

CAL STATE

FALL 2021

EastBay



THE FIGHT OF OUR LIVES

Students Take on the Impact of Global Climate Change Locally

CHANGEMAKERS

How University Faculty, Students and Alumni Are Transforming the Region by Giving Back

TECH TEACHER

Alumna Uses Coding to Open Doors for Inclusion Students

CLOSING THE GAP

The University's Math Lab Provides Academic Support and Community

Magazine is published by the Office of University Communications and Marketing, a department of the Division of University Advancement.

President
Cathy Sandeen

University Advancement
Carrie Stewart '85,
Interim Vice President

Lori Bachand,
Associate Vice President,
Communications & Marketing

Holly Stanco,
Associate Vice President,
Development

Richard Watters '13,
Executive Director, Alumni
Engagement & Annual Giving

Editor
Krista Dossetti

Graphic Designers
Kent Kavasch
Gus Yoo

Contributing Writers
Elias Barboza '13
Krista Dossetti
Cathi Douglas
Dan Fost
Stephanie Hammon
Maha Sanad '22

Photography
Kelley Cox
Michael Dugger
Eric Harding
Robert Phelps
Garvin Tso '07

Contributing Copyeditor
Melanie Blake

Inquiries

Send your letter to the editor, submit a class note or update your address/subscription preferences, including the option to receive Cal State East Bay magazine electronically, by contacting: lori.bachand@csueastbay.edu

Or mail to:
Cal State East Bay
SA 4800
25800 Carlos Bee Blvd.
Hayward, CA 94542

*Please note: Letters will be printed at the discretion of Cal State East Bay and may be edited for publication.

FEATURES

8 Combating Climate Change

Cal State East Bay professors and students are taking action to address global challenges through research and field work in local communities.

16 Coding for the Future

Alumna shares the promise of tech with Hayward elementary students of all ages and abilities.

18 Bridging the 'Math Gap'

Cal State East Bay's Math Lab is back to supporting students — and preparing for an even bigger future.

22 Community Connection

Meet the Pioneers whose grassroots, hands-on work is transforming communities across the East Bay.

DEPARTMENTS

04 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

05 UNIVERSITY NEWS

07 FOREVER PIONEER WEEK

28 ATHLETICS

30 CONCORD CAMPUS

32 GIVING

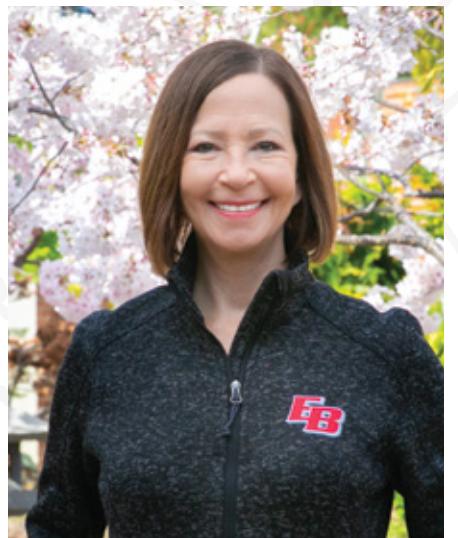
34 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HONOREES

38 CLASS NOTES

43 PARTING SHOT



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Cal State East Bay community,

As I reconnected with friends and colleagues throughout the East Bay this year, I observed a common theme in nearly every conversation. "Oh, Cal State East Bay/Hayward. I went there!" people would say. Or the conversation would turn to their family member, friend, coworker or neighbor who has a Cal State East Bay tie. It reinforced what I already knew: Our graduates and their influence are everywhere throughout the region.

Impressively, our students navigated the fluidity of this last year and a half with their characteristic focus and determination. But it was our return to the campuses in August that was truly a memorable time for them and for me, as well as for our faculty and staff. After an extended time of seeing each other only through small boxes on a computer screen, we all seemed to crave a sense of connectedness and belonging to a dynamic learning community.

It has become clear to me that connections and relationships are a big part of what defines the Cal State East Bay experience. The drive to connect and collaborate infuses the respect our students, alumni, faculty and staff extend to others, as you'll read about in "Community Connection" (page 22). It echoes through local schools, too, such as when Assistant Professor Nazzy Pakpour's students take traveling insects to elementary classrooms, and will soon have an even deeper impact on organizations throughout the region when the university becomes the host for the East Bay's Small Business Development Center (page 6).

I am proud that Cal State East Bay's influence extends even further as our students, graduates, and faculty take measures to combat the effects of extreme heat and wildfires on public and environmental welfare (page 8).

We know these examples of innovation, bold action and community service will support our future as a vibrant and healthy region in 2022 and beyond. Thank you, each of you, for your roles as influencers and ambassadors who extend Cal State East Bay's footprint and make a difference in your communities. Your collective impact is remarkable and is a source of pride for me every day.

With care,

Cathy Sandeen
President

CAL STATE EAST BAY University News

Cal State East Bay's Celebrated Insect Zoo Brings Bugs Back to Classrooms



Cal State East Bay Assistant Professor of Biology Nazzy Pakpour is the brains behind the university's ever-popular insect zoo. The zoo, which brings a variety of bugs such as Australian walking sticks and Madagascar hissing cockroaches into local elementary schools, has been running since 2018. To date, 1,381 students have had the chance to learn the basics of entomology through the wonder of observing and interacting with live, six-legged creatures.

Pakpour, along with the biology students who help her, is buzzing with excitement to be sharing the insect zoo with Hayward elementary students once again after the hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pakpour values the zoo visits as a unique educational opportunity, but she is also passionate about how exposure to the insect zoo can complement existing curricula.

"A lot of what they're learning scientifically in those grades has to do with life cycles, evolution, ecology, and there's a lot you can get from that by playing with insects," Pakpour said. "It just sparks

so much curiosity and interest about the natural world."

Classroom visits from Pakpour's insect zoo are a thrilling, albeit sometimes nerve-wracking experience for the elementary students. "I would say by the end of the visit, every kid has gotten up the nerve to hold them," she added.

Younger kids are not the only ones getting involved. Pakpour's Cal State East Bay students receive special training in how to maintain the insect zoo and handle the bugs, and also take them into classrooms independently.

"I want teachers and the public to know how much joy it brings our Cal State East Bay students to be involved with the insect zoo. It's a really awesome thing to go into a classroom as a student and be reminded of how much you know and have learned," Pakpour said.

The experience has gained enough renown over the past four years that to meet demand, Pakpour and her Cal State East Bay students will now be doing both

in-person and virtual visits with multiple cameras and angles.

Increasing the availability of the insect zoo is important to Pakpour, who believes the experience offers a prime way to promote college and potential STEM career paths to younger kids in Hayward and surrounding areas.

"It's really lovely to see the diversity of students we have at Cal State East Bay. It doesn't really fit the elementary students' ideas of who a scientist is. It's nice because they can see their futures ahead of them. These [university] students look like them and come from their communities, they speak their languages, and they're doing science, so it makes it much more accessible."

Visits from the insect zoo are free for all teachers and can typically be scheduled Monday through Friday, with advance notice. Teachers and other educators can choose in-person or virtual visits on the insect zoo website, papkourlab.com.

—Maha Sanad '22

University Wins Lead Role in Promoting Local Small Businesses



Cal State East Bay has been selected as the winner to host the Small Business Development Center for the East Bay region, covering Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The \$3.5 million award was announced by the Norcal SBDC Lead Center after a competitive proposal process earlier this year.

"Small businesses were hurt the most during the pandemic, and this is a great opportunity for the college and university to use our business expertise to help them recover and grow," said Nancy Mangold, interim dean for the College of Business & Economics. "Cal State East Bay will work with the cities in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, along with other business development agencies in the region to offer needed services to build support for small businesses and help them thrive."

When it opens in January 2022, with locations at Cal State East Bay's campuses in Hayward, Concord and Oakland, the Small Business Development Center will provide consulting and training to support greater economic development throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Services will be low- and no-cost to small business owners and will address areas such as accounting, finance, marketing, HR and operations management, technology, and other areas where small businesses can benefit from advice and support as they grow.

"The university's role as a Small Business Development Center extends direct educational and technical support to our regional business owners who are the backbone of a healthy local economy," said Cal State East Bay President Cathy Sandeen. "Our faculty and students will benefit from working directly with local businesses to solve real-world challenges, and in turn, these businesses will have terrific, comprehensive services and a pipeline for their workforce."

More than 80 percent of Cal State East Bay graduates stay in the area to build their careers locally, and the university supports more than \$3.25 billion in industry activity throughout the region.

The College of Business & Economics has been accredited by AACSB, the national and international leader in business school accreditation since 1973. Accreditation standards now require business schools to create a positive societal impact through partnerships between the university and the business community. The Small Business Development Center award is another step in furthering those efforts.

"We aspire to be a leading, industry-focused business school in the San Francisco Bay Area," Mangold said. "We want to be known for innovation, access, and making positive impacts on our students as well as local and global communities."



Introducing Associate Vice President and Director of Athletics Allison Kern

After a nationwide search, Allison Kern joined the Pioneers as the associate vice president and director of athletics in August.

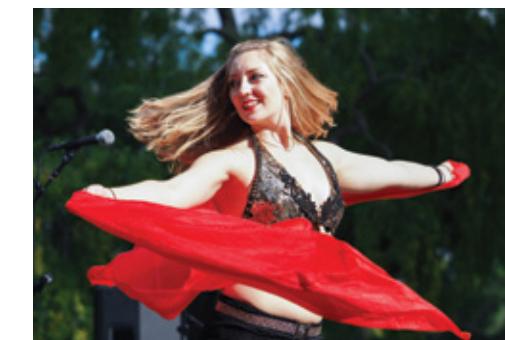
"The opportunity to do some impactful work is exciting for me," said Kern. "The enthusiasm from student-athletes, coaches and staff is invigorating, particularly around competing again this fall. The teams are looking forward to a great postseason."

Kern leads Cal State East Bay's 15 intercollegiate athletics teams, which are made up of more than 230 student-athletes who compete in the California Collegiate Athletic Association, the Pacific Collegiate Swim and Dive Conference, and the Western Water Polo Association.

"The value of college athletics can't be understated in the role it plays for student success," Kern said. "Student-athletes develop skills that are unique to their experience and position them for leadership throughout their lives. It is clear to me that Cal State East Bay's program is student-centered and aligns its efforts toward success, academically and in competition."

Forever Pioneer Pride

Cal State East Bay students were back on campus in full force during Forever Pioneer Week and other welcome activities for the 2021-22 academic year. Festivities included the annual Distinguished Alumni Awards, dancers, music, new East Bay merchandise, and more.





Combating Climate Change

Cal State East Bay Students Take Local Action Against Rising Global Hazards

BY KRISTA DOSSETTI

THE PHRASE “THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY,” is over a century old, but its message — a call for individuals to act according to a worldwide vision of global health — has never been more urgent.

While governments, industries, corporations and other large organizations have pivotal roles to play in addressing human-caused climate change, Cal State East Bay professors are educating and empowering students about what they can do to enact change at local and state levels. Through hands-on research, they’re also exposing undergraduates to skills that can be directly applied to careers within their own communities.

Here, with yet another record-breaking season of heat and wildfires pushing Californians to change how we manage our land and protect our communities, we present two new research initiatives that are giving us hope for the future.

The time is now — and from the standpoint of a simple, powerful phrase, it’s more than 100 years in the making.

Killer Heat

Did you know extreme heat is the No. 1 weather killer in the United States? Not hurricanes, floods, tornadoes or super storms — heat. Further, “extreme heat,” especially when combined with humidity, is classified at just 90 degrees by ready.gov. It’s a number that sounds mild to many Bay Area communities, which are routinely experiencing record-breaking, triple-digit temperatures earlier and earlier in the year. In the first two weeks of June 2021, for example, a half dozen cities in the region set new records, well in advance of deep summer. ▶



Critically, “most heat-related deaths are preventable through outreach and intervention,” according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Assistant Professor Michael Schmeltz of Cal State East Bay’s Public Health Department, who worked for the EPA after completing his doctorate in public health, explained that rising heat is a fact of a climate-changing world that public health officials are poised — if not yet prepared — to address.

“There is very little information on climate change on state and county public health websites,” Schmeltz said. “It is really important that public health agencies begin to emphasize these connections, so people understand that climate hazards are impacting health. It’s not just happening to polar bears or somewhere else, it’s happening now and it’s happening to people in our communities.”

The professor is spearheading a new two-pronged project funded

by a Faculty Support Grant with Cal State East Bay undergraduates aimed at transforming how California’s public health agencies respond to the increasing ramifications of extreme heat — and exposing students to the underlying data collection and research skills needed to support change.

Senior public health student Corrine Chandler is contributing to the first piece of the work, which is mapping temperature differences in urban settings at the microscale at which they impact citizens.

The chance to get involved hit close to home for Chandler, who was raised in Tracy.

“I’ve spent my whole life in California ... and it used to feel like we had four seasons,” she said. “Now with the issues with air quality, drought, fire season, it’s been devastating and I’m learning in my classes that it’s not even that bad here compared to other places in the country. It lights a fire under you to want to convince people

who don’t believe in climate change that we’re reaching a point where there’s no return to normal.”

On a recent 95-degree day, Chandler hit the pavement in downtown Hayward and a residential neighborhood, armed with a Kestrel Drop Fire Weather monitor and GPS tracker. She and a partner did a two-mile circuit in each location, recording temperatures every five seconds and syncing locations through their smartphones. Over the course of more outings, the students will be translating their data into a map that illustrates how temperature changes within small distances due to infrastructure, impervious surfaces, foliage and green spaces. With help from Schmeltz, the students are learning how critical those factors are to helping individuals make the best choices for their health.

“We were expecting to see a really big difference based on foliage and green space in the hills [compared to downtown],” Chandler

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ACCREDITATION PROGRAM COMING SOON

Cal State East Bay has long focused on connecting students to viable job opportunities that support the region’s workforce. Now, Assistant Professor Michael Schmeltz is adding to that legacy by making Cal State East Bay an in-demand destination for an environmental health specialist / health inspector accreditation program.

“It’s a near-guaranteed line of work because of the dearth of candidates for these roles that our communities need,” Schmeltz said. “There are accreditation programs in Southern California, but [Cal State East Bay] would be the first in Northern California.” Schmeltz is now in the submission and approval process. It was slowed during COVID-19, but with luck, the university may have the accredited program on campus by 2022.



said. “But the location on the hill was actually two degrees warmer, so now we need to adjust the interpretation of our hypothesis. However, there’s still the element of how people are experiencing heat. In the hill location, no one had their doors or windows open, but downtown, Dr. Schmeltz pointed out that windows were open everywhere, and it’s likely those people don’t have air conditioning, which could put them at a greater risk.”

In addition to data collection, it’s this intimate knowledge of city structures and demographics that dovetails with the second prong of Schmeltz’s project: assessing how many of California’s 61 public health departments (58 counties plus three cities with jurisdiction over public health services) have documented heat action plans that meet state recommendations.

Erin Quintero, another senior majoring in public health from nearby Dublin, is supporting that front. ►



“Native people already have sophisticated knowledge of how to manage the land in California, but they are marginalized from existing political systems, including hegemonic science, which privileges certain ways of knowing about the environment over others.”

— Assistant Professor Tony Marks-Block

“We’re analyzing how counties can better equip themselves during heat waves to protect the general public and reduce mortality rates, and to inform counties what pieces of their action plans may be missing,” she explained.

Early results aren’t promising. Quintero reports that only three of the first 40 California counties she has assessed have a full plan in place.

Quintero said that while most counties do have some plans outlined through their emergency response services departments, “We’d like to see full action plans versus hazard mitigation plans. Mitigation helps workers by providing water and shade when it’s above 90 degrees, but a heat action plan, by contrast, would anticipate health impacts, identify vulnerable populations, include a good description of when the action plan would be implemented, what partnerships with local agencies would be activated ... We also want information about populations who are sensitive, socially isolated, speak different languages or are of lower socioeconomic status to get them the information they need.”

Schmeltz believes one reason so many counties lack good heat action plans is due to a disconnect between emergency services and public health departments, with the latter being the most effective structure to put protections in place.

“Public health departments are better equipped to implement these plans because they’re more intertwined in their communities and know where resources are needed. It may be a collaboration — emergency services may have better logistics to roll out services to an entire county, but more emphasis is needed on the fact that these are

events with public health consequences.”

Once the analysis is complete, Quintero will be contacting county offices to share which pieces of their plans are missing compared to a detailed checklist.

“It’s really important to inform these counties how to equip themselves for these events,” she said. “We’re experiencing more of these heat waves and extreme temperatures due to climate change, so it’s information with a real impact. It’s disappointing that so many [counties] don’t have plans, but it also represents a huge opportunity for me to get involved as a student.”

It’s Schmeltz’s intention that the skills students like Chandler and Quintero are gaining will extend beyond their time at the university, with both women currently looking into master’s programs.

“I really like working with students, particularly in public universities, because they are the students who are taking what we teach them right into the community,” Schmeltz said. “They’re part of the community and they’re going back to it, and I like the aspect of impacting and educating the community through them.”

Managing Fire with Fire

It’s an early October morning in San Jose, and Cal State East Bay senior Rachel Garcia is getting ready for the day. That usually means popping in the car and commuting about an hour to the university’s Hayward campus. But today, since it’s Wednesday, Garcia is packing a lunch, wearing jeans and boots, and gathering outerwear options for a longer trek.



She’ll need the layers when she arrives at Bouverie Preserve, less than 10 minutes from the town of Sonoma. There, as she has every Wednesday for the past several weeks, she’ll spend the day hiking through underbrush while collecting data on the 535-acre ranch’s oak tree woodland.

It’s the starting point for what Assistant Professor Tony Marks-Block of Anthropology, Geography & Earth Sciences says will be a multiyear initiative to study the benefits and impacts of prescribed fire on local ecological and environmental systems. With funding from a Faculty Support Grant, Marks-Block and co-collaborator Peter Nelson, a Coast Miwok assistant professor at UC Berkeley (and citizen of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria), have established a partnership with the conservation organization Audubon Canyon Ranch, whose properties include Bouverie Preserve.

Through Audubon Canyon Ranch’s Fire Forward program — one of several ways the nonprofit seeks to combat climate change — researchers and private and public stakeholders are investigating how a region beset with devastating wildfires can become a “model of fire-adapted communities tending fire-adapted landscapes.” Marks-Block is particularly interested in leveraging the practices of native tribes, who he says represent a rich knowledge base that is being ignored.

“Native people already have sophisticated knowledge of how to manage the land in California, but they are marginalized from existing political systems, including hegemonic science, which

privileges certain ways of knowing about the environment over others,” Marks-Block said. “For a long time, it was very difficult to study the effects of prescribed fire because of all the political obstacles to setting prescribed burns, up until the last five years or so.”

Marks-Block, who was raised in the Bay Area and has worked with Indigenous peoples of California throughout his career, sees the Fire Forward program as an important opportunity for mainstream policymakers and agencies to support the research and management priorities of Indigenous peoples.

“The quantitative approach is given more priority and saliency in management decision-making in California, so this partnership represents a deliberate attempt by native peoples and tribes to engage in that process,” he said. “It’s an intentional part of our collaboration to honor Indigenous knowledge-holders and support their management goals, while translating those techniques into data for California’s decision-makers.”

Acorns are an entry point into that understanding. They are a key food resource for California’s native communities, both historically and today. But when not managed properly with fire, they are prone to increased insect infestation that renders them useless for harvest. Eliminating prescribed fire from the landscape has also promoted the accumulation of understory woody fuel that can accelerate the spread and severity of wildfire.

As one small step to getting closer to native land management techniques, students have been collecting data on Bouverie Preserve’s oak trees to prepare for a prescribed fire event. ▶



Undergraduate students Rachel Garcia (left) and Breanna Johnson (center) are working with Assistant Professor Tony Marks-Block to understand how Indigenous practices can support land management today. 

"We're taking data from a control group of trees to assess pre- and post-data from prescribed fire," Garcia said. "We've placed acorn traps (constructed from plastic bins with netting) in the understory, and we are comparing acorn capture and infestation rates in the traps with acorns collected in belt transects from the trees. We're also gathering data on tree canopy spread, tree diameter at breast height, and nearby tree density to evaluate their effect on the dependent variables."

Marks-Block added that gathering enough data will require applying prescribed fire frequently over several years, as Indigenous peoples have done for millennia. However, oak trees are victims of climate change along with the rest of the environment, so the specific timing that Indigenous peoples would have applied prescribed fire to decrease pests and increase acorn production is also in question.

"Most oak trees will drop infested acorns before non-infested acorns first, so if we time the burn to disrupt the life cycle of the pests, our hypothesis is that we'll see less infestation in future years and more efficient harvesting," Marks-Block said. "Studying the phenology of these trees is also helping us understand how the life cycle of native food resources is being impacted by climate change and events like drought. If we apply fire at a time of year when it

will not spread rapidly and result in loss of life and destruction of property, then wildfire will not be as severe of a threat in California and fire fighters will be able to control wildfire more easily."

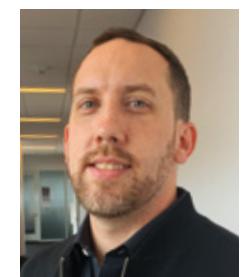
Garcia, who will graduate next spring, believes the field work as well as what she's learning carries big implications for her, too.

"This project is so important to climate change," she said. "People are very scared and shy away from the idea of fire, which as a Californian, I totally understand. But they also don't get to explore how the application of fire has been a huge benefit to the people who know how to leverage it. Indigenous people have used fire to grow crops, manage the land, and even mark territory. It's this unique relationship with fire, a respect for it and understanding of how to coexist with it. It's unfortunate that a lot of historical neglect has prevented us from learning about fire and using it to manage the land."

"Cal State East Bay is providing me with so many hands-on opportunities," she continued. "I feel like yes, I'm getting my anthropology degree, but I'm actually practicing anthropology. I have this confidence in my degree that I'm learning practical applications that will be valuable to anything I want to do in the future." 

EVERYDAY ACTIONS TO TAKE NOW

As they prepare students to make a difference in the world around them — whether as informed citizens or leaders answering the call to effect generational change — Cal State East Bay faculty from several departments and disciplines also have practical advice anyone can use to act against climate change now.



"Start a climate conversation."

Assistant Professor **Michael Schmeltz**, Department of Earth & Environmental Studies



"Put your money where your concern is."

Assistant Professor **Juleen Lam**, Department of Public Health



"Support an aggressive Green New Deal"

Professor Emerita and Director of Environmental Studies **Karina Garbesi**



"Stay educated on the history, economics, science, and policies of climate change, and VOTE."

Lecturer **Elena Givental**, Department of Anthropology, Geography & Environmental Studies



"Reuse, repair, refurbish — keep stuff out of the landfill!"

Professor **Michael Lee**, Department of Anthropology, Geography & Environmental Studies



"Join a climate justice organization."

Assistant Professor **Tony Marks-Block**, Department of Anthropology, Geography & Environmental Studies



"Improve the efficiency of your home or apartment (check out pge.com's Ways to Save at Home)"

Assistant Professor **Patty Oikawa**, Department of Earth & Environmental Studies



"Spare the air! Check out sites like sparetheair.org and fire.airnow.gov."

NBC Bay Area Meteorologist and Lecturer **Rob Mayeda**, Department of Earth & Environmental Studies



"Eat less meat and dairy."

Professor **Jean Moran**, Department of Earth & Environmental Studies

Coding for the Future



JENI WILLIAMS HAS NEVER WORKED IN TECH, but she has a lifelong interest in computers and believes they'll continue to play a powerful role in the lives of younger generations.

The school where she teaches, Glassbrook Elementary in the Hayward Unified School District, is about 30 miles from Silicon Valley. The region is home to some of the most innovative tech companies in the world, yet many kids at the Tennyson neighborhood school less than an hour away don't have regular access to technology at home — and little exposure to what it can do.

"Coding is really going to be the language of the future and it's important for kids to see it as early as possible," said Williams (M.S. '21, Special Education, Mild/Moderate Support).

It's what led her to spearhead the Glassbrook Coding Club, which Williams hosts in her classroom at lunchtime and after school, welcoming students of various grade levels, backgrounds and abilities to learn the basics of coding and computer programming.

She started the coding club in 2019. It was first open to the students in her special education program, but when word quickly spread about how much fun they were having, Williams opened the club to other students at Glassbrook.

"Pretty much the minute I tell them they can build games with it, they're on board," she said. "I sell them on the gaming part and they stick with me through the basics part. It teaches problem solving, it teaches logical thinking. It can teach math, it can teach dialogue — just so many different things — and it's a different way [of learning] that doesn't feel like a class."

Williams has always had a passion for education, but it took her a while to find teaching as a profession after earning her undergraduate degree from Stanford. Her circuitous career path eventually led her to a role as an after-school program coordinator, where Williams realized that to make the difference she wanted in kids' lives, she needed to be a classroom teacher as well.

She enrolled in Cal State East Bay's teaching credential program and

initially planned to substitute teach while going to school. However, Glassbrook needed a resource specialist for students with mild/moderate disabilities, and the school's administration gave Williams the job, thanks in part to her extensive tutoring background.

One of her favorite stories to tell about the club's impact is that of a sixth grader who struggled with reading and was learning English as a second language.

"She picked up coding really fast because the coding we used wasn't reliant on language. She could rely on colors and knowing the first few letters," Williams said. "So a kid who had trouble reading books at all, of any level, was able to become a leader in the coding club. That really is my inspiration."

Making coding accessible to kids of all ability levels is the subject of Williams' recently completed master's project at Cal State East Bay, where she volunteered her time at Pioneer Pals, a virtual summer camp hosted by the Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences department. There, she introduced kids on the autism spectrum to coding, too.

Alumna Shares the Promise of Tech with Students on the Spectrum

BY STEPHANIE HAMMON PHOTOGRAPHY GARVIN TSO

PROJECT ASPIRE



Funded by a grant from the Department of Education, Cal State East Bay's Project ASPIRE provides funding for 16 master's degree candidates each year to receive additional training and experience working with people with autism. The program

emphasizes a holistic training approach aimed at offering a better understanding of the lived experience of students on the spectrum, whom the professionals will be supporting.

Alumna Jeni Williams' education at CSUEB included taking part in Project ASPIRE's inaugural year of programming.

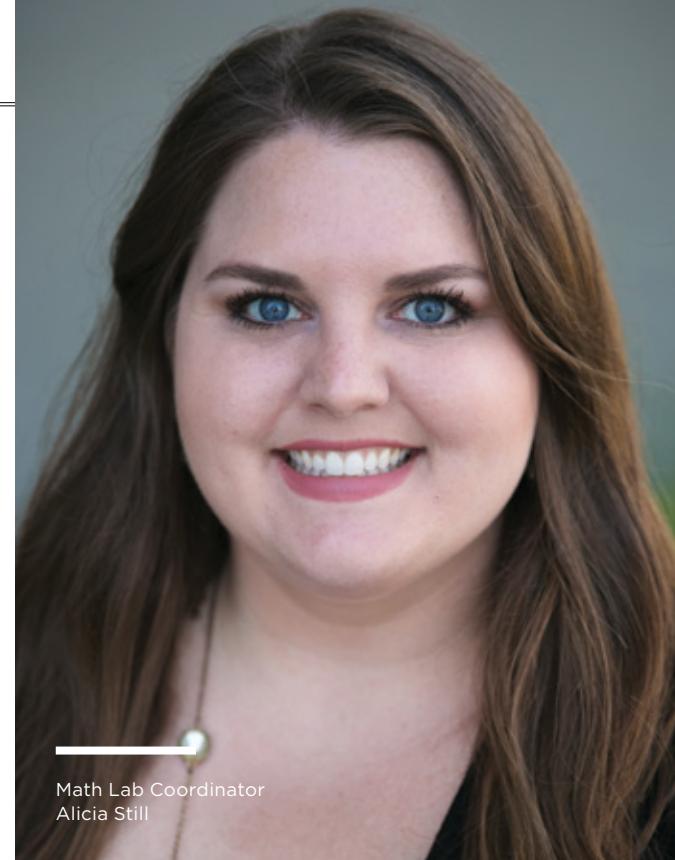
"It really helped me see the students' challenges in a way where I could actually help them make progress," Williams said. "It gave me a richer understanding of the students I'm working with but also how to help their parents and caregivers ... It's made me a better teacher already and I know it will continue to."

"The hope is that they are exposed to a skill they aren't being taught in school and that it clicks with them and opens future doors," said Shubha Kashinath, the camp's director and chair of Cal State East Bay's SLHS department. "These are smart kids, they just learn differently."

Now in her fourth year at Glassbrook, Williams is thrilled to be teaching her students in person again. The district went almost exclusively online for the first 18 months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Glassbrook Coding Club will be returning as well, giving students early exposure to what could eventually be steady and lucrative career paths. For Williams, that's a huge part of what education should be.

"I think we really need to look at shifting education away from just being about learning for a test or learning specific content," she said. "And to focus more on what is going to get students jobs when they graduate from high school." **EE**



Math Lab Coordinator
Alicia Still

Bridging the ‘Math Gap’

Professors Across Cal State East Bay Come Together to Continue Key Program for Students

BY DAN FOST PHOTOGRAPHY GARVIN TSO

gap but professors believe is actually something more.

“For students of color and our female students who traditionally aren’t perceived to perform as well in areas like math, I don’t think it’s really the content itself,” Director of General Education and Professor of Biology Caron Inouye said. “It’s much deeper than that. It’s not necessarily gaps in knowledge, but rather gaps in confidence and social and emotional support. It’s really that social and emotional piece that’s so important.”

IN FORCING SCHOOLS TO CLOSE AND MOVE TO ONLINE MODELS, COVID-19 disrupted education for all ages and grades. Now, with many students back in classrooms, many educators are breathing a sigh of relief at the prospect of returning to “normal.”

However, schools are also now assessing to what extent students fell behind during the 2020 pandemic year and taking action to help them relearn skill sets that suffered while instruction was confined to the screen.

Math is a particular focus at Cal State East Bay, where nearly 50 percent of the university’s almost 15,000 undergraduates identify as Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). These students are frequently underrepresented in STEM fields, which offer some of the highest paying jobs of the future.

Cal State East Bay has long been committed to ensuring that its diverse students have access to majors that lead to rewarding careers in those fields.

“Every department in the College of Science has developed an equity plan,” Department of Mathematics Chair Julie Glass explained. “And the math department is focused on the STEM pathway, which is where those equity gaps have the greatest impact on the future of technology.”

Glass noted that Cal State East Bay has been working for years to “not perpetuate the inequities with which students arrive on our campus. We try to make sure that every student sees themselves as a math learner.”

As educational institutions around the country are being challenged to quantify different types of learning gaps, including those that can’t be measured by test scores, Cal State East Bay is taking a holistic approach to addressing what could be called a math

A Legacy of Success

Housed in the College of Science, the Math Lab has a legacy as a vibrant hub, a visible spot on campus where socializing and learning go hand in hand. Prior to COVID-19, students could sit with Learning Assistants, or LAs — other students assigned to every entry-level math and statistics course — who could see them puzzle out problems with pencil and paper and identify their mathematical stumbling blocks.

“Before the pandemic, this place was packed,” Math Lab Coordinator Alicia Still said. “We were pulling chairs from wherever we could.”

Undergraduate Tenaja Jefferson is living proof of the benefits of that environment — and of how factors beyond hard skill sets pose real obstacles for Cal State East Bay students.

Jefferson thought she was done with math when she went to college, especially after completing her one required class. “I didn’t think I was smart enough to do it,” she admitted. “You can do it, you can do it,” Jefferson recalled one of her professors, Ange Zhou, saying. And it was that simple encouragement that inspired her to join the Math Lab as an LA and pay the positive reinforcement forward. ▶



The 2018-19 inaugural class of Learning and Teaching Assistants established the Math Lab as the in-demand key support service Cal State East Bay students depend on today.

It's these types of wraparound services for which the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment recognized Cal State East Bay with a 2021 Excellence in Assessment designation. The university was one of only seven schools in the country so honored this year.

End-to-End Support

From initiatives aimed at helping K-12 Bay Area schools, whose students comprise a majority of Cal State East Bay's student demographic, to tailored programs like the robust on-campus Math Lab that offers one-on-one instruction, the university is working from multiple angles to ensure student success.

In addition to the Math Lab's LAs, graduate students are also involved in helping younger Pioneers see themselves as future STEM teachers and professionals while gaining invaluable hands-on experience for their own career development.

Professor Simone Sisneros-Thiry helps train the graduate students who serve as teaching associates (TAs) and provide direct instruction in math classes. Sisneros-Thiry co-facilitates

a "Community of Practice" in which the TAs and other math instructors learn from each other. "We improve our practice and talk about what we've tried and what we want to try," Sisneros-Thiry said.

Some of the topics the graduate students discuss in their training include active learning strategies, assessments, pacing and alignment of materials, and specific areas of struggle. In a spirit of cross-pollination, Sisneros-Thiry then brings what she hears to the Math Lab, both to share ideas and learn what's happening there, so everyone knows "what students need, and what's working and what's challenging," across all facets of in-class instruction and the Math Lab program.

"We want to make sure that we're supporting them with

interesting, challenging problems and coordination across the sections so that the students are getting a cohesive experience," Sisneros-Thiry said.

It's these types of wraparound services for which the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment recognized Cal State East Bay with a 2021 Excellence in Assessment designation. The university was one of only seven schools in the country so honored this year.

"We work to really get them through [their classes] with knowledge of the mathematics that they need — and the competence and identity and community they'll need to succeed as scientists and mathematicians," Glass said. "In any area of science, that collaboration and confidence is the key to moving forward."

An Even Brighter Future

The Math Lab is now back up and running, and remains a cornerstone in the effort to strengthen students' mathematical abilities. The capacity to reconnect in person, according to educators, represents a pivotal piece of what academic recovery from the pandemic really means.

For her part, Glass said she and her colleagues lobbied hard to bring back face-to-face classes — "especially freshmen, especially in mathematics."

At the same time, multiple professors, including Associate Dean

in the College of Science Danika LeDuc, are working to upgrade how the Math Lab operates, which includes integrating some of the benefits of online learning.

"When COVID hit in early 2020, the Math Lab switched to an online model and instruction proved less effective," LeDuc said. Over Zoom, LAs might be working on a different version of a software program from the one the student had, leading to confusion and frustration. Nonetheless, some students were relieved not to have to drive to campus in Bay Area traffic. Others used that extra time to focus even more on their studies.

It's why the Math Lab has upgraded to a hybrid tutoring model, with assistance available both in-person and online — and the university plans for even more visibility for the program going forward.

It will also accommodate more students through a design that supports the Math Lab's collaborative learning model.

Coordinator Alicia Still explained that the Math Lab is slated to become the STEM Lab in the near future and have a sparkling new home in the Applied Sciences Center that Cal State East Bay is currently raising money to build.

"We'll have so much more space, it will be fantastic," Still said. "We brand ourselves as a community learning space. Not only can you get help, but you can study and be with each other here."

"Mathematics often feels very isolating for people," Glass added. "Making that learning public is important." 

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



NINA WOODRUFF-WALKER

B.A. COMMUNICATION '16; M.A. COMMUNICATION '20
ORGANIZATION: OAKLAND'S MUSEUM OF CHILDREN'S ART

In Her Words:

"At Oakland's Museum of Children's Art (MOCHA), our vision is to ensure that the arts are a fundamental part of the lives of all children and their families in the Bay Area through hands-on art experiences, arts training, and curriculum for educators. Art, as one of the oldest disciplines, allows us as humans to reimagine, innovate, design and configure solutions, worldbuild, and integrate new ways of envisioning all other disciplines. I support my community by being in service to over 30,000 children each year."

"I was born into a family that believed it was important to give back to the community. My mother introduced me to community building at an early age. When I became a MOCHA kid through the East Oakland Youth Development Center in 1989, the internship solidified my commitment to community service. Although I had a 15-year career in tech, I continued volunteering with various organizations. When the MOCHA board asked me to join the staff as the executive director, I accepted. It has been very rewarding to collaborate with amazing educators at an organization that, by design, assists youth and their families to discover visual arts practices and creative inquiry."

© GARVIN TSO (ROONEY SECOND FROM LEFT).



BRYAN ROONEY

CAL STATE EAST BAY MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH
ORGANIZATION: MILES FOR MEALS

In His Words:

"The idea behind Miles for Meals is to run one mile every hour for 24 hours to raise money for local food banks. While the pandemic prevented us from physically running together, the goal was to join our efforts, create some positivity, and bring attention to the important cause of hunger. Over the last two years, Miles for Meals has raised over \$12,000 and we've had over 225 participants."

"The pandemic has changed many things in our lives. However, one thing that remains the same is the power of people coming together for a common cause. I am extremely thankful for the money that has been raised as it has helped our food banks feed hundreds of families."

"One of the things I am most proud of is that we have had participation from all of our Cal State East Bay athletic teams with Miles for Meals. Cal State East Bay is a special place for many reasons. One of these reasons is the culture of service that exists here. Having our athletic department unified with this effort of service has been phenomenal." ▶

HOW PIONEER PROFESSORS, ALUMNI AND STUDENTS GIVE BACK TO THE EAST BAY

BY STEPHANIE HAMMON



AT CAL STATE EAST BAY, WE'RE NOT JUST HERE TO EDUCATE, LEARN AND WORK. Our faculty, staff, alumni and students are passionate about improving their communities and the lives of those in them — at the university and beyond. Some were inspired to get more involved by the COVID-19 pandemic. Others have been hard at work for years. All are making the world a better place. Here are some of their stories.



G.T. REYES

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

ORGANIZATION: HOMIES EMPOWERMENT

What He Does:

G.T. Reyes has long been involved in East Oakland's Homies Empowerment organization, which empowers young people who have been involved in gangs or otherwise historically disparaged. Today, Homies Empowerment is expanding its liberatory schooling work, and Reyes, who has been an educator for more than two decades, is helping found a new community charter school. Working closely with his good friend, Homies founder and Dean of the Secondary Schools program at Harvard University César Cruz, Reyes is the board chair and founding school designer for the forthcoming Homies Empowerment Community High School for Oakland's Success (HECHOS), which hopes to open its doors in fall 2022.

In His Words:

"Both César and I were folks who had grown up in violent conditions in various 'hoods in the United States and abroad. We found that schooling was intended to educate a certain type of person and we didn't fit that mold. While we were both smart even by traditional standards, our way of demonstrating our intelligence wasn't valued, so we felt marginalized, we felt demonized, we got into trouble, we felt like we couldn't connect in school. School didn't center around us. [With Homies and HECHOS], we have been basically trying to create a school for ourselves.

"The work with Homies is about reframing and being able to let folks who have been disenfranchised from schools to resee themselves as scholars, warriors, healers and hustlers. These folks are pipelined into prisons, into poverty, into homelessness. We want to interrupt that and change that trajectory to rethink schooling and really draw from folks' strengths and the way they've been able to cultivate them.

"The work I do is what some people might call nontraditional. I do it because, one, folks think and do things differently. And two, the dominant norm is centered on capitalism, white supremacy and hetero-patriarchy. So I could replicate that or I could try to disrupt that in ways that empower more folks who have been left out.

"The work has to be interconnected — I still have to be grounded in the schools and I have to be with the community to build community. It has to be a process that builds relations over time. Ultimately, that long-haul journey is really about cultivating the capacity to transform the conditions that we're in. What I'm looking to do is, yes, support the day to day, but also work toward something. It's not enough to be anti-racist or anti-oppressive — you also have to be pro something. For me it's pro-liberation. That's the work. I'm really trying to push the boundaries about 'what is' so we can really think about what needs to be and what should be."



ALEXA RIVAS-FERNANDEZ

CAL STATE EAST BAY SENIOR MAJORING IN PUBLIC HEALTH

ORGANIZATION: UCSF / UNITY COUNCIL VACCINE PROGRAM

In Her Words:

"Through the UCSF and Unity Council Community Vaccine program, we are helping to increase COVID-19 vaccination rates in Alameda County and San Francisco. The program allows us to go into communities where information about the vaccine is missing or not easily accessible. We encounter many people who do not speak English very well, and having information in different languages or speaking the same language as [the people in those communities] helps us provide information that they couldn't receive elsewhere."

"Along with the information we present, people will also ask about clinics or access to healthcare, and being able to refer or inform them of places like La Clinica or where to get a COVID test helps alleviate barriers. Everyone in the Fruitvale district [where a lot of our outreach takes place], is very kind and grateful. There are always people thanking us, telling us we are angels, or offering to buy us a meal or drink. What I am most proud of is all the people we've encouraged to get vaccinated. Between Alameda County and San Francisco, there have been over 10,000 vaccination sign-ups or administrations [of the vaccine]."



JENNIFER KIM-ANH TRAN

PROFESSOR OF ETHNIC STUDIES
ORGANIZATIONS: OAKLAND VIETNAMESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; OAKLAND APIA UNITE

What She Does:

Jennifer Kim-Anh Tran is the executive director of Oakland's Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce. She also leads the racial justice coalition APIA Unite, which pushes for sustainable infrastructure in Oakland's communities. Intersectionality is a constant focus of her work.

In Her Words:

"I'm born and raised in Oakland, so Oakland is home for me. I engage the immigrant-refugee community here so that we can address themes around racial equity in a nuanced way to factor in the unique challenges that monolingual communities experience and encounter. That hasn't been more apparent than during this pandemic and what it has elevated in terms of the lack of resources for low-income communities of color and immigrant communities of color."

"What I'm pushing for in my work is long-term investment. Our cities and our realities have been constructed and designed by our government and our decision-makers. So it is up to our decision-makers, our elected officials, our institutions who have so much power, to re-invest in our communities. It's a two-pronged approach. Building as we educate. In order to achieve long-term investment, my organizational and coalition work advocate for equitable policies and community engagement."

"One of the main ways that I reach communities is through cultural festivals so that we can educate and connect [the people] that live next to each other but may not always share their experiences together. It's through culture that we have reason to celebrate our shared experiences but also learn about our differences. These events are always opportunities to build as we educate."

"My big call and motivator for doing this work is that there are so many people who have power, who have privilege and wealth, ideas and passion, who are looking to make a difference. Our goal in life shouldn't be simply to survive. I think we should raise the bar to what we can provide and should contribute to really transform what it means to be a human being in the Bay Area in the 21st century, when we've never seen more inequalities in our daily lives. We're more diverse than ever but how are we using that diversity and that privilege? The work is plentiful and yet we don't have enough resources. [The question is] how can we use ourselves right where we are, to make a big impact?"



SAM COBBS

B.A. PSYCHOLOGY '99, M.S. COUNSELING '06
ORGANIZATION: TIPPING POINT

What He Does:

Tipping Point is a philanthropic organization that raises money and gives it to organizations, usually nonprofits, that are trying to eliminate poverty in the Bay Area. Each year, Tipping Point funds somewhere between \$50-60 million dollars in four areas: early childhood, homelessness and housing, economic mobility, and education. As CEO, Sam Cobbs is responsible for putting together the strategy and vision for Tipping Point, as well as implementing the strategy across the region.

In His Words:

"When I moved to California for college, I got a part-time job in Richmond working in what was then the murder capital of the United States. There were more murderers per capita in the Iron Triangle in Richmond than there were anywhere else. The things I saw that those young people had to worry about and had to think about were things that I never had to worry about and think about when I was growing up. So that really made me realize how privileged I had been and I really wanted to give back to those young people. That led me to

working at the Boys and Girls Club and getting deeper into working in the community and working with kids."

"At the end of the day I realized that all of the things I had been working on were a manifestation of poverty. The reason we had those social ills is because people didn't have enough — they couldn't make ends meet — and that manifested itself in different ways. Some people self-medicate and use substances, other people struggle with their mental health, other people have to go out and work late hours, so it stresses them out and their kids end up in the foster care system. But all of those things you can relate back to people living in poverty, so that is what led me to doing the work at Tipping Point."

"Part of being drawn to this also has to do with my experience at Cal State [East Bay]. I was one of those students who needed to utilize the student services that they had there, like short-term loans until your financial aid kicked in. Utilizing those services also fed into me going into a practice of service after I got out of school. Nobody in my family had ever gone to college before, nobody in my neighborhood had ever gone to college before. I had to utilize all of those services, and because of that I also wanted to give back to others." 



Alex Vesia reminisced with Cal State East Bay coaching staff while wearing Dodger Blue. From left to right: former assistant coach Grant Kukuk, volunteer coach Mike Reardon and head coach Mike Cummins.

COURTESY OF MIKE CUMMINS



Alex Vesia pitched his way to the Miami Marlins and the Los Angeles Dodgers from a starring role in the Pioneers bullpen. KELLEY COX

FROM PIONEER TO DODGER

Alumnus Alex Vesia's Journey to Major League Baseball

BY STEPHANIE HAMMON

Alex Vesia's timing was impeccable. When the playoff race began heating up for the Los Angeles Dodgers over the summer, the Cal State East Bay alumnus emerged as a reliable arm out of the bullpen for the 2020 World Series champions.

It's a remarkable climb for someone who was a 17th-round draft pick as a college senior and had just a single scholarship offer coming out of high school at Cal State East Bay.

Now, after a record-setting career with the Pioneers, Vesia (B.S. '18, Recreation) has used his strong work ethic and unique fastball to become a valuable contributor to one of the best teams in baseball. After being recalled from the minor leagues in mid-July, the left-hander was nearly unhittable for a long stretch of time. In his first 19 games, he allowed just two earned runs with 25 strikeouts in 20.2 innings pitched.

"Alex has shown a lot of growth this year, a lot of poise," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts told reporters in October. "He's very emotional but you know during the inning he's found a way to control and harness those emotions to make good pitches and execute. He's earned a lot of leverage innings or spots. He's been fantastic."

His rise was just in time to help the Dodgers finish the regular season

with 106 wins and advance to the postseason for the ninth straight year.

Coming out of high school at Steele Canyon outside San Diego, Vesia didn't exactly seem destined for success at baseball's highest level.

"I didn't throw hard, I feel like I matured really late," Vesia said. "I was tall but there was no muscle on me whatsoever. I feel like I was really just an average high school baseball player. Nothing really stood out."

Still, Vesia's high school coach sent his highlight film to college coaches throughout the West Coast. Only Cal State East Bay took notice.

Once he got to Hayward, Vesia's success was nearly instant. He quickly earned a spot in the starting rotation as a freshman, and after an impressive first season, Bob Ralston, the Pioneers' coach at the time, called Vesia into his office.

"He told me, 'You can be a professional baseball player,'" Vesia recalled. "I was like 'Nah, no way' and he said, 'If you keep working hard like you do, things can go your way.' I took that and I ran with it."

Though Vesia graduated as Cal State East Bay's all-time leader in career wins (24), strikeouts (249), and innings pitched, his college career wasn't without bumps. He had a losing record and an earned run average of nearly 5 during a disappointing junior season.

"I think he put a lot of pressure on himself," said Mike Cummins, who took over as the Pioneers' head coach after Vesia's sophomore year. "Scouts saw him and he wasn't quite ready. When he came back his senior year, he had a new sense of urgency. We talked a lot about letting the game come to him."

Vesia's senior season was the best of his college career, and just days before graduation, he was drafted by the Miami Marlins. After working his way through the minor leagues for two seasons, he made the Marlins' opening day roster in the pandemic-shortened 2020 season.

It was a time of ups and downs for Vesia. When he made his MLB debut, his parents had to miss it due to COVID-19 restrictions. He was also one of several Marlins to contract COVID-19 on a team bus ride during the first week of the season. But he pitched in five games that season, getting a glimpse of what's needed to succeed at the major league level.

Then, just before spring training began earlier this year, Vesia got a surprise phone call. He had been traded to the Dodgers.

"I was speechless," he said. "I thought I was a secondary piece to a trade, I didn't know I was the big piece until I saw it on Twitter. I was super happy because I know how great the Dodgers organization is and I

knew it would bring my game to the next level."

It also means his parents can attend every home game at Dodger Stadium, easily within reach of San Diego, and Vesia's family and friends in Southern California can support him regularly.

Throughout his journey, Vesia hasn't forgotten his Cal State East Bay roots. When the Dodgers were in the Bay Area to play the Giants in July, he invited some old Pioneer teammates as well as Cummins and the Cal State East Bay coaching staff. He also texts with Cummins regularly.

"I like giving them updates and I'm now passing them down information from what I've learned up here in the minors and in the major leagues," Vesia said.

His success has impacted the baseball program in other ways, too. "When we're recruiting, we always tell the story of him," Cummins said.

Though Vesia is the first player from Cal State East Bay's baseball program in over 40 years to make the major leagues, he hopes he's not the last.

"I can't wait for the alumni game next year so I can go up to East Bay and talk with the team and maybe be a little bit of an inspiration to them," Vesia said. "If I can do it, anybody can do it. People always say you can't get to the big leagues from Division II. Yes, you can. I'm proof."



(Top) A commissioned scale model of the Arizona provides viewers with a sense of the artifact's location prior to the ship's destruction. (Right) The USS Arizona artifact being measured for display, prior to the manufacture of a custom mounting. (Above) Technical drawing courtesy of U.S. Navy Region Hawaii.  U.S. NAVY REGION HAWAII

Salvaging the USS Arizona

U.S. NAVY CHOOSES CONCORD CAMPUS TO PRESERVE SHIP RELIC

BY ELIAS BARBOZA '13 PHOTOGRAPHY ROBERT PHELPS

Every Dec. 7 since 2013, Cal State East Bay's Concord campus has hosted a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day event. The ceremony brings Pearl Harbor survivors and their families together to light the Mount Diablo beacon, a rotating lantern installed in 1928 to assist transcontinental aviation.

Due to the campus's commitment to the annual event, the United States Navy chose the Concord campus as a site to display a fragment of the USS Arizona, one of seven U.S. battleships sunk during the attack on Oahu on Dec. 7, 1941. Scheduled for display in 2022 in the Concord campus' main lobby, the artifact is intended to become a central portion of a rotating exhibit highlighting student research on the history of the Pacific War and the lessons of its human toll.

"Exhibits like this not only teach the history of a specific event; they also serve as sacred sites for subsequent generations, providing space for reflection and public mourning," said Concord Campus Director Robert Phelps. "The exhibit is representative of the sacrifice made by U.S. servicemen and women throughout the war, as well as the awful price paid by citizens of all nations during the conflict."

The historic relic is a two-foot by three-foot portion from the USS Arizona's boat deck and will be displayed alongside interpretive graphics designed in part by Cal State East Bay students. It will also serve as a gathering place for war veterans and their guests prior to the annual beacon lighting.

A partner website for the artifact, also known as a "digital exhibit," tells the story of the USS Arizona and its crew. It's an ongoing project displaying student research on the war, not only on Pearl Harbor but also

on topics related to the wartime homefront, as Contra Costa County is home to the Port Chicago National Historic Site and the Rosie the Riveter National Historic Site.

Naval forensic experts believe that during the Pearl Harbor attack, a bomb detonated near the boat deck moments before another bomb penetrated the forward magazine, the area where ammunition is stored. The battleship was destroyed, killing 1,177 of its 1,512 crew members. The USS Arizona's casualties made up a majority of those killed in the attack.

Although most of the USS Arizona lies at the bottom of Pearl Harbor, the Navy possesses several tons of the ship that were cut away during rescue and salvage operations after the attack, which it has preserved for their historical importance. Most have not been seen by the public. In order to obtain a specific fragment, recipients are required to promise that it be properly displayed. The Concord campus is currently in possession of the artifact while planning for its unveiling next year.

Housing and displaying the USS Arizona artifact will be the first project in an ongoing mission to exhibit educational materials focused on wartime history, Phelps said. Future plans for expanding the exhibit include information on Contra Costa County's involvement during the Second World War, and a spotlight on the 59,000 Army nurses and 14,000 Navy nurses who served during it.

"We hope to continue to develop the Concord campus as the center of higher education in Contra Costa County, as well as a site for multiple educational and cultural events throughout the year," Phelps said. "This exhibit, and the Dec. 7 remembrance ceremony, is just one example of this effort." 

Honoring a Legacy

COACH CAL CAPLAN SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNIZES PIONEER AQUATICS STUDENT-ATHLETES

BY CATHI DOUGLAS

PHOTOGRAPHY ERIC HARDING



Pioneer legend Coach Cal Caplan was honored by alumni with a scholarship in his name. Here, Caplan is photographed with students Briana Ruiz (left), Auriel Bill (far right), and Women's Water Polo Coach Lisa Cooper.

Coming from a small central California farming town, Lori Stilson-Armstrong, '83, couldn't have imagined she would have a stellar college diving career, much less success as a Hollywood costumer.

Stilson-Armstrong, who began her professional career on the iconic TV series "Moonlighting" and went on to work on countless shows and films, including 2003's "Tears of the Sun," attributes much of her can-do attitude to her years swimming at Cal State East Bay — and the influence of Coach Cal Caplan.

"No one is stopping you," he would say, recalls Stilson-Armstrong, who was inducted into the Pioneer Athletics Hall of Fame in 2000. "He was the perfect mentor for me. I listened to him — and at that age I didn't listen to anyone. He is responsible for the career I have now."

A three-time All-American diver during her years at the university, Stilson-Armstrong was back on campus poolside as Pioneer Athletics launched the Cal Caplan Aquatics Scholarship on Sept. 2. Joining her were the two fellow alumni who helped create the scholarship in Coach Caplan's name: swimming star Brad Gothberg, '85, and water polo goalie Steve Victorson, '82.

After months of planning — and postponement wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic — the founding donors stunned Coach Caplan with the news of his namesake scholarship at a surprise ceremony.

"For me to say that I was speechless would be a gift to everybody," Coach Caplan joked of the scholarship announcement. "I had absolutely no idea this was going on." In fact, he thought the ceremony preparations were for his birthday, just a few days away.

Nonetheless, he managed to express just how much the legacy scholarship means to him. "This scholarship fulfills a recognition that we are more than individuals or islands in sports," he explained. "It shows me that the people whose lives I touched were strengthened by our interactions, because we cared about more than just our own sport. I'm grateful that the scholarship is for all aquatics, not just water polo."

Inspiration for Dry Land

Besides honoring Coach Caplan, the scholarship's goal is to help Cal State East Bay's swimming and water polo coaches recruit and retain strong student-athletes who exemplify the coach and his values. "Following Coach Caplan's model, the coaches will recommend students who show promise for qualities of leadership,

teamwork, and/or high achievement in their sport and academics," the university's scholarship document states.

Those attributes are easy to recall for Stilson-Armstrong's fellow scholarship founders. Gothberg, who now works in Bay Area residential real estate, credits Coach Caplan with motivating him to perform to his highest potential.

"I was one of Cal State East Bay's top swimmers — I went to nationals and was in the top five every year," Gothberg said. "I feel the scholarship should go to a good athlete with a good GPA."

"Cal taught me to act toward others as you'd want to be treated," he added. "Put your full effort into everything you do."

He's also proud that the scholarship is for aquatics. "Lori, Steve, and I agreed that it was important, because we never seemed to get as much recognition as athletes in football, baseball and track. Yet, we were always in the top five or top ten in nationals."

Victorson, who operates his own water-based fitness center outside Boston, went on to earn his doctorate in Human Movement. He says he employs the lessons Coach Caplan taught him every day.

"Cal made you want to work for him. He had a way of motivating you to get you to want to work hard. Still, he had a lot of patience with us," he said. "As an athlete for Cal, I felt bad if I didn't perform the way I was supposed to."

Fifty-Three Years and Counting

After 53 years as a coach and professor, Coach Caplan is still on campus, only now as a volunteer assistant who specializes in coaching goalies. He was inducted into the Pioneer Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006, and is recognized for playing a key role in the development of the university's physical education and kinesiology department. He is known for his leadership, teamwork and high achievement.

"I'm a positive coach," he said. "You'll never hear me tell a player what not to do. I try to tell them what they should do."

It's an impressive legacy and model, even for newly minted Pioneers on the Cal State East Bay campus.

Recently hired Director of Athletics Allison Kern met Coach Caplan on just her second day at the university — and then learned he would be honored during her second week on campus.

"I can't think of a better way to be welcomed into a community than immediately understanding how invested our alumni are in our success and the great people who have been here, and how invested we are in our student-athletes and supporting them," Kern told the crowd. "This is exactly what we're about at Pioneer Athletics." 

DISTINGUISHED



Alumni
AWARDS
GALA 2021

BY LORI BACHAND AND STEPHANIE HAMMON
PHOTOGRAPHY GARVIN TSO



CHRISTIE CARNAHAN
B.A. '95, LIBERAL STUDIES; MULTIPLE
SUBJECT TEACHING CREDENTIAL '96;
M.S. '05, EDUCATION

Christie Carnahan was inspired to go into teaching by the women in her family.

Her mother was a pregnant teenager and married Christie's father just before her birth. Her parents never went to college. Christie's grandmother and her family were part of the Bracero Program that brought millions of guest workers to the U.S. from Mexico, and they worked long hours in the fields each day. Their family immigrated to the Central Valley from El Paso, Texas, after arriving from Aguascalientes, Mexico.

"[My grandmother] never learned to read or write in either language, Spanish or English," Carnahan said. "And so I decided to make it my life's path to help others gain literacy because our education is what gives us life."

For the past 27 years, Carnahan has been striving to make a difference in the lives of elementary school students at Valley View Elementary, a Title I school in Pleasanton. As a bilingual kindergarten teacher, Carnahan works with students whose backgrounds aren't much different from her own.

"I understand where my students are coming from," she said. "I understand what it means to be a student in need. I understand what it means to have parents who are not in academia and how to [have to] fight for yourself, for your community and make change."

Carnahan completed all of her higher education at Cal State Hayward, receiving her bachelor's degree, master's degree and teaching credential as a first-generation college student. Carnahan said the education she received at the university, through what at that time was one of the few bilingual teaching credential programs in the state, helped prepare her to serve the student population at her school.

"I feel like [CSU] Hayward gave me knowledge that I wouldn't have gotten somewhere else because we had hard conversations," she said. "We had deep conversations about the trials and tribulations that families of migrants are facing every day in our classrooms. I was prepared to go into the classroom to give my students and families what they need."

She's now back at the university once more, this time as a part-time lecturer in the Department of Teacher Education.

Carnahan has had several mentors during her time in the teacher education program, both as a student and now an instructor. She said James Zarrillo, former dean, and Department Chair Eric Engdahl helped give her the confidence she needed to support up-and-coming teachers. Professor Lettie Ramirez was an important role model for her as a fellow Latina educator.

"Lettie gave us empowerment as teachers of color to really be leaders in our community and be the change in our classroom for our students," she said. "I think students need to see themselves [at the head of] the classroom and she always reiterated that."

One of Carnahan's passions as an educator is making science and technology accessible for all her students. She's written grants totaling \$125,000 to bring technology into her classroom and her school.

Carnahan's dedication to her students hasn't gone unnoticed. She was recognized as the Pleasanton Unified School District's 2013-2014 teacher of the year. She characteristically used that moment to bring attention to the needs of her students and give them a voice, but it also brought about a personal realization.

"It was a momentous moment for me to receive that award. I feel like I have broken the chains of illiteracy and bondage that have plagued my family for generations," she said. "That was the moment that I realized the women in my family's story [have] changed."

Roberto Hernandez Jr. values the power of connections, paths and networks. As the support and services leader at CommScope Communications, a network architecture and security technology company, he leads global teams to design and implement complex wireless networks.

"Connectivity today is important in any shape or form, especially now with the pandemic," he explained. "When we look back at the '90s, it was about social media taking off, and streaming movies and videos. Now, a lot of organizations — hospitals, hotels, offices — require different levels of connectivity because of all of the millions of devices we use."

As for how he ended up at the university, Hernandez said he didn't choose Cal State East Bay, but rather that the university chose him. A group from Cal State East Bay's recruitment team visited his high school in Union City and connected him with the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP).

Hernandez had not thought much about college while in high school, much less what he would study. He recalls a then-Cal State Hayward math professor who made math relatable marking the beginning of Hernandez seeing a career path emerging.

"I decided to change my major to become a math professor," he says. "I'm really happy that I was part of East Bay. It really is a very easily accessible school. The teachers are great. My motivation to continue into the technology path had to do with the environment the school provided."

As part of the math degree curriculum, Hernandez was required to take a programming class, and he soon changed his major again, this time to computer science. "I honestly didn't know I was in the heart of Silicon Valley. In the '90s ... things [were] booming. I was lucky and ended up in computer science in a great location."

After his own experience entering college without a solid career goal, Hernandez turned to mentoring students to stay focused and find their path. He has spoken at various school events and corporate events geared toward motivating students to follow their dreams.

"I always encourage students now to seek internships because they are so important to your career," he said.

Hernandez is enthusiastic about the continuous changes in computer technology and its integration across all parts of our lives. He contributed as a technical resource to the book "Juniper MX Series" and has helped design mission-critical networks that still operate today through the biggest service providers around the world.

"Technology is evolving so fast," Hernandez said. "There are a lot of security risks that go along with that. But from an opportunity point of view, if you're a student, the amount of areas that you can get yourself engaged in are endless."

Ultimately, Hernandez said it's all about staying focused and not losing track of your values.

"A few days ago, my daughter was asking me questions about being able to do some of the things I've been able to do. My answer to her was that she can do a lot more. Hard work, dedication, being true to yourself and being humble are qualities that will take you to boundless places." ▶

DISTINGUISHED



Alumni
AWARDS
GALA 2021

ROBERTO HERNANDEZ JR.
B.S. '99, COMPUTER SCIENCE





YVETTE RADFORD
B.S. '83, CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Yvette Radford is dedicated to improving health in our communities.

As the regional vice president for external and community affairs at Kaiser Permanente of Northern California, Radford helps develop partnerships and marshal resources to address various needs in the region related to health.

"Giving back to the community and community engagement have always been something that's important to me," she said.

Radford, who has been with Kaiser Permanente for 26 years, is accountable for the organization's \$1.2 billion Community Benefit portfolio, Community Relations program, Regional Government Relations, and Community Health strategy.

But her work doesn't stop there. Radford has also sat on the boards of several community-based organizations over the years. Currently, she is a commissioner on the California Volunteer Commission and also serves on the San Francisco Foundation Board of Trustees as well as on the board of the Eat.Learn.Play foundation, which was founded by Golden State Warriors star Stephen Curry and his wife, Ayesha Curry.

"All three organizations are really focused on addressing the most pressing needs in our community and looking at the systems and policies that are required to really improve the health and needs of our community members," Radford said.

Radford's interest in equity for all dates back to her time at then-Cal State Hayward. A commuter student who studied and worked full-time, she still remembers her classes with Professor Ben Carmichael, one of the founders of the criminal justice department, decades later.

"He was passionate about racial justice and social justice and really looking at the systems that lead to increased incarceration for African-American men," she said. "I believe that led to my interest in racial and social justice."

Before Kaiser Permanente, Radford worked in the California state legislature. Her experience there deepened her passion for understanding and addressing the diverse needs of Bay Area communities.

"I had an opportunity to have exposure to a lot of different issue areas ranging from mental health to the environment to criminal justice, and education and healthcare," she said. "The healthcare piece really piqued my interest."

That led to her career at Kaiser Permanente, whose CEO recently made a commitment to invest \$25 million to address systemic racism and the systems that perpetuate it. It's an initiative Radford is proud to be playing a leadership role in.

"Social and economic factors are key in staying healthy," she said. "We are focused on addressing those social factors that impact our community's health, things like food and food security and housing. You can't be healthy if you don't have food in your stomach, a roof over your head, safe places to live and exercise and quality schools. I'm really pleased to be able to help influence how Kaiser Permanente helps invest its resources and build partnerships with our communities to address some of those critical issues."

Amy Schioldager is a framer, builder and architect, except that she is not in construction. While she spent nearly three decades building portfolios at BlackRock as a global investment manager and technology provider, her real craft is engineering a network of mentors and coaches who advance women in leadership roles.

"Women tend to be head-down workers and not use the people around them as well as they could in terms of making connections and building a network," Schioldager explained.

In starting at BlackRock following college, Schioldager watched the trajectory of female role models and recognized that leadership opportunities for women ebbed and flowed. She saw that her peers lacked the tools and pathway to leadership, and started building a foundation within the organization. Her efforts influenced hiring and human resources policies, and ultimately, she organized an internal women's leadership program and network.

When the College of Business & Economics' Women in Leadership program emerged a few years ago, Schioldager quickly found a connection. Her professional experiences and personal vision aligned with the program's efforts to help students and graduates navigate their careers and create a network to foster engagement and leadership in communities and businesses.

"Network is hugely important," she said. "The other thing I would say is to take risks. Don't be afraid to take risks."

Similar beyond-the-classroom opportunities gave Schioldager's leadership skills a jump start. She joined the Financial Management Association (FMA), a student organization for networking among finance majors. Early on, she assisted with social events and eventually took on a role as the club's president.

"It gave me a lot of leadership skills that allowed me to be more successful in the business world. FMA is definitely one of my one of my fondest memories and it was a large part of the culture at Cal State East Bay at the time," she said.

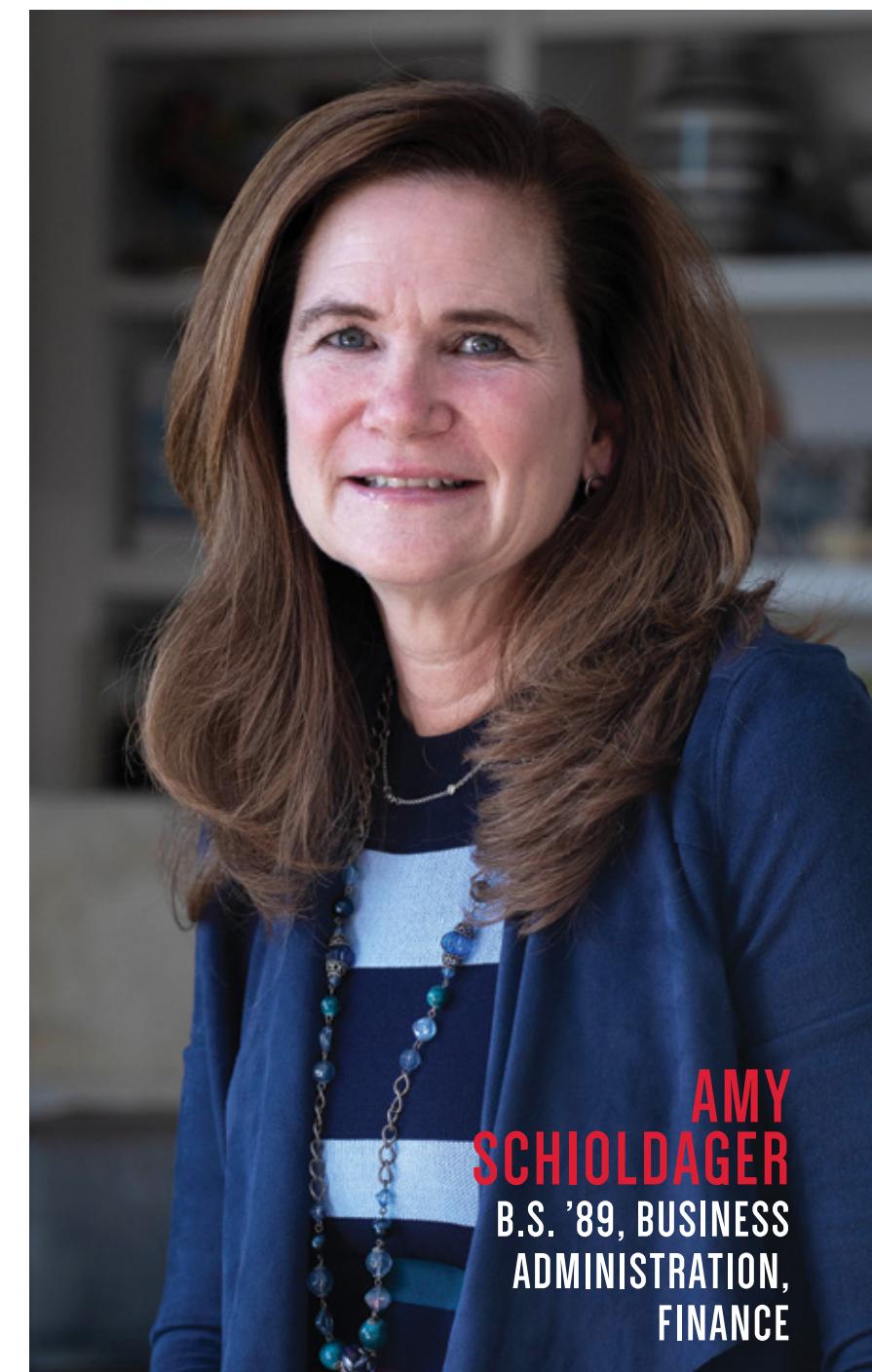
Schioldager guest lectures at Cal State East Bay and was recently named to the university's Educational Foundation board, where she joins 25 other volunteers who provide strategy for philanthropy and relationships that advance the university in the region and beyond.

She also sits on the leadership council of Rise Up, which activates women and girls to transform their lives, families and communities for a more just and equitable world. Some of the issues they tackle through local investment and coalition-building include education for girls, health and reproductive rights, and advocacy against child marriage.

"It's really supporting women and girls across the world. But it's using people on the ground who already are doing this work and providing them with the skills to have a greater impact," Schioldager said.

She continues to mentor rising female leaders, and it's clear from her enthusiasm that the impact she can help make also means more than simply developing the next generation of women executives.

"I talk to a lot of the women that I have mentored through their careers. I have stayed in touch, in some cases for many years," she said of her relationships and the programs she has created. "The people who completed it were like, 'This was so wonderful! It was life changing.' That's exactly what you want to hear." ☀



AMY SCHIOLDAGER
B.S. '89, BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION,
FINANCE

CLASS NOTES

FOREVER PIONEER

This is where we celebrate life's moments from fellow Pioneers with the university community. Do you have career news, accomplishments, fond memories or life changes to share? We'd love to hear from you! Submit your class note online at csueastbay.edu/alumni.

1960s



KENT PERRYMAN (B.A. '69, Psychology) graduated from then-Hayward State College and went on to earn a master's degree and a Ph.D. in physiological psychology in 1970 and 1974, respectively. He retired in 2002 from his role as an adjunct associate professor and emeritus professor at UCLA's Brain Research Institute.

1970s

FLORENCE WILEY (B.A. '70, Speech & Drama) is an arts administrator, producer and

CAL STATE EAST BAY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IMPORTANT PRIVACY CHOICE — Restrict Information Sharing With Affinity Partners

You have the right to control whether we share your name, address and email address with our affinity partners (companies that the Alumni Association partners with to offer products and services to alumni). You can update your privacy choice status by doing one of the following:

Complete an online form at csueastbay.edu/alumni
Call toll-free: (866) 414-8136

Email us at alumni@csueastbay.edu with your current contact information and "privacy choice" in the subject line.



marketing professional. She has worked with the Apollo Theater, the San Francisco International Film Festival, Scholastic, and the City of Oakland. She currently serves as chair of the Arts & Culture Commission of Richmond, California.



BOB BETTENCOURT (B.A. '73, Political Science) spent more than 40 years in the biotech and pharma industry. He started as a sales rep and grew to be a senior commercial executive. He was VP of sales for Immunex, which was the third-largest biotech company in the world.

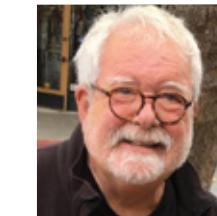
DAVID FRASER (B.A. '77, Political Science) attended the University of San Francisco School of Law after graduating from Cal State East Bay. He practiced law for 40 years, spending 26 years with GEICO in Washington, D.C. He retired in 2020 and lives in West Virginia with his wife, Colleen.



RONALD MANUEL-ELLISON (B.A. '70, Music; B.A. '75, Drama) is a producer, director, conductor and music director. He obtained his MFA from USC in acting and directing, and taught there for 10 years. He then worked in education in Orange County, where he led 60 stage productions, built a \$34 million performing arts center, and was awarded "Faculty of the Year."

GLENN PETERSEN (B.S. '70, Anthropology) is a professor at the City University of New York and recently published "War and the Arc of Human Experience." The book is an exploration of the contexts that led Petersen to enlist in the military at 17 and his experience in the Vietnam war. A significant portion of the story is set at then-Cal State Hayward.

MARY ANN DAVIS (B.A. '77, Art) is an art educator for the San Lorenzo Unified School District. After graduating from Cal State Hayward, it took her 23 years to figure out she wanted to become an art educator. She received her teaching credential in 1996, also from Cal State Hayward. In 2012, she was voted the Outstanding Middle-Level Art Educator by the California Art Education Association.



ERIC MART (MPA '78) recently completed a two-year term on the University of California's Board of Regents. Mart had previously

served as president of the Cal Alumni Association (UC Berkeley) where he did his undergraduate work. In his professional life, Mart was the founder and president of California Land Management (CLM), an outdoor recreation management company.

GREG SHAVER (B.A. '79, Mass Communication) spent 15 years in the music industry, working primarily in marketing and sales. He has been a teacher since 1996, teaching fourth through eighth grades in Vallejo and Bay Point.

1980s



DAVID MOODY (B.A. '84, Music) received his teaching credential in 1985 from then-Cal State Hayward and has enjoyed the 31 years he spent teaching instrumental music in grades 4 through 8 in the Ontario-Montclair School District. He also instructed teacher candidates in a String Lab class and the orchestra at Cal State East Bay for a handful of years.

PETER BAUER (B.A. '85, History) has been selected to receive a U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) award for 2021 as a member of the Nursing Home Outreach team and the Regional Language Access Program Outreach Team. The Nursing Home Outreach program supported over 4,500 nursing homes with COVID-19 outbreaks between November 2020 and March 2021.



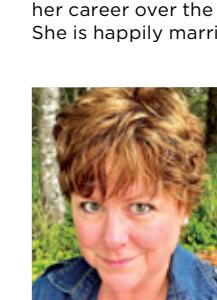
DEREK SCIACQUA (BA '86, Mass Communications; Men's Soccer 1982-85) is the president and owner of Gecko Hawaii, a distinctive surf-style clothing brand. During his Cal State Hayward years, Derek played on the outstanding men's soccer team and sold ads for the Communication Department's glossy magazine.

KATHERINE HANSON (M.S. '96, Counseling) is owner/therapist of Healing Space Counseling. She practiced as a public interest attorney before pursuing an M.A. in English from CSU Stanislaus, and a

1990s

VINCENT BORDELON (M.S. '90, Physical Education) is a football coach for McClymonds High School. For 25 years, he was a juvenile institution officer with the Alameda County Probation Department. He is also a retired college professor.

MIMI NGUYEN (M.S. '91, Nursing) is a public health nurse for Alameda County. She has had a rich career working as a nurse in various fields, and she loves the challenges that have come with her career over the past 30 years. She is happily married.



LARRY MAR (MBA '98) is a fire captain for the City of Santa Clara. He thought graduating from Cal State was the end of his educational career, but the sheer amount of emergency response training and classes he has taken has taught him that education never stops. As he approaches his 20th anniversary in the fire service, he is satisfied in having helped his community.

2000s

SHERRY MCINTYRE (B.A. '94, Liberal Studies & Teaching Credential '95) has been teaching world religions for 22 years. She has been featured in several books, a documentary about kindness in America, a podcast on Peace Talks Radio, and she was interviewed for CBS "Sunday Morning," and an article in the magazine "Teaching Tolerance." She has given a TEDx talk on teaching world religions.

COLIN HOFFMAN (B.A. '96, Speech Communication; MPA '98) has enjoyed advocating for mental health awareness, especially for his fellow military veterans. One of his illustrations was featured in a special exhibit at the de Young museum. He loves seeing the impact of his children's book, and looks forward to how his poetry book, comic book and production art pieces will be received. His biggest accomplishment has been raising two amazing children.



PANKAJ TIWARI (MBA '01) joined Penumbra in 2016 and currently serves as vice president of information technology. Previously, Pankaj worked for Atmel Corporation as senior director for global business applications and VP of IT for Nanosolar from 2011 to 2012. Prior to joining Nanosolar, he worked for Marvell Semiconductor, a leading fabless semiconductor company, from 2002 to 2011 where he most recently served as director of business applications.

CHRISTINE VAN ZANDT (M.A. '07, English) moved to Hollywood and founded an editing firm, Write for Success Editing Services. After more than 10 years of helping authors with their books and short stories, her own book was published in June 2021 by becker&mayer! kids. This funny nonfiction picture book, "A Brief History of Underpants," reveals what's behind today's underwear.

MICHAEL EMERSON (B.A. '09, Economics) is currently Post Commander for AMVETS Post 1947 in Stockton. He is a veteran with more than 10 years of service in the United States Marine Corps. Emerson is a relentless advocate for veterans through his service on committees and boards, support of veterans memorials, and spearheading of impactful legislation.

GENEVIEVE ENRIQUEZ (B.S.'12, Business Administration) is a junior architect for Adamson Associates Inc. She worked at an engineering firm for a couple of years after graduating as a business development coordinator, and has now decided to go back to school to pursue her master's degree in architecture.



Ph.D. in Education from UC Davis. She now works at Northwestern University with the Cook Family Writing Program and as co-director of Design Thinking and Communication.

JUAN CARLOS SIORDIA (B.S. '01, Criminal Justice Administration) is a correctional deputy for Santa Clara County's Office of the Sheriff. He has served for 25 years and will retire in 4 years.



RONNÉ SIMS (B.A. '09, Sociology) is an executive minister for Imani Community Church. Since graduating, she has earned a Master of Divinity (2015) and a doctorate in African American Centered Religious Thought and Practice (2019). She has also become an internationally known meditation teacher and in 2021, was a featured meditation leader/speaker for an international summit where the Dalai Lama was the keynote speaker. She is also California's 2021 Mother of the Year!

2010s

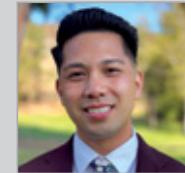


DRE BERENDSEN (B.A. '10, Psychology) is a staff psychologist for San Quentin State Prison. After transferring to graduate school following her time at Cal State East Bay, she has been lucky enough to land her dream job working with incarcerated individuals, conducting assessments with immigrants seeking asylum, and training the next class of psychologists in San Quentin's psychology internship program.

GENEVIEVE ENRIQUEZ (B.S.'12, Business Administration) is a junior architect for Adamson Associates Inc. She worked at an engineering firm for a couple of years after graduating as a business development coordinator, and has now decided to go back to school to pursue her master's degree in architecture.

2021 CAL STATE EAST BAY 40 UNDER 40 AWARD RECIPIENTS

CAL STATE EAST BAY and the Alumni Association's 40 Under 40 program recognize alumni age 40 or younger who have demonstrated dedication, excellence and development in their professional, philanthropic and personal endeavors. To learn more about the 40 Under 40 Class of 2021, please visit: csueastbay.edu/40u40



GIL KENNETH ADVINCULA '11
B.S. Applied Mathematics
Investigator II, State Bar of California



MARCI BERTUZZI '20
B.S. Business Administration
Chief Operating Officer, Petra IQ



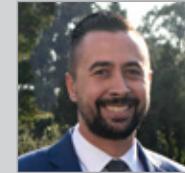
TANISHA CANNON '18, '20
B.A. Sociology, MPA
Founder & CEO, Sow Civil



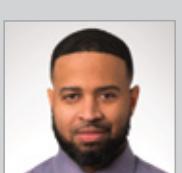
DEJA CROFT '18
B.A. Sociology
Lead Site Coordinator, Girls Inc. of Alameda County



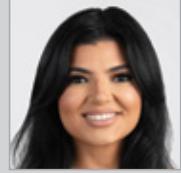
TIFFANY GATEHOUSE '10
B.A. Communication
Teacher, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District



MARK ALMEIDA '12
B.S. Business Administration
Executive Director, University Housing & Commercial Services, Cal State East Bay



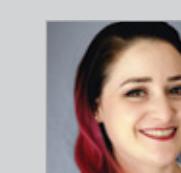
AARAN CALLAHAN SMITH '18
B.S. Health Sciences
Ambulatory Care Administrative Supervisor, UCSF Medical Center



HANITA CHALABI '16
B.S. Business Administration
Director, Client Services, BayOne Solutions



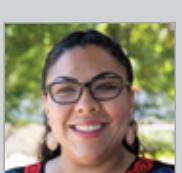
CINTHIA DIAZ '21
MPA
Education Special Assistant, City of Oakland, Mayor's Office



MEAGAN GERLING '17
M.S. Business Analytics
Principal Data Analyst, Genentech



JERICHO APO '17
B.A. Sociology
Director of Growth Marketing, UPchieve



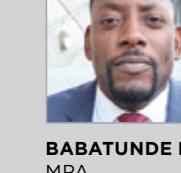
ROCIO CAMARENA '15
B.A. Sociology
Executive Assistant and Administrative Support Coordinator, Cal State East Bay



SHAWN COLLINS '16
M.S. Education
Teacher/Recreation Director, San Ramon Valley Unified School District/San Ramon FC



CHINNA FORD '14
B.A. Ethnic Studies
College Success Program Manager, Bridge the Gap College Prep



BABATUNDE IROKO '16
MPA
Social Services Program Manager, Alameda County



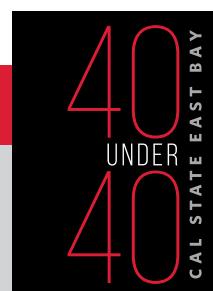
ROHIT ARORA, DO, FACOI '10
B.S. Biochemistry & Biological Sciences
Medical Director, Sequoia Family Medical Center



VERONICA COLLINS '19
B.S. Health Sciences
Policy Associate, Public Health Institute



WILL FREEDMAN '11
B.S. Business Administration
Head Men's Basketball Coach, Lassen Community College



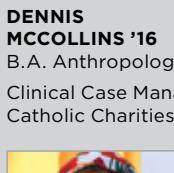
2021 CAL STATE EAST BAY 40 UNDER 40 AWARD RECIPIENTS



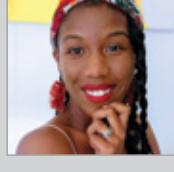
ERIN LOCKHART '03, '05
B.A. Liberal Studies, Teaching Credential



ELIZABETH (LIZZY) ORTIZ '12
B.S. Biological Science
Supervising Deputy Coroner, San Mateo County Coroner's Office



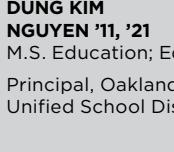
DENNIS MCCOLLINS '16
B.A. Anthropology
Clinical Case Manager, Catholic Charities



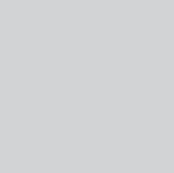
LAUREN MCCOLLINS '16
B.A. Communication
Community-Based Doula Manager, Building Blocks for Kids



JANELLE PECK '04
B.A. Psychology
School Psychologist, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District



DUNG KIM NGUYEN '11, '21
M.S. Education; Ed.D.
Principal, Oakland Unified School District



MICHAEL PHAM '21
Master of Public Administration
Administrative Fellow, Stanford Health Care



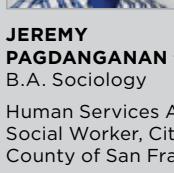
JASON RODRIGUEZ '15
B.S. Kinesiology
Owner/Head Coach, Origin Posture & Performance



DANIEL PONCE '10
B.S. Business Administration
Regional Property Director, Satellite Affordable Housing Associates (SAHA)



ASHOK SHAstry '13
B.S. Business Administration
Co-Founder & COO, DriveU



STEPHEN THEALL '04, '07
B.S. Business Administration; M.S. Kinesiology
Principal, Tracy Unified School District



THEODORE VUONG '17
B.S. Business Administration
Correctional Deputy Sheriff, Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office



MECOLE TATE '10

B.S. Criminal Justice Law Student



ISIAH WALTERS '18
B.A. History
Sales Manager, Radware



THERESA JINGYUN YAO '18
M.S. Speech Language Pathology
Speech-Language Pathologist, Palo Alto Medical Foundation

CLASS NOTES (continued from page 39)

CLAUDIA MORALES (MSW '13) uses her role as a social worker to address systemic injustices. Morales has established her own private practice, Social Justice Healing, where she offers therapy to queer adults with immigrant backgrounds. Her primary focus has been deactivating the impacts of trauma on communities that have been disproportionately affected by poverty, racism, and current immigration and incarceration practices.



VINCENTE MOZELL (MSW '14) is the director of special operations for Pinnacle Treatment Centers. He has provided leadership in multiple roles in healthcare, built a medication-assisted treatment facility in Redlands, California, and has spoken about the need to normalize seeking mental health and addiction treatment via newspapers and public speaking engagements. In 2020, he founded a mental health private practice called I Got U.



GABRIEL DAVILA (B.S. '15, Biological Sciences) attended the University of Houston College of Optometry and graduated with a doctorate in optometry. He is currently practicing in El Paso, Texas, at University Vision Centre and says he would not have made it there if it weren't for his experience at Cal State East Bay.

1 CAREER SUPPORT

Continued support to Pioneer graduates through alumni career events and professional development resources.

Take a look at our upcoming events:
csueastbay.edu/alumni/events

2 NETWORKING

Connect with more than 140,000 Pioneer alumni, a majority of whom live and work in the Bay Area.

JESUS ALVAREZ (B.S. '15, Business Administration) is a senior program manager for Amazon. He has really enjoyed the freedom he has had working for Amazon, which has enabled him to live in several different places, meet amazing people, and grow immensely both professionally and personally.



MARYA WRIGHT (MSW '16) is a registered associate clinical social worker with the Board of Behavioral Sciences and a Child Welfare Worker II with the Alameda County Children and Family Services in the Dependency Investigation Unit. In 2021, Marya was presented with a Chapter Individual Service Award from the National Association of Black Social Workers Inc. for her social work service in the Bay Area.



VINCENTE MOZELL (MSW '14) is the director of special operations for Pinnacle Treatment Centers. He has provided leadership in multiple roles in healthcare, built a medication-assisted treatment facility in Redlands, California, and has spoken about the need to normalize seeking mental health and addiction treatment via newspapers and public speaking engagements. In 2020, he founded a mental health private practice called I Got U.



AARON JOSEPH BAUTISTA (B.S. '17, Business Administration) is cofounder of Inner Haven Music and manages the Brick & Mortar Music Hall in San Francisco, where he works in show production and marketing, and has been behind the scenes of more than 100 live shows. He is also a community curator for a platform called The Digilogue, based out of New York City, and a collaborator with Guayaki Yerba Mate, an organic beverage company in the Bay Area.



DENNISSE GARCIA (B.A. '17, Sociology) is a case manager for La Familia Counseling Services. After she graduated, she started at ground zero to get into the position she currently holds and couldn't be more proud.

MATTIE PERACCA (M.A. '17, Music) continues to teach piano lessons to a handful of dedicated students, and currently works as a college career technician at Castro Valley High School. Her position is incredibly rewarding in that she is able to work with a caseload of lower-income and/or underserved students who are pursuing one of the Career Technical Education pathways offered at CVHS.



CRYSTAL ROSAS (B.S. '17, Business Administration) became the night radio night host on Wild 94.9 in San Francisco after graduating from Cal State East Bay. She recently got promoted to co-host on a new afternoon show in New York City through iHeartRadio. You can hear her on "Maxwell & Crystal Rosas" on the world-famous Z100 station in New York City and on their free iHeartRadio app nationwide.



RACHEL BORRÁS (B.S. '18, Environmental Sciences) is a senior research associate for Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Through her work, she has had the opportunity to contribute to our understanding of carbon cycling in the terrestrial environment and its potential impacts on climate dynamics. She has published two first-author papers and has been a co-author on two papers published in "Science" related to carbon-cycle research.

STAY CONNECTED

3 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Share your career experience and industry insight with students and fellow alumni or volunteer as an alumni ambassador at campus and community events.

Get Social With Us!



/CSUEBAumni



PARTING SHOT

New Traditions: President Cathy Sandeen gathered with faculty, staff and students to spell out the EB on the athletic field during this year's Weeks of Welcome. President Sandeen plans on the activity becoming an annual touchstone to mark the start of the academic year. 



CAL STATE EAST BAY

California State University, East Bay
University Advancement, SA 4800
25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward, CA 94542

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
California State
University East Bay

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

