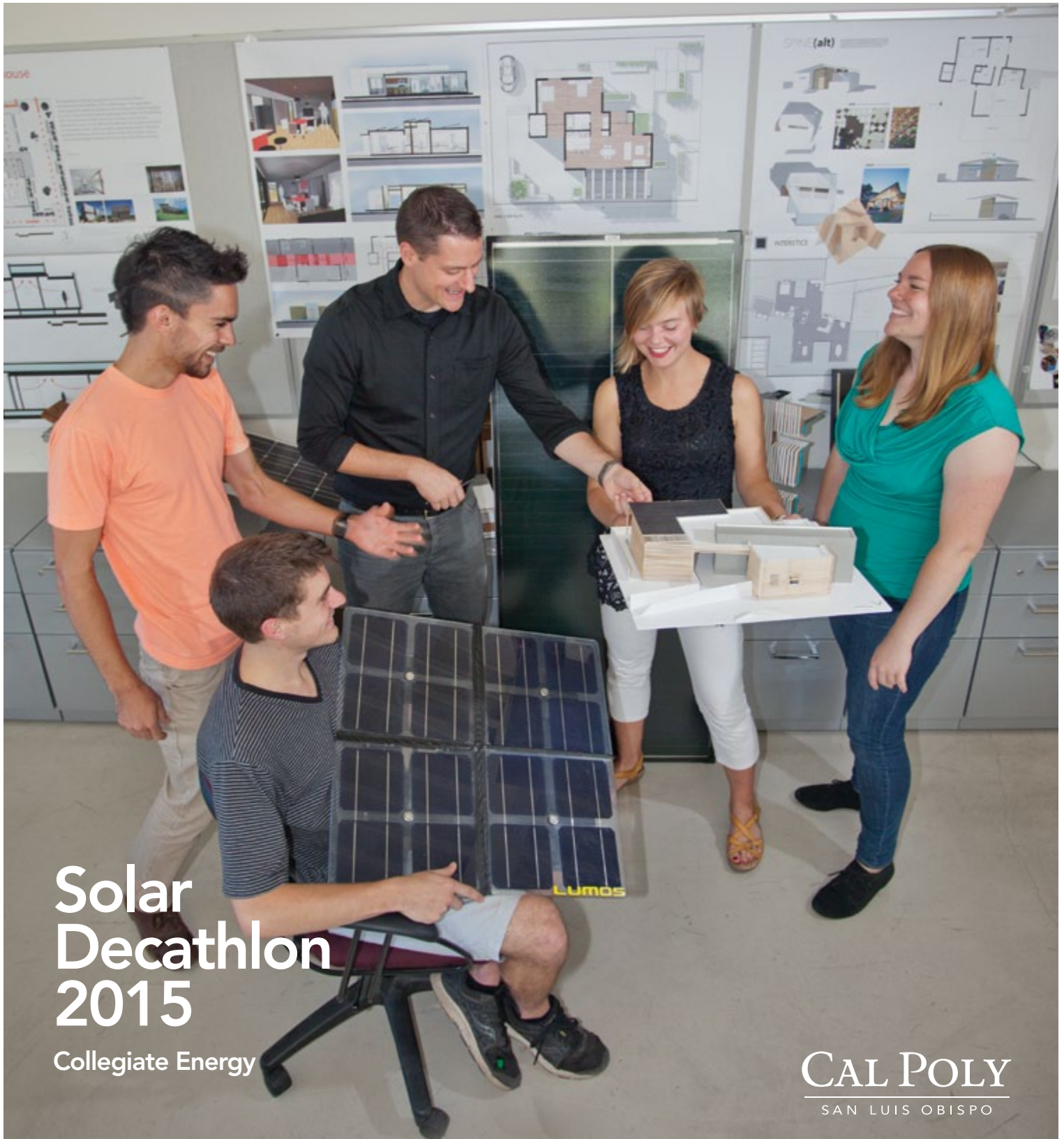


# CONNECTIONS



Solar  
Decathlon  
2015

Collegiate Energy

CAL POLY  
SAN LUIS OBISPO



Danielle Summe, ARCH & Solar D PR team leader and ARCH Assistant Professor Jeff Ponitz examine solar home model.

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## ON THE COVER

Solar Decathlon team collaborators (from left) Erik Pinuelas, civil engineering & Solar D construction leader; Michael Scott (seated), ARCH & Solar D ARCH team member; ARCH Assistant Professor Jeff Ponitz; Alyssa Parr & Lisa-Marie Mueller, ARCH & Solar D project managers. Photo by Joseph Kasperovich.

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### DESIGN

IE Design + Communications, Hermosa Beach, Calif.





Dean Christine Theodoropoulos and third-year architecture student Shereen Ghishan in studio.

## Dean's Message

**"CAED students are making a difference, everywhere they go!"**

### Our Tradition of Learn by Making

In this issue of Connections we reflect on the many ways our longstanding tradition of hands-on practice continues to foster a unique learn by making culture that is the signature of a CAED education.

Hiking into Poly Canyon, students gather inspiration from the eclectic collection of notable construction experiments. In studio, they are busy at work on the design of a "brain" for the 2015 Solar Decathlon House. Architecture faculty and students work together to create a living lab on campus to test sustainable technology, while City and Regional Planning's Urban Design Studio creates an award-winning community proposal for a Bay Area city. Construction Management students converged in Reno, Nev., to win competitions that simulate the real-life bidding process, Landscape Architecture students traveled to South Africa to build a playground at an orphanage, and Architectural Engineering students placed in a tall building seismic design competition in Alaska.

CAED students are making a difference, everywhere they go!

Faculty and staff are recognized with the President's Community Service Award, accolades from the American Society of Civil Engineers, and honors for a quarter century of foster parenting 90 children and young adults.

Our alumni are making their marks, as well. Recent graduates are creating safe playgrounds, innovating fire safety products, and winning awards and recognition for their efforts. Others give of their time and treasure to support the aspirations of the CAED, offering gifts that will impact students and instructional practices for years to come.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Christ Theodoropoulos".

Christine Theodoropoulos  
AIA, PE

# Solar Cal Poly

## Decathlon Team Designs for 2015 Competition

Cal Poly has been selected to participate in the Solar Decathlon 2015, a U.S. Department of Energy sponsored design/build competition. Seventeen teams of faculty and students from across the nation design, build, and operate a solar-powered residence, culminating in a 10-part competition at the Great Park in Irvine, Calif., in October 2015. Solar Cal Poly has an exceptional, dynamic interdisciplinary team of students majoring in architecture; architectural, electrical, and mechanical engineering; landscape architecture; graphic communication; marketing; and business.

At the center of Cal Poly's Solar House is a core that contains the active intelligence of the structure – mechanical, electrical and plumbing and monitoring systems that allow inhabitants to interact with the house. This active core makes use of digital design and fabrication processes to integrate the performance of these systems while expressing its own aesthetic and tectonic logic. Contrast this active core – to the adaptable outer shell – an elegantly simple wrapper that integrates sun shading, thermal mass and natural ventilation. The inhabitant dwells between the core and the shell, in open, comfortable spaces where active and passive systems meet.

The Solar House is designed with modularity in mind for ease of construction, transport and assembly. Public and private zones are separated by the core module, which



Solar team meeting with (from left) ARCH Professor Sandy Stannard, ARCH Lecturer Richard Beller, Brian Murillo, ARCH graduate student & Solar D ARCH project leader; Michael Scott and Edwin Vargas, ARCH students & Solar D ARCH team members.

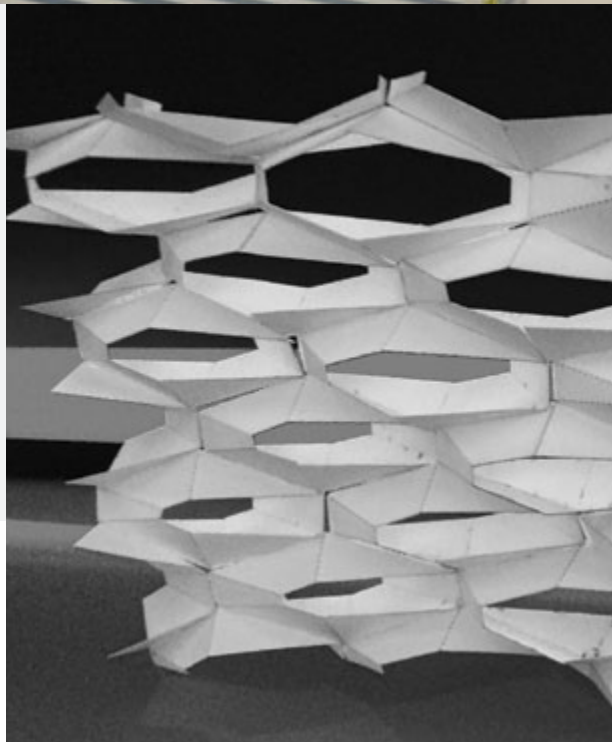
facilitates the transition between the two elements. The program of the house includes a wing of private spaces, with a single master bedroom and a flexible library/office/secondary bedroom space. The public wing incorporates entertainment, kitchen and dining spaces with thoughtful linkages to the exterior spaces and the views beyond.

**COME VISIT** Solar Cal Poly and the competition houses at Orange County's Great Park 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., Thursdays–Sundays, Oct. 8–11, and Oct. 15–18, 2015.

**SEE** our student and faculty team, their design innovations and keep up to date at [calpolysolardecathlon.org](http://calpolysolardecathlon.org).

**LEARN** what the students will encounter, the decathlon categories, news and photos at [solardecathlon.gov](http://solardecathlon.gov).





*Clockwise from top:* Preliminary solar house rendering, 3-D materials and core diagram. The multidisciplinary student team works through the design process with faculty to give their project a unique identity. The design explores the balance of passive and active solar systems, of high- and low-tech processes, of traditional and digital methods of construction, while creating a project that elicits user interaction and delight.

## Join the Solar Cal Poly Team!

Alumni and friends are invited to help Solar Cal Poly raise \$650,000 to achieve their goals.

Using the Learn by Doing approach, students are raising funds for all aspects of this competition, from construction materials and heavy equipment for transportation, to contractual services and published documents. The solar house will be built on campus, disassembled and trailered to Irvine, reassembled and "lived in," with the goal to win the competition!

### Team Giving Levels

Donations of cash, materials and services equate with actual needs.

#### \$50

Nails, screws, paint, lighting, flooring, sod, roof membrane

#### \$100

Cabinetry, wooden doors, ceiling fan, concrete piers

#### \$250

Windows, faucets, inverter, filtration, fire detection system

#### \$500

Sink, range, dishwasher, washer or dryer, transformers

#### \$1,000

Energy mgmt. unit, vehicle-charging station, structurally insulated panels

#### \$5,000

Photovoltaic panels, HVAC system, compressor, solar hot water tank

#### \$5,001+

Funding for major materials, student travel and lodging

### SPONSORSHIPS LEVELS

\$10,000, \$25,000, \$50,000, and \$100,000

For more details on how you can help, please visit the Solar Cal Poly site at [calpolysolardecathlon.org](http://calpolysolardecathlon.org) or call 805-756-5138.

# College and Department Highlights

Learn by Making and Engaging



COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE  
& ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

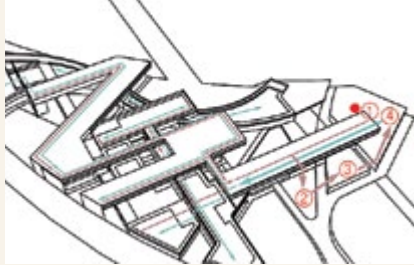
## Poly Canyon Revitalization

**Kevin Dong**, Associate Dean

Poly Canyon brings back fond memories for those who have been caretakers, built or re-built a structure, or participated in the Design Village Competition. Unfortunately, the canyon structures have recently been subjected to graffiti and vandalism. A primary reason for this is a lack of presence in the canyon.

As a remedy, the college is developing a plan to restore and revitalize the canyon and provide a framework for developing student-alumni partnerships. The goal is to provide a sustainable plan so future students have an opportunity to experience what alumni have experienced in the past – a rich and memorable learning experience, while engaging in what Cal Poly does best – Learn By Doing.

The CAED Student Council and college are organizing Canyon Days, where students, alumni and friends help restore the structures. For more information, contact the college or Kevin Dong at [kdong@calpoly.edu](mailto:kdong@calpoly.edu).



ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING

## Living Building Challenge

**Robert Arens**, Professor of Architecture  
**Umut Toker**, Associate Professor of  
City and Regional Planning

An interdisciplinary team, including two architectural engineering students, applied its combined skills to earn first place and \$1,500 in the “Getting L.A. to Zero Competition,” open to undergraduate and graduate students at institutions throughout Southern California.

Hosted in May by the Living Building Challenge Collaborative: Los Angeles, teams were tasked to imagine a building designed and built to function as elegantly and efficiently as a flower, informed by its bioregion’s characteristics, generating all of its own energy with renewable resources, and one that captures and treats all of its water. It would function within a city block or college campus sharing resources to grow food, and operate independent of fossil fuel-based transportation.

The contest further sought innovation in design, product and strategy. The CAED’s winning team created Villa Verde, an urban center of mixed-income residential units, retail, a community center and a historic industrial museum near Los Angeles’ Dodger Stadium.



ARCHITECTURE

## Living Laboratory

**Ansgar Killing**, Lecturer in Architecture  
**Barry Williams**, Lecturer in Architecture

The “Living Lab” is an ambitious undertaking bringing sustainable technology into more active and visible roles on campus. We collaborated with ARCH 480 students to start the transformation of the Media Lab. Our team oversaw the research, design, and construction documents for the installation of a radiant cooling system, with the goal of performing hands-on sustainable technology testing and opening a resource center, a truly “living lab.”

The students gained an invaluable learn by making experience in the research and planning of a viable design, while maintaining positive relations with the on-site clients and public – aspects integral to any project in the construction industry.

Installation of the floor piping and concrete topping is complete.

Students are expanding the website [arch.calpoly.edu/content/arch480](http://arch.calpoly.edu/content/arch480), and a blog made possible by the CSU’s “Campus as a Living Lab” Grant Program, and the CAED’s Evelyn and Harold Hay Fund has been created.





#### CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING

## Fire and the Challenge of Single-Access Developments

**David Conn**, *Professor of City and Regional Planning, Emeritus*

When a wildfire threatens subdivisions accessible only by one dead-end road, potentially life-threatening problems may arise getting residents/occupants out and emergency first-responders in. Even if access is not blocked by fire, factors such as inadequate road widths, steep grades and presence of obstacles can interfere with safe and timely in and out movement.

Existing standards for dead-end roads, established decades ago, depend entirely on the zoning of parcels served and do not take into account other factors such as numbers of parcels, maximum allowable density, roadway width and grade, and nature of fire risk.

At Cal Fire's request, these factors are being analyzed by a Resilient Communities Research Institute team led by myself and colleagues Cornelius Nuworsoo, Ken Topping, Research Analyst Meg Henry, and Forestry Professor Chris Dicus.

The study will be used to evaluate today's standards and propose revisions. For more information contact [dconn@calpoly.edu](mailto:dconn@calpoly.edu).



#### CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

## Setting the Bar High

**Philip Barlow**, *Associate Professor of Construction Management*

Nearly a year of preparations paid off for Cal Poly construction management student teams. By February of 2014 they were honed and dominated at the 27<sup>th</sup> annual ASC Regions 6 & 7 Student Competition at Reno, Nev. They earned six trophies, the most among the top universities that sent up to 1,400 students to compete. The Mixed-Use and Design-Build teams placed first; the Commercial and Heavy-Civil teams placed second; and in open categories outside the regions, the Concrete Team earned second, and the Marine Team placed third.

The teams receive a "problem statement and scope" that they solve in 18 intense hours in "war rooms" with minimal-to-no outside help, coaching or Internet access.

According to CM Department Head Al Hauck, "The ASC competitions are invaluable to students' career development. They further their education, gain professional development, and benefit from networking. There's nothing in the country that compares with it!" The event hosts the nation's largest construction management student career fair.



#### LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

## Hands-on Healing Strategies

**Margarita Hill**, *Professor of Landscape Architecture*

Landscape architecture students and Professor Margarita Hill were invited by Transitions Mental Health Association (TMHA) to assist in envisioning design strategies for a new wellness campus in San Luis Obispo.

The design alternatives respond to input from stakeholders in focus group meetings and design charrettes organized with potential residents, staff and neighbors. Design proposals respond to evidence-based research on therapeutic landscapes conducted in order to understand the user needs of residents and staff as they work to promote wellness and recovery for people managing mental illness in their lives.

Students presented 12 design alternatives to stakeholders in August. Their proposals incorporated elements of nature in therapy rooms that accommodate a range of activities and interactions integral to a healing environment. Site plans responded to community concerns about traffic circulation, open space access, lighting, privacy and aesthetics while providing a home-like therapeutic environment for up to 35 permanent residents.

# Student Achievements

## Imagining Poly Learn by Doing Commons



President Armstrong and Dean Theodoropoulos invited architecture and landscape architecture students to participate in a design charrette to develop proposals for the future [Cal Poly Learn By Doing Commons](#). The goal was to design spaces that promote interdisciplinary collaboration across campus. The charrette required a week of intensive team work and resulted in a series of indoor and outdoor project proposals.

Student learning objectives included translation of client needs into projects, developing design responses that recognize constraints, and integrating daylight, skin system thermal optimization and ventilation into the design.

Students shared their visions with the esteemed jurors including members of Cannon Design's The Third Teacher+ learning innovations group. The top four awards went to the student projects titled Tri.Unity, Absolving Thresholds, Symbiotic Pods, and Obeisance.

### Thesis Video Wins Award

ARCE graduate student **Evan Gerbo** won the Three-Minute Thesis Video Award. His thesis was titled *Structural Damage Detection Utilizing Modal Behavior* and demonstrated a way to test the safety of buildings after an earthquake. Cal Poly's International, Graduate & Extended Education program awarded him \$1,000. View the video at [vimeo.com/97553834](http://vimeo.com/97553834)

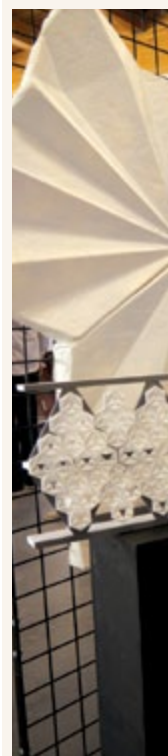
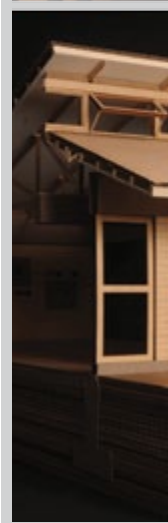
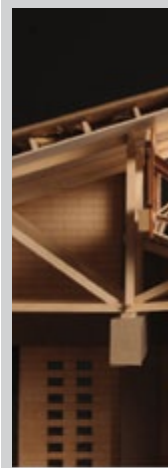


### Seismic Team Shakes Up the Competition

Cal Poly's Seismic Design Team – 10 architectural and civil engineering students – rose to the challenge in the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) Undergraduate Seismic Design Competition this summer in Anchorage, Alaska.

Thirty U.S. and international university teams competed. Cal Poly placed in the top 10 for all of the sub-categories – most notably, first in Presentation, second in Poster and ninth in Seismic Cost, despite a large penalty due to the collapse of their entry during the ground motion testing.

Each team designed a complex tall building model made from balsa wood, weighing no more than 7 pounds, that was tested on a shake table. Teams were judged on their oral design presentation, their summary poster, the model's architectural design, their ability to fit within the design criteria and constraints, their analytical prediction of their model performance, and the response of their model during shake table testing.



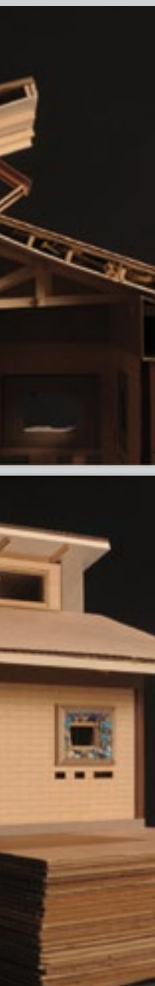
### CRP Studio Wins APA Awards for Milpitas Project

City and Regional Planning 341 Urban Design Studio III garnered Awards of Excellence from the Central Coast and Northern sections of the American Planning Association, and the Award of Merit from the California Chapter of the APA in 2014. The undergraduate class was charged by the City of Milpitas Planning and Neighborhood Services Department to develop pre-planning insights, vision and urban design concepts for two areas of the city during the Fall Quarter, 2013.

CRP Professor **Vicente del Rio** and CRP Department Head **Hemalata Dandekar**, supported by student assistant **Evan Evangelopoulos**, guided 29 students engaged in a rapid information collection and data gathering process, leading to the development of seven youthful, forward-looking urban design visions.

The public highly praised the students for the originality of their thinking, the development opportunities their ideas would generate, and the importance of the proposals for the future of Milpitas.





## Students Reach Out with Journeyman Int'l

Working with the local nonprofit Journeyman International, 41 ARCH students have applied their skills toward humanitarian projects around the world. Student designers partnered with local and global humanitarian organizations to provide sustainable design and construction methods to communities in need. The goal of this joint effort is to invest in the next generation of socially minded architects, engineers, and construction managers by addressing and anticipating the ecological, economic and social issues shaping the built environment today and tomorrow.



## Cal Poly's Team Wins Second in B of A Challenge!

Live SLO Housing Studio, Cal Poly's team of mostly undergraduate students, took second place in the Bank of America Affordable Housing Challenge. This interdisciplinary competition mimics the collaborative nature of the development process, where several disciplines play vital roles in delivering high quality affordable housing.

Their "[Higuera Heights](#)" entry, a project of 51 apartments on a nearly one-acre site, provides low-cost housing opportunities in downtown San Luis Obispo.

The project aims to satisfy both the needs of on-site residents and the surrounding community. It would provide space for businesses and a permanent sustainable local and regional food market.

The team included lead coach, CRP Department Head **Hemalata Dandekar**, CRP lecturer **Menka Sethi**, CAED alum and project developer **Rob Rossi** (ARCH '75) and many others. Student team members are **Juan Bonilla** (CRP), **Kerby Olsent** (MCRP), **Summer Spencer** (ARCH), **Reed Gordon** (LARCH), **Orion Wise** (BUS) and **Erik Castillo** (BUS).

**CALIFORNIA**  
WATER CHALLENGE

## LARCH Students Design Winning Billboards

Students in LA Assistant Professor **César Torres Bustamante's** Spring 2014 LA 437 3D Digital Design Communications (ILC) submitted winning artwork to Next 10's *Water Challenge Billboard Design Competition*.

**Mayra Concepcion's** entry, *One Dry Winter Away from a Drought*, was selected as a runner-up, and the entries submitted by **Andrew Elias**, *Less is More*; **Alix Kidwell**, *Save Water, Save California*; and **Joanne Mark's** *5-Gallon Simple Truth* all received honorable mention.

Next 10 is an independent, nonpartisan organization dedicated to educating and empowering Californians to improve the state's future. Students across California were called on to design a billboard depicting their vision of water issues.

View the winning entries at [nextten.org/2014-student-contest](http://nextten.org/2014-student-contest)

and students

## Students Exhibit Work at AIA Convention in Chicago

Students in ARCH Materials Innovations Lab collaborated with the Advanced Technology Studio of Enclos and focused on a two-quarter seminar led by Associate Professor **Mark Cabrinha** and Assistant Professor **Jeff Ponitz**. For the final project, five student teams were presented with a single requirement – to develop a concept and process for a unitized fiber-reinforced polymer (FRP) facade system.

The students have further refined their original panelized, grid, cylindrical and tessellated FRP concepts with input from the firm's designers and engineers. The work was presented internationally, and with support from Enclos, culminated with seven students exhibiting their concepts in June at the AIA National Convention in Chicago. View [enclos.com/site-info/news/molding-the-built-environment-of-tomorrow](http://enclos.com/site-info/news/molding-the-built-environment-of-tomorrow) and [more](#).



## Orphanage Project Earns ASLA National Award



A team of landscape architecture students received a national award of excellence in November at ASLA's annual meeting for a playground they designed and built at a South African orphanage. It was one of only three awards of excellence selected from more than 500 entries from 77 universities across the nation.

The 5,000-square-foot Ratang Bana Orphanage Park project rose up out of a trash-strewn dirt lot beneath power lines in a community ravaged by poverty and HIV, and students transformed it into a refuge in only eight days.

The team included **Michael Aguas**, **Alex Clark**, **Andrew Elias**, **Alex Henige**, **Ryan Higginbotham**, **Alix Kidwell**, **Joanne Mark**, **Amanda McCaulley**, **Erica Monson**, **Rachel SantaOlalla**, **Nick Tuttle**, **Tony Webster** and **Julianna Wild**.

More on the project at [asla.org/2014studentawards/422.html](http://asla.org/2014studentawards/422.html).

# Class Notes

## Alumni Celebrate Anniversary & Rankings!

Cal Poly alumni celebrated the architecture program's 50th anniversary and No. 1 ranking in the 2014 DesignIntelligence Survey in major northwest cities, the Bay Area, San Luis Obispo and in Chicago during the AIA Expo. Festivities at the Art Institute of Chicago were extra special as five Cal Poly architecture grads were inducted as Fellows of the AIA: **James E. Brown** (ARCH 1984), **John Caldwell** (1969), **Curtis Owyang** (1979), **Joey Shimoda** (1998), **Ernesto Vasquez** (1973), along with CAED Dean's Council member **David Van Wyk**, a graduate of the University of Cincinnati.

The just released 2015 rankings show Cal Poly's architecture program as the No. 2 undergraduate architecture program in the nation, and landscape architecture remaining at No. 4. Both programs are "Best in the West."



George Hasslein Medal

## Hasslein Medal Nominees Sought

The **CAED Foundation** encourages alumni nominations for the George Hasslein Medal, given in memory and honor of founding dean George Hasslein, FAIA. For criteria and to submit your nomination by Jan. 31, 2015, go to [caed.calpoly.edu/alumni/hasslein-medal.html](http://caed.calpoly.edu/alumni/hasslein-medal.html). The awards dinner at Cal Poly will be held this spring.

During last year's Homecoming, eight members of the **ARCE Class of 1954** got together with spouses and one of their faculty members to enjoy an afternoon reminiscing and sharing dinner in Cayucos.

The **ARCH Class of 2004** reunited in early November for their 10-year reunion, voting on student projects at the Vellum Furniture Competition and meeting up with faculty.

**Joseph Alvernaz** (ARCH 2012) and his team from Livingston, Calif., won the coveted Golden Shovel Award, the top prize at the 54<sup>th</sup> annual Great Sandcastle Contest at Carmel Beach.

**David Bourke** (ARCH 1995) designed the 2014 HGTV Dream Home, a modern mountain retreat the cable-TV channel awarded to a lucky viewer in April. The project has gained national attention for Bourke and Ward-Young in Truckee.

Faculty member and alumnus **Ryan Brockett** (ARCH 2004) shared the news of the naming of his San Luis Obispo-based firm, Ten Over Studio, which combined the offices of Jim Duffy Architecture and the California office of Caron Architecture.



**Kevin Conger** (LARCH 1988) of CMG Landscape was inducted as a Fellow of the ASLA. In November, alumni

celebrated his accomplishment at a reception in Denver during the annual ASLA meeting.

**Mike Aguas** (LARCH 2014) and **Nick Tuttle** (LARCH 2014) received \$7,500 from Cal Poly's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE) to grow their business. As fifth-year students they were inspired to create their nonprofit Swings for Dreams after building a playground in South Africa with LA Interim Department Chair **David Watts**. The co-founders build safe play spaces for children in developing countries.

**Sierra Davis** (CRP 2009) was promoted to the economic development coordinator position in May for the city of Los Altos, two years after joining as an assistant planner.

**Charles Durrett** (ARCH 1982) of McCamant & Durrett Architects of Nevada City, Calif., coordinated a five-day workshop bringing together professionals involved in co-housing and senior co-housing around North America. He also published *The Senior Co-housing Handbook: A Community Approach to Independent Living*.

**George Garcia** (ARCH 1989) of Garcia Architecture + Design announced the firm received the Historic Preservation Award from the California Preservation Foundation for an adaptive reuse, rehabilitation and mixed-use project in San Luis Obispo's historic Railroad District. The project began as a senior thesis.

**Cynthia Gordon** (CRP 2011) volunteered to represent the CRP Department at the College Fair at Venice High School in Los Angeles.

**Wally Gordon** (ARCH 1979 & '80) has been active in the college's San Francisco Urban Program. Through his network with large public school facility directors, program students undertook feasibility studies to design a new School of the Arts on a historic Civic Center site.



**Jaime Henard** (CM 2000) was hired as a senior-level staffer for ETC Building & Design Inc. with West Coast offices.

**Lucas Hogan** (ARCE 2009) visited campus and met with representatives of Simpson Strong-Tie to offer support to renovate and maintain the decades-old structures in Poly Canyon. As a student he was a canyon caretaker.



At Homecoming, **Ted Hyman** (ARCH 1979) received the CAED's 2014 Honored Alumni Award, the highest alumni honor bestowed by the university. Hyman is the managing partner of ZGF and was the lead architect for the campus' new Warren J. Baker Center for Science and Mathematics.

**Arlin Krigel** (ARCH 2013) and **Roopak Mitra**, an IE graduate student, have created MegaMatter, developed by their firm as part of the CIE's HotHouse Summer Accelerator program. They set out to create a new type of light-weight concrete, but discovered it was fireproof and fantastic at absorbing noise. They now specialize in sustainable materials for the construction industry. Go to [megamatter.com](http://megamatter.com).

**Derrick Lee** (ARCH 2012) is a co-founder of FM Venue. The firm's original team of four Cal Poly students has grown to seven, and they are busy creating a Mobile Fabrication Laboratory for the city of San Leandro.



**Douglas Lowe**, FAIA (ARCH 1974) is the inaugural recipient of the AIA California Council Norma Sklarek FAIA Award, given in the spirit of social responsibility to honor and recognize those who contribute freely and greatly to humanity. Lowe was lauded for his recovery efforts in Haiti.

Twenty years ago **Dasol Mashaka** (ARCH 1972) launched the African American Manhood Organization (AAMOBOYS) in Los Angeles and San Diego counties for boys ages 8-18. Similar to Big Brother organizations, he recently launched an Alumni Program for men ages 19 through 28 who volunteer to mentor graduates past the age of 18.

**Charles McClain**, AIA, (ARCH 1985) of McClain Consulting Services Inc. in Pasadena announced he has a new book, *Property Condition Assessment Handbook*.

**Austin Moore** (ARCH 2006) began developing his art and craft during the economic downturn, and he's moved into full-time custom jewelry creation. Based in Atascadero, his work was featured in the Lincoln car catalog as an upscale handcrafted gift. See his work at [etsy.com](http://etsy.com).



**Rod Petithomme** (ARCE 1986) retired as an Air Force colonel after serving more than 27 years including two

combat tours in Iraq. The most recent was as the last commander of the 332<sup>nd</sup> Expeditionary Operations Group, the Tuskegee Airmen "Red Tails" of World War II fame. He's volunteering at the CAED Support Shop and in Poly Canyon.

**Stephan Schmidt** (MCRP 2014) works for San Luis Obispo County's Planning and Building Department as a project manager for a collaborative effort between the county, Cal Poly and an investor-owned utility related to local climate action planning efforts. He is writing *Solar Energy & Resilience Planning: A Practical Guide for Local Governments*.



**Alfred "Weird Al" Yankovic** (ARCH 1980) is enjoying a whole new wave of popularity earning his first No. 1 album on the Billboard 200 with *Mandatory Fun*. He made his radio debut on Cal Poly's KCPR in 1977. In August he lit up the stage with comedy gold during a special performance on the Emmys, turning theme songs from nominated shows into amazing referential parodies. Above, Alumni Relations caught up with him at San Diego Comic-Con for a #calpolypride photo op! More at [weirdal.com](http://weirdal.com).

#### STAY IN TOUCH AND EMAIL TO US YOUR CLASS NOTES!

The CAED is refreshing our website, Facebook, and quarterly e-newsletters. Be sure to provide your current email address to [alumni.calpoly.edu/info](mailto:alumni.calpoly.edu/info). For details on any of these alumni stories contact us at [caed@calpoly.edu](mailto:caed@calpoly.edu) or 805-756-5138.



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# CAED Faculty & Staff Notes



Associate Dean **K. Richard "Dick" Zweifel** retired after 40 years of service to the college and the Landscape Architecture Department. A student scholarship was created in his honor. He is now president of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

The CAED welcomes new Assistant Dean of Advancement **Natalie Schaefer**, who leads all aspects of fundraising, marketing and communications, special events and alumni relations. Formerly, she was the director of Cal Poly's Corporate and Foundation Partnerships.

Two longtime faculty members hold new positions in the college: **Kevin Dong** is associate dean for administration, managing facilities, technologies and personnel that provide support for the college's five academic programs; and **Michael Lucas** serves as associate

dean for academic affairs, overseeing student, curricular and faculty affairs, and taking part in advancement activities. Both also hold part-time teaching assignments.

The college welcomes **Jeff McKibban**, instructional shops manager, **Shelly Steck**, administrative support coordinator, and **Seth Igarta**, CAED career services counselor.

Congratulations and "thank you" to these CAED faculty members who are retiring, with a few continuing to work in the Faculty Early Retirement Program: **David Conn**, **Zeljka Howard**, **Laura Joines**, **John Lange**, **Richard Schmidt**, **Erling Smith** and **Howard Weisenthal**.

And a "thank you and farewell" to these members who have accepted positions at other institutions: **Henri de Hahn**, Virginia Tech; **James Doerfler**, Philadelphia University; **Barbara Jackson**, University of Denver; and **Ansgar Neuenhofer**, University of Applied Sciences in Cologne, Germany.

ARCE Associate Professor **Craig Baltimore** attended the Ninth International Masonry Conference in Portugal, and presented

a paper titled *Sustainable Self-Consolidating Masonry Grout*, with research sponsored by the Concrete Masonry Assoc. of California and Nevada.

ARCE Associate Professor **Pamalee Brady** and Assistant Professor **Jim Guthrie** continued to collaborate on the Sandcastle Project, an outreach program with the School of Education that brings design and construction into elementary school classrooms. The goal is to help make math and science more relevant to elementary school students by working with teacher candidates who educate about design and construction.

Over the summer, ARCE Associate Professor **Edward Saliklis** coordinated 21 Cal Poly and Lithuanian students as part of a study abroad experience in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Six ARCE faculty were key presenters of personal on-campus seismic research at the 10<sup>th</sup> U.S. National Conference on Earthquake Engineering in Anchorage, Alaska, on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Alaskan Earthquake. They were **Graham Archer**, **Jim Guthrie**, **Peter Laursen**, **John Lawson**, **Cole McDaniel** and **Jill Nelson**.

**Nelson** also presented a paper at the Third International Conference on Urban Disaster Reduction, regarding her work in collaboration with **Guthrie** on implementation challenges for the Cal VIVA project. Its goal is to reduce the seismic vulnerability of state-owned buildings vital to earthquake recovery efforts.



ARCE Associate Professor **James Mwangi**, Assistant Professor **Jim Guthrie** (from left), and Associate Professor **John Lawson** surveyed earthquake damage in Napa, Calif., just days after the Aug. 24 6.0 magnitude earthquake.



Team efforts abound at the CAED's **Resilient Communities Research Institute (RCRI)**. The 2013 update of California's



State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan was completed by the primary SHMP team members of CRP faculty **Michael Boswell**, **David Conn** (lead investigator, emeritus), **Ken Topping** and **Bill Siembieda** (RCRI director), along with **Carol Schuldt**, GIS consultant, and **Meg Henry**, research analyst. The update received enhanced status approval from FEMA, which is significant for California as it enables the state to receive more federal funding in the event of a declared disaster.



CRP Professor Emeritus **David Conn** studied obstacles to the implementation of successful and sustainable curbside oil collection programs for the California's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle). Other team members, including Research Analyst **Meg Henry**, and CRP Professor **Bill Siembieda**

and Associate Professor **Adrienne Greve**, are seeking ways to increase the curbside collection of used oil and oil filters to reduce environmental damage.



ARCH Professor **Robert Arens** coordinates the CAED's Materials Collection that provides students with a hands-on, one-to-one experience of innovative building materials and components.

ARCH Associate Professor **Mark Cabrinha** celebrated his sixth year of leading the college's Summer Career Workshop, hosting more than 60 high school students from California and around the world.



LARCH Professor Emeritus **Gary Dwyer** unveiled his late summer exhibit SEEING / THINKING / LIVING at the

San Luis Obispo Museum of Art. He's also been busy producing books for iTunes, and adding to his decades of work. See more at [garydwyerphotography.com](http://garydwyerphotography.com).



LARCH Professor **Omar Faruque** and students in LA 402 and 436 provided designs for the Academic Commons, envisioned to foster connections across the colleges. The designs were exhibited at Kennedy Library.

CM Professor **Barry Jones**, is working in Indonesia as part of a 10-month Fulbright Scholarship. He is teaching infrastructure project management in the Civil Engineering Department at the Institute of Technology Bandung.



Former dean and ARCH Professor **Tom Jones** has expanded the CAED's San Francisco Urban Program. Nineteen firms are providing internships for more than 20 students, with 60 professionals and alumni participating as classroom presenters, office tour hosts or project reviewers. See more at [calpolysfud.com/2014-sf-experience](http://calpolysfud.com/2014-sf-experience).

For more about the program and other off-campus programs worldwide, visit [architecture.calpoly.edu/current/fourth-year-off](http://architecture.calpoly.edu/current/fourth-year-off).

ARCH Professor Emeritus **Sandra Lakeman** is preparing to publish another book and mount an exhibition of her work at a UNESCO site in Barumini, Sardinia.

ARCE's Assistant Professor **Peter Laursen** had a sabbatical in Denmark as the "seismic expert" at COWI A/S, a global engineering firm.

ARCE Associate Professor **John Lawson** was honored by American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) for

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## CAED Faculty & Staff Notes



### BILL BROWN REMEMBERED

Bill Brown, CM department head emeritus and founder of the-then construction engineering program, died June 25. He contributed to the founding of the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) and was an early proponent of the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE). A longtime generous supporter of CM, an industry/student interview room was named in his honor. In spring the CAED Foundation presented Brown with the Ray Takata Award in recognition for outstanding service to the college. He will be remembered for his academic leadership and good humor.

effective and engaging teaching style, receiving the ExCEED New Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award.

ARCH Professor **Margot McDonald** received the Sustainability Champion Award for the CSU system, the highest level and only individual award given at the California Higher Education Sustainability Conference. She is also the new head of the Architecture Department.

ARCE Professor **James Mwangi** spent a sabbatical year in Haiti supporting the rebuilding effort.

LARCH Associate Professor **Christine Edstrom O'Hara** wrote *Celebrating 40 Years: A History of the Landscape Architecture Department*, to commemorate the department's milestone. The book illustrates the early days. Alumni might remember the Old Post Office, the Jungle, Z'Lab and the Powerhouse. For a pdf version go to [landscape.calpoly.edu/content/publications/index](http://landscape.calpoly.edu/content/publications/index). To request a bound copy email [landscapearchitecture@calpoly.edu](mailto:landscapearchitecture@calpoly.edu), including your name and mailing address.



ARCH Assistant Professor **Clare Olsen** co-authored with engineer **Sinead Mac Namara** *Collaborations in Architecture and Engineering*, which focuses on how architects and engineers can prepare to work together in practice.

Accolades to LARCH Associate Professor **Joseph Ragsdale** for his exemplary leadership as the Landscape Architecture Department head for the past three years.

ARCH Associate Professor **Stephen Phillips** commemorated the publishing of *L.A. [Ten]: Interviews on Los Angeles Architecture 1970s-1990s*. The book is a glimpse of accomplishments over the past three years of Cal Poly's L.A. Metro Program faculty and students, and features interviews of 10 renowned Los Angeles architects and their work alongside

analytical drawings by Cal Poly students.

ARCE Lab Technician **Ray Ward** and his wife, **Ann**, were recognized for their quarter century of foster parenting 90 children and young adults. The couple won a paid trip to attend the Foster Family-based Treatment Association's annual conference in Nashville, Tenn.

LARCH Associate Professor **David Watts** is the interim chair of the Landscape Architecture Department. He also received the President's Community Service Award for his service-learning course that partners landscape architecture students with orphanages in South Africa.

ARCH Professor **Christopher Yip** was appointed to the National Park System Advisory Board, serving as the Asian American/Pacific Islander scholars expert. Yip will assist with the identification of potential National Historic Landmarks.

For faculty contacts, related papers and more about most of these stories go to [caed.calpoly.edu](http://caed.calpoly.edu), and click on news, and then department links.



Natalie Schaefer

## Thank You For Your Support!

Private support is essential to the growth and enhancement of the college and its departments. Opportunities abound – from student scholarships to course curriculum and materials, from professional development opportunities to sponsorship for study abroad placements and travel. Here are a few examples:

### Scholarships and Internships

Support students by providing a computer, travel funds or supplies – or support someone with financial need.

### Guest Speakers/Project Sponsors

Practicing professionals give of their time and knowledge on campus to strengthen ties between the academic and career fields.

### Teacher/Student Scholars

Faculty and students participate in applied research, attend professional conferences, or contribute through presenting papers.

### Study Abroad

Offer the learning experience of a lifetime! Students are placed with firms across the state, nation and world, where they experience a transformational educational opportunity.

### Named Studios, Labs and Design Studios

Support a specific research agenda or the facilities and equipment that define the curriculum.

**SUPPORT** the College of Architecture and Environmental Design - give online at [giving.calpoly.edu](https://giving.calpoly.edu).

**Natalie Schaefer,**  
Assistant Dean of Advancement

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Get involved and make a difference



James and Kimberly Grant

## Jim and Kim Grant – Leaving a Legacy for Others

Jim majored in construction engineering and Kim in architecture. As CAED students in the late 1970s they met on campus, fell in love and have been married, now, for 33 years. Their daughter, Danielle, graduated in 2007 from Cal Poly with a degree in journalism. But, it didn't stop there – Jim and Kim have left a family legacy. Their generous bequest will enable college and university program support in perpetuity.

"Learn by Doing is the strong thread that goes through the campus in every college, every single day, binding the students together," said Kim. "That is the way it has been for decades." Jim notes that there is an incredible network of Cal Poly grads in the architecture and construction professions. "When grads meet, there is an immediate bond," he says.

With fond memories of the San Luis Obispo area, the Grants continue to support Cal Poly as well as their own community. Both contribute to Casa de Amparo, a foster care facility in Northern San Diego County. Jim serves on the board of directors and is mentoring a foster teen, while Kim is co-chairing the gala/fundraiser and helps with event planning. Danielle is a meteorologist on KUSA, the NBC affiliate in Denver.

The CAED and the university thank Jim and Kim for their support and generosity.





# WRAP UP THE YEAR WITH A GIFT TO CAL POLY

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Making a gift by Dec. 31 may provide a tax break for 2014 when you itemize deductions on your federal income tax return. Additionally, depending on your gift, you may reduce your income taxes or eliminate capital gains tax.

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California Polytechnic State University  
San Luis Obispo, California 93407-0280



## 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Celebrations!

The CAED classes of 1963, '64 and '65 are reuniting to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> reunions the weekend of May 1-3, 2015. Email Nick Watry at [n.watry@me.com](mailto:n.watry@me.com) or contact CAED Alumni Relations at 805-756-5138. At left, the Cal Poly Student Chapter of the American Institute of Architects as pictured in the 1963 El Rodeo yearbook.

Photo courtesy CP Special Collections

## CAED Events

**Jan. 1, 2015**

Cal Poly SLO and  
Pomona Rose Float  
in Rose Parade, Pasadena

**Feb. 7**

ARCE Structural Forum,  
SLO

**Feb. 19**

Architecture and Environ-  
mental Design Career Fair

**April 18**

Open House 2015

**May 1**

Evening of Green & Gold

**May 2**

Alumni Reunion of CAED  
Classes of 1963, '64 & '65

**June 7**

June Jubilee, Tribute to  
Retired Faculty & Staff

**June 13**

CAED Commencement

**Ongoing**

For the Hearst Lecture  
Series and other events,  
go to [caed.calpoly.edu](http://caed.calpoly.edu)



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