics Bowl Team**, which included 10 philosophy students, placed in the top four at the regional competition, earning them an invitation to compete for the national championship for the second year in a row. / **Zulema Aleman** (Psychology) received the Cal Poly President's 2017 Student Diversity Award.

FACULTY

Laura Krifka (Art and Design) won the David Whaley Artist-Teacher Grant. / **Emily Ryalls'** (Communication Studies) book, "The Culture of Mean: Representing Bullies and Victims in Popular Culture," was published by Peter Lang Inc. / **John Hampsey** (English) was awarded a writer's residency at the Heinrich Böll Cottage in Ireland. / **Chelsea Milbourne** (English) received a 2018-19 American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship to support archival research. / **Jenell Navarro** (Ethnic Studies) received the 2017 Cal Poly President's Faculty Diversity Award. / **Matthew Hopper's** (History) book, "Slaves of One Master: Globalization and Slavery in Arabia in the Age of Empire," was a finalist for the 2016 Frederick Douglass Book Prize. / **Sarah Bridger** (History) was appointed to the Organization of American Historians' Distinguished Lectureship Program. / **Mary Glick** (Journalism) was selected as a fellow for the Tow-Knight Center for Entrepreneurial Journalism's Disruptive Journalism Educators program. / **Brady Teufel** (Journalism) was named 2018 Journalism Educator of the Year in the Four-Year Division by the California Journalism and Media Affiliates. / **David Gillette** (Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies) and Architecture Professor Thomas Fowler received a \$30,000 Hearst Foundation Award for Scholarship in Education for a tunnel passage project. / **Scott Glysson** (Music) was selected as a Conducting Fellow for the 2018 International Conductors Exchange Program with Kenya. / **Patrick Lin** (Philosophy) received the 2016-17 Cal Poly Academic Senate Distinguished Scholarship Award. / **Elizabeth Lowham** (Political Science) and **Brian Kennelly** (World Languages and Cultures) received the 2016-17 Cal Poly Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award. / **Michael Latner** (Political Science) received a Voting Rights Kendall Fellowship from the Union of Concerned Scientists. / **Ryan Alaniz's** (Social Sciences) book, "From Strangers to Neighbors: Post-Disaster Resettlement and Community Building in Honduras," was published by University of Texas Press.



Jeremiah Hernandez (Ethnic Studies, Sociology) received a 2017 CSU Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement. He will receive a \$6,000 scholarship as the state's Michael A. and Debe Lucki Scholar. One student from Cal Poly receives a Trustees' Award each year.



Jason Peters (English) is part of an interdisciplinary team that was awarded a \$140,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture to pilot a curriculum that teaches students how to best communicate about sustainable agriculture.

CLASS ACTS

Get to know these faculty members outside of the classroom. Each outstanding educator represents one of the four sectors of the college — communications, humanities, performing and visual arts, and social sciences.



RICHARD BESEL / Communication Studies Department
Specialty Area: Rhetoric, Environmental Communication, Science Communication / Years at Cal Poly: 11

What are your hobbies/extracurricular activities? I like to read academic books. I don't just read [them] for my job, but actually enjoy doing so. I also like playing poker, although I will be the first to admit I have a long way to go to master the activity. I'm also a fan of action movies and mixed martial arts.

What is a fact about you that few know? I was born in South Korea and grew up in Germany. I had never been to California until I started interviewing for academic positions.



KEN HABIB / Music Department
Specialty Area: Ethnomusicology / Years at Cal Poly: 12

What are your research/scholarly pursuits? An ongoing research focus is the iconic Lebanese singer, Fairuz, who, with the Rahbani composer-poets, has long been a pre-eminent force in Arab art and popular music. Investigations involve musical/textual analysis, use of musical arts in the creation of personal/social meaning, and experience of music culture in diaspora.

If you were stranded on a desert island and could bring one book, what would it be? My MacBook with a solar charger and bicycle generator and loaded with reading, music and other educational materials.



JIM KEESE / Social Sciences Department
Specialty Area: Geography and Latin American Studies / Years at Cal Poly: 18

What is/has been your favorite class to teach? WLC 310 Humanities in World Cultures. I've taught a version of this course in study-abroad programs in Peru, Mexico, Spain and Australia. Going abroad with students allows me to be a part of a transformative experience.

What is your favorite class/student moment? While on a class field trip in Peru, we jumped off the top of a boat in the middle of Lake Titicaca (50-degree water at 12,500 feet).



KAREN MUÑOZ-CHRISTIAN / World Languages and Cultures Department

Specialty Area: Spanish (Caribbean/Latinx) / Years at Cal Poly: 15

What is your favorite class/student moment? Having my introduction to literature class read Afro-Cuban poetry aloud, in call-and-response form. The students really get into it! In any class, it's awesome when students are so engaged in a discussion that they don't notice they're speaking Spanish.

What is a fact about you that few know? As an undergraduate in Wichita, Kansas, I was a member of my university rowing team (yes, there are rivers in Kansas).

To read more of their responses, visit cla.calpoly.edu/impact-magazine.



PROFESSOR COLEEN CARRIGAN WINS CAREER AWARD

Anthropology and Science, Technology and Society Professor Coleen Carrigan received a Faculty Early Career Development Award from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The award is NSF's most prestigious honor in support of early career faculty. It recognizes teacher-scholars who blend innovative research into their teaching and involve their students in the learning and dissemination of new knowledge. Carrigan researches the customs and cultures of engineering and computer science (ECS) workplaces and educational programs across the country in order to understand why — despite continued efforts — racial minorities and women are underrepresented in these fields. Over the next five years, she will use her \$571,000 award to systematically compare subfields of ECS to understand why some are more successful than others in welcoming and retaining a more diverse workforce.



New Name for Modern Languages and Literatures Department

In fall 2017, the Modern Languages and Literature Department officially changed its name to World Languages and Cultures to adapt to current changes and trends among language departments in universities across the country. "The department will continue to teach literature as an aspect of culture, but the department's former name did not encompass every aspect of culture the department aims to teach," said World Languages and Cultures Department Chair John Thompson. In addition to the name change, the department partnered with the Cal Poly School of Education to develop a new single-subject teaching credential for bilingual students.



KCPR RANKED FIRST BY GREAT VALUE COLLEGES

Student-run radio station 91.3 KCPR, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this fall, took the No. 1 spot on Great Value Colleges' list of 30 Amazing College Radio Stations of 2017-18. The list of rankings was released in September and includes radio stations from universities such as Georgetown and UC Berkeley. Cal Poly took the top spot based on its "dedication to the students and culture," according to Great Value Colleges, a website dedicated to helping students make decisions about their college education. The station's FM radio signal reaches from Paso Robles to the Santa Maria Valley and can be streamed live online at kcpr.org from any location.

Students in New Political Science Class Draft a Bill

Students enrolled in a new political science course drafted a bill that was introduced in the California Legislature by Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham. The class, California Bill Project, is taught by Professor Chris Den Hartog, with help

from former Assemblyman Katcho Achadjian. The bill, AB 2385, would lower the amount that students at public universities pay for textbooks. In May, students traveled to Sacramento to testify at a hearing on the bill.

TOP: NESRINE MAJZUB, MIDDLE (2): KRISTA SMITH, BOTTOM: JAKE GIUSTO

TOP LEFT: NESRINE MAJZUB, BOTTOM LEFT: HANNAH QUITUGUA