

CAL POLY COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

impact

LEARN / LEAD / LIVE / SPRING 2017

Brave New Worlds

Cal Poly alumni and students explore and expand the frontiers of virtual reality

Inside

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CAL POLY

Dear CLA Alumni and Friends:

The Learn by Doing promise is Cal Poly's commitment to engage students in hands-on learning and collaborative real-world projects. Increasingly, this requires working with advanced technology.

Although many of our majors have always been dependent on technical equipment and infrastructure, dramatic changes in the technology available to students has changed all disciplines in the College of Liberal Arts. The way students research, publish, create work and build their careers now is very different than it used to be. Today, students often need



technical tools to showcase their ideas and projects in innovative, compelling ways, especially if their ideas are going to stand out in the barrage of information presented in today's world.

As you know, the sky is the limit with regard to the ideas and creativity of Cal Poly students. In this issue of *Impact*, you will read stories that demonstrate how alumni and students in the liberal arts are using technology to supplement their traditional studies in the arts, social sciences, humanities and communications.

As new technological tools emerge and become more advanced, it's important that users — like our CLA graduates — continue to approach problems critically, creatively and contextually. Our goal in the college is to make sure our students have the technical skills they need to succeed in today's world; the experience to collaborate productively in diverse settings; and the understanding to make reasoned, ethical and socially responsible decisions.

Best regards,
Douglas Epperson
Dean, College of Liberal Arts

CAL POLY

College of Liberal Arts

impact

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Krystal Thiessen (English)
explores virtual worlds.



Young scholars use virtual reality to journey to faraway locations.

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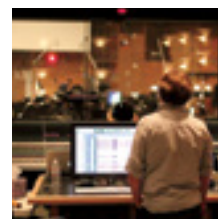
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AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

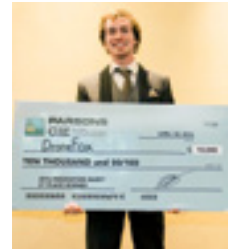
Students and faculty are making an impression — on campus and beyond

STUDENTS

Mustang Media Group, the Journalism Department's student-run news organization, earned nine first-place awards at the National College Media Convention. The group won Best Advertising Special Section, Best Overall Newspaper Design and Best Use of Social Media. **Ellen Fabini** (Art and Design) won Best Online Advertisement and Best Color Advertisement, **Erica Patstone** (Art and Design) won Best Advertising Campaign, **Jordan Triplett** (Art and Design) won Best Black and White Advertisement, **Ayrton Ostly** (Journalism) won Best Sports Story, **Brendan Matsuyama** (Political Science) won Best Infographic, and journalism majors **Maggie Hitchings** and **Nikki Petkopoulos** won Best Online Campaign. / **Mustang Band** won first place in the Adult Marching Band category for the fourth year in a row at San Francisco's Chinese New Year parade. / Graphic communication students **Mayra Mejia**, **Jacqui Luis**, **Amanda Ornelas**, **Jasper Lim**, **Alan Nguyen** and **Molly McCarthy** won the Grand Prize Award at the Technical Association of Graphic Arts annual conference. / **Miguel Contreras** (English) was one of 34 finalists chosen to take part in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute in Washington, D.C. / Three students from the College of Liberal Arts, **Katelyn Tomasello** (Music, Psychology, '16) and political science students **Sayaka Tsugai** and **Emily Matthews**, presented at the 31st Annual CSU Student Research Competition. They were three of 10 delegates selected to represent Cal Poly. / Graphic communication students were the 2016 overall champions at the Phoenix Challenge Flexo Packaging Competition. They won by creating a point-of-purchase display, a wedge-shaped beverage container and a shrink sleeve for B.R.A.T., a medicinal beverage company. / Five philosophy students earned a trip to the national championship of the Ethics Bowl, a philosophy competition for colleges and universities with the best analytical and argumentative teams in the country. The team members were **Richard Shea**, **Derek Diemer**, **Ruby Allen**, **Zackary Dakawich** and **Ryan McGuire**.

FACULTY

Charmaine Martinez's (Art and Design) logo design for the Oldenborg Center at Pomona College was awarded silver in Graphis Inc.'s 2016 design competition. / **David Kann's** (English) collection of poems, "The Language of the Farm," won the Five Oaks Press "Our Wish for Blue" contest in 2015; and **Kevin Clark's** (English) collection won the "Spring is the Mischief" contest in 2016. / **Elvira Pulitano** and **Kate Martin** (Ethnic Studies) received the Cal Poly President's Diversity Award for their work with the Indigenous Studies in Natural Resources and the Environment minor. / **Jenell Navarro** (Ethnic Studies) was named the 2015-16 Outstanding Faculty Advisor of the Year. / **Brian Beaton** (History) was awarded a grant of nearly \$25,000 from the National Science Foundation for his project, "Workshop: Social Facets of Data Science." / **Sarah Bridger's** (History) book, "Scientists at War: The Ethics of Cold War Weapons Research," won the Society for U.S. Intellectual History's 2016 Best Book Award. / **Karen Muñoz-Christian** (Modern Languages and Literatures) received the 2015-16 Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award. / **Meredith Brammeier** (Music) performed the world premiere of her composition, "Life Passages," with Vox Grata Women's Choir in Nashville. / **Patrick Lin** (Philosophy) was awarded a National Science Foundation grant of nearly \$165,000 for his project, "NRI: RUI: Autonomous Vehicles: Ethics, Design and Risk." / **Matthew J. Moore's** (Political Science) book, "Buddhism and Political Theory," was published by Oxford University Press and named one of CHOICE's 2016 Outstanding Academic Titles. / **Ron Den Otter** (Political Science) received the 2015-16 Academic Senate Distinguished Scholarship Award. / **Terry Jones** (Social Sciences) was honored with the 2016 Society for California Archaeology David A. Fredrickson Lifetime Achievement Award. / **Unique Shaw-Smith** (Social Sciences) received the 2015-16 Cal Poly President's Diversity Award.



Sociology senior **Luke Fox** and business partner Michael Taylor won \$10,000 and the second-place Rich and Jackie Boberg Innovation Award for their invention, DroneFox, a device designed to help emergency personnel detect, identify and intercept unauthorized drones.



Malcolm Mills (Sociology) was Cal Poly's 2016 representative to the Panetta Institute for Public Policy's Congressional Internship Program. He spent 11 weeks working in the offices of California delegation members of the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C.

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.



SARA FRANTZ / Art and Design Department

Specialty Area: Painting and Drawing / Years at Cal Poly: 3

What is/has been your favorite class to teach? Luckily, I get to teach what I love, and the students generally want to be there, so this is a hard question. In foundations classes, students show such growth and excitement with each new skill or concept. In advanced classes, I really get a chance to know the students individually and help facilitate their projects.

If you were stranded on a desert island and could bring one book, what would it be? Depending on my mood when I was stranded, either “Winter’s Bone” by Daniel Woodrell or “Sense and Sensibility” by Jane Austen.



JULIE A. GARCIA / Psychology and Child Development Department

Specialty Area: Self and Identity, Stereotyping and Prejudice, Intergroup Relationships / Years at Cal Poly: 10

What are your research/scholarly pursuits? My research explores managing multiple social identities, multiracial identity and underrepresentation in STEM.

Are there any scholars or individuals who have inspired you? My mother didn’t pursue higher education because her father told her that college was just for men. In contrast, my educational achievements stem in large part from the love and support I receive from my family members. I strive to make her proud, and I hope that she sees that my achievements are also hers.



PATRICK LIN / Philosophy Department

Specialty Area: Technology Ethics / Years at Cal Poly: 10

What is/has been your favorite class to teach? Philosophy 101! Incoming freshmen might know one or two things about philosophy, but it blows their minds to dig in to a wide range of intellectual puzzles and new ways to think about their world and lives.

What are your hobbies/extracurricular activities? Music has always been a big part of my life. I’ve lived from coast to coast, and KCPR is hands down my favorite radio station anywhere. I tell everyone this.



BRADY TEUFEL / Journalism Department

Specialty Area: Multimedia / Years at Cal Poly: 10

What is your favorite class/student moment? Seeing students get published for the first time or when my letter of recommendation helps a student achieve a goal.

What is a fact about you that few know? I’m a dual citizen. My parents are both American, but I was born in New Zealand, which means I’m a NZ citizen by birth and an American citizen by “acquisition.” I also spent my junior year of college on exchange there.



100 YEARS OF MUSTANG NEWS

The Cal Poly Journalism Department celebrated the 100th anniversary of its student press with two days of events. During the celebration, the 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 advisor; and alumnus George Ramos, former 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.



Committed to Diversity and Inclusivity

The College of Liberal Arts formed two standing committees focused on diversity: a CLA Student Diversity Committee and a CLA Faculty Diversity Committee. The two committees will work with the newly appointed Associate Dean for Diversity and Curriculum, Jennifer Teramoto Pedrotti, to guide the college on the development of diversity and inclusivity goals, strategies for achieving those goals, and methods for measuring progress. The College of Liberal Arts has often provided leadership for the university in the areas of diversity and inclusivity, and that practice will continue through the work of these committees and their concerted action with the college.



TOM DAVIES RETIRING AFTER 34 YEARS

To celebrate and conclude his 34 years of leading the Cal Poly choral program, Tom Davies will take students, alumni and several faculty members on a tour of England and Wales from June 21 to July 2. The choirs' 2016-17 concert season featured several of Davies' favorite pieces, which will be sung on the tour, including a few from his must-do bucket list. His choirs have performed repeatedly at special university events, across the country and around the globe. His wife, Susan, served as the primary accompanist for the choirs all the years Davies conducted them.

First TedX Event

Last fall, fourth-year psychology major Cameron Wiese co-organized Cal Poly's first TedX event, TedXCalPoly 2016, which featured presentations from Cal Poly students and professors, and many other accomplished individuals from across the country. Speakers presented to a sold-out audience

in the Performing Arts Center. Wiese and his team worked hard to find accomplished speakers whose stories adhered to the TED mantra: ideas worth spreading. Many of the presenters had ties to the College of Liberal Arts, including sociology senior Luke Fox, psychology Professor Don Ryujin and philosophy Professor Ryan Jenkins.

On the V



/erge

CLA students, alumni and faculty usher in an age of virtual reality

Now that almost everyone has powerful computers in their pockets — complete with video players, GPS and motion-detecting software — virtual reality is more accessible than ever. You can simply purchase a headset, download a free app to your mobile phone, and be transported to Paris or outer space in no time.

For those new to the technology, here's how it works: Goggles cover your eyes, presenting you with 3-D images of another environment; and motion-detecting software allows the image on your screen to respond as you move around, making you feel like you are in the virtual location instead of your real setting. The experiences range from a basic 360-degree view of a town square to interactive games, which require higher-end headsets that plug into desktop computers. You can view completely computer-simulated worlds or exotic existing places.

Kacey Hadick (Anthropology and Geography, '13), Heritage and Conservation Program manager at CyArk, uses the technology to digitally take people

"Hearing a young person's amazement when [he or she puts] on the glasses is really rewarding, and it's fun to answer the questions and see the curiosity that is generated."

— Kacey Hadick

Left: Jack Goyette, liberal arts and engineering studies (LAES) major; Sophia Levin, journalism major; and Ciera Dixon, LAES major, test the limits of virtual reality.

Virtual Reality

to at-risk cultural sites around the world. Over the past few years, he traveled to Mexico, Greece and Lebanon to capture data. Submillimeter laser scans provide the data needed to create a 3-D model, and photos are used to make realistic textures. Using mainstream virtual reality equipment, Hadick and his team can bring digital replicas of ancient sites anywhere. “We took some of our experiences to a monastery in Bagan, Myanmar,” he said. “The young boys were novice monks, and they were thrilled to put on the VR headset and ‘travel’ to Greece.”

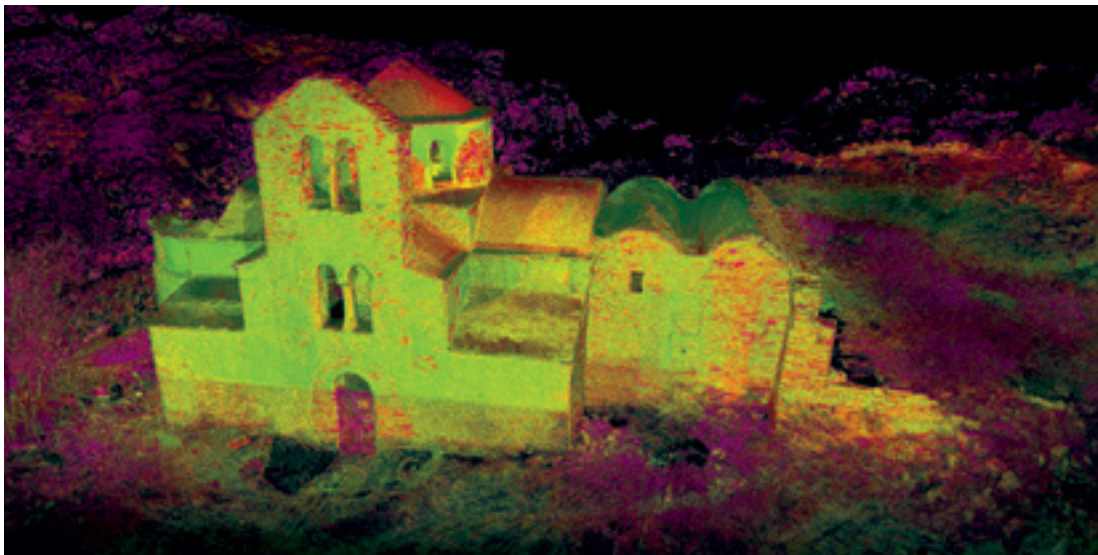
Hadick is also on a team that brings VR to schools. “It is a way to bring history to life and allow kids to travel and connect with a place that they might not

get to visit in person,” he said. “Hearing a young person’s amazement when [he or she puts] on the glasses is really rewarding, and it’s fun to answer the questions and see the curiosity that is generated.”

Virtual reality is also creeping into journalism. This year, Cal Poly student journalists have been recording campus events with a special high-definition digital camera that produces 360-degree photos or up to 25 minutes of continuous 360-degree video. The camera is small enough to fit in a pocket, which is ideal for journalists who require portability.

“It allows viewers to experience what it feels like to be in a space that’s best described visually,” said Gurpreet Bhoot, journalism senior and

“I hope that experimenting with the 360-degree camera demonstrates to future employers that I’m willing to take on a new technology and that I know how to problem solve in high-stakes situations.”
— Gurpreet Bhoot



Top: CyArk’s 3-D Point Cloud technology provides a detailed view of a deteriorating Byzantine church in Greece.

Bottom: Kacey Hadick uses structured light scans to record a deteriorating fresco, left, and photographs the exterior of the church as part of CyArk’s data capture efforts, right.



managing editor for multimedia and web for Mustang News. Bhoot recently attended a protest and sent a 360-degree image back to the newsroom by connecting the camera to her smartphone. She thinks 360-degree views of events could revive journalists' reputation for providing full and accurate information. "If nothing else, it could make receiving the news more exciting," she added. The learning experience has been valuable for Bhoot. "I hope that experimenting with the 360-degree camera demonstrates to future employers that I'm willing to take on a new technology and that I know how to problem solve in high-stakes situations."

Students in the Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies (LAES) Program have found numerous uses for virtual reality technology. In 2015, one group partnered with architecture students on a proposal to redesign a tunnel space in Sacramento. Instead of creating a miniature model or 2-D renderings, they built a 360-degree experience so city representatives would feel like they were walking through the tunnel. Another student used virtual reality to make a music rehearsal simulation, and one composed 360-degree videos for an internship with the Disney ABC Television Group last fall. Program Director David Gillette teaches a class in which students critique the storytelling elements of 360-degree video games. But LAES students aren't just using the technology; they are working on ways to improve the experience.

Transitioning from one scene to the next in cinematic VR remains a challenge, as traditional 2-D video transitions can be jarring inside a headset.

"While in 360-degree video, a simple 'wipe' transition or cutting between images too quickly can make the viewer almost ill because it's so disorienting," said Gillette. "We're experimenting with different kinds of cuts and transitions to see what works best and what's awful. We hope to come up with something that no one has thought of before." Some students are also working to improve the sound and touch in the immersive experiences.

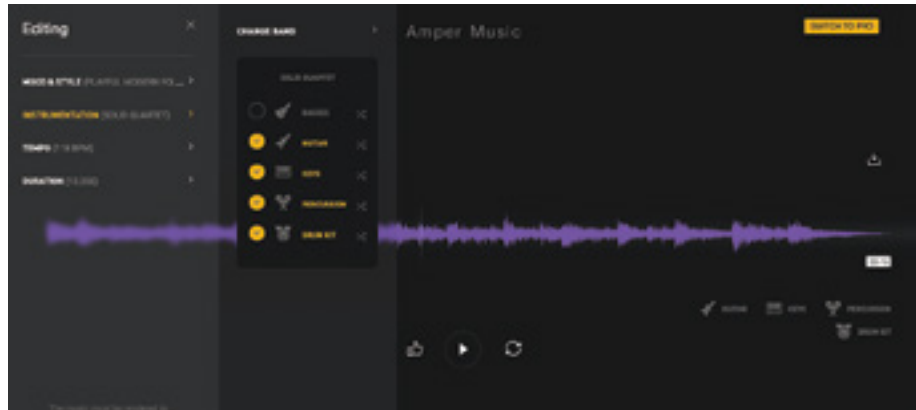
The entertainment and gaming industries were the first to embrace virtual reality, but the technology is poised to impact several more aspects of everyday life. We don't know exactly where virtual reality will lead, but it's clear that Cal Poly students and alumni will be right there at the forefront of development.



Top: Novice monks in Myanmar "travel" to ancient sites in Greece. **Middle:** Journalism senior Gurpreet Bhoot incorporates 360-degree photography into her reporting for Mustang News. **Bottom:** Students at a Bay Area school take a fantastic virtual voyage.



Original Music at Your Fingertips



Music Alumnus Cofounds Personal AI Music Composer, Amper

When sourcing music, media agencies look for samples that are high quality, customizable and legal to use — a tricky combination when factoring in strict timelines and limited budgets. With his name on sound design credits for major movie titles like “Inception,” “The Dark Knight” and “The Accountant,” Sam Estes (Music, ’00) understands the challenges of creating music for film and media.

Traditional music composition is a time-intensive and expensive process, so media agencies often turn to online music libraries — which lack in quality and originality — instead of working with composers. A producer of a short online video could spend hours looking for a song that perfectly fits his or her theme and budget. At the same time, when agencies do hire composers,

they spend 90 percent of their time programming rather than writing music.

To address these industry pain points, Estes cofounded Amper Music, an artificial intelligence music composer that allows users to create and customize unique, royalty-free soundtracks without having musical experience. With Amper, a unique score is produced based on musical attributes selected by the user. The software currently offers four main styles — classic rock, modern folk, ’90s pop and cinematic. After selecting a style, users specify keywords such as *ambient* or *playful* to determine the mood. Amper produces a music sample matching outlined criteria, which can be further customized by band, instrumentation, tempo or duration. A cymbal swell or a “jingle hit” can even be added as accents. The rendered music track can then be downloaded and added to the video.

Amper’s cloud-based software also allows a producer to make edits on a tight schedule, organize all projects online from any computer, communicate soundtrack ideas, collaborate in real time on new musical ideas and streamline editing. “Amper offers collaboration tools for media professionals

“I did everything at Cal Poly: conducting classes, choir, band. I also minored in technical theatre and designed sound for some of the shows. Now, I’m applying Learn by Doing to our business. I get my hands dirty and learn everything I possibly can.”
— Sam Estes



and musicians to better work together,” said Estes. Its application program interface, or API, allows developers to integrate Amper’s AI technology into their products, opening the door to an entirely new landscape for innovation.

Since Estes and cofounders Michael Hobe and Drew Silverstein released their open beta in January 2017, Amper has secured sign-ups from a number of major media companies, publishing houses and creative agencies around the world. As the software matures and receives more user feedback, music selection will continue to improve. “We teach the computer, and the more info we feed it, the better it’s getting,” said Estes.

Active involvement at Cal Poly influenced Estes’ hands-on approach in developing Amper. “I did everything at Cal Poly: conducting classes, choir,

band. I also minored in technical theatre and designed sound for some of the shows,” said Estes. “Now, I’m applying Learn by Doing to our business. I get my hands dirty and learn everything I possibly can.”

His background in music also gives him an appreciation for the potential opposition to using computer-generated scores in lieu of employing musicians. “Of course, we aren’t trying to replace musicians. We encourage people to hire musicians as much as possible. Amper’s target audience is production teams who don’t have the budget for a composer to begin with,” said Estes. “We look at this as a tool for musicians and composers. Everything we do, we put through that lens: Is this going to be collaborative? We want to change the industry for the good.”

Left to right: Cal Poly alumnus Sam Estes is a cofounder of Amper Music; Amper’s music composer at work; Estes in the audio booth.

LESSONS IN

Filmmaking



Students screened short films at the SLO International Film Festival

During the 23rd SLO International Film Festival last March, a crowd of more than 100 people packed into the Mission Cinemas in downtown San Luis Obispo to see a screening of seven new short films.

The films were written, produced and directed by Cal Poly students over the winter quarter as a collaboration between two classes, ISLA 341: Cinematic Process, which is taught by award-winning film editor and screenwriter Randi Barros; and Art 483: Digital Video II, which is taught by Professor Jim Werner. Ranging from heartwarming to bone chilling, the students' short films convey stories of self-discovery, sibling rivalry, inescapable danger and humor shared between friends.

History senior Cooper Peltz wrote "Kick the Dickens," a film that chronicles the day a reclusive man must leave his house to respond to a letter about winning a large sum of money. English senior Karley Kemble handled most of the scheduling and communicating with the actors as the executive producer. Alyssa Doughty, also an English major, was the associate producer, and art major Jacob Izzo was the cinematographer and director. With only four people on the team, each member took on several other roles as well. One of them would have to jump in if they needed a boom microphone held, a light adjusted or an extra in a scene.

"At first, we weren't all that comfortable working with each other, but we had to learn to communicate," said Doughty. "By the end, we had a shorthand with each other, and we all spoke up and shared our opinions."

They also realized the value of preparation. "We learned the hard way how important it is to have a shot list," said Peltz. "The first shoot was hectic. It took a lot longer than we expected," added Kemble. The team adjusted their approach, and they had a



"It was cool to see the transformation of all the films from the rough cut we saw in class to the final showing at the screening."

— Alyssa Doughty

Opposite page: Actress Austine De Los Santos with director Cecilia Seiter on the set of "Last Call," a short about a final conversation between a former couple.

Top: Jacob Izzo, with camera, and Cooper Peltz film a scene with "Kick the Dickens" actor John Marrs.

plan the next time they were on set. "It felt really good that day," said Doughty. "It felt like we were actually going to be able to pull this off."

Knowing their film would be shown at the SLO International Film Festival motivated the filmmakers to work even harder. "It made it more stressful, but it was also more exciting to know that more than just the students in our class would see the final product," said Kemble.

"It was cool to see the transformation of all the films from the rough cut we saw in class to the final showing at the screening," said Doughty.

Barros credits the quality of the films to the interdisciplinary collaboration. Each team had students who knew how to develop stories in addition to students who knew how to handle the camera and the more technical aspects of filming.

Like many students in the two classes, Doughty, Kemble and Peltz are working toward minors in media arts, society and technology. Kemble said her project management and communication skills were strengthened through this experience, and she would consider taking a job as a production assistant on a film in the future. "It definitely gave me a greater appreciation for all the work that goes into filmmaking!"

THREE CLA GRADS ARE RECOGNIZED AS 2016 HONORED ALUMNI



Alumnus Jim Kouf,
Cal Poly President
Jeff Armstrong,
alumnus Charles E.
Bell Jr. and Cal Poly
Alumni Association
President Rik Floyd.

The CLA selected Jim Kouf as its Honored Alumnus for 2016. Kouf, who graduated in 1974 with a degree in English and a minor in history, 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 discovered he could write at Cal Poly. He said in a Mustang News interview, “It was when I took playwriting that I discovered I could do this and get A’s, and I really enjoyed it,” he said. “Everyone was suffering with their senior projects, and I wrote a play. It was really then that I discovered I could maybe do this and make a living at it.” 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 cofounder 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 in 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.

CLASS NOTES

Share your recent news in the next *Impact* magazine at www.cla.calpoly.edu/update.

1970s

Susan Beatie (Social Sciences, '74) created the Atascadero Charles Paddock Zoo's life-size bronze tiger 25 years ago, which just had a makeover by Genesis Bronze Foundry. A video is being made that shows the makeover and the original process 25 years ago.

1980s

Paul Cousineau (Graphic Communication, '85), vice president of prepress operations for Dow Jones & Company, received one of the most prestigious awards in the graphic communication industry in 2016, the Technical Association of the Graphic Arts' Michael H. Bruno Award. / **Ann Neumann** (English, '80) was the grand prize winner in the 2016 San Francisco Writing Contest.



Laura Lawton-Forsyth

1990s

Jennifer Abbott (Speech Communication, '96) copublished a book as associate chair and department chair in the Rhetoric Department at Wabash College. The book is titled "Public Speaking and Democratic Participation: Speech, Deliberation and Analysis in the Civic Realm." / **Anna Binneweg** (Music, '96) conducted the Chernihiv Philharmonic Orchestra in eastern Ukraine. / **Jeremy Jessup** (Social Sciences, '97) was recognized by Worldwide Registry for excellence in

law. / **Laura Lawton-Forsyth** (Graphic Communication, '90) was inducted into the 2016 Printing Industry Hall of Fame. / **Jody Skenderian** (Political Science, '95) was named interim CEO of Girl Scouts of America: California's Central Coast.

2000s

Kendra Aronson (Modern Languages and Literatures, '09) published a cookbook inspired by the San Luis Obispo farmers market. / **Rachael Byron** (English, '07) was named the San Ramon Valley Unified School District's Teacher of the Year. / **Melissa James** (Social Sciences, '05) is the director of economic development initiatives and regional advocacy for the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce. / **Marquel Sheree Macaraeg Ramirez** (Modern Languages and Literatures, '07) graduated from the David A. Clarke School of Law in Washington, D.C., and is a new member of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia. She also received the prestigious Peggy Browning Fund Fellowship in 2015, which recognized her advocacy for workplace justice. / **Mi Yung Shin** (Music, '00) was one of The San Luis Obispo Tribune's Top 20 Under 40. Shin is the music education director for the San Luis Obispo Symphony. / **Adrienne "Corrie" Stallings** (Music, '09) received glowing reviews for her performance in Pittsburgh Opera's April 2016 production of Rossini's "The Barber of Seville."

2010s

Mady Aitchison (History, '15) accepted a prestigious Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship. / **Alexa Arndt** (Political Science, '15) is working with the Homeless Advocacy Project this summer in Philadelphia, visiting low-income high schools to teach about the Constitution. / **Michelle Beam** (Modern Languages and Literatures, '10) received a Fulbright-Fogarty fellow-

ship and worked on a community-based parasitology research project in Northern Peru during 2016-2017. / **Matthew E. Boutte** (Master of Public Policy, '10) opened his own law practice. / **Kacey Hadick** (Anthropology and Geography, '13) and Social Sciences Department Chair Terry Jones were recognized at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco in March 2016 for their contribution to a major new UC Press book, "Ecosystems of California." / **Christina Favuzzi** (Journalism, '15) is the new coanchor of KSBY-TV's morning show, "Daybreak." / **Richard Gallegos** (Child Development, '16) published his senior project comic book on Amazon. / **Jon Hall** (Music, '10) played one of the leads in Lin-Manuel Miranda and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson's "Millennials: The Musical." / **Casey Higginbotham** (Political Science, '15) spoke in Munich on "The Great American Paddle," his paddleboard journey down the West Coast. / **Noya Kansky** (Anthropology and Geography, '14) received a President's Community Service Award in 2016 for her work as the AmeriCorps Vista program member with the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority and Underrepresented Student Participation in STEM program at Cal Poly. / **Daisy Ocampo** (Political Science, '12) is working at a nonprofit in Los Angeles, practicing immigration and family law that focuses on victims of domestic violence. / **Amy (McDougall) Skoll** (Political Science, '14) received a full scholarship to pursue a doctorate in political science at UC Davis. / **Cami Thacher** (Theatre and Dance, '12) is working as a researcher on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert." / **Daniel Wasta** (Political Science, '15) finished running two Iowa state senate campaigns in the general election and a special election.

UPCOMING EVENTS



HOMECOMING WEEKEND: NOV. 2-5

Bring your friends and family back to San Luis Obispo for Homecoming weekend, Nov. 2-5! Relive your amazing years at Cal Poly with a trip to farmers market, tailgates, a pub crawl, Homecoming football, brunch with President Armstrong and more!



HONORED ALUMNI DINNER: NOV. 3

New for 2017, the Honored Alumni Award Dinner and Celebration will take place during Homecoming Weekend on Friday, Nov. 3. Join us in celebrating the 2017 class of Cal Poly Honored Alumni!

STAY CONNECTED

To continue receiving this magazine, CLA's e-newsletter and event invitations, make sure we have your current contact information by visiting www.cla.calpoly.edu/update.