

CAL POLY COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

# impact

LEARN / LEAD / LIVE / SPRING 2018

## A Lasting Legacy

Retiring  
Dean Douglas  
Epperson  
reflects on his  
years of  
leadership

### Inside

**3:** Notable student and  
faculty achievements /  
**10:** CLA Career Month  
provides networking  
opportunities /  
**12:** Cal Poly professor  
discovers an unwritten  
history

CAL POLY



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  
Spring 2018

Dean's Office  
805-756-2359

Editor  
Rachel Schultz  
rschul02@calpoly.edu

Writing  
Rachel Schultz  
Krista Smith

Photography  
Brittany App  
Brian Lawler  
Krista Smith

Design  
DCP / dcpubs.com

Do we have your current contact information?  
Want to also receive our quarterly e-newsletter?  
Make sure we have your current contact information —  
cla.calpoly.edu/update.

Stay connected with the CLA story:  
f t i in

On the cover:  
Dean Douglas Epperson retires this summer.



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 Fettters** (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.

To read more of their responses, visit [cla.calpoly.edu/impact-magazine](http://cla.calpoly.edu/impact-magazine).



**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).



**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](http://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 MAJZOUB, MIDDLE (2): KRISTA SMITH, BOTTOM: JAKE GIUSTO  
TOP LEFT: NESRINE MAJZOUB, BOTTOM LEFT: HANNAH QUITUGUA



# A Voice for Collaboration

8 new minors added

**Bidding a fond farewell to Dean Douglas Epperson, who is retiring after six years**

**T**his summer, after six years of serving as the dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Douglas Epperson will retire. One of the many factors that originally drew Epperson to Cal Poly was the institution's commitment to being a comprehensive polytechnic university. "The College of Liberal Arts is central to the 'comprehensive' component of this goal," he said.

"Departments in the College of Liberal Arts teach students to think critically, contextually and reflectively about issues and problems; communicate effectively orally, visually and in writing; understand and value people from different cultures; work constructively in teams; and engage in lifelong learning," he said. "These skills are so universally essential that it is not an overstatement to assert that liberal arts students are educated for success in whatever they pursue — in their careers or personal lives."

Since taking the helm in 2012, Epperson has been a strong proponent for interdisciplinary collaboration. He believes that it's important not only for students to work with people from a variety of backgrounds, as they will in the real world, but also that students in the liberal arts are critical partners — if not leaders — in efforts to address the most pressing challenges of the 21st century. Under Epperson's leadership, the college introduced a new science, technology and society program, which includes four minors that allow liberal arts students to work with science and engineering students to study and address problems at the intersections of science/technology with ethics and public policy, social and creative media, gender and race, and communication of risk and technical information.



"It is not an overstatement to assert that liberal arts students are educated for success in whatever they pursue — in their careers or personal lives."

— Douglas Epperson

**Left:** Dean Douglas Epperson is retiring this summer.

**Top:** Dean Epperson speaking at the 2015 commencement.



# Dean Epperson's Lasting Legacy

Epperson has also been committed to diversity and inclusion at Cal Poly. He formed a standing inclusivity and diversity committee for both students and faculty and hired the first associate dean for diversity and curriculum. “I felt it was important that we make a concerted effort to address some of the problems related to diversity, inclusivity and equity on campus,” he said. “These committees will help generate goals and action plans for the CLA, enabling our college to continue to provide leadership for the university in this important domain.”

It’s no surprise that Epperson leaves behind a legacy of encouraging people to work together. One thing he values most about Cal Poly is the team he has worked with to advance the college. “I have never worked with a more collaborative and effective group,” said Epperson. “My only regret is that I wasn’t able to spend more of my career with such a fine college at such an excellent university.”

17 new online classes developed



“Under Dean Epperson’s leadership, the College of Liberal Arts has achieved a new level of excellence. He has been instrumental in understanding and promoting the critical role of the arts, humanities and social sciences in our polytechnic environment.”

— Kathleen Enz Finken, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs



“Doug is open to change while being mindful of history — that’s a unique combination in a leader and a very helpful one, particularly with regard to diversity and inclusion efforts.”

— Jennifer Teramoto Pedrotti, associate dean for diversity and curriculum



\$8 million raised for CLA

“Dean Epperson highly values research activity and consistently supports faculty efforts to develop themselves as teacher-scholars.”

— Taylor Smith, psychology professor and licensed psychologist



4,000 additional square feet of research space

“We’ve really enjoyed getting to know Doug, and we are sad to see him leave. We chose to create a full-ride scholarship because we believe in his interdisciplinary vision for the College of Liberal Arts.” — Kathryn Weinrichter (Journalism, ’70) and Leonard Sundeen



“Doug — working in partnership with students, staff and faculty in the college — transformed how the college is seen and valued by the campus and community and how we see and value ourselves.”

— Jane Lehr, chair of the Women’s and Gender Studies Department



135 students currently pursuing science, technology and society minors

1. Epperson discusses college activities with staff. 2. The CLA sponsored an exclusive screening of “The Last King of Scotland” at the Palm Theatre in 2013 for students studying the history of East Africa. 3. Epperson makes the CLA case to CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White. 4. The dean welcomes students to an event celebrating diversity. 5. Epperson with CLA alumni during Homecoming Weekend 2014. 6. English Department Chair Kathryn Rummell and Epperson during a 2016 visit to China to explore study-abroad opportunities. 7. The dean chats with Josh Holland (Graphic Communication, ’12). 8. Epperson speaks to new students during Week of Welcome.



“The CLA dean plays a critical role in the success of Cal Poly Arts. Doug was a tireless advocate, and Cal Poly Arts is a much stronger organization now than it was when he arrived.”

— Steve Lerian, Cal Poly Arts director



# Making Connections

The inaugural CLA Career Month helped students set a course for success

Meaningful connections, interview skills, industry discussions and career advice designed specifically for students in the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) defined the inaugural CLA Career Month.

Technically spanning longer than 31 days — from Jan. 16 to Feb. 27 — CLA Career Month included more than 1,000 students attending over 30 events, such as the International Graphic Communication Week Speaker Series; specialty career fairs; talks about grad school and internships; and panels about careers in entertainment, nonprofits, government and counseling.

“I’ve never attended a career fair before. Being here, I noticed it’s important to just network with people,” said Megan Deegan, a child development junior. “Even just getting your name out there — you may not be interested in what they’re offering, but they may know someone who fits you better.”



Deegan visited the Downtown SLO booth, where the communications coordinator offered to introduce her to someone more in line with her career pursuits. “That’s really what the whole networking experience is about; it’s not only who you’re meeting, but it’s who they know,” added Deegan.

The new CLA Career Month fills a professional development void noted by CLA students, particularly in regard to representation at previous career fairs. “With a majority of attending companies from engineering and agricultural fields, CLA students didn’t feel like there was as much there for them,” said Penny Bennett, associate dean for student success in the College of Liberal Arts. “We wanted to create something that would change that.”

Hearing from CLA alumni and other professionals in their fields encourages students to formulate a path and focus on what they want to do. “Events where alumni and older students talk

“Events where alumni and older students talk about how they got to where they are now can be really inspiring. It helps me think about what my next steps should be to reach my goals in the future.”

— Lucy Volway



BRIAN LAWLER

TOP: RACHEL SCHULTZ; LEFT: BRIAN LAWLER



about how they got to where they are now can be really inspiring,” said Lucy Volway, a graphic communication sophomore who attended a talk on internships. “It helps me think about what my next steps should be to reach my goals in the future.”

Speakers on the Nonprofit and Policy panel talked about their career paths and offered advice on building a supportive network. “Be mindful of every interaction,” said panelist and CLA alumna Ashley Stephens (Political Science, ’15). “Each is an impression, and all are opportunities to engage with people.”

Like Stephens, many CLA Career Month panelists and speakers were Cal Poly alumni. “We ask our alumni to participate because we value their experience and insight,” said Bennett.

The panels, speakers and workshops were tailored to the wide range of interests within the College of Liberal Arts. “A lot of CLA majors are so broad, attending these events is a great starting place for career exploration,” said College of Liberal Arts Career Counselor Laura Hunkler. “At the same time, those ready to apply for jobs can make connections with panelists. CLA Career Month offers something for everyone, wherever they are in the process.”

CLA Career Month is set to return in the 2018-19 academic year. “Our hope is that it gives CLA students a sense of belonging when it comes to careers and job prospects,” Bennett said. “We also hope it gives alumni the chance to come back and share their expertise.”

**Opposite page:** Jordan Damron (Graphic Communication, ’14) talks with a student. **Top:** Attendees at the Careers in Counseling panel. **Bottom:** Graphic communication student Jessica Dimulias and art and design student Carlie Meyers work on their resumes.



DISCOVERING THE

# Uprooted

History Professor Christina Firpo's book recounts a systematic removal of children in Southeast Asia

**H**istory Professor Christina Firpo had just spent months combing through documents in the archives of Hanoi, Vietnam. She was a graduate student at the time and was preparing to leave for vacation when a file from the 1940s caught her eye. One document, written in French, described categorizing children who were born of a French father and a Southeast Asian mother into groups of "white, lightly tinted and dark-skinned." The document instructed police to leave the so-called dark-skinned boys and girls with their families but to remove the white and lightly tinted children — by force if necessary — to be raised elsewhere.

Firpo stared at the document for a while, adjusting her eyes to make sure she was seeing it correctly. "I had to walk out of the archives and take a breather," she said. After reading through the file, she decided to cancel her vacation and stay in Vietnam to dig deeper. Although she was familiar with the French colonization of Vietnam, this story of removing children born of Southeast Asian mothers and French fathers had been omitted from the history books.

While researching, she was shocked to find that what seemed to be a few isolated cases of French officials taking children from their mothers was actually much more. "I kept thinking I must be overestimating all of it," she said. "I kept second-guessing myself

— as any researcher should do — but more so than my other projects because it was such a crazy story."

Her research took her to several cities in Southeast Asia and eventually to archives in France. She found evidence that more than 4,000 children had been taken from their mothers in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. In many cases, and for a wide range of reasons — including death, divorce or end of a romance — the father had left the child in the mother's care. But to French colonial administrators, leaving children of Frenchmen to be raised in the Southeast Asian cultural milieu was tantamount to abandonment.

To "protect" the children, French authorities and civilian-led organizations placed them in state-run orphanages or educational institutions to be transformed into "little Frenchmen." Even more surprising to Firpo was the discovery that the practice lasted from 1890 all the way up to 1980 — long after French colonial rule.

Firpo interviewed some of the children — now adults — who were raised in such institutions. In some cases, they were rescued from homelessness or life on the streets, but some had been taken, often by force, from loving homes. She found one boy's story particularly heartbreaking. Records in Vietnam indicate that his mother strong-armed a priest at the orphanage and took her son back. A search for the

"I hope [my students] find something in their professional or personal life — this kind of marathon-type project — that they can put their all into."

— Christina Firpo

**Opposite page:** History Professor Christina Firpo. **Left:** Firpo in Hanoi, at Văn Miếu, the Temple of Literature, in 2014. **Top right:** Eurasian children in a French-run institution after being removed from their maternal families. **Bottom right:** Early 20th-century postcard of a Cambodian woman with her Eurasian children.

mother and child ensued, and authorities eventually tracked them down. To prevent the mother from finding her son again, he was sent to an orphanage in a different part of the country and eventually taken to France. Remarkably, the same boy's official documents in France — those he would be able to access as an adult — have no record of his mother trying to get him back. In fact, they say she was completely uninterested in the child.

After more than a decade of research, Firpo finished writing a book about the removal programs. Published in 2016, "The Uprooted: Race, Children, and Imperialism in French Indochina, 1890-1980" won a prestigious International Convention of Asian Scholars Colleague's Choice Book Prize, which Firpo says was just a bonus. The positive response she got from some of the individuals she interviewed meant more to her. "That's the audience I'm most concerned about," she said. "I wanted to do their story justice."

Firpo says she'll never lose interest in the stories of the uprooted, and she hopes her students find a similar passion. "I hope they find something in their professional or personal life — this kind of marathon-type project — that they can put their all into," she said. "Something that's so intellectually stimulating that they can't stop going back to it. It's hard work, but it's fun and so rewarding."



BRITTANY APP

LEFT: COURTESY OF CHRISTINA FIRPO



## HONORING THREE 2017 CAL POLY ALUMNI FROM THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS



The CLA Honored Alumnus for 2017 was **Chris Trapani**, who graduated in 1990 with a degree in political science. Trapani is the founder and CEO of Sereno Group, a residential real estate company generating more than \$3 billion in sales annually, which was named the “Best Place to Work” by the Bay Area News Group for eight consecutive years. Trapani is committed to the environment and community development through philanthropy. He created Sereno Group’s 1% For Good program, through which 1 percent of gross commissions is automatically donated to local charities, resulting in nearly \$500,000 annually. Sereno Group was recently honored as one of the top 50 corporate givers in the Bay Area by the Silicon Valley Business Journal. Trapani is a member of the Cal Poly President’s Council of Advisors and is playing a lead role in raising funds for the Expressive Technology Studios, scheduled to open on campus in 2021.

The Alumni Association’s Distinguished Service Award went to **Kelley Bannon Lashley** (Political Science, ’95). She is a partner at Calleton, Merritt,

De Francisco & Bannon, LLP and a certified specialist in estate planning, trust and probate law. Bannon Lashley played softball for Cal Poly and is the founder and president of the Cal Poly Varsity Club, an alumni chapter for former student-athletes. She has served on the Mustang Athletic Fund board of directors, the Alumni Association board of directors and the Athletics Director’s Advisory Council.

**Steve Jones** (Political Science, ’92) was honored by Cal Poly Athletics. He is the CEO of Allied Universal, a Fortune 500 company providing security and staffing solutions. Under his leadership, the company has grown from \$12 million in revenue to more than \$5 billion. Jones was named the top job creator for two consecutive years by Inc. magazine and earned the prestigious Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Jones played football at Cal Poly and was an honor roll student. He and his wife, Stacy, have made significant contributions to Cal Poly Athletics, including a lead donation to the Steven S. Jones Family Football Locker Room.

## CLASS NOTES

Share your recent news in the next Impact magazine at [www.cla.calpoly.edu/update](http://www.cla.calpoly.edu/update).

### 1950s

**Harry Wiggins** (Printing, ’59) was honored by the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture as Man of the Year for being actively involved with the community for most of his life.

### 1970s

**Charles Wallace** (Graphic Communication, ’74) announced his retirement as publisher for the Winters Express starting on Jan. 1, 2018, after 35 years in the position. / **David Tussing** (Political Science, ’77), executive director of Hope for Bukwo, built Hope Medical Center, which develops excellent health care, education and economic opportunities for all citizens of Bukwo, Uganda.

### 1980s

**Marcia Godwin** (Political Science, ’86) was promoted to professor of public administration at the University of La Verne where she also directs the Master of Public Administration. She also co-edited the book “The Roads to Congress 2016.” / **Janet Baucom** (Child and Family Development, ’88) and her husband, **Eric** (Business, ’87), launched Coastlands Group, a new real estate group in Ventura that includes a charitable giving component. Coastlands Group is committed to giving a percentage of every commission to local and global nonprofit organizations that are helping to change the world.



### 1990s

**Robyn Kranz** (Journalism, ’90) and her video production company, Brownieland Pictures, produced “Every Opportunity,” a viral video that shows teachers and parents how systematically ignoring a child can have disastrous effects. It has over 1.5 million views and counting. / **Rachel Rey** (Political Science, ’91), Compli Beverage Compliance founder, is working with Cal Poly to provide an internship on regulatory compliance, as well as creating a new center for wine and viticulture on campus. / **Rodney Trett** (Journalism, ’93) left the theme park industry for the first time since graduating from Cal Poly. After 17 years with the Walt Disney Co. and nine years with Herschend Family Entertainment, he now supports the trucking industry as a product specialist for DAT Solutions – Keypoint Software in Springfield, Missouri. He is still utilizing his journalism skills by writing training and production documentation for customers and fellow teammates. / **Anna Binneweg** (Music, ’98) was featured in a Baltimore Sun article for her work as music director and conductor of the Anne Arundel Community College Symphony Orchestra and the Londontowne Symphony Orchestra

in Annapolis. / **Rebecca (Stier) Reber** (Child Development, ’98) was named the 2017 Riverside County Office of Education Early Childhood Education Teacher of the Year. / **Remi Sklar** (Journalism, ’98), writing under the pen name Remi Nicole, recently published a children’s book titled “Peck — A Lonely, Little Lovebird Down Under,” which was a best-seller on Amazon in its debut week. She is also a full-time communications executive and mother to two young boys.

### 2000s

**Tyrone Galgano** (Graphic Communication, ’07) has purchased the El Rey Theater in Chico to keep it operating as an entertainment venue. The venue has been renovated with improvements to equipment and space and will be open for concerts, film festivals, presentations, and events and meetings. / **Mark Noce** (English, ’05; M.A. English, ’07), a technical writer, published his second novel, “Dark Winds Rising.” It is the second in a series of historical fiction novels set in medieval Wales.

### 2010s

**Chloe Cruz** (Political Science, ’15) is the external organizer for the Service Employees International Union. She travels California, building union membership through National Labor Relations Board elections, card check agreements and partnerships. / **Annalee Akin** (Political Science, ’16) was promoted to Assemblywoman Catharine Baker’s scheduler after serving in the office through the California State Assembly Fellowship Program.



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### **KCPR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY: OCT. 12-13**

KCPR will celebrate its 50th anniversary Oct. 12-13. The two-day event will include the third Jim Hayes Symposium, a musical event, alumni on the air, a Journalism Department Mustang Media Hall of Fame induction and a look at "KCPR Through the Decades."



### **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.

## STAY CONNECTED

To continue receiving this magazine, CLA's e-newsletter and event invitations, make sure we have your current contact information by visiting [\*\*www.cla.calpoly.edu/update\*\*](http://www.cla.calpoly.edu/update).