Preserving California
Professor Terry Jones and his students help protect coastal sites

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Message from Interim Dean

For the past year, I have been privileged to serve as interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts following the retirement of Dean Douglas Epperson last summer. This August, we welcome Dr. Philip J. Williams, professor of political science and director of the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida, as the new dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Williams has a long record of diversity- and inclusion-focused education and research at the University of Florida and has led several interdisciplinary initiatives. In this publication, you will read more about the experience and leadership that Williams brings to our college. This issue also celebrates the excellent work of the college this year, including the development of a new Interdisciplinary Studies in the Liberal Arts (ISLA) Department, the leadership of Cal Poly’s diversity and inclusion efforts, and the successes in Learn by Doing education. Clearly, the College of Liberal Arts is thriving academically and is in an ideal position for new leadership.

I have truly enjoyed the opportunity to engage with our students, faculty and staff, and donors from a college-wide perspective. This experience has only deepened my pride in and commitment to the College of Liberal Arts, and I thank you for your support during my time as interim dean. I look forward to collaborating with Dean Williams as I resume my role as chair of the English Department. I am confident he will bring a strong commitment to Learn by Doing and will champion the crucial role the liberal arts play in preparing our students for success. I hope you all join me in welcoming Dean Williams to the Cal Poly family!

Sincerely,
Kathryn Kummell
Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts

Features

Unearthing the Past
Archaeology Professor Terry Jones and his Archaeological Field Methods students work to preserve historic sites.

Welcoming CLA’s New Dean
Introducing Philip J. Williams, the new dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Leaders in Diversity and Inclusion
A cluster of new academic hires helps promote diversity and inclusive teaching methods.

AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Cal Poly students and faculty demonstrate excellence — on and off campus

STUDENTS

A group of art and design students worked with San Francisco-based artist Strider Patton to complete 29 murals in the new yak titu yak tilhini North- ern Chumash Tribe of San Luis Obispo County and Region living community on campus. / The Mustang Media Group won several national Pacemaker Awards from the Associated College Press and Pinnacle Awards from the College Media Association. / Plikott science student Kate Rtl, ethnic studies and sociology student Carlos Gomez, ethnic studies student Leilani Hemmings Pallay, and communication studies student Julie Shaw and Madison Wiese each had papers accepted for the first CSU Gender, Race and Sexuality Undergraduate Conference. / Theatre and dance students Sammy Boyarsky, Gabrielle Duong, and Anna Buiber each received Meritorious Achievement recognitions from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for their contributions to Cal Poly’s production of “The Tempest”. / Art and design senior Kyle Branch’s team placed second in Walt Disney Imag- ineering’s 28th Imaginations Design Competition. / The California Cybersecurity Institute was honored in the AVA Digital Awards for its videos made by liberal arts and engineering studies senior Ryan Vannucci. / English senior Amelia Meyehoff spoke at the Change the Status Quo conference about her research, experience and advocacy regarding sexual assault. / Journalism major Isabella Paolletti worked alongside New York Times reporters at the New York Times Student Journalism Institute in New York City. / A team of art and design students and industrial technology and packaging students placed second in the national Paperboard Packaging Council’s Annual Carton Competition. / For the second time in three years, graphic communication students won the Ripplin Cup at the annual conference of the Technical Association of the Graphic Arts. / Political science student Johanna Cogen worked alongside New York Times reporters at the New York Times Student Journalism Institute in New York City. / A team of art and design students and industrial technology and packaging students placed second in the national Paperboard Packaging Council’s Annual Carton Competition. / For the second time in three years, graphic communication students won the Ripplin Cup at the annual conference of the Technical Association of the Graphic Arts. / Political science student Johanna Cogen worked alongside New York Times reporters at the New York Times Student Journalism Institute in New York City. / A team of art and design students and industrial technology and packaging students placed second in the national Paperboard Packaging Council’s Annual Carton Competition. / For the second time in three years, graphic communication students won the Ripplin Cup at the annual conference of the Technical Association of the Graphic Arts. / Political science student Johanna Cogen worked alongside New York Times reporters at the New York Times Student Journalism Institute in New York City.

FACULTY

Communication studies Professor David Askay and business entrepreneurship Professor Lynn Metcalf, in collaboration with Silicon Valley-based technology firm Unanimous AI, published research examining the effectiveness of business teams functioning as a “hive mind”. / Two art and design faculty — Thomas DePasquale and Giancarlo Fiorenza — contributed to the world renowned touring art exhibit “The Renaissance Nude”, which displayed at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles. / Psychology Professor Julie Garcia is serving as the interim associate vice president for diversity and inclusion for Cal Poly’s Office of University Diversity and Inclusion. / Music Professor Scott Glysson was selected to represent the U.S. in the American Choral Directors Association International Conductors Exchange Program in Kenya. / Social sciences Professor Martine Lappé was awarded the second phase of a five-year Career Development Award from the National Human Genome Research Institute’s Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications Program for her interdisciplinary project, titled “Behavioral Epigenetics in Children: Exploring Social and Ethical Implications of Trans- forms”. / Plikott science Professor Editiex George, Global Studies Professor Gabrielle Duong, and Anika Leithner are part of a Cal Poly team that secured a $150,000 grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. The grant will allow the team to work with public and private entities to research and suggest policy options related to cybersecurity while also providing technical assistance to address a major cybersecurity threat. / Social sciences Professor Dawn Neill and food science and nutrition Professor Aydin Nazmi were awarded a California State University Basic Needs Small Scale Faculty Research Grant to investigate campus programs related to student food insecurity. / Theatre arts Professor Al Schnupp wrote and directed the play “Mist Fall”, which debuted at Cal Poly last November. / Journalism lecturers Kirk Sturm and Marta Block, a lecturer in the Psychology and Child Development Department, each received the Terrace Harris Excellence in Mentorship Award. / Anthropology and geography student Torrey Sanservo won first place in the Behavioral and Social Sciences category at the 33rd Annual CSU Research Competition held April 26-27 at CSU Fullerton. She researched utilizing mixed methods for development in engineering water projects in Malawi.

News & Notes

Cal Poly students and faculty demonstrate excellence — on and off campus

Students

From accolades to published works, learn the latest about CLA people and events on campus and beyond.

Alumni

Two graduates are recognized for their commitment to Cal Poly, and former students share major milestones.

Extras

News & Notes

Stay connected with the CLA story.

On the cover: Cal Poly Field Methods students onsite.
BRIAN HEALY / Theatre and Dance Department
Specialty Area: Stage Design and Theatre Production / Years at Cal Poly: 2

How/why did you choose to work at Cal Poly? Cal Poly is known to have outstanding faculty and students committed to truly engaged learning. Both groups inspire me daily and motivate me to be my very best. Our scene shop is an exemplary Learn by Doing environment.

What individuals have inspired you? As an undergrad, I had mentors that entrusted me with great responsibility. This trust nurtured my personal confidence and taught me to be a steward and ambassador of the program and the arts. I feel beholden to pass this trust and opportunity on to my students.

JANE LEHR / Women’s and Gender Studies Department
Specialty Area: Science & Engineering Education and Social Justice / Years at Cal Poly: 12
What is/has been your favorite class to teach? Gender, Race, Culture, Science and Technology. I love this course. I love the work that students and I do together in it. We focus a large amount of attention on the ways in which gender, racial and other norms both inform and are formed by scientific and medical knowledge production practices.

What is a fact about you that few know? I am a pretty serious sports fan. (Go, Sixers!)

XIAOYING RONG / Graphic Communication Department
Specialty Area: Materials for printing, printing technologies, printing for electronics and functions / Years at Cal Poly: 14

What is/has been your favorite class to teach? Printed Electronics and Interactive Product Development. Students work on projects that involve programming, setting up electronic circuits and designing products with both static graphics and interactive electronic components. Many aspects are outside [their] comfort zones; however … the final products are fun and rewarding.

What are your hobbies? I like gardening, even though I constantly ruin my flower beds and vegetables every year. It is a good way to relax.

FARAH AL-NAKIB / History Department
Specialty Area: Modern Middle East and Urban History / Years at Cal Poly: 1

What are your research/scholarly pursuits? I write about the history of Kuwait (where I am from) and the Arab Gulf region. My first book was on the urban history and transformation of Kuwait before and after the discovery of oil. I am currently working on a second book on collective memory, trauma and nostalgia, as well as a project on Kuwait’s 1991 oil fires.

What is/are your guilty pleasure(s)? The same as everyone else’s: the couch, some wine, my cat and Netflix.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF KCPR
Alumni, students and local music lovers came together to celebrate the 50th anniversary of KCPR-FM, Cal Poly’s student-run radio station. A weekend of events marking the occasion kicked off on Oct. 12, with a concert at SLO Brew Rock attended by 400-plus people. The celebration continued Oct. 13 in the Cal Poly Multi-Activity Center for the Hall of Fame and Through the Decades Gala. During the evening, four new members were inducted into the Journalism Department’s Mustang Media Hall of Fame — music industry executive Bruce Fish (Journalism, ’88), advancement professional Susan Houghton (Journalism, ’82), political consultant and KCRA-TV analyst Kevin Riggs (Journalism, ’82), and former KCPR faculty advisor and broadcaster Ed Zuchelli. Another highlight of the evening was a series of entertaining videos, produced by ABC News correspondent David Kerley (Journalism, ’79), showcasing the evolution of KCPR. Throughout the weekend, dozens of KCPR alumni gathered and recalled their fondest memories of the station.

New Interdisciplinary Studies in the Liberal Arts Department
Beginning fall 2019, the CLA will welcome Interdisciplinary Studies in the Liberal Arts as its newest department. The CLA introduced a Bachelor of Arts degree in interdisciplinary studies (IS) in fall 2018. This new degree program offers students the chance to design their own majors with emphasis areas including arts and the human experience, ethics, law and justice, global studies, health, culture and society, science, technology and society, social sustainability, and technology and human expression. The major began accepting internal transfers in the spring.

Groundbreaking Expressive Technology Studios
On May 9, Cal Poly broke ground on a leading-edge facility that will open a new world of possibilities for College of Liberal Arts (CLA) students. The William and Linda Frost Center for Research and Innovation is a collaboration between the CLA, the College of Science and Mathematics, and the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences. The complex will house the new Jack and Felicia Caushin Expressive Technology Studios (ETS), creating an interdisciplinary space that brings together technology and the liberal arts. The space will feature a 3,500-square-foot multifunctional studio with a control room; an acoustic sound studio; a central hub for collaboration and digital networking; editing bays; and a digital effects computer lab, all equipped with the same professional hardware and software found in the entertainment industry. Students and faculty are expected to move into ETS in 2021.

To read more of their responses, visit cla.calpoly.edu/impact-magazine.
Archaeology Professor Terry Jones and his students earn recognition for their efforts to preserve the historic California coastline

Unearthing the Past

A significant part of California history will be preserved thanks to the work of Cal Poly archaeology Professor Terry Jones and his students.

Since 2004, students in Jones’ Archaeological Field Methods classes (ANT 310) have worked on excavation sites at Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, a Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (PG&E) property near Avila Beach.

The field class focuses on locations that have been affected by coastal erosion, public trail access and agricultural land uses. “We have the opportunity with PG&E to work on sites that are falling into the ocean,” Jones said. “We’re salvaging scientific information that would otherwise be lost.”

All of the work is done in close collaboration with the yak titu’ yak tilhini Northern Chumash Tribe of San Luis Obispo County and Region. “Students get an opportunity to Learn by Doing while working at important cultural sites,” Jones said. “It gives them an authentic exposure to archaeology and the realities of fieldwork.”

In 2015, while excavating along lower Pecho Creek at site CA-SLO-51/H, a multicomponent site listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the field class uncovered glass trade beads — a particularly notable discovery. The beads were a clear indicator of the age and historical significance of the site, providing a direct link to the former Chumash village site of Tstyiwi, which was later the location of a Rancho Period adobe.

“It turned out it was a village that we could associate with a name in the mission records of San Luis Obispo, and that is very unusual,” Jones said. “It’s one of the very few sites in all of San Luis Obispo...
County where we have archaeological materials from a named village. We could make this really direct connection between that site and living people."

Given the cultural and scientific significance of the Pecho Creek site, Jones discontinued excavation and redirected focus to preservation. Recognizing their responsibilities to manage the land, PG&E’s Diablo Canyon Land Stewardship Team (DCLST) voluntarily ended the agricultural program at the site. The DCLST worked with Cal Poly and the tribe to develop a restoration plan for the area. They rid the property of exotic plants and stabilized it with native grasses in 2017.

Although the lower Pecho Creek site is no longer being excavated, students still get to experience a new dig site each spring. "What excites me is the initial thrill of handling an artifact for the first time since it was left behind hundreds of years ago on the Pecho coast," said Kyle Lynch, an anthropology and geography senior. "For a professional archaeologist, these finds are just another day at the office, but Dr. Jones is introducing Cal Poly students to that feeling for the first time and reconstructing California's history based on the findings. It is the coolest opportunity I've had at Cal Poly."

The spring 2019 class comprised 22 students and was divided into crews of five, each led by a crew chief to oversee the work. Each crew managed a 1-by-2-meter unit. With the class structured much like a construction project, students put in an eight-hour workday each Friday during spring quarter.

"Getting to go out there and be active is inspiring," said former anthropology and geography student and spring 2019 crew chief Hannah Ehrlich. "Dr. Jones is such a big name in California archaeology. He is 'the guy' for the Central Coast, so it's not just a class. The work also supports his research and publications, and to have a small hand in that is really exciting."

In 2018, Jones’ research and collaboration on the Pecho coast with the yak tiłhini Northern Chumash Tribe and PG&E was recognized with a Governor's Historic Preservation Award. These annual awards recognize individuals, organizations, companies and public agencies whose contributions demonstrate notable achievements in preserving the heritage of California.

“We feel like we are doing something that has multiple, solid benefits. It’s a win-win-win situation,” Jones said. “PG&E and the archaeological community win because scientific information is saved, and the Northern Chumash Tribe benefits from a cultural preservation standpoint. Students get an invaluable Learn by Doing experience. For the governor’s office to acknowledge that is a real honor.”

“For a professional archaeologist, these finds are just another day at the office, but Dr. Jones is introducing Cal Poly students to that feeling for the first time and reconstructing California's history based on the findings.”

— Student Kyle Lynch
The College of Liberal Arts will welcome Philip J. Williams as dean beginning in August 2019. Williams comes to Cal Poly from the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida, where he served as director since 2009. Williams earned his master’s degree in Latin American studies and doctorate in politics from the University of Oxford. He holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from UCLA.

A professor of political science since 1987, Williams has focused his research on religion and politics, transnational migration, democratization, social movements, and civil-military relations. He is the author/editor of several books, including “Living ‘Illegal’: The Human Face of Unauthorized Immigration.” His geographic expertise is in Central America, Peru and Colombia.

Williams succeeds Interim Dean Kathryn Rummell, longtime chair of the English Department, who has led the college since August 2018 after the retirement of Dean Douglas Epperson. “I was attracted by Cal Poly’s Learn by Doing philosophy and the impressive experiential-based learning happening in the College of Liberal Arts,” Williams said. “For me, it’s always been about working with faculty and staff to ensure student success. I was also impressed by CLA’s commitment and campus leadership on diversity and inclusion issues. This is an area that I will continue to support and strengthen as dean.”

As dean, Williams envisions liberal arts sin fronteras or “without borders” through an international and interdisciplinary approach. “International education was a transformative experience for me,” he said. “I want to bring more international opportunities to students to promote a global mindset.”

Williams recognizes the value and potential in CLA’s interdisciplinary programs including liberal arts and engineering studies and the new interdisciplinary studies major. “One of the biggest challenges facing the CLA is being a college of liberal arts at a polytechnic campus,” said Williams. “However, it is also one of our greatest opportunities. We have the opportunity to break down interdisciplinary boundaries and encourage collaboration and innovation among departments within the college and across the university.”

A California native originally from Orange, California, Williams looks forward to being back on the West Coast. His wife, Victoria Condor-Williams, is president of the Latina Women’s League and director of the Gainesville Latino Film Festival, and his daughter, Daniela Williams-Condor, is a high school Spanish teacher in Eugene, Oregon.
At baseline it seems that our students should be exposed to a diversity of different literary voices.
— Roberta Wolfson

Pedrotti believes one of the most valuable assets the new professors bring to the university is knowledge of inclusive teaching strategies. Many of the new faculty members have been proactive in creating a more inclusive learning environment for students in the CLA.

Many have also used their expertise to diversify the course topics offered to students. English professor and cluster hire Roberta Wolfson, for example, has proposed and offered several new courses, including Asian American Literature and Refiguring Islam After 9/11. Many more course proposals are in the works, she said.

“There would be something seriously missing in any English class if we didn’t consider how certain voices throughout history have been silenced, or not given a space at the table to spread ideas, to spread messages,” Wolfson said.

Pedrotti and Wolfson both believe in the importance of not only creating an inclusive environment for historically underserved students but also exposing all students to new viewpoints.

“Many students who come to my courses have never read a work of literature by, for example, an Asian-American author,” Wolfson said. “So we delve into thinking about why that is the case. At baseline it seems that our students should be exposed to a diversity of different literary voices.”

“I think students often want to be more culturally aware,” Pedrotti said. “But if nobody is providing that information, it might be hard for them to figure out where to find it. These teachers could help point them to the right place and help them learn about groups they may not totally relate to.”

CLA’s successful cluster hire served as a model for the university. This year, Cal Poly conducted a universitywide cluster search, similarly aimed at diversifying its teaching across colleges. Several faculty in the CLA are on the steering committee.

“Diversity is one of the top priorities for the university,” Pedrotti said. “I think inclusive teaching should be a top priority for everybody, because we strive for equity across different groups — in terms of the way they are able to access college, the way they’re able to learn once they get here and the kinds of opportunities they have. It’s definitely something the CLA is very invested in. We have made many changes, and we have established ourselves as leaders and a strong partner for others invested in this work across campus.”
HONORING TWO CAL POLY ALUMNI FROM THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

The 2018 CLA Honored Alumna Tim Humphreys, who graduated in 1972 with a degree in political science. He began his career in politics and ran a successful re-election campaign for a local senator before knee surgery put him in the hospital for an extended time. While recovering, Humphreys met a fellow patient and computer coder, and his career was set on a new path. He founded Trident Services, a nationally recognized operating systems software development and services firm, in 1978. He credits his political science background as invaluable in building client relationships and understanding the complexities of business and government organizations, which helped him to make Trident Services a success. Humphreys has traveled to 40 countries across the globe. Since backpacking around Europe after graduation and receiving $36,000 in scholarship funds in its first three years, the JLOCC hosted a record 38 events. She founded the chapter’s fundraiser. In 2013, she joined the board of the Cal Poly Alumni – Orange County Chapter, supporting the Women’s Legacy Fund. 

The Alumni Association’s Distinguished Service Award went to Megan Lester (Graphic Communication, ‘00). She is the sales director, national accounts, for IWCO Direct, a direct marketing communications company. Lester has partnered with Fortune 500 clients, executing data-driven marketing strategy for direct mail campaigns about volunteering and dedicated 10 years to the Junior League of Orange County (JL OCC), serving in a variety of roles from vice president to recruitment chair of the JL OCC’s primary fundraiser. In 2015, she joined the board of the Cal Poly Alumni – Orange County Chapter, supporting the mission of connecting with more than 9,000 alumni living in and around Orange County. Lester served as president of the Orange County chapter from July 2015 through July 2018. During that time, the chapter hosted a record 38 events. She founded the chapter’s Fork ‘N’ Bottle Scholarship fundraiser in 2015 and the event grew to host more than 185 people and raised $36,000 in scholarship funds in its first three years. While at Cal Poly, Lester was the president of the Sigma Kappa sorority. She’s had a serious case of wanderlust since backpacking around Europe after graduation and has traveled to 40 countries across the globe.

1970s
Paula Zima (Graphic Communication, ’79) designed a sculpture of Theodore Roosevelt to honor his legacy of conservation in California as part of a proposed monument in San Luis Obispo.

1980s
Richard Black (Graphic Communications, ’81) was named the Midwest sales manager at Yechon USA / Paul Consineau (Graphic Communication, ’85) is now a first vice chairman of the Printing Industry of America’s board of directors. / Robin Maula (Political Science, ’85) was named Pasco Robles Chamber of Commerce’s 2018 Roblin of the Year.

1990s
Robert C. Tapella (Graphic Communications, ’91) was named the director for the U.S. Government Publishing Office to the U.S. Senate. / Steve Jonas (Political Science, ’92), CEO of Allied Universal, published a book titled “No Off Season: The Con stance Pursuit of More” / Kerri Mahoney (Human Development, ’92) created a panel called “What We Wish Our Parents Understood,” where students talk openly about issues regarding social-emotional wellness and mental health. / Steffan Tubbins (Journalism, ’92) continues to produce veteran documentary films; his latest is “25 Steps” narrated by Peter Coyote. It is the story of two WWII POWs held at Stalag Luft I in Germany, who realize 73 years later they live across the hall from each other at a retirement community in Colorado. / Megan Guffey-Exupolli (Social Sciences, ’93, M.A. Education, ’95) became the new principal of Winifred Pifer Elementary School in Paso Robles. / Julia Bricklin (Journalism, ’94) released her second book, “Polly Pry: The Woman Who Wrote the West” in September 2018. / Jody Sknderian (Political Science, ’95) is now the chief institutional advancement officer and executive director of the Normandale Community College Foundation in Bloomington, Minnesota. / Simone House (Human Development, ’99) was honored as a Woman of Distinction for 2019 by Cuesta College and the Cuesta College Community Foundation San Luis Obispo County’s Women’s Legacy Fund.

2000s
Nicole Paschall (Speech Communication, ’00) became a licensed attorney in the state of California. / Melissa James (Social Sciences, ’05) was named first CEO of the Hourglass Project, a nonprofit economic development organization in the Central Coast. / Lauren Smith (English, ’05) was named with Lauri Ford, the largest law firm based in Huntsville, Alabama. / Ryan Putt (Music, ’06) is the assistant band director at Durbar High School and Jacquet Middle School in Fort Worth, Texas. / Johannes Lichtman (English, ’08) first novel, “Such Good Work,” was released in Sweden last fall and in the U.S. by Simon & Schuster last February.

2010s
Steven DeLay (Political Science, ’10) wrote “Phenomenology in France, A Philosophical and Theological Introduction” and was the “Thomas, Jack Lynch Chair in Philosophy, Lucretia B.ddy and Swinburne” at Wake Forest University’s Department of Philosophy for the 2018-19 academic year. / Erica Bashaw (Journalism, ’11) works as an attorney with Children’s Law Center of California. Bashaw married Dr. Manzer “Jim” Ghaznavi on Oct. 29, 2018, in Los Angeles in a ceremony performed by Bashaw’s judge, Hon. D. Zeke Ziedler. / Matthew Herman (Theatre Arts, ’13) graduated from UC San Diego with a Master of Fine Arts in scenic design under the mentorship of Robert Bril, who just opened “The Donna Summer Musical” on Broadway / Jennifer Chin (Art and Design, ’14) appeared on ABC’s “Shark Tank” as co-founder of Toybox, a 3-D printer to design and print toys for children. / Catherine Heiting (Theatre Arts, ’14) is an assistant for the EVP of post-production at Columbia/Distrat at Sony / Kathleen Palmer (Anthropology and Geography, ’15) was named one of Idaho Business Review’s “2019 Idaho’s 40 Accomplished Under 40.” / Brooke Collins (Psychology, ’15) did a year with the Americorps in Bend, Oregon before earning a master’s in clinical social work from Seattle University in June 2018. / Zulema Aleman (Psychology, ’17) is the North County youth coordinator for Change, a jewelry company that raises money for nonprofits helping survivors of sexual violence / Sophia Rosales (History, ’17) spent the past year in Vietnam as a Fulbright scholar and was awarded a David Boren Fellowship to study international affairs in China / Diego-Christopher Lopez (Philosophy, ’18) completed a White House Internship Program last fall as part of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs in Washington, D.C. / A film by Nikkii Petkeppolou (Journalism, ’18), titled “Young American,” was selected as a finalist at the Cal State Media Arts Festival.
LEARN BY DOING WAS BORN HERE

AND WILL THRIVE HERE, ALWAYS.