

CLASS ACTS

Get to know these faculty members outside of the classroom. These educators represent the breadth of knowledge found in the College of Liberal Arts.

To read more of their responses, visit cla.calpoly.edu/impact-magazine.



JENNIFER DENBOW / Department: Political Science

Specialty Area: Law, Political Theory and Reproductive Politics / Years at Cal Poly: Five

What is/has been your favorite class to teach?

Civil Rights in America. I love the critical discussions that happen in that class and the opportunity to get students excited about close reading, critical thinking and social justice.

Are there any scholars or individuals that have inspired you?

There are too many to name, but one of my grad school advisors was especially important to my intellectual development and inspired me to be a more critical scholar. I am also continually inspired by my students and their curiosity.



MATTHEW HARSH / Department: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Liberal Arts

Specialty Area: Science, Technology and Society (STS) / Years at Cal Poly: Two

What is your favorite class/student moment?

It has been amazing to see students thrive in our new interdisciplinary studies (IS) major! Many of these students couldn't find their academic community in their previous majors. But in the IS program, they have gone on to win awards and get accepted to graduate school. It was such a privilege to work closely with several of these students on their senior projects last year.

What is/are your guilty pleasure(s)?

Taylor Swift's "Lover" album. Scotch whisky. Bad mystery novels.



MIRA ROSENTHAL / Department: English

Specialty Area: Creative Writing, Poetry, Literary Translation and Comparative Literature / Years at Cal Poly: Four

Are there any scholars or individuals who have inspired you?

The work of Polish Nobel Laureate Czesław Miłosz has been incredibly important for my own development as a poet, translator and thinker. His essays on what it's like to live under an authoritarian regime feel unsettlingly relevant today.

Do you have a favorite getaway location?

The Elfin Forest and Montaña de Oro! They [are great] for getting away from daily life and gaining perspective. More globally, the Langtang Valley in Nepal and Memento Park (or, as I call it, the Field of Fallen Statues) outside of Budapest.



GRACE YEH / Department: Ethnic Studies and Communication Studies Interim Chair

Specialty Area: Asian American Studies and Cultural Studies / Years at Cal Poly: 13

What are your research/scholarly pursuit(s)?

I am part of the Public Humanities Collaborative that is sharing the stories of our Black, Indigenous and people of color communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The collaborative includes faculty, students, staff and community members. We have been thinking about the power of stories and storytelling and the politics and ethics of archiving and sharing stories from racialized communities.

What is your favorite class/student moment?

Whenever a student teaches me something, which is all the time!