

College of Liberal Arts

BRIEF

A look back at spring 2018



Leah Thomas (Psychology, '17) earned a top presentation award at the CSU Research Competition

NEW ALUMNA WINS CATEGORY AT CSU RESEARCH COMPETITION

Leah Thomas (Psychology, '17) earned the top presentation in the undergraduate Behavioral and Social Sciences category at the CSU Research Competition in May for her project, "Meta-Analysis of Internalizing Outcomes in Neurofibromatosis 1." One in 3,000 people across the world have been diagnosed with Neurofibromatosis 1 (NF1). Thomas's research examines the psychological effects of internalizing emotions associated with the disease. Thomas started working in the NF1 lab in summer 2016 and started working on the NF1 internalizing meta analysis in winter 2017. She is especially interested in the intersection of medicine and psychology.



Michael Frank, founder of the 25 Under 25 Film Festival

JOURNALISM STUDENT STARTS FILM FESTIVAL FOR YOUNG FILMMAKERS

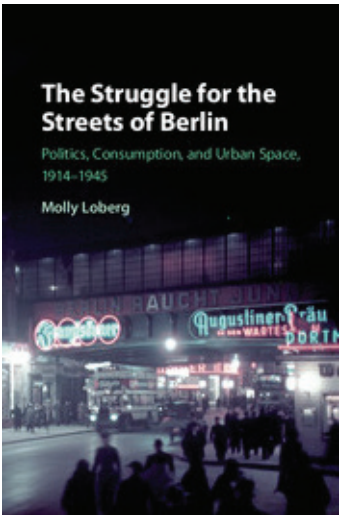
Journalism senior Michael Frank created a film festival to showcase work created by young filmmakers. The festival, named 25 Under 25, brought in 180 submissions from young filmmakers across California. The guidelines for submission were simple: the filmmaker must be under the age of 25 and based in California. Twenty-five films were selected to screen at the festival, which was held May 19-20 at San Luis Obispo's Palm Theatre.



Jasmine Mae “Minnie” Viera, 2018 recipient of the Contributions to the Objectives and Public Image of the University Award

CLA SENIORS RECEIVE AWARDS FROM CAL POLY AND THE COLLEGE

Jasmine Mae “Minnie” Viera, a psychology major, was recognized for her Contributions to the Objectives and Public Image of the University. Communication studies student Natasha Nguyen and music major Tyler Stockton were recognized for their Contributions to the Objectives and Public Image of the College. Psychology major Jose Lozano was recognized for his Service to the Community, and English major Lauren Miller and child development student Amanda Shrewsbury were recognized for their Academic Excellence. In addition to university recognitions, the college honored Outstanding Seniors and Graduate Students in the college at a reception on Friday, June 15. Cal Poly Arts also awarded art and design major Thomas Stoeckinger with the Excellence in Original Work Award, and anthropology major Sarah Dirk and art and design major Noelle Merrihew with Service to the Arts Awards.



HISTORY PROFESSOR PUBLISHES ‘THE STRUGGLE FOR THE STREETS’

History Professor Molly Loberg’s book, “The Struggle for the Streets: Politics, Consumption, and Urban Space, 1914–1945,” was published by the Cambridge University Press. In Germany, the First World War and 1918 Revolution transformed the city streets into the most important media for politics and commerce. They saw dazzling window displays that radiated optimism. They also witnessed crime waves, antisemitic rioting, and failed policing that pointed toward societal collapse. Loberg’s interdisciplinary approach draws on lively and diverse primary sources, including police reports, commercial and political advertising, artwork, film and citizens’ letters. Through the lens of the city, she brings together political, economic, social, and cultural history, which will appeal to readers in any of these subfields.



Cal Poly Spanish-language Debate Team at the Los Legados de Valladolid

CAL POLY HOSTS FIRST SPANISH-LANGUAGE CIVIC DEBATE ON A U.S. CAMPUS

The first Spanish-language civic debate on a U.S. university campus was hosted by the Cal Poly Spanish-language Civic Debate Team March 9-11 in the Advanced Technology Lab. Titled “Los Legados de Valladolid,” which translates to “Legacies of Valladolid,” the topic argued in competition was whether the rise of nativism, an extreme form of patriotism, is a threat to universal human rights. The inspiration for this debate was the “Junta de Valladolid,” which was the first moral debate held by a colonizing force regarding the legitimacy of colonization. The impact of colonization remains widespread to this day and still provides a forum to examine current political trends, as well as national and international policies and pervasive ideologies impacting the world.

COMMUNICATIONS STUDIES JUNIOR WINS MCCALL AWARD FOR BEST UNDERGRADUATE PAPER

Communications studies junior Emily Bernstein presented her research on “The Effect of Filler Words on Professional Credibility and Communication Competence” at the 43rd Annual Social Science Student Symposium (S4) in May. Bernstein won the McCall Award for Best Undergraduate Paper, which includes a \$500 stipend. The symposium, organized by the Social Science Research and Instructional Center, is a CSU-wide research competition for students. Approximately 60 students presented and only three papers received awards (best undergraduate paper, best graduate paper and best use of quantitative data in a paper). Bernstein’s study represents a group project developed last quarter in Professor Aubrie Adams’s Research Methods class in collaboration with communications studies students, Lea Gikas and Zac Sutcliffe. The three students performed an experiment to test the influence that filler words have on perceptions of a speaker’s credibility and competence in an interview context. Their results showed that filler words negatively affected perceived professional credibility and communication competence.





Anna Teiche in front of her 25-35 art installation that honors former College of Science and Math Dean Phil Bailey

ART AND DESIGN STUDENT’S WORK PERMANENTLY DISPLAYED IN BAKER CENTER

Art and design senior Anna Teiche had the opportunity to leave her mark on the Warren J. Baker Center for Science and Mathematics through a unique art installation recognizing Dr. Phil Bailey, former dean for the College of Science and Mathematics. The commissioned piece, titled “25-35,” honors Cal Poly’s academic goal of encouraging students to study 25-35 hours a week. The piece is a visual representation of the activities in an average student’s day according to the ‘Study 25-35’ principle. Each of the seven hexagonal panels represents a day of the week, and the smaller, painted hexagons symbolize the hours in a day. The forms are inspired by molecular diagrams used in chemistry, Bailey’s field of study. Just as chemical compounds can be broken down into separate elements, a student’s day can be organized into different areas of focus.



Political science junior Philip Abarquez

POLITICAL SCIENCE JUNIOR IS CAL POLY’S 2018 PANETTA REPRESENTATIVE

Political science junior Philip Abarquez was selected as one of 26 students from the state of California to be a 2018 representative to the Panetta Institute for Public Policy’s Congressional Internship Program. This year is the 20th anniversary of the celebrated program. The highly prestigious internship awards scholarships to students from each of the 23 CSU campuses along with one each from Dominican University of California, Saint Mary’s College of California, and Santa Clara University. To qualify, a student must be nominated by their respective campus president. Abarquez is the 18th Cal Poly student to participate in the program since 2001. He will join the other college representatives for two weeks of training at the Panetta Institute at CSU Monterey Bay in August. He will then work full-time in the office of a congressional representative in Washington, D.C. for 11 weeks.



CLA LAUNCHES UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS NETWORK

College of Liberal Arts Underrepresented Students Network (CLA USN) is a peer mentoring program for underrepresented students in our college. Mentors can meet informally with mentees to provide support and resources on Cal Poly’s campus. USN is not a counseling service, but a place to talk with peers who can identify with the experiences of other underrepresented students. Applications for students to become a mentor or mentee are available at cla.calpoly.edu/underrepresented-students-network.



Denise Isom (pictured) and Amber Williams received a Cal Poly RSCA Grant for their project “The Effects of Media Diversity on Children’s Racial Attitudes”

CLA FACULTY WIN RSCA GRANTS

Six Cal Poly Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities (RSCA) grants were awarded to the following CLA faculty: Denise Isom (Ethnic Studies) and Amber Williams (Psychology and Child Development) for their project “The Effects of Media Diversity on Children’s Racial Attitudes;” Joan Meyers (Social Sciences) for her project “The Effect of Employee Ownership on Empowerment Among Lower-Income Non-Managerial Women Workers;” Roberta Wolfson for her project “Refiguring Race and Risk: Literary Reimaginings of Threat in the Modern U.S. Security State;” Jay Bettergarcia (Psychology and Child Development) for their project “Training Doctors and Therapists to Provide Transgender-Affirming Care: Developing Evidence-based Best Practices;” Matthew Hopper (History) for his project “Fugitive Slaves and the Royal Navy in the Indian Ocean World;” and Laura Cacciamani (Psychology and Child Development) for her project “Improving Haptic Object Recognition via Stimulation of the Visual Cortex.”



Dean Douglas Epperson

THREE 2018 PRESIDENT’S DIVERSITY AWARDS RECIPIENTS FROM CLA

President Jeffrey Armstrong awarded individuals and organizations with the President’s Diversity Awards on May 18, in the PAC lobby. Dean Douglas Epperson was recognized with the President’s Diversity Legacy Award. Associate Dean for Diversity and Curriculum Jennifer Teramoto Pedrotti was awarded the President’s Diversity Award (Staff), and Leilani Hemmings, an ethnic studies junior, earned the President’s Diversity Award (Student).



Christy Chand with student dancers at the International Dance Day Festival in Lebanon

DANCE PROFESSOR TEACHES AND PERFORMS IN LEBANON

Dance professor Christy Chand had the opportunity to teach dance and perform in Lebanon at the International Dance Day Festival in April. The International Dance Day Festival is a week-long conference hosted by Lebanese American University. The conference consisted of dance classes, workshops, and performances. It often brings dancers from all over the world to Lebanon. Guest artists from Portugal, Libya, Nigeria, and beyond have traveled to attend the conference. This year, Chand taught contemporary dance classes, performed, and created incredible bonds with her students.



Distinguished Scholarship Award recipient and English professor Todd Pierce

ENGLISH PROFESSOR HONORED AS DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR

Todd Pierce is one of three recipients of the university's Distinguished Scholarship Award (and the first English faculty member to win this prestigious award!). These awards recognize achievement in scholarship and creative activity across the entire range of disciplines represented at Cal Poly. They honor work conducted primarily at Cal Poly and celebrate both exemplary specific accomplishments and outstanding bodies of achievement.



English major Morgan Condict

ENGLISH MAJOR WINS CAL POLY'S AMERICAN POETS CONTEST

English major Morgan Condict has won Cal Poly's Academy of American Poets Contest for his poem "To an Old Coworker," which investigates the homelessness crisis in San Francisco through a compelling, personal perspective. He will receive a \$100 award from the Academy. Judging this year's contest, poet Rachel Richardson said, "'To an Old Coworker' delicately and vividly describes both complexity of feeling and of the world. I was moved by its compassionate observation and the precision of its details."



Jasmin Fashami, ASI president-elect

POLITICAL SCIENCE JUNIOR JASMIN FASHAMI ELECTED ASI PRESIDENT

Political science junior Jasmin Fashami was elected ASI President for the 2018-19 school year. She plans to build her platform around opportunity, inclusivity and community. "A big driving force for me has been opportunity," said Fashami. "An individual can be incredibly intelligent and have all the drive and passion to pursue a study, but if there's no opportunity or resource provided for them, then they will always be a step behind." She wants to ensure students are provided the resources needed to not only find success, but also find a sense of belonging on campus. "The message I've been really pushing is a sense of unity on campus," she said. "I want to see more collaboration between student groups and make sure that policies we create and initiatives we run as ASI are taking into account all student groups."



Philosophy associate professor Eleanor Helms

PHILOSOPHY ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR TO SPEND THREE MONTHS AT SØREN KIERKEGAARD RESEARCH CENTER

Philosophy associate professor Eleanor Helms will spend three months of the 2018-19 school year researching Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard's relationship to 19th century science and philosophy of science. Helms received a \$5,000 travel and research grant from the American Scandinavian Foundation to conduct research at the Søren Kierkegaard Research Center in Copenhagen, Denmark. She was also awarded an additional \$5,000 for her trip from The American Council of Learned Societies, an organization that funds research projects mainly in the humanities. This is a highly competitive award, which is offered only to faculty at teaching-intensive universities like Cal Poly.



Julie Spencer-Rodgers, 2017-18 Learn by Doing Scholar Award recipient and associate professor in the Psychology and Child Development Department

JULIE SPENCER-RODGERS AWARDED 2017-18 LEARN BY DOING SCHOLAR AWARD

Associate professor of Psychology and Child Development Julie Spencer-Rodgers was awarded the 2017-18 Learn by Doing Scholar Award in the category of planned and in-progress research for "Building Intercultural Competence Through Cultural Immersion Projects." The award is one of only two granted each year and is accompanied by \$1000 and formal recognition during Fall Conference 2018. The long-term goal of her research is to disseminate the results of her study and the course materials she developed for her cross-cultural psychology course on various websites devoted to the teaching of intercultural competence and communication.

UPCOMING EVENTS



KCPR 50TH ANNIVERSARY: OCT. 12-13

KCPR will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Oct. 12 and 13. The two-day event will commemorate KCPR's history, induct new members into the Mustang Media Hall of Fame, host the third Jim Hayes Symposium and wrap up with a celebratory concert.



ALUMNI WEEKEND: NOV. 8-11

Bring your friends and family to San Luis Obispo for a homecoming celebration, Nov. 8-11! Relive your amazing years at Cal Poly. The Honored Alumni Award Dinner and Celebration will take place on Friday, Nov. 9.



More Upcoming Events

For a complete list of upcoming CLA events, visit cla.calpoly.edu/events