STUDENTS USE LEARN BY DOING TO TACKLE TEXTBOOK PRICES
Alumni Updates
Updates from your alumni chair and peers

Student Club Recap
Model U.N. and Mock Trial provide highlights from the year

California Bill Project
Students use Learn by Doing to tackle textbook prices

Student Travel
Students traveled the U.S. and world to expand their horizons

Awards
Celebrate the accomplishments of our outstanding students
Welcome back to Political Science!

The end of my first term as chair has put me in a somewhat reflective space, thinking about the things we’ve accomplished, the wonderful people that surround me every day, and the work we have left to accomplish.

The last year has been a complicated year at Cal Poly, in the country and around the world. I am so impressed by our students, staff and faculty — they continue to challenge me to think through and about the values we hold and the community we aspire to be. Our department continues to be a vibrant space for our community to engage with complex ideas and problems — and the growth in our major, minors and graduate programs over the course of the year indicates that students at Cal Poly are hungry for places to critically engage with these issues and develop the skills that will serve them well professionally.

This year, Dean Doug Epperson announced his retirement and we have started the process to hire a new dean for the college. Kathryn Rummell (English) will serve as the interim dean for the 2018-19 academic year during the search. The Political Science Department successfully hired a new tenure-line faculty member, Nancy Arrington, from Emory University. Nancy will start in the fall and will focus her teaching and research in the areas of public law and research methods, with an emphasis on gender and the courts. We are excited to have Nancy join us!

In this issue of Alumni Connections, you will read about our successful Model UN (first delegate award!) and Mock Trial seasons. You can catch up with what your fellow alumni have been up to since graduation. You will read about the first group of students selected to compete in a statewide research competition. And, you can read about our newest Learn by Doing activity — the California Bill Project.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, faculty and staff. You make so much of what we do possible. If you’d like to reconnect with the department, please do let us know! We’d love to hear from you!

Department Chair
Greetings to all Political Science Department Alumni!

It has been a fun and productive year so far for the Alumni Advisory Board. Members have actively assisted in: organizing and participating in panels for the College of Liberal Arts Career Fair; inviting a local congressional representative to speak to the board and current students about “A Day in the Life of a Congressional Staffer”; building our social networking profile; introducing the Mock Trial officers to the San Luis Obispo County Bar Association to create networking and mentoring opportunities for the students in the Mock Trial program; and working with the Political Science Club on planning collaborative events, such as community forums and student networking receptions.

I am continually impressed with the caliber of students in the department, and it makes me grateful that I was admitted back in the old days, since I’m not sure I’d even get into Cal Poly now! The faculty is similarly stellar, with fascinating course offerings, research projects and numerous accolades to their credit.

The Political Science Club has started a database of potential mentors, resources for students, and internship and job opportunities, and I encourage all of you to add your names to the talent bank. Your involvement can be at any level that works for you, whether it’s for a 15-minute chat about what it’s like to teach at the secondary school level or how to pick the right area of law to go into. Or perhaps you know of internship or job openings in your field. I’m sure you all remember how rewarding it was as a student to take an interest in you, and now is your chance to return the favor! To be added to the database, please email me at mary@maryharrislaw.com.

We’d love to hear from you and keep you connected to the Cal Poly Political Science Department! If you have an update you’d like to share, please email politicalscience@calpoly.edu. If you’re interested in being more involved with the department, please consider becoming a Friend of the Board. You can get more information on the alumni board at politicalscience.calpoly.edu/alumni/alumni-board.
Robert Sly (Political Science, ’72)
I was a member of the first graduates in political science at Cal Poly. Just saw that Dr. Settle is still teaching after 45 years. How wonderful to know there is still one last familiar name from my years at the university. Please wish him well; I still fondly remember Constitutional Law class. We were so lucky to have some of the best instructors in those years. //

Richard Krum (Political Science, ’77)
After graduating, I attended law school at Santa Clara, and my first job was at the D.A.’s office in Fresno. After four years as a prosecutor, I went to work for a large Worker’s Compensation Defense firm in Fresno where I have been for the last 33 years. I wanted to come back to the San Luis Obispo area ever since graduation. Finally, dreams are realized! My wife and I just bought a house in Arroyo Grande. I will be handling workers comp defense in the Central Coast. Things have gone full circle. I’m currently starting to handle litigated workers compensation claims on behalf of Cal Poly! Strange how things work out! //

Patrick Hale (Political Science, ’78)
Since my last update, I’ve started a venture capital company, purchased several vineyards, bought two wineries (seemed like the logical extension of the aforementioned vineyard acquisitions), started a charity, been a guest lecturer at a multitude of universities, provided assistance to the executive teams of several companies, published another book (“Damocles Dilemma”), opened two offices in Europe (London and Paris, with Berlin and Rome in the final planning stages), worked on cybersecurity issues with national government entities, and earned my rotary wing and multi-engine jet certifications, complete with IFR. Things are very busy, but I wouldn’t have it any other way. If I ever get a chance to take a vacation, I know I’m going to enjoy it! //

Debbie (Atkinson) Livingston (Political Science, ’79)
I have retired from a 30-plus-year career as a teacher and administrator and am moving back to San Luis Obispo. My husband, Jim, and I have been married 39 years, so it is exciting to be able to move back to where it all began … and be close to our grandchildren. //

Bill Mabie (Political Science, ’85)
After graduating from Cal Poly and serving in the Peace Corps (at the suggestion of Cal Poly Professor Richard Kranzdorf), I returned to California and spent most of my career in the California Senate. I am now completing my fourth year as Chief Deputy Secretary State of California and look forward to retiring in December. //

Marcia Godwin (Political Science, ’86)
I was recently promoted to Professor of Public Administration at the University of La Verne, where I am also serving as director of our MPA program. Upcoming publications include co-editor of “The Roads to Congress 2016: American Elections in a Divided Landscape” (Palgrave MacMillan). I am also part of a research team that has surveyed U.S. mayors about psychological violence (bullying, threats, harassment). I’m looking forward to visiting Wales and Ireland soon and continue to enjoy coming to the Central Coast. //

Todd L. Cramer (Political Science, ’87)
My daughter, Kristen Cramer, just graduated high school and will be attending Cal Poly this fall (Chemistry). I am looking forward to visiting and getting back involved with Cal Poly over the next four to five years. //

Jim Malloy (Political Science, ’95)
Since 2003, I have been with Impac Mortgage Holdings Inc. as SVP, Capital Markets, managing a variety of activities in connection with the company’s residential mortgage origination and servicing platform, as well as its securitized portfolio of residential and small balance multifamily/commercial
loans. Prior to that, I served in a variety of investment banking roles at firms including Salomon Brothers and Merrill Lynch, as well as a brief stint for a couple of years at the peak of the first dot-com era at a privately held tech company (an SRI spinoff) that, sadly, went kaput (although the company’s technology lives on: if you have digital cable and stream on-demand content, you can thank the company’s predecessor for inventing the technology, which interestingly dates back to the early days of the Cold War). I just read the recent Alumni Connection newsletter and saw with much surprise that Dr. Allen Settle is FERPing (Faculty Early Retirement Program). As the Dick Clark of Cal Poly’s POLS Department, I assumed he’d be there for at least another decade or two, inspiring tomorrow’s leaders and engaging in all manner of civic involvement. I especially, and very fondly, remember Drs. Settle, Culver, Kranzdorf and Lutrin for their rigorous academic standards and openness for debate across the political spectrum. I cherish my days in POLS classes and Cal Poly in general, and wish Dr. Settle (as well as all retired POLS professors) the best of health and happiness. //


2000s

Alexandra Sander (Political Science, ‘10) After graduating from Cal Poly, I earned my master’s degree in international security from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver. Recently, I moved back to California after living in Washington, D.C., where I was a research associate with the Technology and National Security Program at the Center for a New American Security. I am currently working for the Defense Innovation Unit Experimental (DIUx), a DoD organization headquartered in Silicon Valley that is dedicated to rapidly prototyping and fielding commercial technology for the U.S. military. //

Bryan Podzius (Political Science, ‘12) I recently joined Weil Gotshal and Manges LLP as an associate in their Business Finance and Restructuring Department. //

Lauren Feuerborn (Political Science, ‘13) After Cal Poly, I attended the University of San Francisco and earned my master’s degree in public affairs in 2017. I now work as a political consultant at Muir Consulting in San Francisco where I work on political campaigns throughout the Bay Area. //

Emily Matthews (Political Science, ‘13) I’ve been working in political consulting after I finished up traveling Asia in August. I worked at a digital strategy firm, and then switched jobs in January to work at one of California’s leading political strategy firms, SCN Strategies (its clients include Gov. Jerry Brown, U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris, and Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, among others). Much love to the POLS Department. //

Kayla Saadeh (Political Science, ‘13) After getting my bachelor’s degree, I went on to get a Master of Public Health (MPH) in epidemiology at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. I now live in the Bay Area and work as an epidemiologist at the California Department of Public Health, specifically working on HPV surveillance in the STD control branch. I also volunteer as an HIV test counselor at Magnet, which is a nonprofit clinic providing free HIV and STI testing services in the Castro neighborhood of San Francisco. //

Nikki Lanshaw (Political Science, ‘14) I’m currently in the middle of the Master of Public Health program at UC Berkeley. My concentration is health and social behavior, and I’m specializing in maternal, child and adolescent health. //

Carlos Villacis (Political Science, ‘14) Following my graduation from Cal Poly, I stayed in San Luis Obispo for a year, working with organizations including Stockman’s Water and Energy, SLO Clean Energy, and GRID Alternatives to increase my skillset in the energy field. I eventually moved to Washington, D.C., to earn a master’s in environmental policy and am now a contractor for the Department of Energy, working as an analyst in the Bioenergy Technologies Office. Since my time at Cal Poly, I have made efforts to improve my diet and routinely exercise, and now feel healthier than ever. One thing that has not changed is that I am still doing my best to enjoy as much time with friends and colleagues as possible. //

Chloe Czabaranek (Political Science, ‘15) I am now attending Santa Clara University School of Law to pursue my passion and career in immigration law as a deportation defense attorney to keep families together. Now married to my
husband, whom I met through Cal Poly’s marching band, and our family includes our newly adopted dog. // **Kennedy Poe (Political Science, ’16)** I am a rising 3L at Pepperdine University School of Law and plan to take the California bar exam next July. I worked this summer at Santander Consumer, USA in Dallas, Texas, as a corporate regulatory legal intern and aspire to practice business law in some capacity after graduation. I am also the managing editor of the Journal for Entrepreneurship and the Law at Pepperdine. I am happy to be pursuing my dream of becoming a lawyer, which developed while at Cal Poly. // **Bryan Pride (MPP, ’15)** After graduating from Cal Poly, I joined the U.S. Peace Corps, serving in Ghana at an Agriculture Extension Office. My work consisted of supporting rural farmers to improve crop yields and focused on helping communities become food secure. After my two years living in a rural community, I started working for a USAID project called RING, Resiliency In Northern Ghana. I help local government officials develop and implement projects that support communities with sustainable agriculture techniques, approaches to improved nutrition and methods to establish local economies. // **Anelise Powers (Political Science, ’17)** I decided to go to Pepperdine for law school and have absolutely loved it; my professors at Cal Poly definitely prepared me well. As a part of Pepperdine’s Global Justice Program I have mostly been working as an intern to the Technical Advisor to the Judiciary in Uganda, but have also been able to go to several different prisons to help prisoners reach plea agreements alongside Ugandan lawyers and law students. Uganda has a Memorandum of Understanding with Pepperdine Law to help improve their rule of law, so the long-term goal right now is to help Uganda implement plea bargaining as a way to combat the massive case backlogs here. I am looking forward to starting my 2L year and competing on the school trial team when I get back to the U.S. Big thanks to the department and all my professors. I am so grateful for you all! // **Nicole Angelini (MPP, ’17)** After graduation, I started at the Fortune 500 company Booz Allen Hamilton, and am proud to call my new home the city of San Diego. While exploring the large metropolitan setting, I have been invigorated to serve the nation’s largest defense divisions as a senior consultant. A majority of my projects fall in the confidential and national security category; several highlights have included project management of multi-divisional collaborations including: the Space and Warfare Systems Command and Systems Center Pacific. // **Kyle Libby (Political Science, ’17)** After graduating I moved to Washington, D.C., for an internship with the Aerospace Security Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. After working for six months there, researching issues surrounding space security and air power, I started working with the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments as a research assistant.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Over the course of the last academic year, the Political Science Department and the Cal Poly community lost three of its esteemed former faculty: David L. George, Richard Kranzdorf and Carl Lutrin. Professors George, Kranzdorf and Lutrin had lengthy careers at Cal Poly, influencing generations of students and challenging them to think deeply about the world, politics and their places in it. Our department, university and communities were better places because of their work and their lives.
Cal Poly’s Mock Trial program embodies the university’s Learn by Doing mantra in the political science setting. Each year, students of all majors and years are encouraged to join the program. Current continuing members put up flyers and hold informational meetings that ultimately lead to auditions. Out of that, typically four amazing and determined teams are formed for both fall and winter competition seasons. Competition revolves around the national case, which is provided toward the end of summer. Students are able to practice both criminal and civil cases in a mock-court setting. Participants become mock lawyers, mock witnesses and sometimes both. They get to begin to master the art of direct and cross examining. Students also improve their public speaking skills by presenting those pieces in a full room, potentially along with longer statement pieces. In addition to this, participants are exposed to strategy by creating case theory, while working inside Rules of Evidence that are based on what is actually used in the profession. Our Mock Trial team is able to gain semi-real world experience through this encouraging community. Not only do students get further insight on a potential career, but they also build a solid support network that becomes an essential tool during their time at Cal Poly and beyond. The holistic experience provided through this program is unmatched, with students making progress academically, professionally and personally.

Last year, the case was about an attempted murder caused by a love triangle. Students were able to handle a plethora of circumstantial evidence, like telecommunications data, text messages and notes, in order to build a solid case. Participants were also able to deal with life themes like revenge, coincidence and jealousy in the legal realm. The program competed against schools like UC Berkeley, Stanford, UCI and Claremont, among others. Several of our witnesses and attorneys brought in awards in competition, including our coach, Justin Cooley, at UC Irvine’s invitational. Two years ago, the Cal Poly Mock Trial team went to Nationals for the first time ever. Being such a young program, this was extremely impressive and put us on the Mock Trial map. Going forward, the team is looking to keep up that momentum and return to the national stage. We will one day be a part of the 48 teams that make it to Nationals again.
By Amy Holmes

Over spring break, a group of eight Cal Poly students traveled to New York City with their advisor, Professor Craig Arceneaux, to participate in the National Model United Nations Conference. The students represented Sierra Leone and worked on issues such as the eradication of nuclear weapons, protection from cyber warfare, and the impact of pollution on marine life. The students enjoyed exploring some of New York’s most popular tourist destinations, such as Central Park, Brooklyn and Greenwich Village in their free time. They also enjoyed a traditional African meal in Harlem.

On the last day of the conference the students were able to attend a committee session at the United Nations headquarters, as well as hear the Singaporean ambassador to the U.N. speak at closing ceremonies. This year’s delegation won the first award in Cal Poly Model U.N. history, honorable mention delegation.

Two weeks after returning from New York, 10 students spent a weekend in Hollywood participating in UCLA’s 13th annual Model U.N. conference. Students represented a variety of countries on a multitude of topics. These included Saudi Arabia on the topic of protecting Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar; a state councilor of China on the topic of the One Belt, One Road Initiative; and South Africa on the topic of artificial intelligence and humanitarian aid. The students enjoyed exploring Universal CityWalk, as well as local Hollywood sites. Students were privileged to hear Karen Richardson, who previously served as a state policy advisor for former President Obama and currently works in the leadership of the Time’s Up movement, speak at LAMUN’s opening ceremonies.
CAL POLY BILL PROJECT

USING LEARN BY DOING TO TACKLE TEXTBOOK PRICES

By Michael Huber and Victorica Tonikian
Cal Poly’s California Bill Project granted students the opportunity to take a truly hands-on role in conceptualizing, drafting and advocating for a bill in the California State Legislature.

As part of that team, we worked hand-in-hand with a variety of influencers and professionals involved in state government. From house representatives to lobbyists, our team strived to bring student issues to the forefront of California politics while gaining as much knowledge as we could along the way.

Our project’s team consisted of 15 students, Professor Chris Den Hartog and former 35th District Assembly Member Katcho Achadjian. This flagship project was brought about in large part by Achadjian, who not only approached Cal Poly with the idea but supported our team throughout the year by offering guidance, as well as insight regarding the mechanics of California’s legislature. In addition, our team also worked closely with current 35th District Assembly Member Jordan Cunningham, who along with his staff introduced and advocated for our project’s bill in the assembly. State Sen. Bill Monning supported our bill within the Senate. The language of the bill itself was drafted by our students and is geared toward promoting, as well as protecting, students’ rights by urging textbook companies to increase transparency between textbook editions on their websites.

We worked through three distinct cycles throughout the development of the bill, which required our team to tackle different problems. The first cycle involved brainstorming existing issues that students faced, as well as what potential solutions could be implemented to combat these issues through the California legislature. Thus, most of fall quarter focused on various research assignments, as well as in-class collaboration to discern the problems our fellow students face that would be best resolved at the state level. Our team
narrowed it down to a handful of problems and, by using a voting system, we chose to focus on textbook transparency. Students in the class felt that this would be an opportune problem to tackle because it impacted students throughout the entire California State University system.

Cycle two involved refining the problem, as well as drafting and testing our potential legislation through mock debates and discussions in addition to gathering feedback from Achadjian and other professionals who regularly attended our meeting times in early winter quarter. Lastly, cycle three involved outreach to the various assembly members involved in the education committee and trip to Sacramento to sponsor the bill. Students individually contacted the staff of assembly members who sat on the education committee to schedule meetings to discuss our bill the day before it was to be heard before the education committee. Three students, Lindsay Wallace, Ivana Medina and Chase Dean, offered testimony on AB 2385 on April 24. The bill passed on the Assembly floor on May 10 with a final vote of 71-0, with seven no votes recorded. The bill passed on the Senate Floor 35-0, with four no votes recorded. The bill went back to the Assembly floor for a final vote before being presented to the governor.

Overall, our research covered a variety of subjects, including effectively demonstrating challenges to

The language of the bill itself was drafted by our students and is geared toward promoting, as well as protecting, students’ rights by urging textbook companies to increase transparency between textbook editions on their websites.

TOP (L-R) Michael Kelker, Former Asm. Katcho Achadjian, and Jesse Vallejo, in Sacramento.
ABOVE Students and alumni meeting up in Sacramento while advocating for their bill.
university students, illustrating ways our bill rectifies these issues at the state level, identifying flaws in our bill's proposal, uncovering the potential adversaries and obstacles we may face, and figuring out how to draft a bill that improves upon current legislation. The California Bill class has proven to be an interesting endeavor and has offered many insights into the policy making aspects of the California legislature as well as within-group dynamics. Not only has this class exposed our team to some of the work that goes into policy making, but also the troubles one may come across when trying to pass legislation, including pushback from parties affected by the bill and gathering support from like-minded legislators.

Many students believe that this class has been a brilliant experience and a great learning opportunity that exceptionally highlights Cal Poly’s Learn by Doing philosophy. We believe that this class is a wonderful opportunity to allow students to learn and work on creating laws or regulations within our legislature. To continue to expand upon our experiences, grow from our mistakes, and help the next group of students, a few individuals from the pilot class created a manual with tips and tricks for future classes. By doing so, they hope to highlight our experiences and help future teams start with a solid foundation. As the first team for the California Bill Project class, we’re excited to see what future issues will be tackled with this platform that Cal Poly and the Political Science Department have afforded students.

Editor’s Note

Governor Brown approved AB 2385 on August 27, 2018. It is chaptered into law by the Secretary of State — Chapter 214, Statutes of 2018.
STUDENT TRAVEL

As part of co-curricular work, several students presented research in competition or participated in professional conferences. The department helped students defray some, and in many cases, all of the travel expenses for 18 individual trips.

Four students were invited to compete at the 43rd Annual Social Science Student Symposium at Cal State Long Beach:
- Connor Hennessey-Niland: “Regional Hegemony in the Arctic: The Push for Arctic Dominance.”
- Madalyn Vieira: “Regulations on Agriculture Biotechnology and How They Affect the Agricultural Sector.”

Additionally, four graduate students were accepted to present at the 2018 Western Political Science Association Annual Conference in San Francisco:
- Philip Goodwin: “Food Insecurity at America’s Happiest University.”
- Sara Wilkinson: “Shades of Green: Potential Drivers for Environmental Agenda Setting within the CSU System.”
- Kristin Ventresca: “Salaries and Satisfaction: Understanding Employee Motivators to Improve Performance.”
- Megan Marques: “Farmers Markets Versus Supermarkets: Measuring the Sustainability of Food Systems.”

In addition, the department supported student travel for another 10 trips:
- Matt Klepfer presented a paper and participated in a making and doing session at the Society for the Social Studies of Science conference in Boston. He also attended the 13th annual Engineering, Social Justice and Peace Conference at the University of San Diego as part of the research for his senior project.
- Juan Ortiz attended the 2018 International Studies Association Conference in San Francisco and participated as the one representative from California in Congressional Visit Days.
- Mick Bruckner participated in the 2017 UMASS Queer Studies Symposium in Amherst.
- Ellie Lupo, Annie Campbell and Erin Chazer attended the 2018 California Democratic Convention in San Diego.
- Abibat Iriafen traveled to Atlanta to participate in the Humanity in Action Fellowship.
- Dezeray Cruz traveled to Madrid, Spain, as part of the 2018 Lex Fellowship cohort.
STUDENT awards

CLA OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD

Political Science
Lindsey Wallace

MPP
Philip Goodwin

CLUCAS AWARDS

George and Janice Clucas Awards
Lauren Davis
Colton Marino

George and Janice Clucas Scholarship
Elizabeth Esparza

JOHN H. LYNN AWARDS

Academic Excellence, Undergraduate
Elana Muroff

Academic Excellence, Graduate
Kristin Ventresca

Outstanding Service, Undergraduate
Matt Klepfer

Outstanding Service, Graduate
Philip Goodwin
Irebid Sanchez Gilbert

Undergraduate Non-Research Paper
Emma Branch

Undergraduate Research Paper
Dominic Scialabba

Senior Project (Paper)
Jamie West

MPP Seminar Paper
Elizabeth Esparza

590 Paper
Sara Wilkinson

Department award winners at the 2018 Spring Dinner in May: (L-R) Colton Marino, Lauren Davis, Dominic Scialabba, Irebid Sanchez Gilbert, Elana Muroff, Elizabeth Esparza, Philip Goodwin, Sara Wilkinson and Matt Klepfer.
1. Jaime Bowker and Lizzie Bentler at the 2018 POLS Graduation Celebration. //
2. Juan Ortiz, Alexis Flores, Amy Holmes, Anaysa Rodriguez and Kaitlin Cook welcoming accepted students at the 2018 Open House. // 3. Ashley Therien presenting at the 43rd annual SSRIC Conference in Long Beach, Calif. //