

CAL STATE East Bay

SPRING 2017

THE MAKING OF AN ICON

ALUMNA REDEFINES THE
EAST BAY SKYLINE

FIGHTING THE
OVERMEDICATING OF
FOSTER YOUTH

BLOOD LINK



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CAL STATE
East Bay

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Physics students learn about VERITAS, one of the most powerful telescope array systems in the world — and how they can make it better. Read more on p. 6.  AMY FURNISS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Garvin Tso

When I look out at the eastern span of the Bay Bridge, with its gleaming white tower and cascading suspension cables, I cannot imagine the Bay Area landscape without it. With the last anchors of the old bridge disappearing, a remnant of the past has given way to a sweeping symbol of the East Bay's rising economic and cultural success and aspirations for the future.

The San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge has been an icon since it opened in 1936, but it always stood in the shadow of its glitzier neighbor, the Golden Gate. All that changed in 2013 with the new span, and the installation of more than 48,000 high-intensity LED lamps that shed new light and attention on this critical transportation artery. The lighting and electrical installation were the work of Cal State East Bay alumna and entrepreneur Ruth Bley and her band of Bleyco "mavericks," who took a job many others shied away from.

We all have other favorite East Bay icons. For me, there is the Campanile at my alma mater, UC Berkeley. The Tribune Tower in downtown Oakland stands for some as a symbol of the city's pride. Mount Diablo is another icon, visible to our neighbors all around the bay on a clear day. There is Jack London Square — and of course, there is Jack London himself, one of many towering characters who have achieved East Bay iconic status. Our university is part of the East Bay iconography, not just because of our physical presence — our beautiful main campus on a hill — but because of our presence in the lives of so many people who call the East Bay home. Throughout our 60-year history, we have stood as a beacon of opportunity to the communities we serve. A statistic in which I take particular pride is that about 80 percent of Cal State East Bay graduates go on to live and work in the region. Through their contributions, we have an enormous impact on the life of the East Bay.

For many of our alumni, Warren Hall was an icon, and they were sad to see it go. But as time moves on, our environment changes, and new icons arise to take the place of the old. As this academic year comes to a close, we are unveiling our long-planned East Bay monument letters — an impressive feat of artistic engineering in their own right, but also a sign that changes are afoot and big things are on the horizon for our university. Like that gleaming bridge tower rising from the bay, we too are a symbol of the East Bay's rising aspirations and the promise of a bright future.

Go Pioneers!

Leroy M. Morishita

Dr. Leroy M. Morishita
President

University News

CAL STATE EAST BAY



Garvin Tso

College of Business and Economics Dean Retires

lished two new master's degrees, launched a Career Development Center and gained recognition from ranking websites such as U.S. News and World Report.

Agrawal, who was named dean in 2013, also played a key role in hiring more than 10 new faculty for the college during his tenure, securing accreditation through the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business and increasing the number of scholarships available to students.

President Leroy M. Morishita said Agrawal has served the university and college in an "exemplary fashion."

"I am grateful to him for his leadership, and the legacy of excellence [he leaves behind] that has impacted the lives of our

students, graduates, faculty and staff," Morishita said. "On behalf of the university, I would like to thank Dean Agrawal for all he has accomplished and wish him the very best in the years to come."

Agrawal, who will return through the faculty early retirement program, said he will fondly remember Cal State East Bay.

"I will dearly miss working with the department chairs, program directors, faculty and staff ... who are poised to take the business school to new heights in terms of providing quality education and support services to improve career opportunities for our graduates," Agrawal said.

— Natalie Feulner

After 26 years with the university, Jagdish Agrawal — dean of Cal State East Bay's College of Business and Economics — retired in January.

Under Agrawal's direction, CBE estab-

Anniversary Celebration



It started as an initiative to prepare future speech-language pathologists for clinical work, but no one could have predicted the community that would result from Cal State East Bay's Aphasia Treatment Program.

"I found my home, right here," said Jay Schuster. "This group, these teachers, these wonderful [students], it's a loving place."

Through biweekly visits to ATP (housed within the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders), where students spend eight-week rotations practicing to be clinicians across a variety of group therapy settings, Schuster is regaining his confidence

to communicate. Aphasia, a disorder that results from brain trauma, impacts a person's language and comprehension, though not their intelligence.

The National Aphasia Association believes more than 2 million people in the U.S. live with aphasia, and for 20 years, Cal State East Bay has been one of two dedicated treatment centers in the region.

It's a milestone the students, faculty, staff, friends and alumni of ATP gathered May 6 to celebrate — the accomplishments of the clients, and the program's nearly 300 graduates, who work as speech-language pathologists in the community and beyond.

"It was a milestone event that honored all of our stakeholders, the clients and their families, students and alumni," said Ellen Bernstein-Ellis, director of ATP. "It was the perfect opportunity to reflect on ATP's multiple contributions, including innovative program development to promote the



Stroke survivor Jay Schuster and graduate student Kemi Siobal. Garvin Tso

life participation model and aphasia advocacy, excellence in clinical training and service provision, research contributions in aphasia care and community partnership development."

— Krista Dossetti



Students Trent Rosenquist (left) and Ethan Rinck get an up-close look at VERITAS. AMY FURNISS

Cal State East Bay Is the Proud Owner of a New Global Science Tool

Assistant Professor Amy Furniss has taken her interest in the study of very high energy astroparticle physics to new heights.

Rather than simply interpreting cosmic phenomena through her association with VERITAS (the Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System based in Arizona), she's made an investment with her faculty startup funding from Cal State East Bay to purchase one of two mirrors for a new telescope at the observatory site in Tucson. The telescope, the best of its kind in the world, will be used to gather and share data on cosmic events with scientists across the globe.

"There are just a few other instruments like this worldwide," Furniss says. "To corroborate scientific findings, we use VERITAS to communicate with NASA space telescopes so they can repoint their direction and we can all try to catch the same

observations when an event occurs that requires further investigation."

Senior Glenn Norris Jr., who is double majoring in computer engineering and physics, was one of three students who recently went with Furniss to visit her new purchase in Arizona. Because of his background in both fields of science, Norris has been tasked with writing an entirely new operating program for the telescope, which is currently being constructed beside the old one.

"I'm writing real-time analysis for the new telescope that's being built; I got to see what the old one does and how it's being used in observing the night sky and showers, which are the events we want to understand," Norris says. "So now I can drive the software in that direction."

In addition, students Trent Rosenquist and Ethan Rinck also visited the telescope,

and are working on projects related to measuring the distance from Earth to the most extreme galaxies in the universe, and analysis on the largest continuous data source ever collected by VERITAS, respectively.

"I'm really interested in frontier science," Rosenquist says. "It's amazing just to be out there and look through that telescope lens and to try and answer those fundamental questions of how the universe formed."

And, the opportunity for hands-on research is giving the students ideas for their future careers.

"Even though a lot of what I'm doing is going through data and staring at a computer screen, I really don't mind because the subject matter is so interesting," Rinck says. "I now see myself working in research and doing this type of work into the future."

— Krista Dossetti

SAVE THE DATE

FOREVER PIONEER WEEKEND 2017

60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



OCTOBER 20-22, 2017

Join President Leroy M. Morishita and the Alumni Association in celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Cal State East Bay — and all our graduates through the years. We have an exciting weekend planned, to include:

GOLDEN GRAD CELEBRATION

A celebration of Pioneer alumni who have marked 50 years or more since their graduation from the university (1967 and earlier).

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS & 60TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Join us in this memorable evening with a look back at 60 years of accomplishments at the university. We will also bestow Cal State East Bay's highest honor — the Distinguished Alumni Award — to an exceptional graduate from each of the four colleges in recognition of his/her achievements and support of the university.

REUNION AND AFFINITY CELEBRATIONS

Meet with friends old and new through a variety of campus reunions and affinity events, including the second annual Alumni of Color reunion.

For more information and to stay updated on event details, connect with the Cal State East Bay Alumni Association on social media or visit csueastbay.edu/alumni.

Single Mother Starts Club to Support Other Student-Parents

Cal State East Bay student Audra Stance recently realized she was missing a sense of community at the university. And not just any community — a group of like-minded individuals with whom she shared one special bond: single parenthood. But after looking for an existing club or support group and not finding one, the 34-year-old mother of one decided to form a club of her own: Single Moms Always Rise Together, or SMART for short.

"I think the club plays a big role in my success as a student," said single mother Donna McClinto, 31, one of the first members to join. "It's already allowed me to meet other students in the [same] situation that I'm in, we can guide each other, and it's a group of people that I share a lot of similarities with."

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, out of 12 million single-parent families in 2015, more than 80 percent were headed by single mothers. And according to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, student-parents often operate under crushing time demands, including full-time work and an estimated additional 30 hours per week outside school on caregiving activities. Despite the added challenges, however, students with children statistically have higher GPAs than nonparents.



Student and founder of SMART, Audra Stance, with her daughter, 9-year-old Auriel. GARVIN TSO

Stance, who has a 9-year-old daughter named Auriel, said her goal was to create an organization that could serve as a forum for students to share their experiences, a place to let other student-parents know they are supported and eventually, a way to help each other with day care.

"My goal is to find students who are in the same situation and create an organization that supports not just single parents, but all parents," Stance said.

— Natalie Feulner

For more information, visit singlemomsalwaysrisetogether.com.



INTRODUCING U-HOUR

The results are in: More than half the Cal State East Bay community who responded to a survey about whether to implement a university hour (U-hour) voted yes. U-hour is a period during which lecture classes are not scheduled to allow for various opportunities and activities to take place on campus. The goal of Cal State East Bay's U-hour, set to start when the university transitions to semesters in fall 2018, is to increase campus engagement and foster school pride.

43rd Treasurer of the United States to Receive Honorary Doctorate



COURTESY OF ROSIE RIOS

Cal State East Bay will confer an honorary Doctor of Laws degree to Rosie Rios, an influential civic, business and government leader whose contributions to numerous communities have had a transformative impact on the East Bay region, university, State of California and country at large. Rios will receive the honorary doctoral degree during Cal State East Bay’s commencement ceremony June 11 at 10 a.m. on the university’s Hayward campus.

“Rosie Rios’ extraordinary and ongoing career in the private and public sector has already established a legacy of significant achievement to public service,” President Leroy M. Morishita said. “Ms. Rios exemplifies the values of commitment to service and meaningful lifework Cal State East Bay inspires in each of our students.”

Among her many achievements, Rios leaves behind an enduring legacy from her time as a public servant and 43rd treasurer of the United States. Due to her initiative and continued efforts, a woman will appear on U.S. currency for the first time in more than 100 years, when abolitionist Harriet Tubman is unveiled on the \$20 bill in 2020. Rios was also unanimously confirmed into the position of treasurer by the U.S. Senate following her contributions to the Treasury/Federal Reserve transition team at the height of the country’s 2008 financial crisis. Upon her departure last year, she received

the Hamilton Award, the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury for exceptional leadership.

A first-generation Mexican-American, Rios is one of nine children raised by a single mother in Hayward, Calif. After attending Moreau Catholic High School, she went on to graduate with honors from Harvard University. She began her career in real estate finance before turning to the public sector, where she spent more than a decade overseeing economic development projects throughout the East Bay in communities such as Oakland, Fremont, San Leandro and Union City. Rios has also served the public as a trustee of the Alameda County Employee Retirement Association, and as a board member of the California Association of Local Economic Development and the Spanish-Speaking Unity Council in Oakland. Before her government appointment, Rios was managing director of investments at MacFarlane Partners, an investment firm focused on urban property markets.

In July 2009, Rios was appointed 43rd treasurer of the United States, a role that entailed overseeing the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the United States Mint and Fort Knox. She was also a key liaison to the Federal Reserve. Rios’ responsibilities as treasurer included leading 4,000 employees and eight facilities, and maintaining responsibility for the entirety of U.S. currency and coin production. She saved more than \$1 billion in taxpayer dollars in her first five years.

Since resigning in 2016, Rios has accepted a position as a visiting scholar at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University. She also recently launched Empowerment 2020, which advocates for women and girls. Its first initiative, Teachers Righting History, helps teachers raise awareness of important female figures in American history.

— Kimberly Tere Hawkins

SUPPORT TOMORROW'S
PIONEERS TODAY

Rising in the East
THE CAMPAIGN FOR CAL STATE EAST BAY



BY KRISTA DOSSETTI PHOTOGRAPHY GARVIN TSO

Travis’ Tips

1. Have your resume reviewed by Academic Advising and Career Education — *early*. “Early is key,” Nelson says. “Don’t wait.”
2. Attend career workshops and take advantage of your resources. “The only person who can guarantee your success is you. Go to as many career workshops as you can. *Especially* if you don’t think you need it.”
3. To stand out, personalize your story. “You can do what 90 percent of people do — walk in, say your name and sit down. Or, you can start turning the interview process into a conversation — to tell *your* story.”

EXPERT TIPS FROM THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS’ CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Robert Summers (B.S. ’16, Business), a former high school dropout and construction worker, says that after applying to more than 30 jobs and going on countless interviews, it was Travis Nelson’s mentoring that made the difference. “I was just [telling interviewers] what I thought they wanted to hear,” he says. “And Travis told me, ‘What are you doing to stand out? Go in there and tell *your* story.’”

Nelson, manager of the new Career Development Center within Cal State East Bay’s College of Business and Economics, spearheads the effort to offer employment resources to students and alumni, free of charge. “For most college graduates, the how and what are the same,” Nelson says. “It’s the why that’s different, and that’s what they need to focus on [in interviews].”

His advice is working. Through workshops, prescreening candidates for interviews, marketing jobs on campus and building relationships with regional companies, Nelson is preparing newly minted alumni for life after graduation. Since its inception, 40 percent of 180 jobs the CDC promoted were filled by Cal State East Bay students — and that group included Summers, who was hired at an accounting firm. [▶](#)



DRIVEN

DEAFLYMPIAN AND STUDENT LIZ COCKER'S RECORD-BREAKING MOMENT

BY NATALIE FEULNER PHOTOGRAPHY GARVIN TSO

NAME: Elizabeth "Liz" Cocker

AGE: 21

MAJOR: Liberal Studies

HOMETOWN: Rancho Cordova

WANTS TO BE: Flight attendant

GREAT BEGINNINGS: "I was born deaf, and when I was 16 months old, doctors told my parents I'd never read or talk above a third-grade level and I would be at a disadvantage when playing sports," Cocker says. "Luckily, they didn't listen."

EARLY COMPETITOR: "I joined my first competitive swim team at 7 and by the time I was 12, I was having some good successes. I started taking it more seriously and joining year-round teams to continue improving."


STROKE: Butterfly. "Not a lot of swimmers do fly — there's a rhythm you have to learn and it takes a lot of strength, but I always liked it. All of a sudden I started getting all these blue ribbons, and I realized that I was pretty good at this." Cocker is 5-foot-9, which doesn't hurt either.

THE CHALLENGE: Thanks to developments in technology, Cocker uses cochlear implants that are safe in the water. But growing up, "[Starters] weren't always the best at remembering [to signal in addition to using the buzzer] and sometimes we'd have to start the entire race over because I didn't hear it," she says.

PIONEER PRIDE: This season Cocker checked off personal goals of competing on behalf of Cal State East Bay at away meets (which include only the top 18 finishers of the 23-person team) and securing both lifetime and season-best times in all of her events. Head swim coach Shane Pelton says the women rally around Cocker — and the feeling is mutual: "I've been incredibly blessed to have always felt supported here [by] the team, from the coaches and from the school," she says.

COACH'S MOMENT: "The word to describe Liz is driven," Pelton says. "When she wants it, she gets it ... [and] if it's in sight, she's going to achieve it."

THE WIN: At a meet in February, Pelton asked Cocker if she wanted to swim butterfly in a 50-yard freestyle race. With the season ending, it was her last chance to try to beat the American record. Right before the buzzer went off, Pelton looked at Cocker and told her to "go get it" — and 26.68 seconds later she had, breaking the U.S. Deaf Swimming League 50 fly record of 26.99 by milliseconds. "Breaking the record has not been easy for me," Cocker says. "It's been a lot of focusing on stroke, getting stronger and working harder, and all those little details added up into [that] moment."

THE BIGGER WIN: A few weeks after she broke the record, Cocker received an email from the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf, explaining that she had qualified to compete in the 2017 Deaflympics games in Turkey this summer. She immediately accepted the invitation. "It will be super fun to compete with other deaf athletes and I know by putting in the work it will go well." 

BY KRISTA DOSSETTI PHOTOGRAPHY JESSE CANTLEY

Jamie Mackie is not a doctor. He never went to medical school, and his salary is paltry compared to a surgeon's. Nevertheless, he spends a 60-hour workweek in scrubs, logging in and out of hospital operating rooms, outfitted something like an air traffic controller: He wears a headset and microphone while building an atlas of neon veins on the computer screen before him — only a thin lead window separating him from a cardiac surgeon tapping into a femoral artery on the other side.

No, Jamie Mackie (M.S. '13, Kinesiology) is not a doctor. He is the voice helping to guide doctors; the hands at the keyboard behind an increasingly common medical technology that creates 3-D, real-time, electro-anatomical maps of the cardiac system so surgeons can burn scars into precise locations in the human heart. Through a series of catheters and a 3-D mapping system made by the company he works for (Biosense Webster, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson), Mackie helps a type of doctor called a cardiac electrophysiologist build images of the heart for use during surgery. The images pinpoint any electrical impulses causing irregularities (arrhythmias) so they can be treated through cardiac ablation.

"I love the true health care aspect of this," Mackie says. "There's this whole group of people who could have a better life without being on drugs — who could possibly have a cure instead of a treatment."

After graduating from Cal State East Bay's master's program in kinesiology, Mackie applied to the Arrhythmia Tech-

nology Institute, a cardiac device training center. There, he began learning how to create anatomical models of the heart using a variety of imaging tools such as fluoroscope, ultrasound, MRI, TTE (transthoracic echocardiogram) and CT (computerized tomography). Mackie reports he was among the first group of students in his class at ATI to be placed with a biomedical company, and to then complete more than a year of guided surgeries before beginning to map on his own.

"Because I had the background in physiology and anatomy [from my kinesiology studies] and had taken this interest in medical devices, it opened up this job opportunity," he says.

Professor Cathy Inouye, a mentor to Mackie during his time at the university, says the majority of Cal State East Bay kinesiology graduates go on to become physical or occupational therapists — and that the route he chose is incredibly competitive.

"Very few of our graduates move into cardiac rehab — it's a difficult profession to enter and there's a lot of additional education and certification that has to happen before you can get a position like that. I know he'll be great at this because he's very driven, he's a powerful independent thinker and he's very calm."

At least outwardly. "There's a person under that blue tarp," Mackie says. "And I need to be really, really good at this because every decision the doctor makes affects that patient. Little things make a big difference." ■

MAPPING THE HUMAN HEART

MEET THE VOICE HELPING TO GUIDE YOUR HEART SURGEON

BY KERRY CHAN-LADDERAN '16 PHOTOGRAPHY GARVIN TSO

Inside a small cell in San Francisco's County Jail, a pregnant woman awaits her first meeting with Darcy Stanley — doula and co-founder of a program called Birth Justice Project, which provides labor support for incarcerated women.

When Stanley (B.S. '14, Nursing) enters the anterior chamber of the cell, she's already mindful of her new client, who she says does not yet have reason to trust or like her.

"It takes a lot more time and gentleness around building trust because of the dynamic of a free person coming in to talk to a locked-up person," Stanley says. "[A pregnant woman] meeting a doula for the first time and deciding to let them into one of their most intimate life experiences and trusting them is incredibly courageous."

There's no shortage of need. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 5-6 percent of female inmates are pregnant at the time of admission to jail or prison, approximating to more than 6,000 pregnant women in 2015 — and black women are incarcerated at twice the rate of whites.

It's a demographic Stanley and her co-founders are passionate about supporting. After starting Birth Justice Project in 2011, the doulas collaborated with UCSF in 2013 to apply for (and win) a \$194,000 grant from the Alameda County Public Health Department — all while Stanley was still a Cal State East Bay student.

In recognition, she received the university's Alma M. Gessman Memorial Scholarship in 2014.

For alumnus Patrick Devine and his wife Kathy, proprietors of the Gessman scholarship, Stanley's work makes her

a hero in their eyes. "Darcy has shown incredible empathy and given invaluable service to some of the most vulnerable in prison and society," Patrick Devine says. "My wife and I are great admirers, and extremely proud to have been involved in supporting her."

With the money from the scholarship, Stanley was able to finish her degree at Cal State East Bay while focusing on Birth Justice Project. And in turn, with the grant from ACPHD, Birth Justice Project not only replicated the San Francisco program at Santa Rita Jail in Dublin, but also partnered with an organization called Black Women Birthing Justice to create an outside training program for women to become doulas in their communities.

"People trust and prefer being treated by someone who looks more like them," Stanley says. "It's about creating a system that supports culturally appropriate care, including a way to destigmatize women who have been formerly incarcerated by giving them meaningful, empowering work."

In fact, the doula training program has been so successful it has spawned a collective of its own — Roots of Labor in the East Bay. Now, together, doulas from Roots of Labor are servicing the Santa Rita Jail alongside those from Birth Justice Project.

"People on the outside, most of them have somebody going to the birth with them," Stanley says. "And people in jail don't have that all — they don't even have access to that. Giving these [women] the opportunity to have love and compassion and someone who's there just for them, that's what we want to provide." **EE**

What's a Doula?

Doulas are nonmedical laypersons who provide emotional support and physical comfort to women during childbirth. Doulas can receive certification through many organizations, but they do not perform clinical tasks and do not have direct communication with or responsibility to a woman's care provider. (Midwives, by comparison, are licensed professionals who provide obstetric prenatal care and deliver babies.) Studies have shown that women who have continuous support during labor reap many benefits, including shorter labor, reduced use of analgesics and anesthetics, decreased cesarean rates and improved Apgar scores (a shorthand reporting system for the status of an infant at birth). *Provided by Professor Roberta Durham, R.N.*

DOULA FOR Justice

ALUMNA SUPPORTS INCARCERATED WOMEN THROUGH CHILDBIRTH

IS YOUR PHYSICIAN BEING CENSORED?

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR JASON SMITH SAYS POLITICIANS ARE
THE FLY ON THE WALL IN YOUR DOCTOR'S OFFICE

BY KRISTA DOSSETTI PHOTOGRAPHY GARVIN TSO

When California Gov. Jerry Brown signed a landmark bill into law banning physicians from engaging in same-sex orientation change efforts on minors — the practice of converting same-sex attraction to heterosexual attraction in children and teens — he had these celebratory words for Twitter: “These practices have no basis in science or medicine, and they will now be relegated to the dustbin of quackery.”

Brown’s success was immediately challenged by a group of medical practitioners and parents claiming the law infringed on their First Amendment rights, resulting in the case of *Pickup v. Brown*. ▶



“The question is, when your physician is speaking to you, is that the practice of medicine and can I regulate it, or is it speech, which is not regulated?”

The group initiated two appeals, including one at the federal level, where the U.S. Supreme Court refused to even hear the issue, effectively upholding California’s decision.

While most people following the case were concerned with the topic at hand — the protection of minors versus the rights of their parents — Cal State East Bay Assistant Professor Jason Smith, J.D., had his eye on a deeper issue, one that is currently playing out on the national stage:

“The question is, when your physician is speaking to you, is that the practice of medicine and can I regulate it, or is it speech, which is not regulated?” he says. “And on the client side ... do you want to know if your physician is being restricted by law from telling you something?”

It’s the subject of work by Smith and Professor Wendy Parmet of Boston’s Northeastern University School of Law, who are exploring how several states are struggling to define the boundaries between freedom of speech and professional conduct in the medical field. The pair have recently published two papers in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and presented another at the Ohio Law Review Symposium on the First Amendment.

Together, the legal scholars are exploring the different ways states are handling cases Smith calls “culturally contentious” — those concerning sexual orientation, abortion and gun control.

Of those examples, he points to the legislation that inspired him and Parmet to start writing — Florida’s Firearm Owners’ Privacy Act, which marked a pivotal moment in the regulation of physician speech by prohibiting doctors from asking patients about gun ownership or possession. Similar to inquiries about seat belt use, smoking, exposure to lead

paint, etc., questions about gun ownership are routinely asked during medical exams, as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association and other physician organizations.

The new law was soon challenged in court, with physicians asserting that the number of youth injured and killed by guns made the issue a public health matter they should be involved in screening for. Some patients, however, claimed doctors were infringing on their Second Amendment rights by discouraging gun ownership. Floridians battled it out from 2011-17, including an *en banc* (in bench) review in the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, wherein every judge in the district looked at the case. Gun owners were initially on the winning side but finally, in March, the ruling was settled in favor of the physicians.

For better or worse, the desire to pass new legislation on these issues is gaining speed. The AMA reports a dozen other states have considered similar legislation to Florida’s gun debate, and according to the Human Rights Campaign, an LGBT advocacy group, several jurisdictions have either followed California in banning same-sex orientation change efforts on minors or are considering doing so.

“These cases are cropping up across the country and they’re all being handled differently, which creates a climate that is ripe for review by the Supreme Court,” Smith says. “If the Supreme Court changes the doctrine for everybody and says, ‘No, you cannot regulate what physicians do in that way’ then things like the same-sex orientation law in California would likely be overturned.”

What, then, is the answer?

For constituents, political engagement may be key. “Pay attention to what’s going on in your state and local legislature,” Smith says. “With our current political climate, I think you’ll see more attempts of states trying to pass new laws — restricting access to abortion in particular, since that was specifically discussed during our recent elections.”

But the final word, in the professor’s opinion, is not a matter of more or less regulation, but rather of de-politicizing the doctor-patient relationship entirely.

“Abortion, guns, same-sex conversion therapy — they’re all contested cultural and political issues,” he says. “I think the question is, do we want to have the argument about those issues in the doctor’s office? And without knowing it? If we all agree that the doctor’s focus should solely be the health of the patient, then the regulation of the practice of medicine should support that — and only that.” ■

Assistant Professor Jason Smith teaches health care law and ethics, among other courses at Cal State East Bay. Smith holds a master’s in theological studies from Harvard and completed his J.D. at Northeastern University.



ICON

THE
MAKING
OF AN

How Alumna Ruth Bley lit the eastern span of the Bay Bridge — and redefined the region's skyline

Alumna Ruth Bley founded her construction company, Bleyco, 30 years ago. In the past three decades, she's worked on nearly every bridge in the region.
GARVIN TSO

BY KRISTA DOSSETTI

They have builded magnificent bridges where the nation's highways go;

O'er perilous mountain ridges and where great rivers flow.

Wherever a link was needed between the new and the known

They have left their marks of Progress, in iron and steel and stone.

There was never a land too distant nor ever a way too wide,

But some man's mind, insistent, reached out to the other side.

They cleared the way, these heroes, for the march of future years.

The march of Civilization-and they were its Pioneers.

— Evelyn Sims

CALIFORNIA GOV. FRANK MERRIAM couldn't have known when he read those lines at the opening ceremony of the Bay Bridge in November 1936 how many future generations of pioneers it would take to sustain the most vital and heavily traveled artery in the region.

He also couldn't have predicted — though he was surely aware of — the incredible forces of nature at work in the bay. Forces that kept the project locked in the dream stage for decades, and demanded the state's best engineers to find a way to span 8 miles of water through torrential winds, corrosive saltwater and hibernating fault lines.

Eventually, those challenges were met, but then the Loma Prieta earthquake came to call. At a magnitude of 6.9, the 1989 quake ripped through the fault lines that run parallel to the Bay Bridge on both sides, causing a portion of its top deck to collapse. Politicians of the day began earnestly planning the bridge's replacement — a massive undertaking that ►

required a fresh wave of pioneers to not only improve upon one of the most difficult suspension bridges ever built, but to construct something worthy of defining the East Bay skyline. A new icon.

It's where Cal State East Bay alumna Ruth Bley (B.S. '82, Geology; M.S. '88, Geology) enters the evolutionary tale of the incredible conduit. Bley is a geologist by training, entrepreneur by calling — and pioneer by nature. Bleyco, her namesake business, has been the winning bidder for building the lighting and electrical components at several BART stations and nearly every bridge in the region, including the new span of the Bay Bridge — a job set in motion more than 20 years before it was finally completed in 2013.

And with those achievements comes the responsibility of providing safe passage for hundreds of thousands of travelers who depend on her work each day. It's no job for the faint of heart.

"I think it's all about ambition and focus and trying to get it done," Bley says of three decades at the helm of her own construction business. "And being a little bit aggressive."

SOLID FOUNDATION

Bley had chosen to study geology in college out of a long curiosity about rocks and stone, and an affinity for collecting them since childhood. She originally left the Bay Area to attend Cal Poly, but returned to Castro Valley when her father, who also has a storied career in Bay Area construction, did what his daughter had long been begging him to do: Buy land in the country where she could raise and ride horses. It was enough to convince the equestrian (now a champion event rider in her 50s, and sponsor/mentor to young female riders) to come home and enroll at then-Cal State Hayward.

Still, her plans for the future were indefinite.

"My father thought I had too much spare time on my hands when I was in my master's program," Bley says with a laugh and roll of the eyes. "So he put me to work at his company (Dome Construction) part-time and eventually I went full-time."

But, she adds, there was never any intention of her working in the family business.

"Because I had always loved animals, [my parents] encouraged

me to be a veterinarian," Bley says. "Or they would say I could be a teacher or a nurse." But it wasn't that the Bleys were trying to prevent their daughter from taking a different path, she explains. "They were just more traditional. I didn't think of [a career] in construction, but no one else thought of it either."

In fact, that role had already been tabbed for Bley's brother, who at just a year older than her was already working at the family company. And with her father stepping down, Bley candidly says she "didn't get along with" his business partner and began looking for opportunities on her own.

"I just didn't think there was going to be any place for me to go in that company at the time — and in hindsight I was probably wrong," she says. "I could probably have just continued on and been a part of eventually buying him out, but I think I was trying to figure out what I could do on my own so that I could be in control. I don't micromanage and I'm not *controlling*, but I like to be in control of what *I'm* doing. Truthfully, I've never looked back."

STRIKING OUT

Bley founded Bleyco in 1987, one year before completing her degree from Cal State East Bay. Though she did consider a job in geology, by the time she finished her master's, Bley says the idea of going back to an entry-level position — and starting pay — had little appeal compared to being her own boss.

However, plenty of lessons carried over.

"Cal State East Bay had what I believe to be one of the best geology departments anywhere," Bley says. "I think going out in the field [in geology] — you have to be comfortable with it and you have to be able to figure things out, and I learned that at Cal State East Bay. And in construction, you have to be comfortable going out to the job site and figuring things out. And they both have that three-dimensional aspect, which either I'm good at or I just really like."

The ability to figure things out, and the young entrepreneur's mounting independence, is eventually how large-scale transportation projects became a mainstay of Bleyco's project lineup.

Bley pieced together small jobs for her first decade in business, but on the heels of Prop 209 in the late '90s — which eliminated affirmative action measures at the state level in California — she began going after federally funded contracts, particularly through Caltrans, where there were still opportunities for small and women-owned businesses to carve out money from large contracts. And to gain competitive edge, she expanded her business to include electrical work by teaming up with now-vice president of Bleyco, Chris Berge.

"It gave prime contractors incentive to use you," she explains. "We still had to be the low number [in the bidding process], but they were incentivized to use us and potentially be a little bit nicer — though I don't know if that last part is true." ▶

"I think it's all about ambition and focus and trying to get it done. And being a little bit aggressive."



Bleyco's construction team worked around the clock to build the lighting and various electrical components of the eastern span of the Bay Bridge. ◻ COURTESY OF RUTH BLEY

Bley specifically recalls her first meeting with transportation officials over a small change to a contract, which she had thought would be a simple, quick discussion.

"All of a sudden, [I walked into the room] and it was like one person — me — and 20 people to discuss this one change order, all men," she says. "They try to outnumber you. You have to learn to stand your ground. Construction tactics, is what it is. I'll always remember that first meeting — and the subsequent meetings were always kind of like that, too."

STANDING OUT

Bley started winning contracts to work on various aspects of the lighting and electrical for bridges — lesser known ones at first, such as the High and Park street bridges linking Oakland to Alameda — and a series of jobs for BART, including portions of the Hayward, Castro Valley, Millbrae and North Concord stations.

Then, the bridge work began in earnest with a five-piece

"We don't do dog and pony shows. We have a reputation for doing the stuff that we're doing."

contract for an integrated security platform called Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition, which involved wiring and installing surveillance cameras on the San Mateo and San Rafael bridges, among others.

"We've basically been on every bridge in the area," Bley says.

But the moment she realized all the drops in the bucket were adding up came with the Benicia Bridge.

"The Benicia Bridge was the first one that was a really big contract," Bley says. "And it was in two parts, the north landing side and then the main bridge part — and when we first got the [north landing], it was a shock. We had done little bridges, but to actually get [a big one] — it made us more aggressive to go after other projects."

Projects like the new eastern span of the Bay Bridge, and the "light show" art installation that now plays continuously on the western span — a job Bleyco was requested to handle due to its track record of quality.

Yet Bley is surprisingly nonchalant about the most high-profile, high-scrutiny jobs of her career.

"We don't do dog and pony shows," she says. "We have a reputation for doing the stuff that we're doing, so there's no issue about 'Can you do this work?' And we have a reputation with Caltrans because our stuff actually works. Then it's a hard bid

number. We're either low or we're not."

However, she does admit, "I know I'm faster at making decisions than a lot of people are," as one key to her success.

And, to ensure consistency, Bley has amassed a trustworthy team of "mavericks" over the years, which she keeps tightknit.

"I have been extremely lucky in the people that we have — and that's why we're still small," she says. "Because I don't think I ever figured out how to make a larger company and still pay attention to the details. And construction is so risky that if you don't pay attention you're going to lose money quickly. Our standing joke is that when we go to Reno or whatever, we never gamble because we gamble every day — we roll the dice."

For instance, the problems and escalating costs that plagued construction on the Bay Bridge, California's most expensive public works project to date, are now a part of its notorious history. But from Bley's point of view, those issues also had unexpected positive side effects.

"The lighting was spec'd out to be a different kind of lighting but the delays, delays, delays led to the point where the technology on LED lighting had developed and we could do it," she says. "The lights that Caltrans originally wanted were the traditional bridge lights — it was going to be, you know, boring bridge lighting ... I think we were instrumental in influencing Caltrans' idea about what type of lights to use on the bridge because we had the relationship with Musco, the manufacturer for the lighting. As the LED technology progressed, they jumped in and said they could make a light that would work on the Bay Bridge, and then we, along with the engineers, got Caltrans to agree to it. It was fun to be involved with."

Bley is also careful to point out that what drivers, pedestrians and cyclists actually see is far less than the whole picture. "You have to look at bridges as connectors. Look at the Benicia Bridge — the lighting on top is really nothing, but the electrical underneath is substantial. And the Bay Bridge, that bridge brings electrical out to Treasure Island. People depend on that power."

In the end, she's confident in the result.

"It was not worth all of the angst that it created," she says of the press about construction problems on the Bay Bridge. "If you're worried about [the stability of] the bridge now, you should have been really worried before. The only thing I worried about for a little bit was [an earthquake happening and] the old bridge falling on the new one."

FIGHTING TALL

With her business on solid ground, Bley has been able to devote more time to her passions in recent years, including reflecting on her role in the making of the East Bay's icon.

"I didn't realize it was going to make such an impact on the skyline," she says. "But the day it opened, we went back to Oakland and had dinner and looked out on it, and I just thought,


'Wow.' Because when you're building it, you don't know. But the overall effect of it is quite impressive. And the innovation for that suspension bridge was good. I'm glad that the two mayors, including now-California Gov. [Jerry] Brown, wanted something special for the Oakland side."

Bley also serves on the board of Women Construction Owners & Executives, USA, and on small business councils for Caltrans, California High-Speed Rail Authority and California's Department of General Services, where she pushes hard for representation of female and small-business owners in a world dominated by corporate conglomerates — a lesson she knows well from having struck out on her own all those years ago.

"We need to make sure that women are represented on all of these councils," she says. "It's funny because we started on a lot of BART work, so it's been a lot of transportation type stuff — so helping the

Bay Area. The focus, the reason it went that direction is because it's where you have assistance to women-owned businesses. I'm considered a graduate, but unfortunately, I don't think there's that many of me out there, which I'd like to see more of."

And finally, when she isn't in her office or out on a job site or climbing the 500-foot spire of a bridge (why take the elevator?), Bley is almost certainly atop a horse on her 120-acre Castro Valley ranch — a place she takes comfort in, and one that keeps her head sharp for business.

"To actually want to go out and gallop cross-country at 550 kilometers per minute, jumping solid obstacles that look like cars, you have to be aggressive enough to want to do that," she says. "And I think construction's the same way. You have to think that you can do it — and if you don't think you can, don't bother. Don't bother submitting a number." 

Funding Future Pioneers


During her time at Cal State East Bay, alumna Ruth Bley says the field trips she used to take as a geology student were "the best part of the whole thing — taking your knowledge and applying it," and helped launch her own success. Now she's carving out that same opportunity for today's geology students.

Recently, following a funding deficit that put the field excursions to geological sites throughout California and Nevada on hiatus, Bley is helping get them back on track.

"Field trips are crucial — we really can't teach geology without taking students out into the field," says Professor Luther Strayer, who completed a trip to Death Valley with 18 students during the spring quarter thanks to Bley's support. "It's a coming of age when a student spends time in the field. They come back different. And Ruth, specifically, enabled students to have that experience."

It's the type of pipeline Bley is hoping to help build, whether for students in geology, construction or another field of work entirely.

"I think women should be allowed to find their place," she says. "But, you have to know about it to find it. And you have to be exposed to it."

Junior Brianna Thomas looks at a rock sequence on a recent field course in Death Valley.  JEAN MORAN

Student Fights Overmedicating of Foster Youth

Tisha Ortiz shares her difficult past to help change the future for others

BY KRISTA DOSSETTI ILLUSTRATION ALEXIS FRANKLIN

A SWIMMING POOL. FLASHES OF A VIDEO GAME. A TV with burn marks down one side. They're fragments of Cal State East Bay senior Tisha Ortiz's earliest memories — and the only ones she has of a place called home.

Ortiz was just 4 years old when Child Protective Services knocked on her door, where her parents' drug and alcohol abuse had taken precedence over feeding their daughter.

The journey that followed is far from uncommon, Ortiz says. Years of abuse, unstable living situations, harrowing episodes of self-harm and finally, treatment — in the form of powerful medications intended to drown out depression and anger.

In fact, legislators and advocacy groups are finding this is the norm for thousands of kids living within "the system" nationwide. These children, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are prescribed medication 3.5 times more frequently than all other children ages 12-18, and 50 percent of those meds are psychotropics — drugs that alter brain function, creating changes in mood, behavior and perception.

While Ortiz is no exception, one thing about her is different: She's speaking out. This is her story. ▶

HER BEGINNINGS

Ortiz’s entry into the child welfare system started well. Her first placement lasted from ages 4-8, and she remembers her foster family as stable and loving. However, when she was returned to her parents’ care from ages 8-12, their combined substance abuse — worsened in the midst of a divorce — wreaked lasting havoc on her life.

“My mother [had been] a big drug user,” she explains, “and she developed mental health issues as a result. If I forgot to take the trash out, she would beat me up — she would leave cuts and bruises, or pick me up by my hair.

“My father was in a men’s home and was getting out soon,” Ortiz continues, “so he paid a woman to take care of me, and her son locked me up in closets and sexually abused me. I would go in the shower and he would figure out how to unlock the door and abuse me in there. He would bring his friends over to laugh at me. It took me a year to tell someone what was happening.”

But by then, her father was using drugs again. He was soon arrested and she re-entered foster care.

For the next six years, Ortiz bounced between neighbors, group and foster homes, and did a stint with extended family in Arizona. At each juncture, she returned to the mainstay of foster youth in the area — the Betty Jo McNeece Receiving Home in El Centro, California.

“I spent my 10th, 13th and 18th birthdays there,” she says. “And eventually they start asking you, ‘OK, what did you do this time?’ The message is that you’re a bad kid ... that it’s *your* fault you’re in foster care.”

PRESCRIPTION FOR TRAUMA

Following years of abuse, Ortiz began acting out and experiencing what she believes was post-traumatic stress disorder. At 14, she was put on her first psychotropic medication. By 18, she was on a daily cocktail of antidepressants and mood stabilizers, amounting to 12 pills per day.

“All these labels they’ve tried to put on me — bipolar, borderline personality disorder — I just never felt like any of those were me,” Ortiz says. “People come back from war and they have PTSD, and that’s how I feel about my childhood. I was at war every day — extreme violence, drugs.”

Ortiz started kicking staff in the group home who tried to touch her, cutting herself and refusing medication, which typically resulted in being locked in a room as punishment or sent to a mental facility, only to be prescribed new or increased doses of pills.

“Things got worse,” she says. “I started to feel angry all the time and wanting to punch things. And then I’d break something of mine and use it to hurt myself. I needed someone to help me find a way to cope ... besides self-harm.”

HOW IT HAPPENS

According to Cal State East Bay Associate Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of Social Work Holly Vugia, LCSW, experiences like Ortiz’s result from systemic failures in child welfare and behavioral health services, including insufficient training to handle complex behavioral issues; overwhelming caseloads; and breakdowns in communication between state agencies.

And frequently, Vugia explains, meds get prescribed based on how difficult those changes are for a child to navigate.

“When kids face trauma ... the neurochemistry of their brain gets wired such that it’s on hyperarousal,” says Vugia, who has experience at UCLA’s Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital for adolescents. “A child who is operating from a state of hyperarousal is really different from a kid who hasn’t had that experience ... if you add more changes on top of what has already been experienced, you’re just triggering behavioral issues.”

Vugia believes medications have a place in treatment, but says they’re “absolutely” being overprescribed, frequently mismanaged, and there’s a crippling shortage of child psychiatrists. “Often, it’s an adult psychiatrist or a pediatrician or a regular doc [who’s prescribing] meds that haven’t been researched for use in kids ... and a lot of the problem is that people aren’t monitoring the medications correctly.”

HOW IT STOPS

The life experience of former foster youth such as Ortiz is key.

In August 2010, the day after Ortiz turned 18, she arrived on a flight to the Bay Area, where she was met by a representative from Cal State East Bay’s Renaissance Scholars program, which supports foster youth through college.

Despite help getting started with school, Ortiz had difficulty acclimating to university life and dealing with her PTSD and medications on her own. By November, her living situation was crumbling. Renaissance Scholars connected to her WestCoast Children’s Clinic, which provides case management and therapy services for 17- to 21-year-olds transitioning out of foster or group homes.

“It was the first time I had therapy that dealt with the things that happened when I was younger,” Ortiz says. “All the therapy I did before was based on ‘What’s going on in your foster home?’ — not what was going on with the trauma I had experienced.”

Though Ortiz did end up leaving Cal State East Bay for a time, her therapist passed along a flier from the National Center for Youth Law calling for testimony from former foster youth who felt they had been overmedicated. Ortiz answered that call, and was tapped to speak at the state capitol. She described for legislators the emotional and physiological effects of the pills, such as weight gain, intense lethargy, suicidal thoughts and in her case, tunnel vision and body tremors.

Ortiz has since become a professional advocate for NYCL and

has lobbied and testified for bills ranging from increased oversight of medical records and prescribing physicians to improved records-keeping and sharing among health professionals.

William Grimm, senior attorney at NCYL, is a constant at her side. Grimm has been litigating child welfare cases since the 1980s, and is currently overseeing advocacy for a suite of new bills called the Psych Drugs Action Campaign.

“We know there are certain types of mental health services that are more effective and certainly much safer than psychotropic meds,” Grimm explains. “Once we reduce the reliance on these unsafe medications, we need to put in place the type of mental health services that are effective and safer for kids, and expand their access to those services.”

This year, alongside Grimm and NCYL Senior Policy Associate Anna Johnson, Ortiz will focus on implementing the new bills so they have an immediate effect on kids in the system. Johnson, her supervisor and personal mentor, reports that Ortiz helped develop the

questions that will be used to survey children in group homes about how they feel about the medications they’re on; provided feedback on new protocols for the monitoring and administration of medications; contributed to a workbook and foster care mental health bill of rights for children; and more.

“She’ll never experience the change she’s advocating for — her time in the system is done,” Johnson says. “It’s out of her sense of justice, and not wanting this to happen to anyone else that she does this.”

As for Ortiz, who returned to Cal State East Bay in 2014 and is a criminal justice major, she hopes to someday follow in Grimm’s footsteps and become a lawyer who defends foster youth. She’s also looking forward to graduating in 2018.

“Since I was in kindergarten, I remember walking to school and telling myself, ‘I don’t want to be like my parents.’ And as I got older, it just expanded to ‘I want to go to college’ and ‘What do I want to be?’ Even though I doubt myself sometimes, I just keep going. My biggest fear is getting so close and not making it.” ■



Alumna Joymara Coleman plans to spend her career supporting foster children within Alameda County. **GARVIN TSO**

The Movement to Stop Overmedicating

In 2015, the San Jose Mercury News completed a year-long investigation of overmedicated foster children called “Drugging Our Kids.” The seven-part story showed that efforts to stop overmedication reach back to 1999, yet definitive progress has been slow until recently.

Alongside Tisha Ortiz, Cal State East Bay alumna Joymara Coleman (B.A. ’15, Sociology) participated in the story. Coleman, a member of the National Center for Youth Law’s child welfare and psychotropic medications committees, and a child welfare intern for the Alameda County Department of Children and Family Services, will soon graduate from UC Berkeley with a

master’s degree in social work — and plans to dedicate her career to changing the system she grew up in.

“None of the medication I took addressed the issues I was dealing with surrounding depression and anxiety,” Coleman says. “I want to work ... in this county because this is where I was born. I have a desire to improve [the system] because I want to prevent young people from falling through the cracks that I fell through.”

Since the story’s publication in the Mercury News, California legislators have renewed efforts and passed a suite of bills to stop the overuse of medications within the child welfare system.



Blood Link

Assistant Professor Nazy Pakpour researches the link between malaria transmission and a rising global epidemic

BY MARCUS WOO

NAZZY PAKPOUR'S FASCINATION WITH INSECTS BEGAN WHEN she was a child in Iran. She used to catch big, slow, winged, cockroach-like bugs and glue a string to their backs so she could keep them as her pets.

"I was a weird child," she says.

By the time she had immigrated to the United States and entered high school, her interest in the creepy-crawly was full-blown. It was then that she put together her first insect collection, and the summer before college, she worked at the Smithsonian Insect Museum, where she held tarantula feedings for swarms of museum-goers.

Today, she no longer keeps insects on leashes or conducts demonstrations of their carnage. But as an assistant professor of biology at Cal State East Bay, Pakpour still loves bugs, and today is an expert on parasites and immunology.

"They're so weird," she says. "It's like living with aliens. You can look at the biology of any species and [each is] so unique and different."

And she surrounds herself with them. Her office holds wooden cases filled with a variety of critters, and several (live) Vietnamese walking sticks hang out in a tank above her desk. Take a walk a couple floors down to her lab and you'll find fruit flies breeding for research in jars of sticky brown fly food.

Bizarre and fascinating, yes. But for the entomologist, insects are also serious business.

DEADLY BITE

Take the mosquito, which is one of the deadliest animals in the world thanks to its role as a powerful vector for malaria. The disease threatens nearly half the world's population, and although prevention efforts have lowered illness and death rates in recent years, malaria remains a killer in 95 countries — primarily those in sub-Saharan Africa. The World Health Organization reported that in 2015, 214 million people became sick with malaria and 438,000 died of the disease. ►

“There’s a certain beauty in the complexity of malaria transmission — it’s this intricate dance between three organisms.”



In addition to her work exploring the link between malaria transmission and diabetes, Assistant Professor Nazy Pakpour is also interested in how technology can control the spread of the disease, for instance, through drones. **GARVIN TSO**

The fever, headache, chills, vomiting — and sometimes coma and death — that occur with the illness happen when the malaria parasite reproduces inside the body, having invaded its host via the saliva of a biting, infected mosquito. When other mosquitoes bite the person, they can become infected too and spread the disease.

But scientists still have much to learn about what increases infection rates for the mosquitoes themselves. For example, scientists are now studying how a variety of outside factors can boost or impede transmission — including other diseases or infections within the host, such as HIV.

Pakpour wants to understand the role of one such disease that’s becoming its own global epidemic: diabetes.

EARLY RESULTS

Pakpour’s recent research suggests that diabetes may in fact make malaria transmission more prevalent. Experiments involving two different malaria strains, the lethal *Plasmodium berghei* and nonlethal *Plasmodium yoelii*, found that Type 2 diabetic mice infected with malaria transferred the parasites to mosquitos at a rate about one-third times higher than healthy mice.

This study, published by Pakpour last year with two colleagues at UC Davis, could have critical implications for controlling the spread of malaria where it is already most dangerous — Africa.

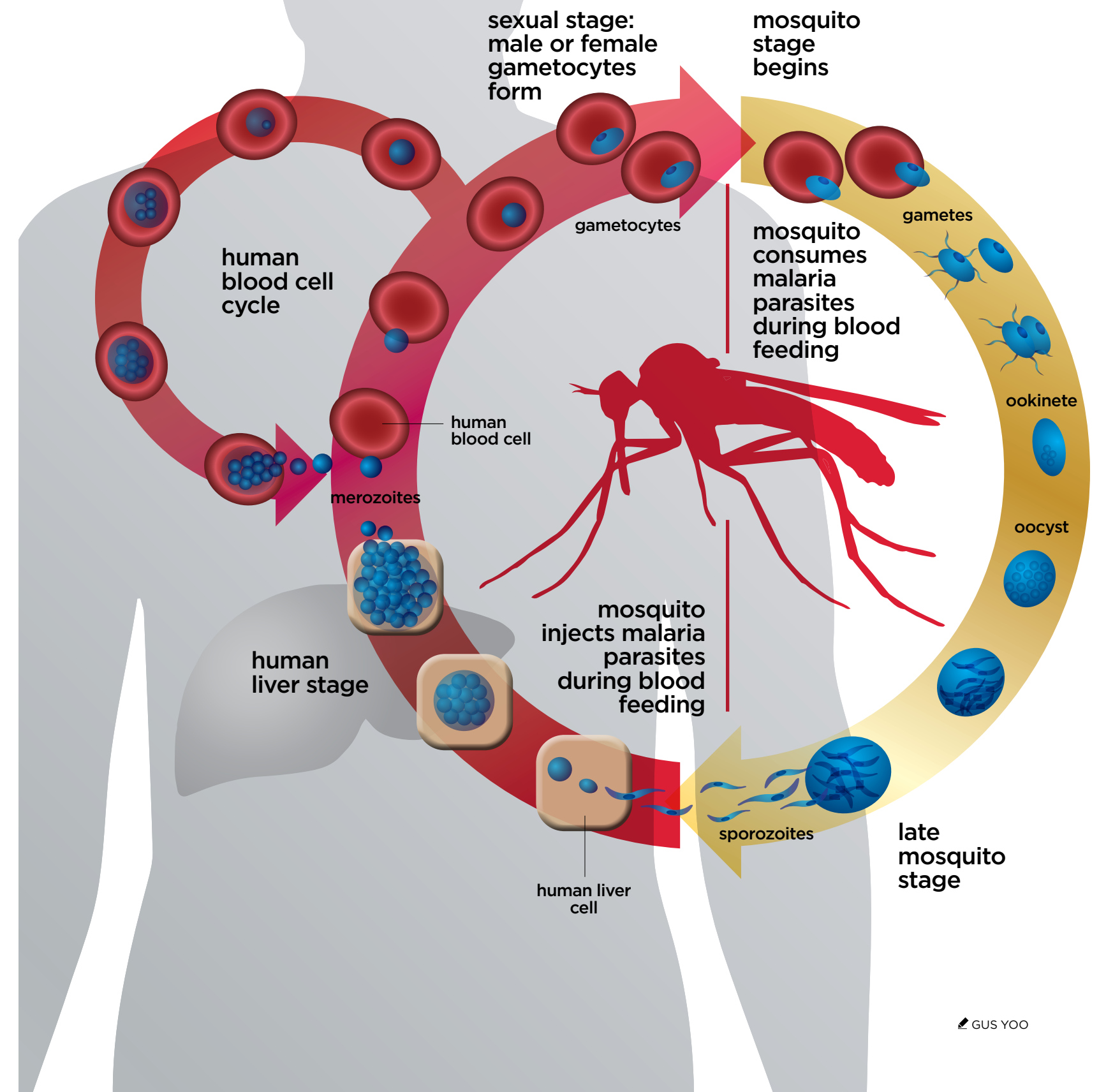
Diabetes afflicts 422 million adults throughout the world, according to WHO. But the rate of the disease is rising even faster in the areas most vulnerable to malaria. The International Diabetes Federation predicts the number of adults with Type 2 diabetes in Africa will more than double by 2040, reaching 34.2 million. The IDF also estimates that more than two-thirds of people with diabetes are undiagnosed (and some people with malaria don’t show symptoms), meaning up to 22.8 million Type 2 diabetics could start spreading malaria at a higher rate without knowing it in the next two decades.

That’s the worst-case scenario, though, and Pakpour’s research is still preliminary. But if diabetes does have a hand in spreading malaria, the big question is, how?

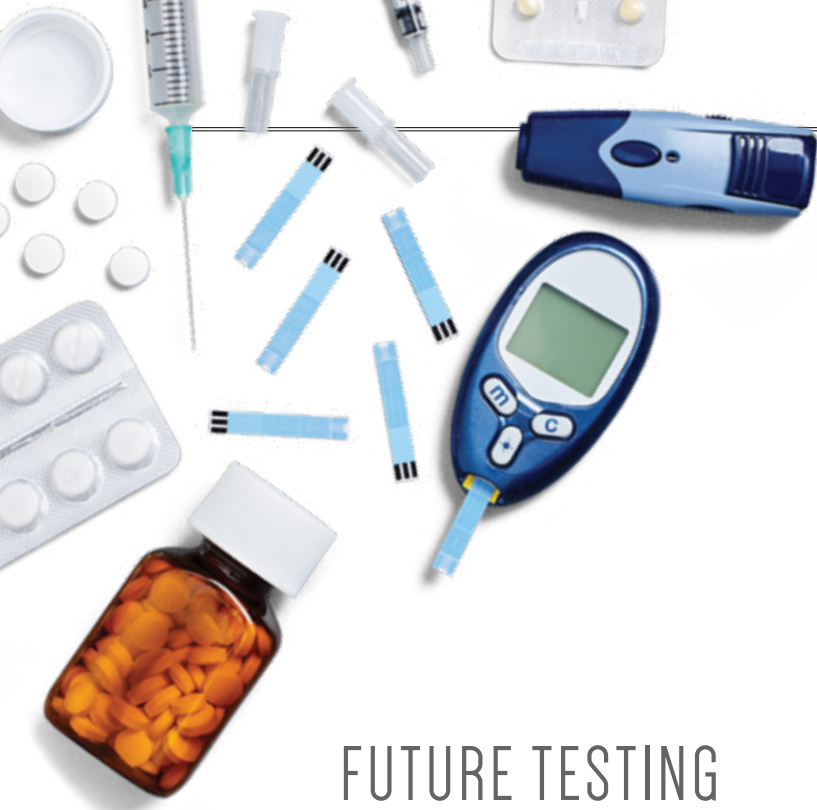
“There’s a certain beauty in the complexity of malaria transmission — it’s this intricate dance between three organisms,” the professor says. “You have the parasite, the mosquito and the human host all interacting at the same time at the same place. That’s a really fascinating kind of biology that’s happening.”

This complex nexus is where Pakpour — if she can determine what increases infection rates for the mosquitoes — may be able to find ways to disrupt transmission. ▶

HOW THE MALARIA PARASITE REPRODUCES



GUS YOO



FUTURE TESTING

The professor already has a few hypotheses that could explain the connection.

One possibility, Pakpour says, is the presence of excess insulin, the hormone that regulates blood sugar. Some diabetics don't process insulin well, so high levels can stay in their blood. It turns out that insulin affects a mosquito's immune system, too. "The mosquito has an immune response, and a lot of the time it can fight off the malaria infection," she explains. "But insulin seems to dampen that down and make them more susceptible [to contracting malaria]."

Another possibility is that diabetes may somehow affect the transition between two particular stages of the parasite's life cycle. At one point while in a human host, the parasite faces a decision: An individual organism either reproduces by replicating itself asexually within the body — this is the

stage that causes malaria symptoms — or becomes a gametocyte, which can leave the body and infect a mosquito. Less than 1 percent of the parasites becomes gametocytes.

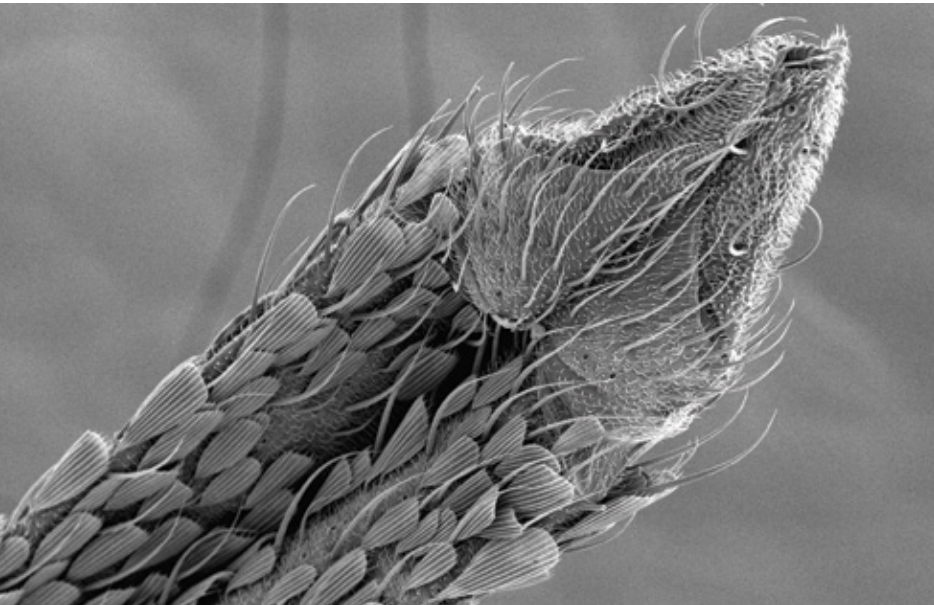
But diabetes might change that. "One idea is that there are more [gametocytes], so the mosquito is more likely to be infected," Pakpour says. Diabetes often causes low-grade inflammation, a source of stress that might provoke more gametocytes to form. The stress may also induce those gametocytes to congregate in the skin or blood, where a mosquito is more likely to pick them up. "Maybe it's not a difference in numbers but a difference in location," she says.

Both scenarios would result in the parasite spreading.

Pakpour is starting further experiments at Cal State East Bay to see whether these ideas, or a combination of them, are right. The university recently opened an insectary, a facility that houses specimens for research and teaching. There, Pakpour will be growing her mosquitoes and doing all her research on campus — and involving more students.

Which shouldn't be too hard. After all, her enthusiasm for insects is infectious, whether she's telling you how swimming larval dragonflies shoot liquid from their backsides to propel them through water, or the time she saw a parasitic wasp carry a paralyzed spider to its nest. The wasp laid its eggs inside the spider, and the larval wasps hatched and ate the spider alive from the inside out. "It's like crazy zombie stuff happening in your garden!" Pakpour exclaims.

That fascinating weirdness is what drives the professor. But she finds extra motivation in understanding, a bit at a time, how the insect world affects humans. "I'm adding my little drops to the bucket," she says. And someday, her work may help save lives. **EE**



Does a Mosquito Really "Bite"?

No. Although it's how we commonly refer to the way these pests stage their attack, the assault of a mosquito is more like a stab wound. A mosquito pierces the skin through a sword-like body part called a proboscis, which functions similar to a mouth. The proboscis has thin tubes inside of it, one of which injects saliva into the mosquito's victim. The saliva does double-duty, as it contains a mild painkiller that buys the mosquito the time it needs to feed, and an anticoagulant enzyme that thins the blood, ensuring it flows smoothly through the other tube in the proboscis. *Dinner is served.*



Student Anthony Salvato is one of several researchers helping test Pakpour's theory on how to stop fruit flies from laying eggs in fresh fruit. **GARVIN TSO**

Still Hungry?

Assistant Professor Nazzy Pakpour's interest in insatiable pests includes student-led research

In a spare, humble lab on the campus of Cal State East Bay, fruit flies proliferate and buzz around inside beakers and test tubes. Here, undergraduate students are treating them with a drug that inhibits serotonin, a biological chemical important for a variety of functions.

The goal is to get the flies to eat less, reproduce less and die sooner. If successful, this drug could eventually lead to controlling what's become a menace to farmers across North America and Europe: the spotted-wing fruit fly.

Native to Asia, the spotted-wing fruit fly first appeared in the U.S. and Italy in 2008. It immediately devastated crops. The Invasive Species Compendium (an encyclopedic resource that aggregates science-based data worldwide) estimates that in California, Washington and Oregon alone the fly caused more than \$500 million in losses. Today, the fly continues to threaten berries and fruits such as apples, plums and peaches.

The fly owes its proliferation to a sharp competitive edge. All fruit flies have an ovipositor under their abdomen, a

tube-like organ they use to deposit eggs into the soft flesh of rotting fruit. For farmers, losing already rotten fruit littered on the ground isn't a big deal. But in the spotted-wing variety, the ovipositor is serrated, enabling it to pierce the skin of fresh fruit in trees — and ruin crops.

"The problem now is that the fly is prevalent in the U.S. from the East Coast to the West Coast," student Anthony Salvato says. But no one's developed a sustainable pesticide yet — which is where the researchers come in.

The students, who include Salvato, Chris Tat, Nesreen Albanna and Jasbindar Kaur, have already shown that a serotonin-inhibitor drug can reduce the lifespan and decrease the number of laid eggs by the common species of fruit fly, reproducing the results of a previous study.

"The idea is that they'll stop eating and they'll just fall over and die," Tat says. "Or, they'll stop eating and not have energy to lay eggs or do anything." With this groundwork done, they'll soon begin experiments with the spotted-wing fruit fly.

"They've really taken this project a lot further than I was expecting it to go," says Assistant Professor Nazzy Pakpour, who had kept the project under a "crazy" file she keeps of speculative ideas. In fact, Salvato recently presented on the work at the 58th annual *Drosophila* research conference, and Albanna and Kaur competed in the CSU Student Research Competition. But the real prize is still ahead — a new method for controlling the pests.

How to Get Inner-City Kids Into Tech?

ALUMNUS DAMON PACKWOOD IS TURNING THEM INTO 'GAMEHEADS'

BY KRISTA DOSSETTI PHOTOGRAPHY GARVIN TSO



Alumnus Damon Packwood and his "Gameheads" meet at the United Roots Impact Hub in Oakland.

In his nearly 20 years of work with teens and young adults, alumnus Damon Packwood (M.A. '14, Multimedia Studies) has always had an important rule:

"Pay attention to what your students are doing when they're not doing what you told them to," he says.

In Packwood's case, when he started teaching tech to young people in Oakland, he would repeatedly turn around to find his students playing video games on their phones. "I really just wanted to get their attention," he says. So, on a lark, he offered a one-hour session during the students' lunch break to talk to them about the prospect of making websites for video games.

They weren't impressed.

"It went OK," he says. "But they just kept bugging me, week after week, saying that what they really wanted to learn was how to make the actual video games. Eventually I offered another one-hour lesson, which turned into Friday night classes, and then the six hours on Saturdays we do now."

Formally, the courses are offered under Packwood's own blossoming social enterprise nonprofit, Gameheads, which is rapidly changing the national conversation around how to increase diversity in tech.

"Cal State East Bay's multimedia program has a very different perspective on technology that resonated with me, and that I think res-

onates with the community," Packwood says. "They don't just look at tech from a computer science perspective. [Cal State East Bay] talks about tech as a cultural shift that's happening."

In 2014, students from Gameheads completed their first video games, building them from the ground up, based on themes of personal impact. The games were submitted to compete for Electronic Software Association LOFT Video Game Innovation Fellowships, which include \$1,000 in prize money, paid admission to E3 — the world's premier trade show for games and related products — and the opportunity to send one representative from each team to the White House.

That first year, Gameheads walked away with one fellowship, and in 2016, Packwood reports his team dominated the competition by earning four of the 20 available spots.

Quyen-Vi Nguyen, an Oakland native, served as art and story designer for one of the winning teams. Nguyen helped to create a multiplayer adventure game focused on fear of the unknown, which she says serves as a metaphor for teenage mental health issues.


According to Ian Pollock, associate professor of multimedia studies and a mentor to Packwood at Cal State East Bay, themes like the one Nguyen and her team explored are further legitimizing gaming as a contemporary art form.

"People are talking about these games like [they used to talk about] 'Gone with the Wind' or 'Star Wars' — games are the literature of this generation," Pollock says. "Game narratives are what's shaping [young people's] ideas and dreams and hopes and fears for the future. And it will have a very real impact on our world in the years to come."

Nguyen agrees that Gameheads has opened up new possibilities for her. "The process of going through [making a game], learning to code — I have so much more confidence now. I've always been driven to go to college, but ... I know now I could have a career in tech."

It's the type of transformation Packwood is after — and that has pushed him to the front of a national stage, including being asked to speak at the White House Conference on STEM Education in 2016.

"Oakland was heavily represented [at the White House], which proves that we're leading the way in the diversity in tech movement," Packwood says. "At the heart of us wanting to diversify the tech industry is asking, once everyone is represented, what will it create? What will each representative bring from their culture into the 21st century?"

To learn more about Gameheads, visit gameheadsoakland.org. 




Action for STEM

**RICH ROBBINS OF WAREHAM DEVELOPMENT
WANTS SUSTAINED SUPPORT OF THE
INSTITUTE FOR STEM EDUCATION**

BY DAN FOST



Rich Robbins leases buildings to biotech companies, and he's now supporting the budding scientists who will someday work in them.
 GARVIN TSO

Rich Robbins is not a scientist, but he knows the value of science education.

Robbins is a real estate developer who helped build the biotech industry in the East Bay in the 1970s, leasing his buildings to industry heavyweights such as Bayer, Chiron, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab and a swarm of start-ups. Today, his footprint stretches along the Emeryville/Berkeley corridor up to Richmond, and south of San Francisco to Silicon Valley.

In more recent years, Robbins has added to his focus of developing buildings and is now nurturing the scientists who will someday work in them — including students from Cal State East Bay, where he has given and pledged more than \$500,000 to the university's Institute for STEM Education.

The Institute was founded in 2011 to serve as a cradle-to-career organization to improve STEM education on a regional scale.


Robbins' involvement began with the fortuitous confluence of the biotech industry and the buildings his company, Wareham Development, owns. When he saw what the companies required, he remodeled buildings to fit their needs. When building codes failed to support them, he helped change the codes. "You get lucky and learn by making a lot of mistakes and asking a lot of questions," he says. "Which is what we're talking about with the kids."

When he learned six years ago that Bayer, one of his tenants, was about to hold a kick-off event announcing the \$540,000 grant they had given to Cal State East Bay to fund the start of the Insti-

tute for STEM Education, Robbins was intrigued and offered the use of his soaring lobby space at the Emery Station East complex to mark the occasion. It was there that he met Bayer's U.S. President Greg Babe, who flew out for the launch.

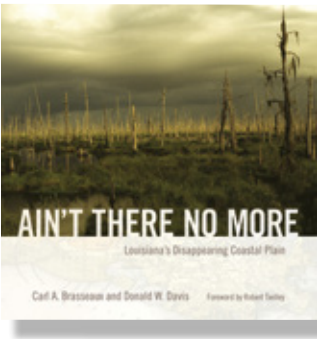
"He said to me, 'Rich, there are too many lab coats unfilled,'" Robbins recalls. "'There are not enough people of color in lab coats. We've got to teach the teachers.' I put out my hand, and I was about to shake hands with him, when he said, 'Do something better. I want your money.'"

By the end of the ceremony, Robbins announced he would fund a three-year grant to train K-12 teachers in the rigorous Next Generation Science Standards (a statewide curriculum overhaul that requires teachers to engage in hands-on, interdisciplinary science). And since then, he has also helped support career awareness opportunities that connect students to working scientists in the field, exposing them to what it takes to be STEM professionals.

"In this country, we're failing to give the newest generation the education and the skill sets that are required for jobs with dignity in math and science," Robbins says. "The real issue is how do we generate this interest, especially among kids from challenged communities? I see Cal State East Bay working to address this issue with projects like CIRCLe Labs, which bring science and scientists into lower-income neighborhoods beyond the school day. And creating paid internships — what better way to learn? We don't want one-year funding for programs like these. We need a thread of continuity. We're building a platform." 

CLASS NOTES

1960s



DONALD W. DAVIS (B.A. '67, Geography) is co-author of "Ain't There No More," a historical account of Louisiana's wetland citizens, their fragile environment and the legacy of both natural and man-made disasters that has defined their existence for the past two centuries. Accompanied by previously unpublished images, "Ain't There No More" captures a disappearing way of life and documents the knowledge that wetland survivors have amassed over decades of coastal living.

SUE MOORE KEITH (B.A. '67, English), alongside her husband, Jim, received the Ruth Ordway Award, which is presented annually by the League of Women Voters to community members who promote common good. Keith served on the Claremont Unified School District Board of Education for 12 years, and she is currently on the board of trustees for the Citrus Community College District and California Community Colleges. Keith is also involved in local organizations, such as Uncommon Good, Project Sister and Ruth House.

JOE H. LEE (B.A. '64, Sociology) was honored by the State Center Community College District in February. Lee was the first African-American associate superintendent and deputy superintendent of Fresno Unified School District. He helped to develop programs across the Central Valley, including the Career Opportunity Program for Minorities, and Restart, which works with dropouts within FUSD.

1970s



DAVE FRYKLAND (B.S. '71, History) recently retired after 15 years as a senior operations supervisor at 511.org in Oakland. He is currently embarking on a new career as a voice-over actor.

MICHAEL P. JENSEN (B.A. '78, English) is an independent Shakespeare scholar. His research on Charles M. Schulz's use of Shakespeare in "Peanuts" and other comic strip work was featured in a small lecture tour in Southern Oregon, a seminar at the World Shakespeare Congress in London and in "Hogan's Alley," an online publication for cartoon arts.



BONNIE LIND (B.S. '76, Mathematics; Credential '76) is a retired high school math teacher. Lind taught in Fremont Unified School District for 40 years, including 20 years at Robertson Continuation High School and 18 years at Vista Alternative School, where she finished her career.

NICKI MCCLUSKY (M.A. '71, Music) is a voice and self-talk coach, and the author of 15 books on inspiration, self-psychology, meditation and coaching. Before becoming a psychotherapist in 1982, McClusky taught music across all ages and performed as an old-style jazz singer.



PENNY PECK (B.A. '76, History) was re-elected to the governing board of San Lorenzo Unified School District, where she serves as president.

PHIL ROSS (B.A. '76, Mass Communication) is author of two self-published books: "Blue Hombres: The Life and Times of Prominent Latino Umpires," a blend of facts and oral histories gleaned from dozens of interviews with Major League Baseball players and umpires, and "Botched Bleeding: They Tried to Kill Me and Then They Stole My Livelihood," a fictionalized account of true events. Previously, Ross was a newspaper writer.

JOHN SHINDLER (B.S. '77, Business Administration; MBA '82) is executive vice president and chief financial officer of Plaza Bank. Previously, Shindler was CFO for Pacific Premier Bank in Irvine and he also worked for the Long Beach Acceptance Corp., where he ended his tenure as regional vice president of operations. Shindler's two brothers, **RALPH** (B.S. '82, Business Administration) and **MARK** (B.S. '81, Business Administration), are fellow Pioneers.

PHIL SNOW (B.S. '78, Physical Education) has been named to the Baylor University football coaching staff. Snow has 40 years of experience coaching in the NFL and at the collegiate level. He coached four seasons with the Detroit Lions and has served as defensive coordinator at seven colleges, including UCLA and Washington, Arizona and Boise State universities.

JENNIFER PIERCE TOWNSEND (B.A. '71, Psychology) has recently produced and directed a documentary film called "Catching Sight of Thelma & Louise," which explores the meaning of the original film through its viewers. Using clips and commentary, Townsend revisits "Thelma & Louise" and its themes of female friendship, freedom, sexual assault and empowerment.

1980s



MICHAEL CHAN (B.S. '86, Business Administration) is the winner of a CFO award from the North Bay Business Journal. Chan works for Santa Rosa-based Ygrene Energy Fund, a leading provider of residential, multifamily and commercial property green energy financing. Chan has 25 years of experience in finance and accounting. Previously, he worked at the Cronos Group.

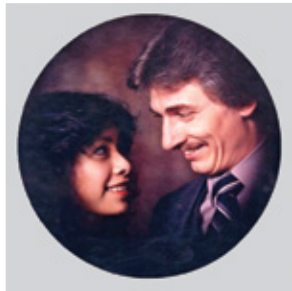
KAREN COLONIAS (MBA '88) has been named an independent director to the board of directors at Reliance Steel & Aluminum Co., a prominent metals service center company in North America. Colonias began her career as a civil engineer in 1984 at Simpson Manufacturing Co., where she went on to become CFO and is currently CEO and president.



STEPHEN GHIGLIERI (B.S. '83, Business Administration) has been appointed executive vice president and chief financial officer of Galena Biopharma, a biopharmaceutical company committed to hematology and oncology therapeutics. Ghiglieri has more than 30 years of senior-level finance and operations experience.

BILL KELLER (B.A. '85, Psychology) is CEO of Community Bank of the Bay, based in Oakland. Community Bank of the Bay has a five-star rating from Bauer Financial for its safety and soundness as a financial

institution. Keller was recently interviewed about his experience at the helm of the bank by the San Francisco Business Times.



RICHARD KINNEY (B.A. '83, Music) is the mayor of San Pablo, where he has served the community for 17 years in a variety of roles. Kinney has been an adult education teacher, assistant basketball coach at Richmond High School and Contra Costa College, and worked as chaplain for the San Pablo and Richmond police departments and the Contra Costa County sheriff's office. His wife, **JASMINE LOH KINNEY** (B.A. '85, Music), teaches violin in San Leandro and San Pablo.

MARIE RATTO (B.S. '89, Physical Education) has been a physical education teacher for Alameda Unified School District for 25 years and counting. During her time as a Pioneer, Ratto played softball from 1985-86.

DALE SANDS (MBA '84) is senior vice president and global practice director of CH2M, an environmental and engineering consultancy. Previously, Sands served as vice chair of the U.N. Private Sector Advisory Group for International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, and he developed the Scorecard, a tool that assesses how prepared communities are to respond to and recover from natural disaster. The Scorecard was met with international acclaim and received the 2015 Notre Dame Climate Adaptation Index Prize.

DARRELL SLOCUM (B.S. '80, Physical Education) has been named executive director of the Sonora Area Foundation, which oversees more than 170 funds for charitable purposes and educational scholarships. Slocum

is an experienced marketing consultant and has worked with the Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency Central Sierra Connect project.

JOANN WALKER (B.A. '80, French; B.S. '90, Physical Education) was honored by the U.S. attorney general's office in October 2016 for Distinguished Services in Community Policing. Walker was nominated for the award by Crisis Support Services of Alameda County, where she has volunteered for the crisis and suicide prevention hotline for six years. Walker has been with the San Francisco Police Department for 21 years, and is also a lecturer in Cal State East Bay's kinesiology department.

1990s

JEFF CARSON (B.A. '97, Environmental Studies; Biological Sciences) is operations manager for Dublin San Ramon Services District. Previously, Carson worked as operations and maintenance manager in Hayward, where he helped launch renewable energy and water recycling projects that brought state and national attention to the city. Carson has nearly 20 years of experience in the wastewater industry in the Bay Area.



ANIL COMELO (B.A. '93, Economics; MPA '95) is deputy administrative officer at Santa Clara Valley Water District. Previously, he was director of human resources for the City of Oakland. From 1993-95, Comelo served as a board member of Cal State East Bay's Associated Students Inc., and in 2016 held a workshop for business students called "The Curved Road to Success."



MONA DENA (B.A. '94, Music; '95, Preliminary Credential; '00, Credential) is releasing her first album, "Running Home," after raising more than \$10,000 through Kickstarter to fund her project. Dena has been performing and teaching music for 30 years and is commonly known as "Teacher Mona." She is a proprietor of Bay Area children's programs such as Music Together and Kids Sing.



STACEY HELLEY (B.A. '90, French; B.A. '10, Music) recently obtained a doctoral degree in music from USC's Thornton School of Music. Helley is the founder of the Favolare Ensemble, which performs throughout the Bay Area and specializes in works composed before 1700.



DAVE LAWLOR (B.S. '92, Business Administration) is executive vice president of operations, a newly created

role at Marquette University. Previously, Lawlor was vice chancellor and CFO at UC Davis, and served for seven years at George Washington University as the senior associate vice president for finance.

MEREDITH MENDELSON (MPA '94) received her doctorate in leadership and change from Antioch University in July 2016. In addition to working as a program manager at the Swedish Cancer Institute in Seattle, Mendelsohn has her own consultancy focused on medical resident education called Leading by Design, which was also the title of her dissertation.

GINA MINDER-MALDONADO (B.A. '97, Liberal Studies; '00, Preliminary Credential; '02, Multi-Subject Credential) received one of two Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year awards in September 2016. Minder-Maldonado has been a second-grade teacher at Oakley Elementary for 18 years and worked in education for 25.

LYNNE MORROW (M.A. '97, Music) is the music director of the Oakland Symphony Chorus and of Pacific Edge Voices. She also directs the voice and opera/music theater programs at Sonoma State University.



MAX RAVEN ('91-'92, Business) is senior vice president of CNBC Catalyst, the in-house advertising agency for CNBC International. Raven launched Catalyst in 2015 to offer a best-in-class client partnership and invigorate the network's international sales strategy. Previously, Raven worked with CNN International and Hearst.



MONICA GAINER REYES (B.A. '90, Sociology) has been appointed recreation manager of the Nevada Irrigation District. Previously, Reyes was customer account administrator for NID and she has been with the district for 20 years.

NORA ROBINSON (B.A. '91, Art) is director of development at the YWCA of Knoxville, Tennessee, and a volunteer at Harvest Food Bank. Previously, she worked as sales supervisor at the Tree and Vine, a boutique food shop; as content manager for KaTom Restaurant Supply, Inc.; and as senior director of corporate communications at Applied Materials Inc.

JIM STANKER (MBA '96) has been named to the board of directors for GSE Systems, a global leader in real-time, high-fidelity simulation systems and training solutions for the power and process industries. Stanker, named a director and member of the audit committee, has more than 30 years of strategic audit expertise and financial leadership roles within multinational corporations.

LORI STOIA (B.A. '90, Mass Communication) has been teaching students how to make their own bath and body products through adult schools and parks and recreation departments for the past 12 years. Since 2013, she has been a volunteer at the City of Los Altos senior program and was recently hired as a recreation leader.

2000s

MAUREEN CAISSE (B.A. '03, Sociology) recently opened her own music school, Sebastopol Strings Academy. Caisse has been teaching private cello lessons for more than 20 years, including at the Summerfield Waldorf School and Farm in Santa Rosa for the



past 11 years. She hopes to foster and sustain a culture of excellence within the music community in Sonoma County.



WALTER CAMBRA (B.A. '02, History) recently published the article "Enigma" in The Cryptogram, the journal of the American Cryptogram Association. The article focuses on clarifying the debate between the symbolic use of the numbers 666 versus 616 in Revelation 13:18.

HOWARD CHAN (B.S. '00, Business Administration) has been named assistant city manager of Sacramento after serving as interim assistant city manager since September 2016. Chan has more than 25 years of experience in parking and transportation across the public and private sectors. Previously, he was the City of Sacramento's parking services manager.



KIRAN DHILLON (B.S. '07, Finance) is an estate planning attorney at Goralka Law Firm P.C., in Sacramento. Dhillon

graduated with honors from Western State Law school and was previously an attorney at an employment law firm. She also has finance experience from her time as a financial and supply chain analyst for E. & J. Gallo Winery.

JOJO GUINGAO (MBA '03) is the first vice president of digital management and transformation at Aboitiz Equity Ventures, based in his native Philippines. Guingao has previously worked for a number of global software companies such as Autodesk, Esri and most recently Navagis, a Google partner.

DANIEL HILLMAN (M.S. '08, Educational Leadership) has been named director of facilities-construction for San Ramon Valley Unified School District. Hillman was principal at Dougherty Valley High School for three years and has been working as an educator since 2002.



LONG HUYNH (B.S. '03, Business Administration; MBA '04) is associate dean of global campus at Kansas State University. Huynh is a former business management professor at Cal State East Bay and board member of the Cal State East Bay Alumni Association. Previously, he served as director of graduate and professional education programs and services at CSU Northridge.



RAHUL KURUVILLA (M.S. '01, Computer Science) is president of Triune Infomatics, a national IT consulting, staffing, executive search and disability staffing company recognized as a Top

Asian American Business of 2016 by the Asian American Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation Western Region. The Fremont-based company has also been ranked by Inc. Magazine for the third year in a row as one of the 5,000 fastest-growing private companies in the United States.

LIBIER LEDZEMA (B.S. '08, Business Administration) was named Hayward Police Officer of the Year at the 73rd annual Hayward Chamber of Commerce awards gala in February, held at Cal State East Bay. Ledzema has nine years of experience on the force and currently serves in the special victims unit.



NILOUFER PABLA (B.S. '06, Business Administration) is controller and manager of service delivery at AccountingX, a virtual accounting firm. Pabla has more than a decade of accounting experience. Previously, she worked for a Fortune 100 company. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with family and exercising.

CLAUDIA QUEZADA (MPA '01), currently a first-year educational leadership doctoral student and the director of Cal State East Bay's Early Assessment Program, was recently recognized by the City of Hayward with a Certificate of Commendation for her work with EAP, and for being a "Sterling Representative of Hayward's Entire Education Community."

JASON ROTH (MBA '07) is a business development manager at Langan Engineering & Environmental Services, a global environmental and engineering consultant firm. Roth began his career as an environmental scientist and has 16 years of experience in the architecture, engineering and construction industries. Roth is especially grateful for the opportunity to have studied in France during his MBA program at Cal State East Bay.

2010s



HANK COSHNEAR (M.S. '16, Biological Sciences) is a research associate at Sevident Inc., a diagnostics services facility that creates molecular testing products for life sciences industries. Coshnear reports he is working on a quicker and more accurate method for "capturing exosomes in liquid biopsies," which could be applied to a range of diagnostics, from cancer to prenatal testing.



SANJIB GUHA (M.S. '11, Biological Sciences) is a postdoctoral researcher at the Buck Institute for Research on Aging in Novato. After graduating from Cal State East Bay, Guha spent a year as a research associate at the National University of Singapore, and then obtained his doctorate in Barcelona.



PAUL RYAN JINKENS (B.A. '12, Art) is head coach at the Major League Baseball Learning Center in Chongqing, China. After graduating from Cal State East

Bay, where he played baseball from 2009-11, Jinkens went on to professional independent leagues in Mexico and Hawaii, and then coached at William Jessup University in Rocklin.

CHRIS KEMSLEY (B.A. '13, Anthropology) is a web developer for communications, university relations and advancement at the CSU chancellor's office. Previously, Kemsley was a full stack developer at Corbulo, a startup in education technology. In his new role, Kemsley is managing daily updates to calstate.edu and CSYou.calstate.edu.

MANDY LEE (B.A. '08, Political Science) is a public affairs professional at Platinum Advisors, a full-service government relations firm, serving the company's health care and technology clients. Previously, Lee was vice president of government affairs at the California Retailers Association.



LAUREN LOLA (B.A. '15, Communication) has completed her second novel, "An Absolute Mind," a sci-fi book about a college sophomore with a genetic ability called "absolute memory" that allows her to see things when she touches objects. The book is a follow-up to Lola's first release, "A Moment's Worth," which came out in July 2014.



JAKE MCKINNEY (B.S. '14, Business Administration) works in the tax department of Ostrow Reislin Berk & Abrams Ltd.,

a full-service accounting, tax and business consulting firm in Chicago. McKinney joined the firm in August 2016.



NAZYM PALTACHEV (B.S. '05, Engineering) is the entrepreneur behind Soul of Nomad, a men's sportswear line designed to withstand frequent travel. The line is made exclusively in America and Italy. Paltachev is

using his background in business and product management to build an e-commerce platform that creates clothing out of raw materials sourced from ethical, fair trade suppliers. His emerging brand has been featured in the Huffington Post and Forbes.

SHANEEL PRATAP (B.S. '04, Criminal Justice Administration) recently completed a master's degree in sociology with a minor in women's studies at New Mexico University. He is currently an adjunct professor at Las Positas College in Livermore and is preparing to apply for the doctoral program in sociology at UC Berkeley. Before returning to school, Pratap worked as a youth correctional officer in San Mateo County.

FOREVER PIONEERS

From left, **KIRAN GOEL GULATI** (MBA '97) owns Kiran Gulati & Associates, a medical device consulting business, and is chair of the Department of Regulatory Affairs and Compliance at UC Santa Cruz Extension. Gulati's mother, **SHREELA GOEL** (B.S. '86, Computer Science; M.A. '71, Biological Sciences) recently marked the 50th anniversary of her first degree from the university when it was California State College at Hayward. Before retiring, Goel worked as a software engineer at IBM, Sun Microsystems and Lockheed Martin Missiles and Space Company, where she helped automate the Milstar satellite. Goel's brother and Gulati's uncle, **SUJOY SARKAR** (B.A. '78, Mass Communication) is also a former Pioneer who runs the TV studio at Chabot College. Sarkar has held prior IT positions for the U.S. Navy and U.S. Border Patrol. Rounding out the family is Professor Emeritus **ANIL KUMAR SARKAR**, who taught in the university's philosophy department from 1965-79 and was honored with the installment of the "philosopher's stone" near Meiklejohn Hall. Professor Sarkar died in 1991.



RYAN REY (B.A. '09, Music; M.A. '15, Music) is executive director and co-artistic director of Composers Inc., a nonprofit that presents concerts of new music by American composers. Rey explains that Composers Inc. was started more than 30 years ago by a group of local musicians, including Cal State East Bay faculty, and the group maintains close ties with university professors and alumni.



GARY WALKER-ROBERTS (B.A. '16, Ethnic Studies) has been provisionally appointed to represent Ward IV of the Contra Costa Community College District governing board. Walker-Roberts obtained a master's degree in English from Arizona State University after graduating from Cal State East Bay and was heavily involved at Los Medanos College, where he obtained his associate's degree and served on the community college board and as student body president from 2014-15.

SERGIO SUAREZ (B.A. '12, Theatre Arts) was one of eight artists to receive the 2016 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award. Suarez is a decorated urban street dancer and member of the world-famous Beatz N' Pieces Crew and Fresh Dynamix Dance Company. He has spent the past 10 years as an educator at Ohlone College and mentoring at-risk youth. In 2008, he established the All the Way Live Foundation, which uses hip-hop to empower youth in marginalized communities.

ETSHOKO YINDJA (B.S. '16, Business Administration) is a market associate for the San Francisco and San Jose regions of the Siegfried Group LLP, a leading national CPA firm. Previously, Yindja held a sales support role at Blommer Chocolate Company.

Made in the CSU

SCOTT AMYX (B.A. '96, Economics) and **JUDY BELK** (MPA '78) are being featured in the California State University's annual Made in the CSU initiative in recognition of significant work and leadership in their fields. Amyx is founder and CEO of Amyx+, an Internet of Things strategy and execution agency. He is author of a new book called "Strive" and was voted one of the Top 10 Global Speakers by Speaking.com and a Top Global IoT Influencer & Expert by Inc. Magazine. Belk is president and CEO of the California Wellness Foundation, where she works to improve the health of underserved populations in California. Previously, she was senior vice president for Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors; vice president of global public affairs at Levi Strauss & Co.; and she currently serves on the boards of the Surdna Foundation in New York and the Marlborough School in Los Angeles. Belk was the university's Distinguished Alumna of the Year in 1999.



In Memoriam

JOHN CAMBUS (left), professor emeritus of communication, died Jan. 20. Cambus began his university career at then-Cal State Hayward in 1963. Before teaching, he served as an Army radio operator, and became a radio announcer during his college years. After retiring in 1992, Cambus was elected to the Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging and served on the advisory board for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Cal State East Bay's Concord campus. Contributions in his memory can be made to OLLI, 4700 Ignacio Valley Road, Concord, CA 94521, or to cancer research.

EDWARD GENSER, professor emeritus of chemistry and biochemistry, died in June 2015 at the age of 79. Genser, who was with the university from 1970-88, was known for his curriculum development on core scientific principles, which came to be known as the "Popular Topics" course that remains in place today. Genser also engaged in research throughout his life, from his dissertation on nuclear magnetic resonance to his

work at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory to his participation in medical studies. He is listed as the inventor on a number of patents. Genser is survived by his son and daughter, two grandchildren and five of his seven siblings.

CYNTHIA LEE KATONA (B.A. '69, English; M.A. '72, English) died October 29, 2016, of pancreatic cancer. Katona started teaching at then-Cal

State Hayward, but moved to Ohlone Community College in 1975, where she spent the duration of her career and made an indelible impact through her contribution to new courses, curriculum delivery methods, teaching in the journalism department and time spent as an advisor for the student publication, The Legend. Katona was an avid traveler, author of numerous books, photographer and volunteer in her community.

EDWARD OSSMAN, professor emeritus of accounting and finance, died Dec. 15, 2016. Ossman received his bachelor's degree from Loyola University and his MBA from DePaul University, during which time he also became a certified public accountant. He began teaching at then-Cal State Hayward in 1972 and remained with the university until 1998. He entered the faculty early retirement program and taught for another five years.

MARK VAN AKEN (right), professor emeritus of history, died Dec. 9, 2016. He taught at the university when it was called State College for Alameda County from 1960-63 and returned to Cal State Hayward from 1966-86. Van Aken was the author of three books on Latin-American history. Before joining the Cal State East Bay faculty, he taught at Memphis State and San Diego State. He is survived by his wife of nearly 65 years, Dolores, their son and three grandchildren.



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PARTING SHOT

Now in the final stages of construction, Cal State East Bay's new 10-foot-tall monument letters were forged from steel at The Crucible in Richmond. The letters are a gift to the university on behalf of the student body from Associated Students Inc., including (clockwise from bottom left) current President Hendrix Erhahon and incoming elected officials Vice President of University Affairs Tiffany Patterson, President Samantha Quiambao and Executive Vice President Joshua Peckham. The letters will be installed on campus in late spring. 📷 GARVIN TSO

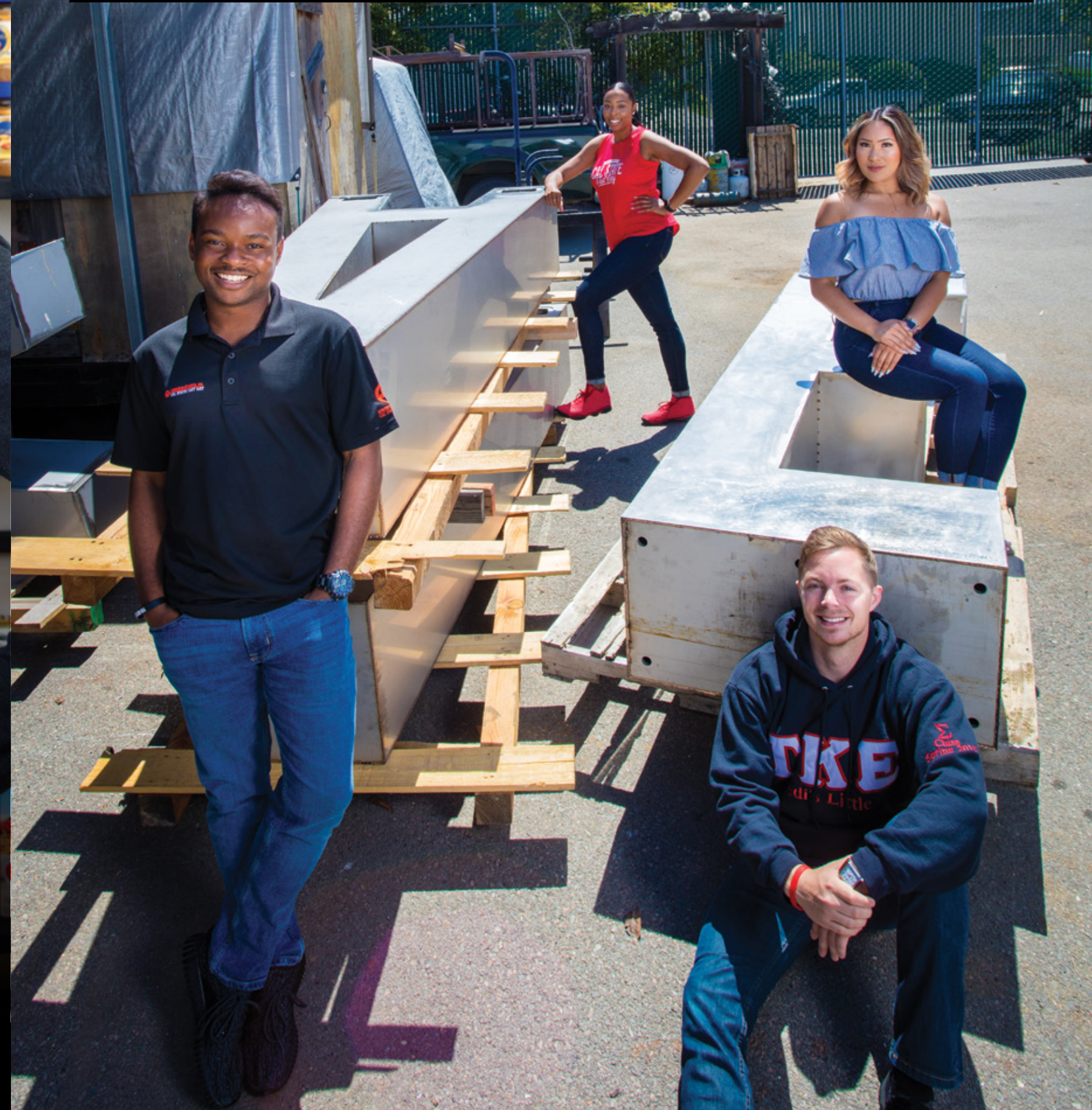
Solving Food Insecurity One Student at a Time

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Think of the difference your gift will make for Cal State East Bay Pioneers. The CSU Office of the Chancellor estimates one in 10 CSU students is homeless or food insecure — and Cal State East Bay's Project HOPE aims to fix that. But there are countless ways to support our students. To learn how you can help the university reach its \$60 million goal for Rising in the East, the Campaign for Cal State East Bay, contact Richard Watters at 510.885.4811 or email richard.watters@csueastbay.edu.

Allen Warren (B.A. '89, Political Science) is a Pioneer baseball legend, former Yankee and a Cal State East Bay Educational Foundation Board trustee. Warren has pledged a leadership gift to help start the university's Project HOPE, which provides resources to homeless and food-insecure students. He recently met with Project HOPE's **Alex Baker** (left), case management coordinator, to celebrate the Hayward campus' new food pantry.

CAL STATE
EAST BAY Rising in the East





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