CLA STUDENTS IN PRESTIGIOUS CONGRESSIONAL INTERNSHIPS

Senior Miguel Contreras (English) worked in Washington, D.C. over the summer as one of 34 finalists who were selected to take part in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI). Contreras was able to gain valuable work experience in the office of Representative Loretta Sanchez, the congresswoman who represents his home district in Orange County.

Malcolm Mills (sociology) was one of 26 college interns from the Panetta Institute for Public Policy who spent 11 weeks this fall working in the offices of California delegation members of the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. In preparation, he participated in an intensive two-week course that focused on policy issues, the current political environment and training on how to work effectively in a congressional office.

KELLY JACOBS MEETS VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Journalism major, Kelly Jacobs, was invited to the White House and Vice President Joe Biden’s residence for a meeting about the next steps in the nationwide sexual assault awareness campaign, It’s On Us. The campaign was launched by President Obama and Vice President Biden in 2014 to reduce rape and sexual assault on college campuses. Jacobs is one of 28 student leaders nationwide on the It’s On Us Student Advisory Committee, and she represents universities in California and Hawaii. Jacobs also works for Safer, Cal Poly’s resource for survivors of gender-based violence. Safer’s It’s On Us Fall Week of Action was launched in October.
THREE CLA GRADS RECOGNIZED AS 2016 HONORED ALUMNI

The CLA Honored Alumnus for 2016 was Jim Kouf, who graduated in 1974 with a degree in English and a minor in history. He is a screenwriter, director and producer. He has written more than 20 feature films including “Rush Hour,” “National Treasure,” and “Stakeout,” for which he earned the 1988 Edgar Award for Best Motion Picture Screenplay. In 2011, Kouf created, wrote and produced the pilot for “Grimm” with his partner, David Greenwalt. The show is now in its sixth successful season. Kouf devotes significant time and energy to the Cal Poly English Department’s Career Connections Program.

The Alumni Association’s Distinguished Service Award went to Charles E. Bell Jr., who graduated in 2004 with a degree in political science and minor in ethnic studies. He is currently a deputy city attorney for the City of San Diego, Office of the City Attorney. He is the co-founder of Cal Poly’s Black Alumni Chapter and an avid volunteer coordinator for the annual Black Legacy Weekend. Through his leadership, he has expanded participation and promoted recognition of the chapter’s activities including recruiting, mentoring and supporting students.

Social Sciences alumnus, James Newkirk, was honored by the Athletics Department. After graduating in 1962, Newkirk taught at the high school level and invested in real estate. From his first duplex, he grew Newkirk Enterprises into a large company operating thousands of rental units in Southern California. A baseball player while at Cal Poly, Newkirk is a longtime supporter of the team.
BEATON AWARDED NSF FUNDS TO HOST DATA SCIENCE WORKSHOP

Brian Beaton, director of the Center for Expressive Technologies, received funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to host a two-day workshop titled “Social Facets of Data Science.” The primary objective of the workshop, held Nov. 10-11, was to bring Cal Poly students together with academic researchers from other universities around the topic of data science, which is an important and growing profession that operates at the intersection of the STEM fields and the liberal and creative arts. The workshop was an interactive, participant-driven meeting focused on data science’s professional cultures, research directions and creative potential. Beaton and co-organizers from other institutions have been carrying out social research on data science for more than three years, and this workshop marked an effort to broaden their research agenda into new areas.

LAES INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE IN AUSTRALIA

As part of an ongoing Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies (LAES) International Exchange project, David Gillette and LAES senior, Ciera Dixon, worked in Australia with the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in Brisbane last summer. They assisted with the CreateX Festival, which celebrated new art and technology, and research and project design currently coming out of the creative industries. The LAES program showed a six-minute virtual reality experience on the Oculus Rift system that they built as part of their ongoing work with DTS. James Werner also showed his Water Links video diary work on water and met with electronic arts students and faculty.

In September, they helped run a three-day symposium to generate research and development ideas for QUT’s Creative Studio, specifically new international collaborative research projects. Faculty and graduate students from across QUT, and professionals from the creative industries, interactive design, engineering, the sciences and other aspects of the arts participated in interdisciplinary design and discussion groups. They also connected to a review team from Cal Poly through a teleconferencing system in the LAES lab.
CLA PARTNERED WITH KSBY TO HOST CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE

Cal Poly hosted a debate for the two candidates seeking to represent the 24th District in the U.S. Congress, Salud Carbajal and Justin Fareed, on Thursday, Oct. 20, in Spanos Theatre. The event was broadcast live, commercial-free, on KSBY-TV (NBC) and streamed on www.ksby.com. Moderated by KSBY News anchor, Carina Corral, candidates replied to questions supplied from the live audience and KSBY’s social media platforms. The event was sponsored by KSBY-TV, Cal Poly, the Associated Students Inc., the College of Liberal Arts, the Political Science Department and the League of Women Voters.

KENNELLY ELECTED VICE-PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF FRENCH

French professor Brian Kennelly was elected Vice-President of American Association of Teachers of French. He also led a four-day workshop, “AP® French Language and Culture,” at the 2016 Phoenix Desert AP® Summer Institute. He also presented “Comparing Cultures Sans Stereotyping” and “Moving Beyond Comprehension in French: Question Development for Reading” at the Advanced Placement Annual Conference, and “Improving Student Performance on the AP French Language and Culture Exam” at the 89th annual American Association of Teachers of French Convention.

ART AND DESIGN STAFF AND STUDENTS DESIGN SCULPTURES FOR COWPARADE SLO COUNTY

CowParade™ is an international “moo-ving” public art exhibit that has been featured in more than 75 cities worldwide. CowParade SLO County showcases 101 (for Highway 101) life-size, 120-pound, fiberglass works of art. Five of the cows were designed by staff and students from the Cal Poly Art and Design Department. University Art Gallery Specialist Garet Zook, has two sculptures on display – #87 “Moo With a View” and #55 “Moo-nipero Serra.” Junior Lauren Goldenberg designed #74 “Aquamoorine” and senior Chloe Millhauser designed #83 “Udderly Blessed.” #50 “Cal Poly Moostang” was designed by seniors Cody Mindling and Kristen Meadows and junior Kyleigh Metzger. Cows will be on display until May 2017. Locations for all “Moos” are listed at cowparadeslo.com.
JOURNALISM DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF MUSTANG NEWS

The Cal Poly Journalism Department celebrated the 100th anniversary of its student press Oct. 14-15 with “100 Years of Delivering the News,” two days of events that included a Spotlight Gala and a department open house. Ben Bradlee Jr., former deputy managing editor of The Boston Globe, gave the keynote address at The Spotlight Gala. Bradlee helped direct the coverage of sexual abuse in the Roman Catholic Church that inspired the Oscar-winning movie “Spotlight.” During the celebration, the journalism department inducted the inaugural class of the Mustang Media Hall of Fame. Two Cal Poly alumni were honored in person: “Weird Al” Yankovic, former KCPR DJ and Grammy-winning comedy musician, and Bruce McPherson, former El Mustang reporter who served as California Secretary of State. Two inductees were honored posthumously: Robert E. Kennedy, former Cal Poly president and El Mustang adviser, and George Ramos, Mustang Daily editor, Pulitzer-Prize winning reporter and Cal Poly Journalism Department chair. The Mustang Media Hall of Fame was created to honor Cal Poly students and faculty who have made major contributions to the student press. Other anniversary events included the Jim Hayes Symposium and an Innovation Showcase.

ALUMNUS HIROKI ASAI EXHIBITS WORK IN UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY

Hiroki Asai (Art and Design, ’92) visited campus on Oct. 6 to present a lecture and open his University Art Gallery exhibition, titled “Hiroki Asai.” Speaking to an audience of more than 200 students, faculty and staff, he shared his career trajectory, experiences and principles for successful collaboration. Asai recently retired as vice president of worldwide marketing communications at Apple and is considered to be Apple’s most influential creative director. The exhibition, which ran Oct. 6 to Nov. 4, focused on the projects Asai oversaw while at Apple, including packaging, retail store graphics, website, online store, direct marketing, videos and event graphics.

ALUMNUS DEBUTS HISTORICAL NOVEL “BETWEEN TWO FIRES”

‘SLAVES OF ONE MASTER’ IS A FINALIST FOR 2016 FREDERICK DOUGLASS BOOK PRIZE

History professor Matt Hopper’s book, “Slaves of One Master: Globalization and Slavery in Arabia in the Age of Empire” has been selected as one of three finalists for the 2016 Frederick Douglass Book Prize. Challenging the argument that the efforts of the British Royal Navy ended slavery in East Africa by the mid-19th century, Hopper finds evidence that the slave trade between East Africa and the Persian Gulf continued to the turn of the 20th century. The three finalists will be honored at a celebration in New York City in February 2017, where the winner will be announced.

ALUMNA INDUCTED INTO PRINTING INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME

Laura Lawton-Forsyth (Graphic Communications, ’90) was inducted into the 2016 Printing Industry Hall of Fame in August. Lawton-Forsyth is only the fifth woman to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Lawton-Forsyth is the current president and owner of Lawton Printing in Spokane, Washington, a fourth-generation family printing company. Lawton Printing is recognized for embracing technology and carving their niche by serving chambers of commerce nationwide. Along with fellow inductees, Lawton-Forsyth was profiled in the September issue of “Printing Impressions.”

ALUMNUS IS CO-FOUNDER OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE MUSIC COMPOSER, AMPER

Sam Estes (Music, ’00) has co-founded Amper Music, an artificial intelligence music composer that allows users to create and customize unique, royalty-free soundtracks with no musical experience. A unique score is produced based on musical attributes selected by the user, making the process for scoring a video seamless. Video creators can make edits on a tight schedule, organize all projects online from any computer, communicate soundtrack ideas to a music composer, collaborate in real-time on new musical ideas, and streamline editing workflow without spending hours in a library. Since its release in 2015, Amper has secured signups from a number of major media companies, publishing houses, and creative agencies across the country.
The Art and Design Department received a very generous donation of approximately 178 photographs by noted photographer Lewis Frederick Morley (1925-2013). Morley was born in Hong Kong to English and Chinese parents and lived in the United Kingdom, France and Australia. Perhaps best known for his photograph of model Christine Keeler, Morley’s work covers actors, artists, fashion, theatre and reportage, all of which are well represented by this gift. The photographs, primarily black-and-white prints taken in London in the 1960s and 1970s, were donated by Quynh and Steven Spile, proud parents of a Cal Poly student. The photographs are housed with the University Art Collection and will be added to the online catalog. This gift offers a vast array of opportunities for the program: from exhibitions in the University Art Gallery to hands-on and in-depth study by students.

**CAREERS IN GOVERNMENT SERIES**

Cal Poly Career Services in partnership with the Political Science Department is presenting a series of workshops and panels focused on building career opportunities with local, state and federal governments. On Wednesday, Feb. 15, in Student Services (Bldg. 124), Room 117, a workshop titled “Selecting & Applying for Federal Jobs” will take place from 11 a.m. to noon and a “Careers in Local Government” panel will occur from 5 to 6:30 p.m. On Thursday, Feb. 16, the “Careers in Lobbying & State Government” panel will be from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Student Services (Bldg. 124), Room 117, and students can network with Sacramento and local alumni in a speed mentoring session from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Advanced Technologies Lab (Bldg. 7).

**SCREENING WITH FILMMAKER GABE LONDON**

On Friday, Feb. 17, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center Pavilion (Bldg. 6), Room 128, there will be a screening of the documentary film “The Mind of Mark DeFriest” followed by a Q&A session with filmmaker Gabe London. The film explores the life and mind of a legendary escape artist who came up for parole after more than 30 years in prison. This event, free and open to the public, is co-sponsored by the Center for Service in Action.

**‘25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE’**

The Theatre & Dance Department will present “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” from Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 23-25 and March 2-4 in Spanos Theatre. Six precocious sixth-graders compete to become champion, while reflecting on the trials, tribulations, and triumphs that led them to the Bee in this musical presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
Upcoming Events

JUST JAZZ CONCERT

Cal Poly’s best student jazz musicians will display their dedication to America’s great art form at the annual “Just Jazz” concert presented by University Jazz Bands. The concert will take place at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, in Harman Hall in the Performing Arts Center.

CHOIRS WINTER CONCERT

On Saturday, March 4, at 8 p.m. in Harman Hall in the Performing Arts Center, the Cal Poly Choirs will perform the favorite works of Thomas Davies, the university’s retiring director of choral activities and vocal studies.

SYMPHONY CONCERT: MUSIC FROM THE MOVIES

On Sunday, March 5, at 3 p.m. in Harman Hall in the Performing Arts Center, the symphony will feature student soloists. They will also perform music from the movies, including Joe Hisaishi’s music from the Studio Ghibli films “Howl’s Moving Castle” and “Spirited Away.”

WIND BANDS’ CONCERT: MUSIC FOR THE MOMENT

Throughout history, great composers have used their gifts to convey the emotions of a particular person, place or event. On Friday, March 17, at 8 p.m. in Harman Hall in the Performing Arts Center, the wind bands will perform some of the most powerful musical moments ever written.

ARAB MUSIC ENSEMBLE CONCERT

On Saturday, March 18, at 8 p.m. in Harman Hall in the Performing Arts Center, the instrumental and vocal repertoire of the Arab Music Ensemble will include a variety of composed and improvisational genres that stem from the Middle Ages to the present.

ART GALLERY EXHIBIT: MILOMIR KOVAČEVIĆ

The University Art Gallery will present “Sarajevo 1992-1995: Years of Peril,” a photographic series taken by artist Milomir Kovačević during the siege of Sarajevo. Subjects include child soldiers, graveyards, familial separation and loss. Photos will be on display from Feb. 23 to March 24. The gallery is free and open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.