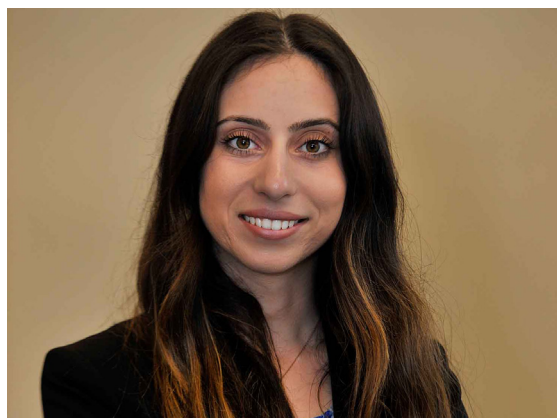


College of Liberal Arts

BRIEF

A look back at spring 2017



Maryam Quasto, Cal Poly's 2017 representative to the Panetta Institute for Public Policy's Congressional Internship Program

POLITICAL SCIENCE JUNIOR IS CAL POLY'S 2017 PANETTA REPRESENTATIVE

Political science junior, Maryam Quasto, was accepted into the 2017 Panetta Institute Congressional Internship Program. She will join representatives from other CSU campuses for two weeks of training on the Monterey Bay campus in August, followed by 11 weeks in Washington, D.C. The representatives will work full time in the office of a congressional representative. Quasto successfully advanced through the campus interview process and was selected for nomination by President Armstrong. After meeting with Mrs. Panetta and other institute representatives, Quasto was accepted as the Cal Poly representative.



Ian Fetters was awarded a prestigious H.P. Lovecraft fellowship

ENGLISH MASTER'S STUDENT WINS PRESTIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP

English Master's student Ian Fetters (English, '15) was awarded the S.T. Joshi Endowed Research Fellowship to study the literature of horror-fiction writer H.P. Lovecraft. The fellowship provides a monthly stipend of \$1,500 for up to two months of research at the John Hay Library at Brown University — home to the largest collection of H.P. Lovecraft materials in the world. Fetters competed with advanced graduate students, faculty and independent scholars to be the sole fellowship recipient for 2017. Fetters began his two-month fellowship on July 1. The research and findings he compiles will be summarized in a presentation at the conclusion of the fellowship. "The intention is to use archival material to develop a project for presentation at a public lecture alongside a panel with other Lovecraft scholars," Fetters said.

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CLA PLAYS BIG ROLE IN CYBERSECURITY CASE LIBRARY

Several CLA students and faculty were involved with the Cal Poly Cybersecurity Center's recently published "Cybersecurity Case Library." The undergraduate research journal explores contemporary topics in cybersecurity. English major Brian Kinnee; philosophy majors Lorenzo Nericcio and Tristan Noack; and political science majors Kyle Libby and Naomi Palmer teamed up with computer science students to co-write case studies about specific cyber events with the purpose of educating students campus-wide. Much of the information available concerning cybersecurity is highly technical and inaccessible to groups that do not have specialist knowledge. In this publication, the authors wrote to convey the same information in a way that is instead approachable to anyone who picks up the journal. Each article was put through a review process that included scholars both in and outside of each case's discipline in order to ensure accuracy and readability. Master of public policy student, Nicole Angelini, was the founding editor; CLA faculty David Gillette, Shelley Hurt, Ryan Jenkins, Anika Leithner, Elizabeth Lowham and Chelsea Milbourne served on the advising and editorial board; English students Amanda Jenkins, Riley Smith, Clarisse Wangeline, Malamatenia Wilson and Lauren Roberge, journalism, were copy editors; Mialani Federico, English, was managing editor and Reginald Lata, graphic communication, designed the publication.



Tristan Noack speaks at the CLA Student Award reception June 16

CLA SENIORS RECEIVE TOP SCORES ON COLLEGIATE LEARNING ASSESSMENT PLUS

Cal Poly took part in the Collegiate Learning Assessment Plus, which assesses a sample of outgoing seniors on their critical thinking and written communication skills. A total of 200 Cal Poly seniors took part, and three of the top four on-campus scorers were CLA students. An architectural engineering student came in first place; Tristan Noack, philosophy, in second; Malamatenia Wilson, English, in third; and Christian Harris, psychology, in fourth. All four students had mastery levels of Advanced and placed within the top 99th percentile of all seniors across 157 institutions nationwide.

*dashboard
at a glance*

SPRING 2017



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FACULTY AWARDS
& GRANTS

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STUDENT
AWARDS



2017 Cal Poly Phoenix Challenge team

BEST CONCEPT AT PHOENIX CHALLENGE

Graphic communication students took home the Best Concept Award from the 2017 Phoenix Challenge Flexo Packaging Competition. This year, the Cal Poly team designed unique bridal bouquet and boutonniere packages for local florist, Wilder Floral Co. Cal Poly 2017 team members (pictured left to right) included Hope Moseley, Elyse Connolly, Leah Moore, Team Leader Lindsay Mitchell, Jenna Nulty, Allison Premzic, Pavan Sohal and Samuel Pollack.

PAYSCALE.COM RANKS CAL POLY ARTS AND HUMANITIES DEGREES HIGH

Cal Poly ranked seventh (in state) and 10th (out of state) in return on investment for art careers on PayScale.com. The list takes into account the weighted total cost for a graduate based on in-state tuition rates along with the 20-year net return on investment. Cal Poly is 29th (in state) in ROI for graduates with a degree in the humanities (43rd out of state).



Top Cal Poly debate team competitors Ryan Hund (left) and Salar Malik (center) with coach John Patrick (right) at the 2017 Debating Championship in Denver

CAL POLY DEBATE TEAM IS ONE OF THE TOP-RANKED TEAMS IN THE NATION

For the fourth consecutive year, the Cal Poly Debate Team is one of the top-ranked teams in the nation. History students Salar Malik and Ryan Hund finished as octofinalists at the U.S. Universities Debate Championship (USUDC) in April at the University of Denver. Out of 220 teams at USUDC, only 32 advance beyond the preliminary rounds. Cal Poly finished the preliminaries as the 15th seed, outperforming many teams from private and Ivy League schools. Going into the championship round, Cal Poly was in the top three of only five public schools that are in a five-year ranking.

HISTORY STUDENT OFFERED PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIPS

Sophie Rosales, history, won a scholarship to the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute to study Vietnamese Language at the University of Wisconsin, which she turned down for a second scholarship to study Chinese in Taiwan this summer through the education division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.

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FACULTY
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Political science Professor Michael Latner received Voting Rights Kendall Fellowship

POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR RECEIVES VOTING RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), the nation's leading science-based policy advocacy organization, awarded associate professor of political science Michael Latner its Voting Rights Kendall Fellowship. This two-year fellowship is hosted by the UCS's newest program — the Center for Science and Democracy in Washington, D.C. As a Kendall Fellow, Latner will work with UCS staff to identify pressing needs in voting rights research, assess the impact of political disenfranchisement on UCS core strategic goals, help UCS build partnerships with leading organizations working to restore and expand voting rights, and inform proposals to improve public participation in U.S. elections.



Marissa Ahmadkhani, Academy of American Poets Prize winner

ENGLISH GRAD STUDENT WINS CAL POLY'S ACADEMY OF AMERICAN POETS PRIZE

Master of Arts in English student Marissa Ahmadkhani won the university's Academy of American Poets (AAP) contest for her poem "Only Half," which investigates her Iranian heritage expressed metaphorically through the complexity of pomegranates. "Through precise description and gentle repetition, Marissa Ahmadkhani has made a deeply moving poem of origins," said Maggie Anderson, nationally recognized poet and judge of this year's contest. "The delicate fruit of the pomegranate (apple of many seeds) is a brilliantly realized metaphor for the poet's half-heritage." The Cal Poly English Department and AAP sponsored the contest. Ahmadkhani is one of the nearly 10,000 prize-winning student poets since the program's inception. She will receive a \$100 award from AAP.

CAL POLY SWEEPS PACKAGING COMPETITION

For the second consecutive year, art and design students teamed up with industrial packaging students to form separate teams that swept first, second and third place, as well as honorable mention, in the Institute of Packaging Professionals AmeriStar Student Packaging Awards Competition. Alexandra Rosado and Lucia Astiazaran worked on Cal Poly's first-place winner "Tea Stems," a convenient alternative to tea bags. Gina Agapito and Ashley Vong helped design SticKit, a two-in-one packaging system that dispenses insulin syringes and safely houses used syringes. Vera Cruz Surf Wax, designed by Daniel Blenkinship and Zach Baker, earned the third-place award.



Martin Mehl, communication studies lecturer, was awarded the 2017 OLC Effective Practice Award

COMMUNICATION STUDIES LECTURER RECEIVES ONLINE LEARNING CONSORTIUM EFFECTIVE PRACTICE AWARD

Martin Mehl, lecturer in communications studies, along with Luanne Fose from the Cal Poly Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology, were recognized with the Online Learning Consortium's (OLC) 2017 Effective Practice Award for their digital mentorship pedagogy. They received their awards and shared their research during a post keynote breakout session at the OLC Innovate/Historically Black Universities Affordable Learning Summit in New Orleans in April. Their most recent project, a collaboration with Roberta Herter in the Cal Poly School of Education, integrates digital mentorship into the Single Subject Credential curriculum.



Laura Krifka, Davyd Whaley Artist-Teacher grant recipient

ART AND DESIGN LECTURER RECEIVES DAVYD WHALEY ARTIST-TEACHER GRANT

Art and design lecturer Laura Krifka received the 2017 Artist-Teacher grant from the Davyd Whaley Foundation. The Davyd Whaley Foundation is dedicated to supporting artists of the LA area, and the Artist-Teacher grant provides \$10,000 of funding to allow artists like Krifka to devote more time and resources to their studio work. "I make paintings that dissect the way power and identity are constructed in visual culture," said Krifka. "I am interested in how the language of art history has blended with film and photography, dissolving distinctions between high and low, and making visual factuality tenuous. My hope is that by using beauty and distortion, my paintings start to disassemble in weird and unexpected ways."



Undocumented Student Working Group representatives at the President's Diversity Award Ceremony 2017

CLA STUDENTS AND FACULTY WIN PRESIDENT'S DIVERSITY AWARDS

President Jeffrey Armstrong awarded individuals and organizations with the President's Diversity Awards on Thursday, May 18, in Kennedy Library's atrium. Zulema Aleman, psychology, received the Cal Poly President's 2017 Student Diversity Award. Ethnic studies Professor Jenell Navarro received the Faculty Diversity Award. Navarro also advises the American Indian Student Association, which won the Student Organization category. The Undocumented Student Working Group, in which several CLA students and faculty are involved, received the award for Campus Organization.

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HotHouse Accelerator Program participants. Front row (from left): Rafael Pintor, Sam Baber, Peter Haverkamp, Michael Fekadu, Haley Pavone, Tyler Unbehand and Nesrine Majzoub. Back row (from left): Neal Gorris, Jimmy Kang, Brett Foreman, Leonel Farias, Joseph Lyman, Cameron Wiese, Alexander Kavanaugh and Jose Urizar. Not pictured: Tanner Jolly and Daniel Hornett.

THREE CLA START-UPS ACCEPTED TO SLO HOTHOUSE ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

Cal Poly's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship accepted seven startup companies into this year's SLO HotHouse Summer Accelerator program, and three of the companies were developed by CLA students and graduates. Atsá Foods LLC, an innovative food company turning Native American superfoods into everyday nutritious snacks, was conceived by Sam Baber, art and design; Rafael Pintor, agricultural business; Peter Haverkamp, food science; and Neal Gorris, industrial technology and packaging. PolyRents, developed by Cameron Wiese, psychology, and Alexander Kavanaugh, software engineering, is a technology that simplifies the housing rental process for landlords and their prospective tenants. Yellow Glass Media, conceived by Nesrine Majzoub, sociology, and Daniel Hornett, civil engineering, creates and curates socially relevant and unbiased media content to inspire viewers to listen, learn and empathize. The intense 13-week program provides \$10,000 in seed money, hands-on strategic business guidance from faculty and mentors, and dedicated office space during the summer at the SLO HotHouse. At the culmination of the program, participants will have an opportunity to pitch their ideas to investors during a demonstration day.



Catherine Waitinas, 2017 Learn by Doing Scholar award-winner

ENGLISH PROFESSOR EARNS 2017 LEARN BY DOING SCHOLAR AWARD

Catherine Waitinas, an associate professor in the English Department, earned the 2017 Learn by Doing Scholar Award. Administered by Kennedy Library and a cross-college faculty committee, this award recognizes outstanding scholarship within Cal Poly's signature Learn by Doing pedagogy. Waitinas received \$1,000 for her in-progress research, "Flipping Whitman: Collaborative Learn by Doing in the (Digital) Humanities." Her work explores how digital manuscripts give students unique historical insights into Walt Whitman's writing, comparing manuscripts with published poems. Her unification of digital humanities with hands-on literary study has already received praise from the Modern Language Association and promises to expand applications for other new instructional methods.



Cal Poly Model UN at New York City Model UN Conference

CAL POLY MODEL UNITED NATIONS PARTICIPATES IN MULTIPLE CONFERENCES

Cal Poly Model United Nations (Political Science) students attended three separate MUN conferences during the 2016-17 academic year. Model United Nations (MUN) is an extra-curricular activity where qualified students role-play as United Nations delegates and simulate UN committees. They traveled to New York City; Berkeley, Calif.; and Brasilia, Brazil. The students got to experience the type of work that world leaders do at the United Nations.

CAL POLY ARTS AWARDS

Cal Poly Arts awarded Antonio Mata, theatre arts, the 2017 Service to the Arts Award and Sabrina Orro, theatre arts, the 2017 Excellence in Original Adaptation Award. Kate Meissner, art and design, received the Excellence in Original Work award.



Ryan Hatch received the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) fellowship

ENGLISH PROFESSOR AWARDED DAAD FELLOWSHIP

English Professor Ryan Hatch was awarded a Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) fellowship to participate in the University of Chicago/DAAD Summer Faculty Seminar "Rethinking Performance in Theory and Practice." The seminar will gather both theorists and practitioners of contemporary experimental performance in order to stage a dialogue on the state of the field and the future of its theorization.

POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS SELECTED FOR FELLOWSHIPS

Luana Mello, political science, was selected as a 2017 Judicial Fellow through the Capital Fellows Program. She will be involved with the management and/or development of a variety of court programs and departments, multi-million dollar budgets, policy, and other managerial tasks. Luisa Tembo, political science, was selected to participate in the 2017 Dream Summer National Fellowship Program as a Fellow with The Santa Clara County Office of Immigrant Relations in Santa Clara County and the Silicon Valley Cohort. Her application was selected from nearly 500 submissions.

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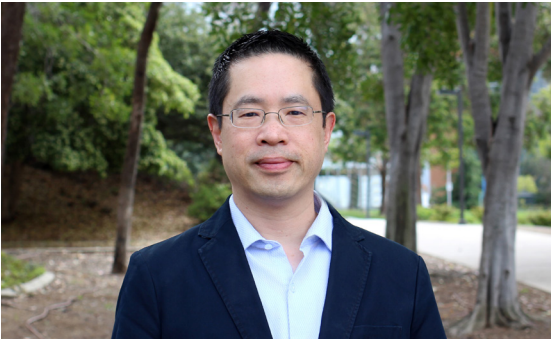
Brian Kennelly, 2016-17
Distinguished Teacher



Elizabeth Lowham, 2016-17
Distinguished Teacher

CLA PROFESSORS HONORED AS DISTINGUISHED TEACHERS

Brian Kennelly, modern languages and literatures, and Elizabeth Lowham, political science, were honored with 2016-17 Distinguished Teacher Awards. The award is especially significant since only students and alumni are eligible to submit nominations. The rigorous evaluation process is conducted by peer faculty members and is based on reviews of written documentation and extensive in-class visitations. Kennelly was also recognized as Club Advisor of the Year at the Leadership and Engagement Achievements of Distinction (LEAD) Awards ceremony.



Patrick Lin, 2017 Academic Senate Distinguished
Scholarship Award winner

PHILOSOPHY PROFESSOR HONORED AS DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR

Patrick Lin, philosophy, won a 2017 Academic Senate Distinguished Scholarship Award. These awards recognize achievement in scholarship and creative activity across the entire range of disciplines represented at Cal Poly. They honor work conducted primarily at Cal Poly and celebrate both exemplary specific accomplishments and outstanding bodies of achievement.

KENNEDY CENTER AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATER FESTIVAL AWARDS

Antonio Mata, theatre arts, received an Irene Ryan Award for his performance in the play "Stupid F**king Bird." Four theatre arts students received Meritorious Achievement Awards from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival for their work. Emily Brehm was recognized for costume design for the musical, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." For their work on the play "Stupid F**king Bird," Logan Smith was recognized for lighting design, Caroline Rein for costume design and Trinity Smith for prop design.



Daniel Ansorge, holding a guitar he built

MUSIC MINOR AWARDED FULBRIGHT GRANT

Music minor Daniel Ansorge was awarded a Fulbright student grant to study a unique family of string instruments in Slovenia. He will study the tamburitza, a family of lutes that originated in Croatia and spread to other parts of the former Yugoslavia around the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Fulbright U.S. Student Program promotes cultural exchange through individual interactions and community engagement. The grant provides transportation, room, board and incidental costs.