

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.



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 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