

CAL POLY COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

your impact

HOW GIVING SHAPES LEARN BY DOING / FALL 2019

World Without Borders

Cal Poly students broaden their horizons through international travel

Inside 6: Mustang News editorial staff honored by SAGE Publishing / **8:** Alumni Nancy and Matthew South support Cal Poly's future through endowed gifts



CAL POLY

Your Impact 2019

As some of you know, I began as the new dean for the College of Liberal Arts in August. I came to Cal Poly after a long career at the University of Florida (UF), where I served most recently as director of UF's world-renowned Center for Latin American Studies. I was born and raised in California and am excited to be back on the West Coast. In my new role as dean, I



hope to meet many of you to talk about my future vision for the college and to express my gratitude for all you do to support our students, faculty, programs and facilities.

In the years ahead,

I look forward to working together to advance a liberal arts *sin fronteras*. By *sin fronteras*, I mean a liberal arts education without borders, boundaries or barriers.

- Without borders: a liberal arts education that opens the world to our students through international educational opportunities, coursework and cocurricular activities.
- Without boundaries: a liberal arts education that prepares our students for an increasingly interconnected world and exposes them to interdisciplinary collaboration and approaches.
- Without barriers: a liberal arts education that advances a culture of belonging — one in which every student in our college finds and feels that Cal Poly's opportunities are fully available to them.

I am grateful to all of you who support our college and hope that the stories in this magazine will inspire you to invest in the future of the College of Liberal Arts at Cal Poly!

Best regards,
Philip Williams
Dean, College of Liberal Arts



CAL POLY
College of Liberal Arts

your impact

Fall 2019

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On the cover:

Cal Poly students enjoy life in
Cape Town, South Africa, on
an Alternative Breaks trip.



Students gain invaluable
life experience in Cape
Town, South Africa.

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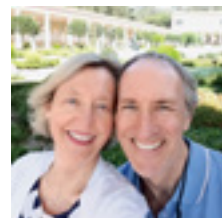
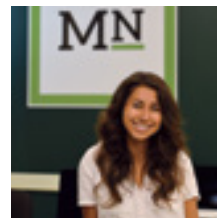
International travel programs such as Alternative Breaks help students expand their cultural knowledge.

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The Mustang News editorial team earns an award from SAGE Publishing in recognition of a special edition addressing diversity and inclusion on campus.

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Special thanks to the Dean's Advisory Council, a group that identifies the areas where your donations can make the biggest impact.

GIVING: BY THE NUMBERS

A numerical look at donations to the College of Liberal Arts

Annual number of donors to CLA > 1,734

Annual number of gifts > 1,647

Annual gift commitments > \$3,005,789

(Numbers based on three-year averages)

Enabling Excellence

Annual gifts from donors and alumni enable the College of Liberal Arts and its departments to provide timely support for Learn by Doing projects and extracurricular programs, and the CLA endowment generates lasting income. Together, these funds allow the college to sustain the margin of excellence that Cal Poly students and alumni expect and deserve.

From July 2018 to June 2019, the college received

1,517

Gifts of \$499
or less

117

Gifts of
\$500–\$999

193

Gifts of
\$1,000–\$4,999

46

Gifts of
\$5,000–\$24,999

4

Gifts of
\$25,000–\$99,999

3

Gifts of
\$100,000+

The College of Liberal Arts' endowment

\$9,131,698

Endowment payouts during fiscal year 2018-19

\$298,186

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

Cal Poly students gain
insights into different cultures
through international travel
opportunities

Aurabel de Guzman Sandoc, a senior in the liberal arts and engineering studies (LAES) program, and Eliana Hollinger, a psychology major, had both aspired to study abroad while at Cal Poly, but the financial strain seemed too much to overcome. When they learned about an Alternative Breaks trip to South Africa, and the fact that there was a possibility for financial assistance, they both jumped at the chance.

Alternative Breaks offer students a chance to travel in between quarters to locations that immerse them in another culture. Students are able to examine social issues firsthand, reflect on their own positions of privilege in the world, and work with students outside their majors to make a lasting contribution to the global community.

Sandoc and Hollinger were part of a group of 15 Cal Poly students that traveled to Cape Town, South Africa. They spent one week working with Film School Africa, a live-in program in Cape Town that teaches young locals the skills they need to work behind the scenes in the booming South African film industry — skills that could help pull them out of poverty. The Cal Poly students helped the film school turn an old chicken coop into a permanent film set that resembles the interior of a local township home.

During the second half of their trip, students volunteered at a school for boys 8 to 13 years old called Bright Lights. In addition to spending time with the boys, the Cal Poly students cleaned up and renovated a run-down dorm building.

For Hollinger, the trip was the first time she had traveled internationally. She was one of five students — chosen from over 60 applicants — sponsored by the Office of University Diversity and Inclusion.

“I feel so privileged to have been selected to go on the trip to Cape Town. My biggest takeaway from this trip is that everyone has their own unique story, and you can learn so much from people and their life experiences,” she said. “I was able to see how traveling enhances our mental health and complements our education. You can only learn so much from a textbook. ... I built such special relationships and engaged in life-changing conversations.”

Sandoc also received financial assistance in the form of a stipend from the LAES program.

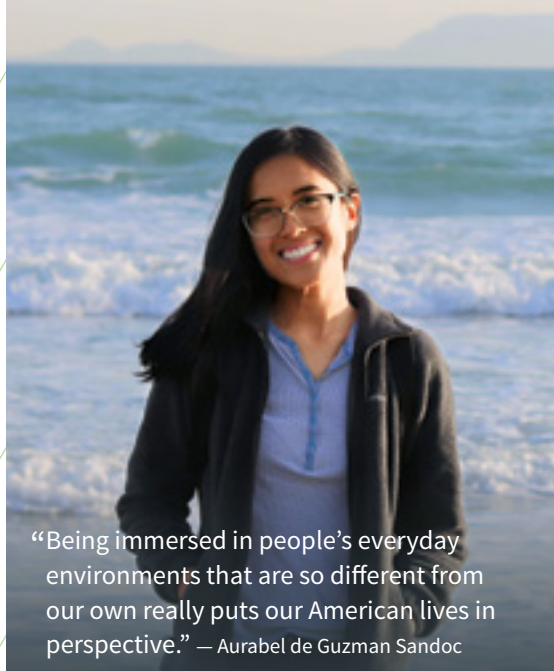
“Without the funds and support from the LAES program, I probably [would] never have gotten the opportunity to go abroad during my undergraduate career,” she said.

Both Hollinger and Sandoc believe they gained invaluable perspective from the trip and wish more students had the opportunity to travel.

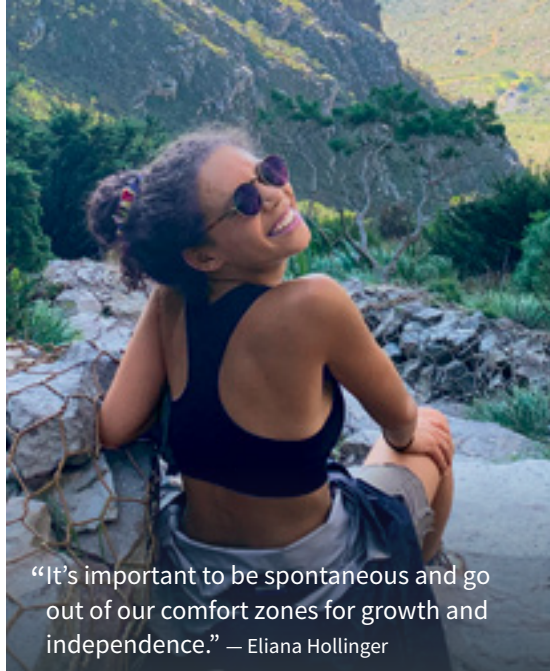
“Being immersed in people’s everyday environments that are so different from our own really puts our American lives in perspective,” said Sandoc. “I think it gets us out of our bubble, broadens our horizons, and makes us more empathetic towards others.”

Hollinger said, “It’s important to be spontaneous and go out of our comfort zones for growth and independence. International travel has so many benefits emotionally and mentally.”

Sandoc agreed: “This trip was definitely a life-changing learning experience for me that I wouldn’t have had if I hadn’t challenged myself to get out of my comfort zone.”



“Being immersed in people’s everyday environments that are so different from our own really puts our American lives in perspective.” — Aurabel de Guzman Sandoc



“It’s important to be spontaneous and go out of our comfort zones for growth and independence.” — Eliana Hollinger

Right: Cal Poly students, including Aurabel de Guzman Sandoc and Eliana Hollinger, work with local youth on special projects in Cape Town, South Africa.



International Travel a Priority for New Dean

One of CLA Dean Philip Williams’ fund-raising priorities is to provide more opportunities for CLA students to travel internationally as part of their Cal Poly experience. “I had the opportunity to study abroad for a year while earning my undergraduate degree,” he said. “That experience instilled in me a passion for international education. I believe international education experiences can be transformative, and my goal is to find ways for more of our students to have these opportunities.” To learn more about Williams’ priorities, please visit cla.calpoly.edu/giving.

Awarding Excellence

Students recognized by SAGE Publishing for special edition of Mustang News

"I am glad that SAGE chose to award published work that centers around different types of issues that affect Cal Poly because it shines a brighter light on the issues and brings more awareness and attention from the public."

— Cassandra Garibay

Cassandra Garibay wrote an editorial about her experience reporting on race and diversity in the award-winning edition of Mustang News.



in Journalism



Left: The Mustang News team celebrates the SAGE Publishing award.
Right: Editors and reporters in the paper's newsroom.

Last May, 10 students received the SAGE Publishing Student Award for their excellent work in creating a special edition of Mustang News about Cal Poly's cultural climate. The edition, titled "A Year After Blackface," took a deep look at issues of diversity and inclusion at Cal Poly and examined how the campus community was feeling about the university's efforts to make things better.

The work was emotionally challenging for several of the students who worked on the edition. Cassandra Garibay, journalism junior and news editor at the time, wrote an editorial about her experience reporting on race and diversity as a Latina at a predominantly white institution. She said, "I had never written an editorial before, and quite frankly, I was nervous to put my own thoughts out there for others to read, but I knew that was what I asked of others on a daily basis, and this edition was much bigger than my experience alone."

Section editors and reporters produced stories that related diversity and inclusion at Cal Poly in the context of their news beats. For example, a sports reporter wrote a statistical analysis of racial demographics within Cal Poly Athletics, and an arts reporter profiled an art and design student who uses artwork to spark conversation about race and gender.

"Our whole team needed to come together and work the issue from all angles, and I believe we did so very well," said Garibay.

Judges for the SAGE Publishing Student Award — consisting of journalism faculty and professionals — agreed. The annual award, which recognizes Cal Poly students whose excellent published work addresses scientific, statistical, technical or social issues affecting the Cal Poly community, was set up in 2017. SAGE created a \$25,000 endowment to fund the award in perpetuity with a current approximate payout of \$1,000 each year.

Founded in 1965, SAGE is a leading independent, academic and professional publisher. The company publishes more than 1,000 journals and over 800 books, reference works and databases each

year in business, humanities, social sciences, science, technology and medicine. A core value of the company is a belief that engaged scholarship lies at the heart of any healthy society and that education is intrinsically valuable.

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Tracey Ozmina (Journalism, '92) has been with the company for 19 years and believes the award provides one way for SAGE to engage with the future of journalism.

"SAGE supports a number of initiatives that align with our mission of 'building bridges to knowledge,'" she said. "I'm proud to say that championing the social sciences and our long history of philanthropy is very much a part of our company culture and an aspect of our culture that is immensely important to me, personally."

The company has a history of supporting journalistic endeavors and amplifying journalism's unique ability to connect the public with quality, life-improving research. In addition to journalism and mass communication textbooks, SAGE publishes some key journals for the industry.

"I am glad that SAGE chose to award published work that centers around different types of issues that affect Cal Poly because it shines a brighter light on the issues and brings more awareness and attention from the public," Garibay said. "Many of these issues are not easy to cover and often receive a lot of backlash. Students work on these stories around their class schedule and produce quality journalism that often goes unrecognized, and SAGE's award served as a reminder that our work matters."

Garibay's reaction to the honor is exactly what Ozmina had envisioned when creating the award. "I'm sure the monetary gift is always welcome praise to students for their achievements, but I'm hoping the key impact of this award is the recognition and validation of their work and an indication they should keep forging ahead in what is a challenging but critical field," Ozmina said.

Nancy and Matthew South create separate endowments to honor

“I thought an endowment was something only uber-wealthy people could do. I didn’t think you could do it for less than a million dollars. And when I learned you could start one at Cal Poly for \$25,000, I thought, ‘Gee, I can swing that!’ ”

— Nancy South



Above: Nancy South (Speech Communication, '81) met her future husband, Matthew (Aerospace Engineering, '83), at Cal Poly in 1979.

Right: Nancy and Matthew South both established endowed gifts in support of Cal Poly.



COURTESY OF NANCY SOUTH

their time at Cal Poly and support future students

A Legacy of Giving

Nancy South (Speech Communication, '81) and her husband, Matthew (Aerospace Engineering, '83), met in 1979 while they were both students at Cal Poly. "He came by to see one of my roommates who wasn't home. We started talking and we just hit it off," Nancy South remembers. Although they were in very different majors, they had a lot in common. "We had the same twisted sense of humor, we were both photographers, and we both loved music."

Matthew South graduated in March of 1983. A week later the couple got married and took off to spend three months backpacking through Europe for their honeymoon.

Nancy South says her degree in speech communication served her well after graduation. "I had no fear after so much experience speaking in front of groups. It really prepared me for almost anything," she said. "I also learned how to be a critical thinker at Cal Poly, and that enabled me to have quite a diverse career."

The couple started making donations to Cal Poly as soon as they had enough money to cover their expenses. "I'm sure it started with a phone bank call from a student, and then it just became an annual thing for us."

In the late 1990s the Souths chose to name Cal Poly as a beneficiary in their estate plan, but it wasn't until 2014 that they began working with Cal Poly to choose how they wanted to support the university. Nancy South's sister had recently died, and her brother-in-law had set up an endowed scholarship in her memory.

"Up until then, I thought an endowment was something only uber-wealthy people could do. I didn't think you could do it for less than a million dollars," Nancy South said. "And when I learned you could start one at Cal Poly for \$25,000, I thought, 'Gee, I can swing that!'"

Nancy South chose to designate her gift to the Communication Studies Department's general fund so it could be used to fund projects that the department chair selects as the greatest need each year. Having served as a board member at nonprofits, she knew how useful unrestricted funds could be. "There are often things that aren't as popular to fund, and I wanted to be able to help the department take care of those types of needs."

She says setting up the endowment was simple. "I thought I'd have to go through an attorney or something like that, but we handled most of it by email. I don't think it took more than a month to set it up," she said. "The hardest part was coming up with a name."

A couple of years later, Matthew South also chose to begin an endowment supporting unmanned aircraft projects in the Aerospace Engineering Department. With the endowments in place, the Souths have a specific fund to direct their contributions when they pass away. They both plan to add to their respective endowments upon their deaths.

Nancy South says it's nice to know that they'll leave a legacy, but she has also enjoyed seeing her gift in action. "I'm thrilled to see how much good my gift is doing to help students in the department," she said. Last year, the fund was used to send a student to a conference and to support senior projects and public presentations.

"My husband and I are not millionaires — he spent his entire career working for the federal government — but we can do our part," Nancy South said. "This is something we could afford. And I'd love to challenge other alumni to consider what they can do, too."



Allie Blaising received funding from the Communication Studies Department general fund last year to attend and present her research at a premier international human-computer interaction conference in Glasgow, Scotland. She said, "During my week at the conference, I was able to connect and network with remarkable scholars and industry leaders, receive valuable feedback on my research, initiate new collaborations, and ultimately grow immensely as a researcher. It was an honor to represent CLA, and I hope to one day pay this opportunity forward by sponsoring future communication studies students."

Endowed Gifts Make a Lasting Impact

When you make an endowed gift, your contribution is invested with, and becomes part of, Cal Poly's endowment. An annual distribution is made for the purpose you designate, and, because the principal remains intact, the fund will generate support in perpetuity.

If you are interested in naming Cal Poly in your estate plan or beginning an endowment, contact the CLA Advancement team at 805-756-6246.

THE POWER OF DOING

Last spring, Cal Poly formally launched The Power of Doing: The Campaign for Learn by Doing. The comprehensive philanthropic campaign is the largest fundraising initiative in university history, geared toward supporting the philosophy that has come to define a Cal Poly education.

Cal Poly has a goal to raise \$700 million by the time the campaign concludes after nine years in June 2021. To date, the university has already raised more than \$646 million from more than 70,000 donors.

Funds raised will support three primary campaign pillars: Empowering Students, Empowering Excellence, and Empowering Innovation. In the College of Liberal Arts, these pillars will be used to fund a variety of priorities, including state-of-the-art facilities, expansion of student-faculty research, and enhancement of project-based learning opportunities. Additionally, funds from this campaign will help increase scholarship opportunities, such as the Cal Poly Scholars Program, which seeks to recruit and retain high-achieving,

The Campaign *for* Learn by Doing

low-income students from California high schools while providing support through financial, academic and community resources.

“Many students might not realize the extent to which private donations have helped improve their Cal Poly experience,” said former ASI President Jasmin Fashami (Political Science, ’19). “I’m grateful to the alumni and donors whose generous support over the years has made an impact on so many students’ everyday lives, including my own. This campaign will hopefully show current Cal Poly students the importance of giving back after they graduate.”

“We are excited at the prospect of this new campaign in helping to cultivate a culture of philanthropy at Cal Poly,” said CLA Assistant Dean for Advancement David Cohune (Social Sciences, ’87). “Donors are partners in helping the College of Liberal Arts thrive and serve our students in the best ways possible, and they help uphold the many ways the College of Liberal Arts is indispensable to Cal Poly.”

“Many students might not realize the extent to which private donations have helped improve their Cal Poly experience. ... This campaign will hopefully show current Cal Poly students the importance of giving back after they graduate.”

— Jasmin Fashami





Special thanks to members of the 2018-19 Dean's Advisory Council for their contributions to the College of Liberal Arts

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—

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**EMPOWERING
STUDENTS**

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**EMPOWERING
INNOVATION**

LEARN BY DOING WAS BORN HERE

AND WILL THRIVE HERE, ALWAYS.



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