

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.



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.