

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 collegewide 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 Cal Poly students for success.

I hope you all join me in welcoming Dean Williams to the Cal Poly family!

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Rummell  
Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts

CAL POLY  
College of Liberal Arts

impact

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Cal Poly Field Methods students on-site .



Members of the Archaeological Field Methods class.

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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 tit̓u tit̓u yak tiłhini Northern 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. / Political science student **Kate Ettl**, ethnic studies and sociology student **Carlos Gomez**, ethnic studies student **Leilani Hemmings Pallay**, and communication studies students **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 Bubier** 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 Imagineering'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 Meyerhoff** spoke at the Change the Status Quo conference about her research, experience and advocacy regarding sexual assault. / Journalism major **Isabella Paoletto** 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 Kipphan Cup at the annual conference of the Technical Association of the Graphic Arts. / Political science student **Johanna Cogen** received a grant from the Baker and Koob Endowment to fund her senior project, which examines the role of community gardens at homeless shelters.

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 Translation." / Political science Professors **Elizabeth Lowham** 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 cyberthreat. / 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 "Trust Fall," which debuted at Cal Poly last November. / Journalism lecturer **Kirk Sturm** and **Marta Block**, a lecturer in the Psychology and Child Development Department, each received the Terrance Harris Excellence in Mentorship Award.



Anthropology and geography student **Torrey Sanseverino** 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.



Psychology Professor **Jay Bettertergarcia** received a \$519,700 grant from the County of San Luis Obispo Mental Health Services Act to support the SLO ACCEPTance Project, an LGBTQ+ mental health training program in San Luis Obispo County.