



CAL STATE

East Bay

SPRING 2019

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COLLABORATORS AND
INNOVATIVE LEADERS.

WE ARE **DRIVEN TO**
TRANSFORM OUR
NEIGHBORHOODS,
OUR COMMUNITIES AND
OUR WORLD.

CAL STATE East Bay

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COVER: Melani is a sophomore at Cal State East Bay and breaking barriers as the first in her family to attend college and one of only a few women in the university's construction management program. An immigrant from El Salvador, she embodies Cal State East Bay's commitment to social mobility and exemplifies the hard work, determination and drive our students bring to the work they do every day. 📷 GARVIN TSO

The CORE is Cal State East Bay's newest building, scheduled to open fall 2021. Learn more about the work that will take place within CORE on page 12.
📷 COURTESY OF CARRIER JOHNSON + CULTURE



CAL STATE
EAST BAY

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



For more than 60 years, Cal State East Bay has demonstrated the transformative power of public higher education. Located in the world's technology and innovation capital, our students have access to the tools and resources they need to start companies, design applications that better connect us to the world, change their communities for the better, and build and test solutions for the changing world of business and entrepreneurship.

The impact is truly local, as 80 percent of our graduates remain in the Bay Area to work. Their influence reverberates throughout our community in each of our more than 130,000 alumni, some of whom are featured in this issue of East Bay magazine.

Alumni including Chanterria McGilbra (B.A., '98, Sociology) who, after a successful career in Silicon Valley, is now working to empower young women with entrepreneurship and leadership skills. And alumni such as former student-athlete Nate Weidner (B.S., '05, Broadcasting) who despite retiring from professional golf earlier than expected, has found his calling bringing golf technology to China.

Currently, our university comprises nearly 15,000 students from some of the state's most diverse communities, many who enter the university at or below the poverty line and are the first in their families to graduate from college. From here, they will join the Forever Pioneer network and return to their communities to start businesses, improve local schools and colleges, enliven and extend the impact of nonprofits, and make government more efficient and responsive.

In April, we took a step toward creating the backdrop they will need for even more success as we broke ground for a new building known as CORE. Part 21st century library, part collaborative learning space, at CORE, students will explore problems in multidisciplinary teams and work together with one another, faculty and community thought leaders to develop solutions to complex issues.

As you read the stories featured in this issue of the magazine and perhaps reflect on your own time at Cal State East Bay, I hope you will join me in celebrating not only the success of your peers but also the start of a new chapter at Cal State East Bay.

Go, Pioneers!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leroy M. Morishita". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Dr. Leroy M. Morishita
President

How to Prevent Mathphobia

Low-income children in historically marginalized communities enter kindergarten as many as 20 months behind their more privileged peers when it comes to math skills. The gap widens as the young students get older, making it less likely that they will master fractions, algebra and the higher math skills needed to succeed in college and enter well-paid, science-based professions, including IT, engineering and life sciences.

Funded by a \$1 million Excellence in Early STEM Education endowment from the Malavalli Family Foundation, Cal State East Bay will lead a pilot effort seeking to break through this long-standing problem by working with the most powerful educators of children under five — their families.

“Research shows that good math skills in kindergarten are as important a predictor of academic success — in all subjects — as literacy,” said Cal State East Bay President



Leroy M. Morishita. “Yet we have not developed an infrastructure to bring all students the skills and confidence they need ... and we haven’t yet learned how to effectively engage parents and caregivers in helping children develop skills and confidence in math. This is especially true because so many parents are themselves math-phobic.”

The pilot project launched at the Helen Turner Childhood Development Center in a low-income neighborhood in Hayward. Cal State East Bay early math experts and volunteers are engaging families, in English and Spanish, in activities such as measuring and counting with games, books and other materials to take home.

Cal State East Bay’s One-Year MBA Program Among 50 Fastest in the Country

Cal State East Bay has one of the fastest MBA programs in the country. According to a new ranking from the ranking and resource site, MBACentral.org, the university’s MBA program was listed as No. 15 of the Top 50 Fastest MBAs.

The list of MBA programs that take one year or less to complete was examined to find the fastest degree programs with the most value. Information was compiled from the most recent and

publicly available sources, including the Princeton Review, U.S. News and World Report and the National Center for Education Statistics.

Cal State East Bay is the only CSU on the list and one of only two colleges and universities in California.

“One factor that can get overlooked when researching possible future MBAs is the amount of time it takes to finish a degree program,” said Tammie Cagle, editor



of MBA Central, in a statement. “Whether it is an on-campus or online program, fast completion time can be of great benefit. A quick completion time allows students to not only obtain critical business leadership knowledge but also retain it. By putting knowledge into practice, students are more likely to use and expand on the information they receive in their MBA classes. Thus, quick completion times can inherently increase value.”



Supporting the Mental Health of Alameda County's Youngest

Of the approximately 122,500 children ages 0 to 5 who live in Alameda County, as many as 18,000 need mental health services. However, only about one-tenth of those are receiving the help they need. That's according to research conducted by Margie Gutierrez-Padilla, early childhood division director for Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services.

"There continues to be an unmet need for early childhood mental health services in Alameda County," said Gutierrez-Padilla.

This spring Cal State East Bay will help fill that need, preparing future and current mental health service providers and families through a new Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health postgraduate certificate program.

The two-year, in-class program is the only one of its kind in the East Bay and is designed to prepare mental health practitioners to provide mental health services to infants, young children and their families. And while the program is open to all qualified students, employees of Alameda County are eligible to have their tuition subsidized.

That partnership is the result of several years of county research and planning led by Gutierrez-Padilla, who began surveying the mental health agencies in Alameda

County three years ago and paying close attention to areas that needed further development. She concluded that all 17 agencies in the county would benefit from more in-depth training, with a focus on the cultural, racial, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds of patients.

After the survey, Gutierrez-Padilla began searching for ways to improve the outcomes of early childhood clinical work and decided to reach out to a university. She needed a willing school in Alameda County that would have a grasp on Bay Area culture and an understanding of its diversity. Cal State East Bay came to mind right away and the program was born, she said.

"Being invested with Cal State East Bay creates more knowledgeable clinicians and develops the skill set for Alameda's mental health providers to serve families," said Gutierrez-Padilla. "Families will receive culturally-appropriate services by a provider who they can trust. Having this program at the university means it's a county- and community-based collaborative."

A 2014 study conducted by the The Atlantic found Alameda County to be the most diverse county in California and the fourth most diverse in the United States. Because of this, Gutierrez-Padilla said, she hopes to attract students who are similar to

the families they will serve and requested the program take place at the university's Oakland Center — only two blocks from Bay Area Rapid Transit's 12th Street station.

She also referred to the experienced faculty as being one of the program's strongest assets. One such faculty member is marriage and family therapist Deborrah Bremond, who will serve as a primary instructor.

"Cal State East Bay upholds the diversity of the Bay Area," Bremond said. "This coursework will give clinicians more depth, and it will impact the mental health workforce in a positive way."

She added that in addition to tackling the clinician shortage by training new therapists, the program emphasizes coursework that is designed to be preventative, teaching practitioners how to pay attention to their patients' issues before they get worse.

"There aren't enough clinicians in community-based organizations that work with children and families, so I'm looking forward to this program," said Bremond. "Students will work with a broader population, and it gives them exposure they wouldn't get any other way. This program is a vehicle that will lead to bigger and better things."

—Elias Barboza

Building an Outdoor Classroom

On the southeast corner of Cal State East Bay's Concord Campus lie nearly 54 acres of land ripe for exploring.

And thanks to President Leroy M. Morishita's recent approval, the land will now serve as the Galindo Creek Field Station, a biological preserve providing the university community with an on-campus, outdoor site to facilitate scholarship and learning.

According to the National Science Foundation, field stations and marine laboratories are outdoor reserves supporting "research and education conducted in the natural habitats of terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems." Such stations enhance academic options "by preserving access to study areas and organisms, by providing facilities and equipment in close proximity to those study areas, and by fostering an atmosphere of mutual scientific interest and collaboration in research and education."

Cal State East Bay chose the Concord Campus to host the university's first modern field station in part because of its location within the wildland-urban interface (WUI). The interface represents a transitional zone between natural terrain and developed neighborhoods. WUIs have been featured extensively in the news recently, as their vulnerability to California's increasingly long fire seasons has been a factor in fires that have caused dozens of fatalities and billions of dollars in damage. The Lime Ridge fire of June 2018, which scorched some 10 acres of Concord Campus

property, was a reminder that the university's second campus sits astride this extremely delicate interface.

The field station boundaries encompass two distinct areas — a heavily foliated riparian zone dominated by Galindo Creek and a sparsely treed grassland that the university leases to a local rancher. Part of the Mount Diablo watershed, Galindo Creek runs through the eastern edge of campus and supports dozens of native species, including deer, coyotes, bobcats, rabbits and squirrels, as well as a variety of reptiles, amphibians and birds, some on the California endangered list. To the west, a tributary of the creek forms a wetland area that provides additional habitat for local fauna.

Most of the Concord Campus section of Galindo Creek remains "daylighted," or free of culverts and paved channels. Some damage has been done, however, by the destruction of portions of the creek habitat by unauthorized users, as well as the introduction of non-native plants. As most East Bay creeks have been seriously compromised by such consequences of urban development, creek restoration will also present the

university with a chance to deepen its role as a regional environmental steward.

Academic uses of the field station include student work and faculty research in the environmental and biological sciences. Faculty-led field trips have already been completed at Galindo Creek by five Hayward-based classes, where students have collected soil samples, explored native plants, and analyzed water quality. Assistant Professor Patty Oikawa is also scheduled to begin research at the field station on how ecosystems interact with the atmosphere.

Although the inaugural uses of the Galindo Creek Field Station have tended toward the natural sciences, the site is open to any proposal that supports the academic mission of Cal State East Bay. Academic disciplines as diverse as engineering, archaeology, photography, art and teacher education will have no trouble finding uses for this vibrant and accessible landscape.

For more on the Galindo Creek Field Station, go to the preserve's website: csueastbay.edu/galindocreek/

—Robert Phelps



BY DAN FOST

CAL STATE EAST BAY ALUMNA
ONE OF TWO OF THE FIRST
FEMALE AFGHAN-AMERICANS
ELECTED TO OFFICE NATIONWIDE

the Firs

The year 2018 was a historic one for women. The #MeToo movement inspired thousands around the world to speak out about their experiences with sexual assault. Sandra Oh became the first actress of Asian descent to be nominated for a Primetime Emmy for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series. And a record-breaking number of women, particularly women of color, ran for and were elected to office for the first time.

Congress may have gained Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, but Hayward gained Aisha Wahab, who earned an MBA at Cal State East Bay. In November 2018 she became the first Afghan-American, millennial and only renter elected to Hayward's city council. And this April, Wahab became the first candidate to put her name in the race for Rep. Eric Swalwell's East Bay congressional seat after he announced his run for president.

Wahab shares the honor of being the first female Afghan-American elected to any office in the U.S. with Safiya Wazir, who won her race for New Hampshire's state legislature in the November election as well.

Yet for all the groundbreaking firsts, Wahab is focused on what lies ahead, not what she's pushed past to get where she is.

"I am proud of it; however, it does not change who I am, what I want to do, and the impact I want to make," she said. "Because at the end of the day, for me, it's about the work."

Wahab was the top vote-getter in a field of seven candidates, beating out two incumbents (only one of whom was re-elected in ranked-choice voting). Her priorities include pushing for more affordable housing, improving mental health and de-escalation training for public safety personnel, and improving the overall economy. ▶



I

FINDING HER WAY

It was economic issues that led Wahab to Cal State East Bay. The daughter of immigrants, Wahab was born in New York City, and she and her sister were largely raised in foster care throughout the Bay Area — a fact she now sees as a strength.

“My personal life has been far more complicated than the average person’s,” she said. “But my upbringing allowed me to see all sides of an argument, and all sides of the community. I absolutely love what my sister and I took from it. Everybody has their highs and lows.”

Wahab’s adoptive parents ran a small shop in Oakland. Her father stressed the importance of women achieving their potential, holding up Madeleine Albright and Hillary Clinton as examples.

Wahab earned a degree in political science at San Jose State University, but after graduation she still wasn’t sure what she wanted to do with her life. The economic downturn of 2008 had occurred right as she was starting college, her parents’ store closed a few years after, and Wahab was laid off from her job as an environmental consultant and sales director.

While she pondered law school — which she sometimes still does — Wahab opted for the one-year master’s in business administration at Cal State East Bay.

“I liked Cal State’s one-year program primarily because ... I’m a relatively impatient person,” she said.

While there, she worked as a program coordinator at the university’s Diversity and Inclusion Center, which focuses on multiculturalism, service and social justice. She helped organize some of the first events for other first-generation college students, as well as a “Tunnel of Oppression,” which guides participants through activities designed to teach them about oppression, privilege and power. Both events continue to this day.

Stan Hebert, who was Cal State East Bay’s associate vice president and dean of students at the time, said Wahab stepped in for a staffer on paternity leave and “was extremely important in keeping the programming and operations in our diversity program going at that time.”

“It was great to have someone with her level of maturity and understanding of how a center like that could work,” Hebert said. “She also looked for ways to help our associated student officers have a better understanding of the role they could take in fostering inclusion at CSU East Bay.”

Wahab earned her MBA and ultimately found work as a business and IT consultant, helping leverage technology companies’ work to benefit the public sector.



FINDING HER VOICE

She decided to run for office because she wanted to see the city council in Hayward do more. She didn’t use any political consultants; instead, she knocked on doors all over the city — her favorite part of campaigning. She also managed to garner endorsements from the Democratic party (although the election was nonpartisan) and from Our Revolution, Sen. Bernie Sanders’ political action organization.

The campaign was a learning experience, and her education continues now that she’s holding office for the first time.

“There are certain limitations,” Wahab said. “There are so many things I can’t do. Conversations need to be had.”

But she still exhibits her trademark tenacity.

“I’m exercising my right to push the issues I care about,” she said.

Her position on the city council doesn’t pay enough for Wahab to quit her day job, but the demands of public office in a city of 161,000 keep her busy almost around the clock.

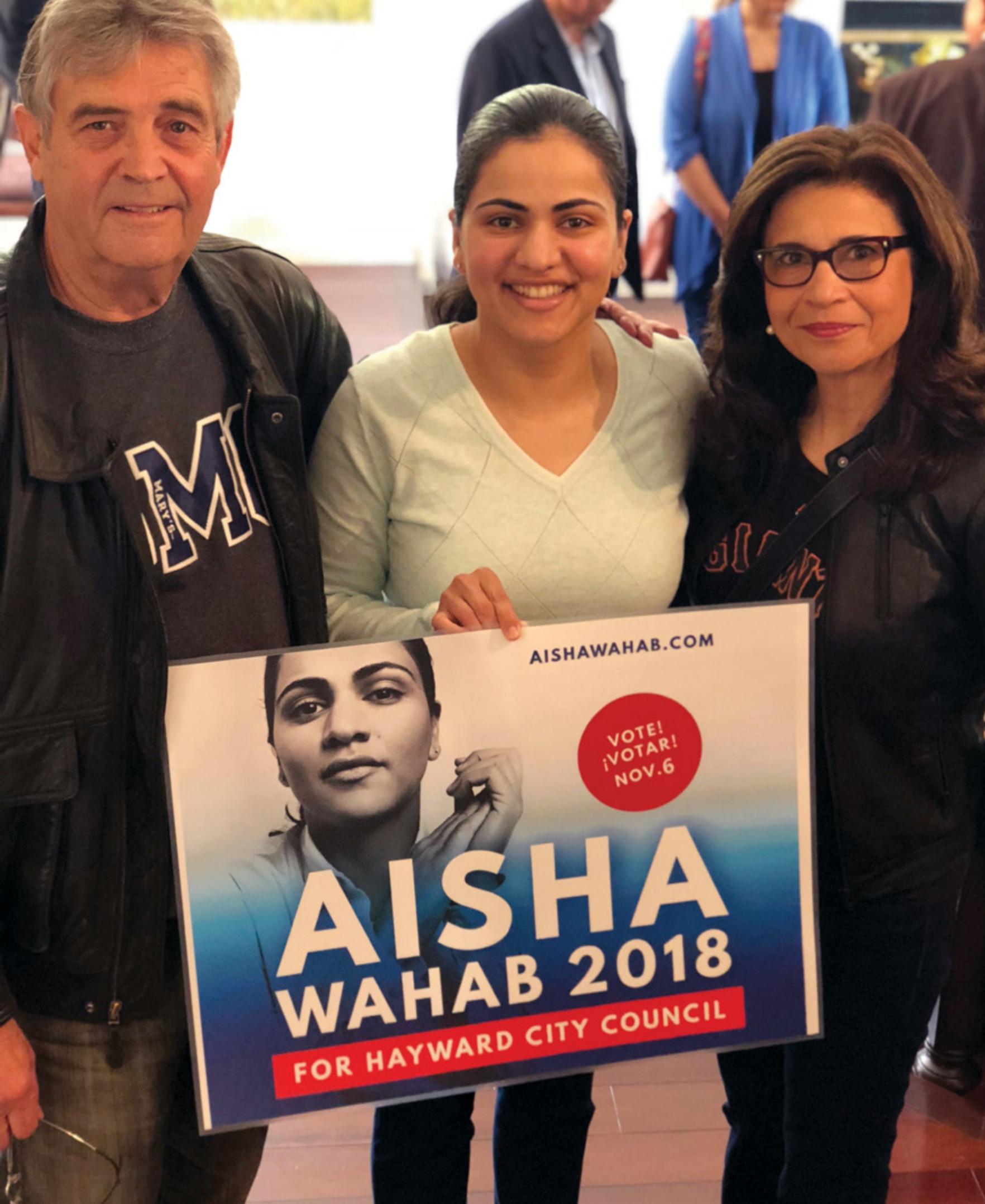
She’s also gained attention outside the city. California state Assemblyman Bill Quirk recognized her in March 2019 as his district’s Woman of the Year, and she joined other honorees in Sacramento. And she was recently included on the Cal State East Bay Alumni Association’s 40 Under 40 list and the 2017 San Francisco Business Times’ Most Influential Women in Business.

“Being a kid that grew up in foster care, from an immigrant family, voices like mine have not been heard,” she said. “That’s important. Everyone should have their voice heard. At the end of the day, if you can say, ‘This is my story,’ and own it, and use it in a powerful way, that’s one reason people pay attention to what I’m doing or saying.” **EE**

Aisha Wahab will be a panelist at Cal State East Bay’s Women on the Rise event on July 13. See csueastbay.edu/alumni for more information.

(Top) Aisha Wahab receives a Woman of the Year award from California State Assemblyman Bill Quirk.
(Right) Aisha Wahab stops for a picture with constituents during her 2018 city council campaign.

COURTESY OF AISHA WAHAB



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FOR HAYWARD CITY COUNCIL



Kinesiology
Research Group
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PRINTING A SKELETON

Cal State East Bay students use 3-D printing to replace missing bones, donate skeletons to high schools

BY NATALIE FEULNER PHOTOGRAPHY GARVIN TSO

CAL STATE EAST BAY HAS SKELETONS IN ITS CLOSETS. Or at least pieces of them.

The bones are parts of skeletons used by the kinesiology department to study anatomy, but over the years the skeletons have lost pieces that are expensive to replace.

But for the spring 2019 semester, a group of kinesiology students has partnered with students from the multimedia department and two local high schoolers to take a unique approach to replace the pieces.

By re-printing them.

“We’re not even sure how the missing pieces happen ... but they are incomplete so we have to keep replacing them,” said Andrew Denys, a kinesiology master’s student and instructional support assistant. “So in [talking with Professor Vanessa Yingling] about possibly donating the bones to schools, I got thinking and realized, ‘Why don’t we try printing and rebuilding the entire skeleton, instead of just disassembling them and leaving them in closets.’” ▶



A RISING TREND

As 3-D printing continues to grow in popularity and transform manufacturing, many medical professionals are looking toward technology as a way to help the millions of people worldwide in need of prosthetics.

“On the biomechanical side, 3-D prosthetics allow us to ask, ‘How do we make something that is totally customizable and can function in the same way as a limb?’ and on the sociology side of kinesiology, we’re studying how that becomes a part of the person,” Denys said.

And that’s not all. Three-dimensional printing technology has been used to create customized (and removable) casts for broken bones, skin for burn survivors and facial reconstruction parts.

According to Yingling, 3-D prosthetics are becoming popular in part because of their cost effectiveness. And universities are taking note. Cal State East Bay hopes to bring in a prosthetics company from San Leandro, and CSU Dominguez Hills has a health science master’s degree with an option in orthotics and prosthetics that includes the technology.

“It’s a growing demand for sure,” Denys said. “We’re right at the brink of where it’s going to become way more relevant, and we want our students to have already seen and used the technology.”

INNOVATION IN LEARNING

At the heart of the skeleton printing projects are students from three distinct areas — kinesiology, multimedia arts and Tenyson High School. But Denys and Yingling, who are co-leading the project with Assistant Professor of Art Ian Pollock and 3-D instructor Ben Hawklyn, say their differences are what make the group strong.

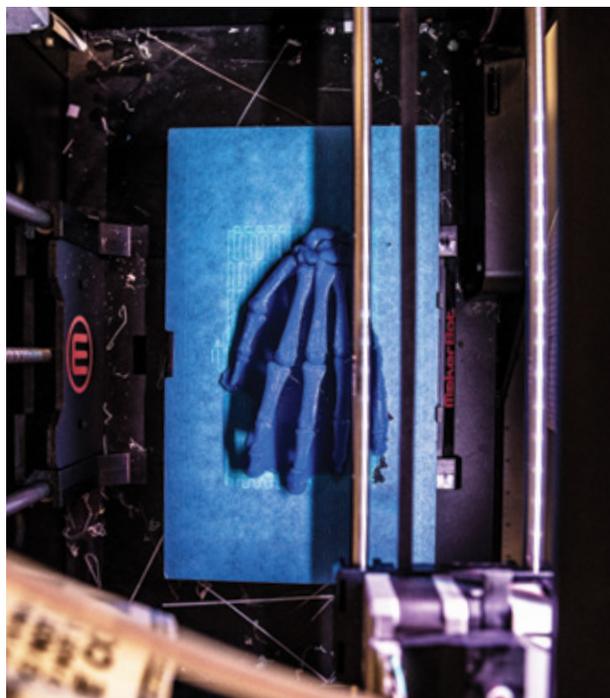
“The whole idea is including not just kinesiology students, but media arts as well and taking this interdisciplinary approach,” Denys said.

According to a 2010 study from the College of DuPage in Illinois, interdisciplinary learning has the potential to expand student understanding and achievement among all disciplines. It enhances communications skills and encourages tolerance, leadership and collaboration skills.

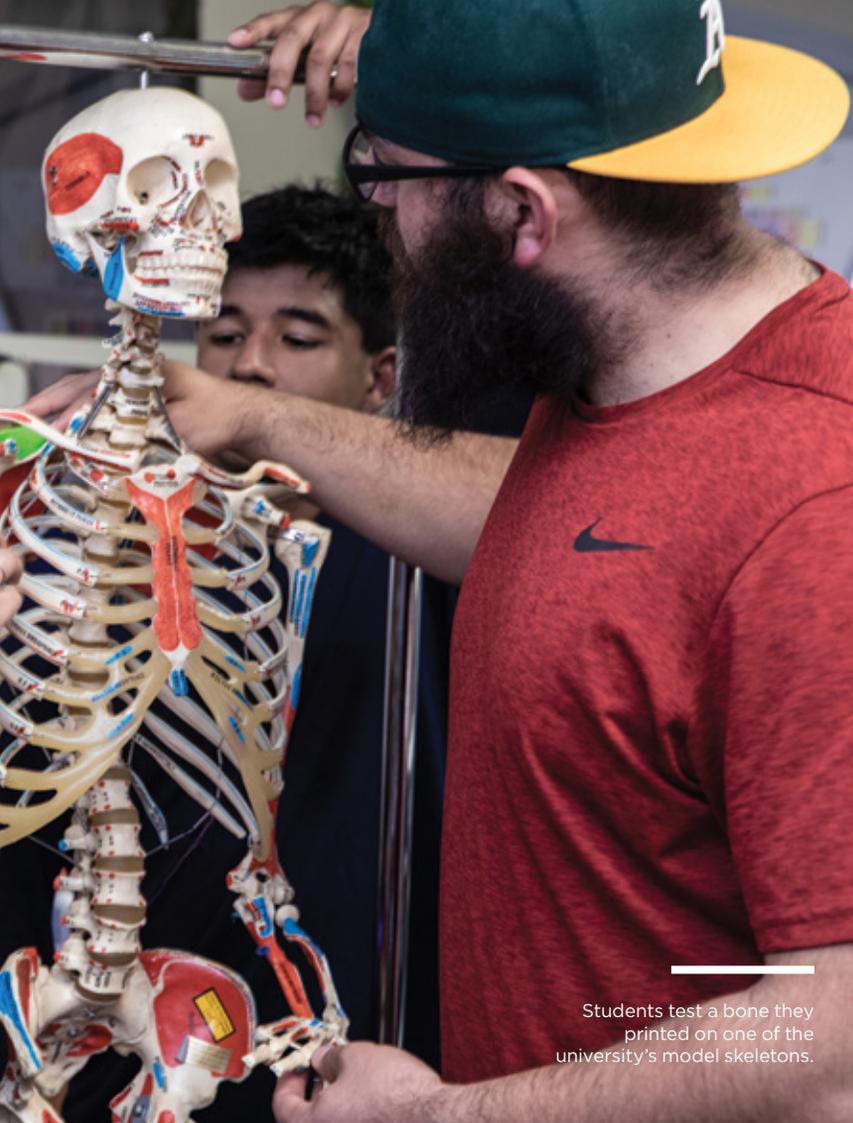
These types of projects will be at the center of Cal State East Bay’s new CORE building and the Hub for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, which broke ground in April 2019.

“Interdisciplinary [projects] represent how our students will work in the workplace,” Yingling said. “Very few worksites have only one discipline working there. It promotes collaboration and the ability to understand a topic from another point of view.”

CORE and the Hub will provide students like Denys’ team with the technology, tools and access to faculty and professional expertise they need to drive innovation and create solutions for modern-day problems. The center will include printing and scanning machines, modeling and prototyping technology, milling equipment for creating custom circuit boards, and craft precision parts and tools.



A hand that will eventually replace missing pieces from a model skeleton is printed using a 3-D printer.



Students test a bone they printed on one of the university's model skeletons.

MORE THAN A SKELETON

By involving the two students from Tennyson High School, Denys hopes to not only foster an eagerness for learning in the teens but also to support the students in their pursuit of higher education.

“This community approach we’re taking is important,” Denys said. “We have programs here at East Bay like [Hayward Promise Neighborhoods] that focus on how we get students from the community to continue through university and see that education is something important. If I can get more students the opportunity to see the university and what we do here while giving them a unique experience, that’s a win for me.”

The pair will take the finished skeleton back to their school for use in anatomy classes, where currently students must learn from diagrams and books.

“Without a skeleton, learning anatomy is very different,” Denys said. “You can look at a textbook, but if you have a model in front of you, you can move it around, see and feel how the joints work. It’s another dimension of learning.”

Both he and Yingling hope the reconstruction of Cal State East Bay’s skeleton is the start of a more significant project that will eventually piece together all the cast-aside bones.

“I’m sure there’s a lot of these closets full of skeletons,” Denys said. “If we can just replace a few of the missing pieces, they could easily be handed off to schools that need them.” **EB**

What is the Hub for Entrepreneurship and Innovation?

Cal State East Bay is known for its dedication to hands-on learning, student-faculty research and community engagement. The Hub for Entrepreneurship and Innovation will provide a nexus for inventors, entrepreneurs, startups and venture capitalists to engage and explore the opportunities that will propel the creative and innovative economy into the next generation and beyond.

The space will be designed around the following learning outcomes:

IDEATION: Multidisciplinary teams will learn how to identify issues and develop ideas using the expertise of multiple fields of study. This is intended to push students to explore beyond their majors and build teams.

ADVOCACY: Teams will learn how to advocate for their ideas and respond to counter arguments and alternative viewpoints. This is intended to equip students with the skills needed to discern good ideas with potential from ideas that do not merit further development.

DISCOVERY: Once ideas are selected, teams will learn to move from concept to execution and develop an ability to model, prototype, test and develop the idea. This is intended to teach students about the steps for dissemination and adoption of ideas.

DELIVERY: Teams will work to identify paths for “next steps.” This will encourage them to learn about marketing or otherwise deploying an approach, model or idea.

These programs will be supplemented by technology showcases with local companies, business plan competitions for students and faculty, visiting entrepreneurs-in-residence and conferences or summits that expose students to ideas and people who stimulate innovative thinking.

NAMING A SPACE WITHIN CORE

Opportunities for naming learning and lab spaces within CORE range from \$10,000 to \$2.5 million. For more information visit csueastbay.edu/core or contact Associate Vice President for Development Holly Stanco at holly.stanco@csueastbay.edu or (510) 885-3183.

RESPIRO

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FATHERS OF THE

CAL STATE EAST BAY'S STUDENT
SUCCESS COACH PROGRAM KEY
TO HELPING HAYWARD YOUTH
GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL

BY KIMBERLY HAWKINS PHOTOGRAPHY GARVIN TSO

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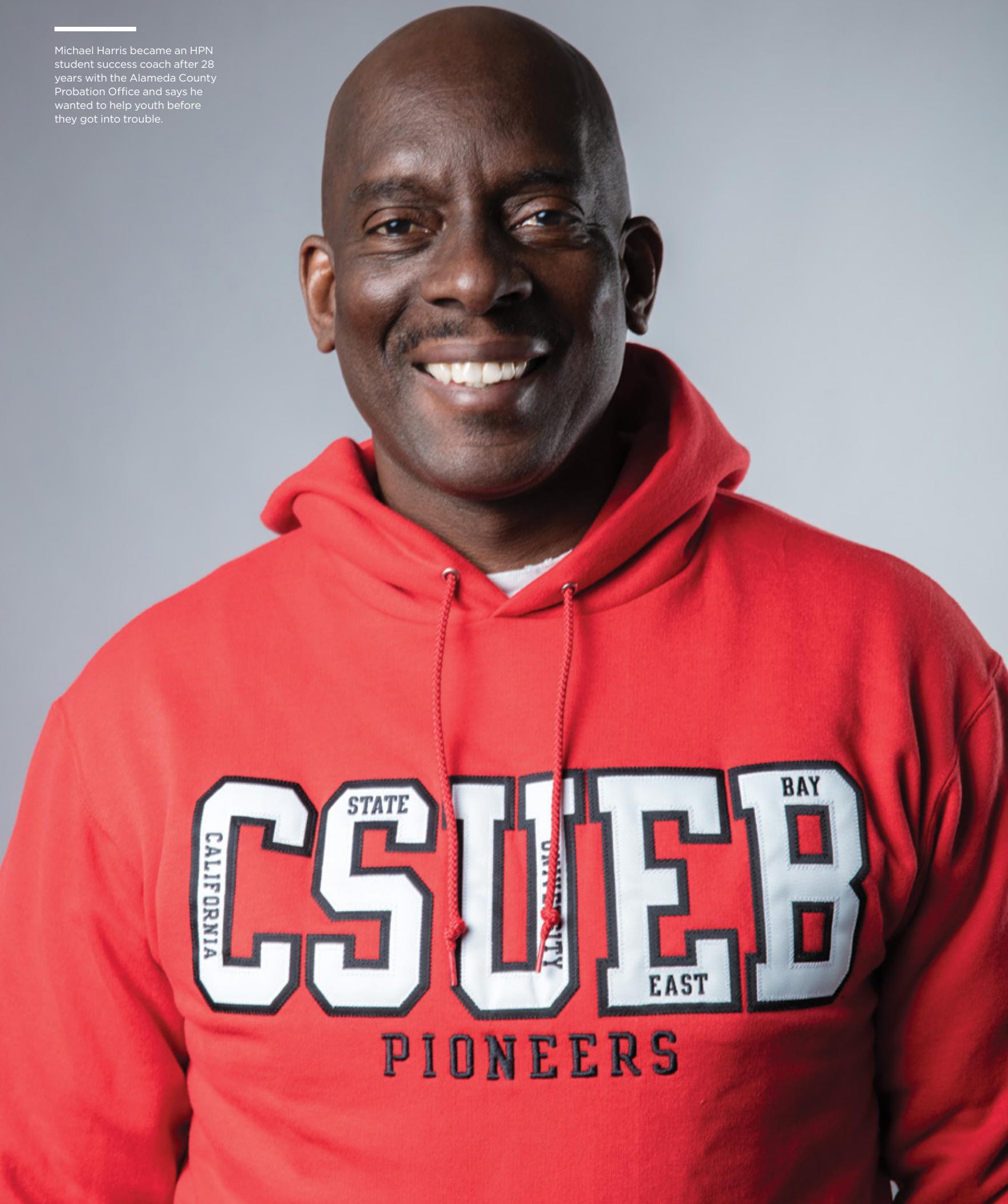


E FORGOTTEN

AT 5:50 A.M. THE ALARM GOES OFF, and Anthony Jackson is up and running. He laces up his black Nikes and bounds out the door for a workout before his real work begins. Running through the still-dark streets of Hayward, past the home he grew up in on Huntwood Avenue, Jackson cuts left on Folsom near Ruus Elementary School, where he was enrolled after his parents moved from San Francisco's Hunter's Point in 1989.

Jackson left Hayward for college, but he knew he would be back. And now, the Tennyson High School graduate works alongside Cal State East Bay alumnus and former student-athlete Michael Harris (B.S. '86, Criminal Justice) as Hayward Promise Neighborhoods student success coaches. ▶

Michael Harris became an HPN student success coach after 28 years with the Alameda County Probation Office and says he wanted to help youth before they got into trouble.



Led by Cal State East Bay and funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Hayward Promise Neighborhoods is a partnership of residents, local schools, colleges, government agencies, businesses and nonprofit organizations focused on giving the children of Hayward the support they need to thrive from birth to college and beyond.

HOLDING STUDENTS ACCOUNTABLE

Hayward Promise Neighborhoods coaches like Harris and Jackson work in Hayward high schools to identify and support at-risk students, improve attendance, connect students to tutoring and mentoring, and provide student and family support to ensure on-time graduation.

“A student success coach is a father, an uncle, a brother, a counselor — somebody that holds a young person accountable,” Jackson, who is also the high school’s basketball coach, said. “This is my ministry. I love working with people. I feel like I don’t do a lot well, but I do people well, and this is what I am here for.”

Enrolling in the student success program is an option available to the 4,900 students within the Hayward Unified School District. Each coach has a caseload of approximately 80 students.

“In the times we live in, it is important for students to be educated,” Mt. Eden High School Principal Greg Fobbs said. “For that to happen, they have to come to school. This program has really been a success at Mt. Eden. A lot of our students are struggling academically, and one of the things we focus on is attendance. It only keeps improving.”

Jackson’s counterpart at Mt. Eden High School, Harris worked for the Alameda County Probation Office for 28 years before becoming a student success coach. He said he wanted to shift his focus to helping kids before they get into trouble.

“That’s what I really wanted to do,” Harris said. “I didn’t want to be a person who pushed papers. I wanted to sit down and talk to children, tell them my story and give them some hope.”

Harris who played basketball at Cal State East Bay, said sports and good role models guided him throughout his youth, but not all kids have those relationships and opportunities.

“I tell these kids it’s not where you start. It’s where you finish,” Harris said. “I find something the kids care about — whether it’s a grandmother, a dog, or a friend — and I plug into that interest and build a conversation from there.”

CREATING A SAFETY NET

Harris greets students at the door of their classes, targeting those who are struggling with truancy to keep them accountable. He said there is a misconception that truant students are not coming to school because they are out on the streets getting into trouble, but the reality is many of them are working during the day to support their families. Others stay home with a sick younger sibling to enable their parent to go to work.

“This program offers that safety net for those students who are falling through the cracks, students who are having a hard time,” Harris said. “We don’t give up on kids because you never know when the light is going to turn on. We can’t give up. If we do, we may be throwing away the next doctor or president. Every kid does matter.”

Jackson and Harris make home visits, talk to teachers and administrators to make sure their students’ voices are heard, poke their heads into tutoring sessions, and work to be seen as an ally on campus.

“I feel like these kids are forgotten and maybe not on purpose, but they are easy to overlook,” Jackson said. “They are quiet unless they are getting in trouble. They don’t speak out unless they need help. I’m here, and I am making them accountable for things that they don’t even know they care about. The best ability is availability.”

Xander Jordan, a 17-year-old junior at Tennyson, says Jackson, whom most students refer to as Coach Jack, has pushed him to go from earning Ds and Fs as a freshman to getting As and Bs.

“He’s helped a lot because he knows what I am going through and when I am going through it. It’s very rare to actually find someone who wants to help you,” Xander said.

Jackson and Harris walk through their respective campuses giving high-fives and fist bumps, checking in by asking, “Where are you coming from? Where are you headed? Am I going to see you later?”

A THANKLESS DREAM JOB

They both call this their “dream job,” seeing the work as service, and are fueled by the students who come back to show off their college diploma, tell them about a new job or introduce them to their husband, wife or new baby.

“Sometimes it’s thankless,” Jackson said. “Some days the kids don’t want to hear you, and you’re advocating for the kids, so some days your co-workers don’t want to hear you. But when the people you are providing a service to come back and they tell you ‘job well done,’ then it makes it worth it.”

Kelly Cosby, a Cal State East Bay student and Hayward Promise intern who graduated from Tennyson High School, said student success coaches have a reach far beyond their caseload. While she was not enrolled in the program, Jackson played a pivotal role in her direction.

“The students he works with sometimes have a problem listening to others,” Cosby said. “I know I did. He knows he has to make a connection in order to move forward and he goes above and beyond to do that. Kids get to know him personally.”

At the end of the school day, hours after Jackson’s ritual morning run, he laces up his shoes one more time. This time he’s headed to coach basketball in the same gym he both practiced and played in more than two decades before, making sure on the way he interacts with any students on his path.

“I went to this high school, the things that these kids experienced from growing up in this area, I’ve experienced,” he said. “They are the same struggles, only now they are amplified. So many of them are living without a mother or a father or both. Financially things are tougher. I am here to help. I am them. I belong to them.” ■



ONE

AT A

Girl Time

ALUMNA COMBINES PASSION FOR FERRARIS,
ENTREPRENEURSHIP TO INSPIRE, EDUCATE
YOUNG FEMALE LEADERS

BY NATALIE FEULNER

WHEN CHANTERRIA MCGILBRA WAS 12-YEARS-OLD she wanted a pair of black and white Converse shoes. But her dad said no, it wasn't in the budget. If she wanted the shoes, it was up to her to find a job, make the money and buy them herself.

So she did.

And since that day, McGilbra, a Cal State East Bay alumna, entrepreneur and founder of the girls empowerment organization Prancing Ponies Foundation started working and now empowers the 12-year-olds of today to go after what they want.

"I was a very willful child and I wanted what I wanted, a trait I certainly got from my father," she said. "That day, I ended up getting a job baby-sitting and after the first two gigs, was able to buy the shoes. It was the first time I was shown if you assert yourself and get out there, you can get what you want." ▶

AN EXPERIENTIAL LIFE

Born and raised in San Francisco as the youngest of eight children (alongside her twin sister), McGilbra said her parents often depended on welfare and worked multiple jobs to make ends meet.

But they always tried to give their children access to experiences and opportunities they didn't have.

"I credit my parents for their ability to give my sister and I what I call an 'experiential life,' which contributed to my success and fearlessness of going after what I want," McGilbra said. "Growing up in a very progressive city like San Francisco, I was exposed to amazing opportunities."

A natural student, McGilbra was placed in the Gifted and Talented Education program in fourth grade and said she's grateful for teachers who saw that she needed an extra challenge in the classroom.

"My fourth-grade teacher Ms. Handy was instrumental in developing me into who I am today," McGilbra said adding she also had the guidance of academic counselors at the San Francisco School of Arts where she attended high school. "As far as I knew, I didn't know what college was ... but Mr. Chalmers fought for low income and disadvantaged students like myself and I owe my college assertiveness to him."

After taking a gap year to see if she wanted to dance professionally, McGilbra returned to the Bay Area and started classes at then-Cal State Hayward.

"When I arrived [on campus] I remember having this over-

whelming feeling of being home," she said. "I was so comfortable on the campus; I had never been on a college campus but still I felt very comfortable there."

CLIMBING THE RANKS

Like many students, college was a time of discovery for McGilbra. After first pursuing political science (in an effort to one day practice law), she switched to sociology and around the same time discovered a knack for statistics.

From there she was mentored by the university's information technology department and taught herself programming, which helped her land her first job as a LAN administrator for a law firm. She also took four years of Italian with a professor who left her with an insatiable desire to travel and live abroad, something her 12-year-old self could never have imagined.

"It was all amazing and I look back as that time really laying the foundation for the life I have today," McGilbra said.

As she gained professional experience, McGilbra moved up higher within the industry at companies including Kaiser, Charles Schwab and Arthur Anderson, among others. Many times, she started at the bottom, even if it meant taking a job for less pay.

But it was the purchase of a car that ultimately changed McGilbra's life.

In 2014, she walked into Ferrari of San Francisco and test drove a 458 Ferrari and 562 horsepower. A few hours later she signed the



Chanterria McGilbra will be a panelist at Cal State East Bay's Women on the Rise event July 13. See csueastbay.edu/alumni for more information.

PAUL CHINN/SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE/POLARIS



📷 COURTESY OF CHANTERRIA MCGILBRA

dotted line and according to the research she's done and what the showroom employees told her, became the first African-American woman in North America to own a Ferrari.

Similar to going to college, it was a dream she didn't realize she had.

"I never wanted a Ferrari but I didn't know to want one," McGilbra explained. "Our upbringings give us a narrative, a lot of which we think we don't have a choice about. Our narrative was that we were poor and poor people don't dream of having a Ferrari that dream is too expensive to have."

That really hit home when one day stopped at a bus stop near Galileo High School in San Francisco, two girls yelled out to McGilbra that they liked her car.

Surprising them and herself, she called back

"I expect you two to get one too."

And since that day, she's worked to open the doors for young women like herself to change their narratives, to see success in business as not just a dream but a possibility.

BUILDING WOMEN LEADERS

The Prancing Ponies Leadership Acceleration Academy accepts up to 10 third-year STEM young women each summer for a six-week long intensive skill building program. Based on McGilbra's own experience seeing how long it took her to learn business skills such

as how to run a meeting or create budgets, the young leaders learn everything from presentation skills to salary negotiation and conflict management.

"I started looking around and realized I could do more good in the world by helping the next generation ... [because] you absolutely can change your narrative," McGilbra said.

After graduating from the program, Prancing Ponies scholars then mentor incoming students to the program attend various events throughout the year. Since its inception in 2015, Prancing Ponies has received recognition and support from dozens of well-known philanthropists and companies including Oprah Winfrey and Microsoft.

"We are accelerating girls on a path to leadership, we don't just give them the skills, we try to connect them with companies that are actively recruiting women in leadership," McGilbra said.

And why Prancing Ponies? Well because of Coco, the Ferrari of course.

In addition to the leadership academy, Prancing Ponies hosts yearly all-woman car shows and executed the first all-female Ferrari rally in the world in 2016. The events, McGilbra says, not only inspire girls, but show that women can be just as passionate about their cars (and business) as men.

"It's been a really fun journey starting with our world record Ferrari race, but more importantly, it's been a journey that allows me to live my life's purpose," she said. **EE**

BACK TO THE BE

CAL STATE EAST BAY STUDENTS TO STUDY AT CERN, WORLD'S LARGEST PARTICLE PHYSICS LAB

BY NATALIE FEULNER

DEEP UNDERGROUND IN AN UNDERGROUND ACCELERATOR spanning the border of two countries, protons race toward each other at lightning speed. As the particles collide (nearly 1,000 million times per second), these collisions trigger detectors that measure the momentum of each charged particle and record data about the energy carried by each. These data are then sent back to the lab, where data scientists pore over the numbers, searching for a sign of the invisible forces that have shaped our universe since the beginning of time.

This is CERN.

Located in Geneva, Switzerland, it is the largest particle physics lab in the world.

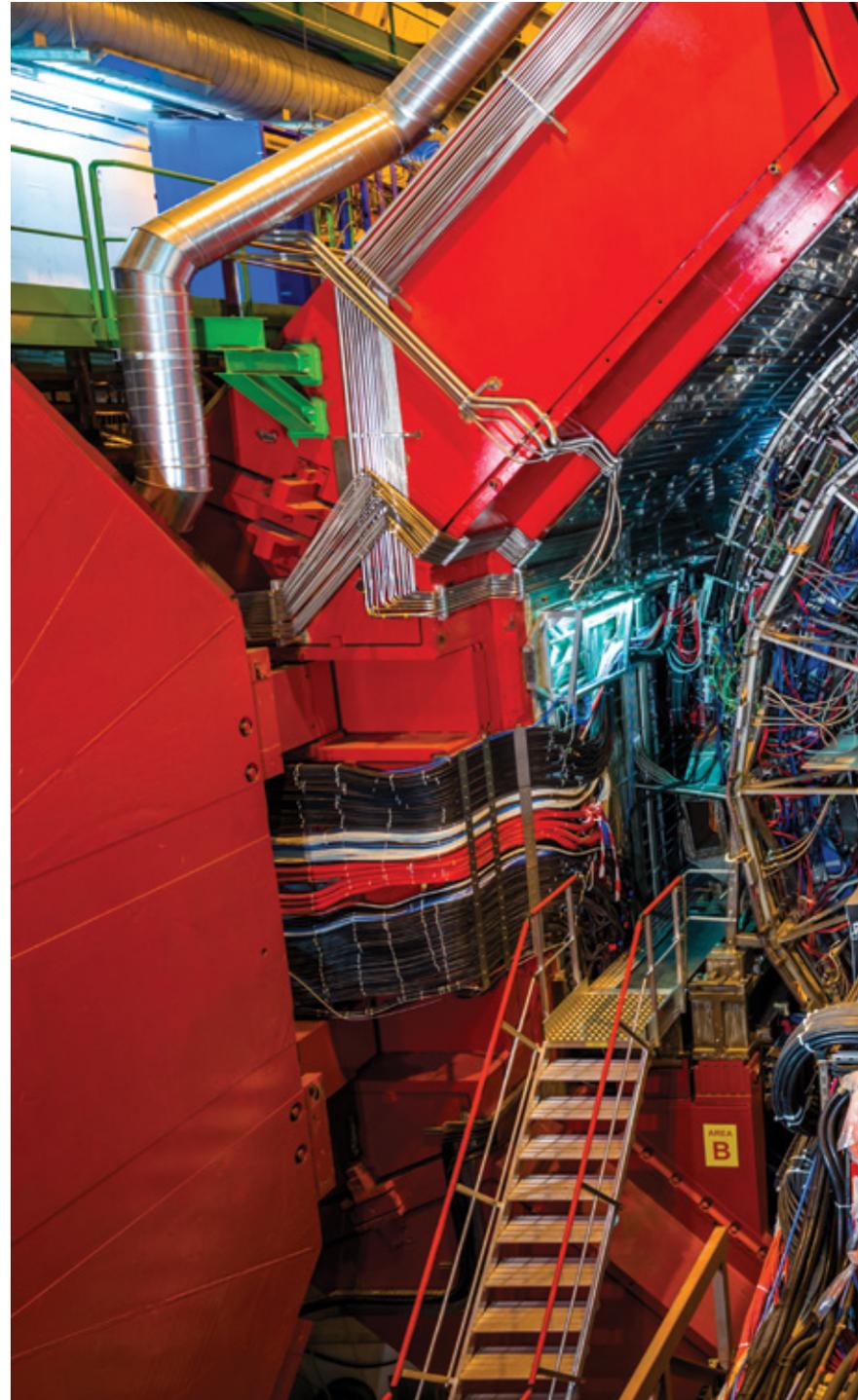
And this summer, it will be home to three Cal State East Bay students who will spend 10 weeks there alongside physicists analyzing data and helping build the next generation of detectors.

THE ATLAS COLLABORATION

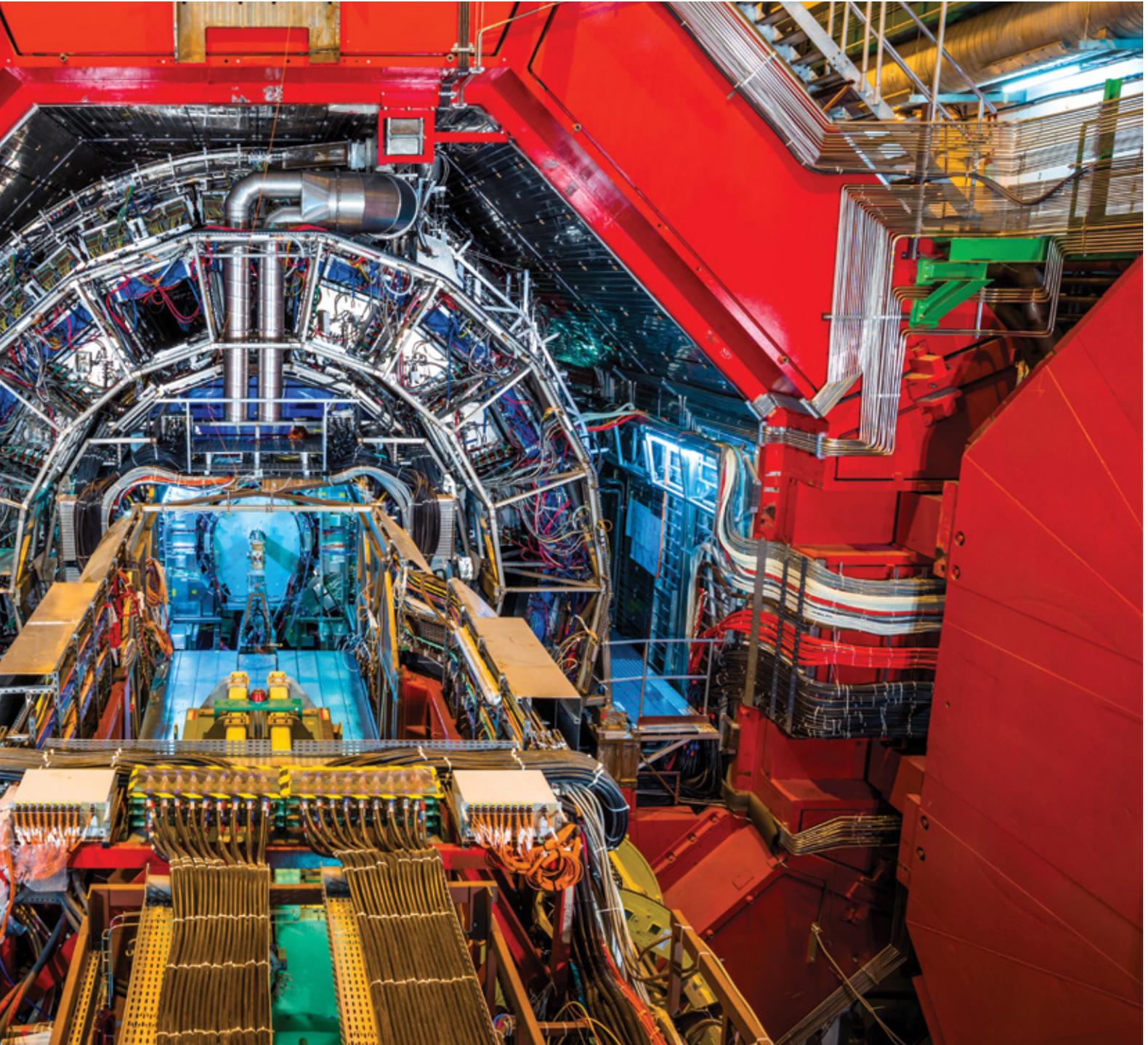
CERN began in the 1950s as a small lab for scientists from Europe and North America. Its vision was to stop the “brain drain” to the United States and Canada that was occurring during and after the Second World War and to “provide a force for unity in postwar Europe.”

These days, it serves as a world-class research facility focused on fundamental physics. CERN unites people from all over the world, with a focus on pushing the “frontiers of science and technology, for the benefit of all.”

“The primary focus is on particle physics ... and fundamental research removed from most practical applications,” said Assistant Physics Professor Kathryn Grimm. “It used to be that ▶



BEGINNING





different countries had their own accelerators to do particle physics, but at this point, everyone in the world works on the same one.”

The Large Hadron Collider steers particle beams to collide in the middle of the ATLAS detector. By examining the debris of the collisions, scientists are able to understand particles that existed in the early universe.

At just shy of seven stories tall, the ATLAS detector is used for one of the largest, most complex physics experiments ever conducted and could have 3,000 scientists, 1,000 students from 174 universities and laboratories in 38 countries working with it at any one time.

Beyond fundamental research, the technology developed for the ATLAS detector has led to advances in phenomena and research ranging from the eye to the brain to creating a system for finding and rescuing people using infrared sensors. These sensors can be helpful in cases of emergency where people are often difficult to find, such as in a mine or if smoke or fog is present.

A SMALL PART OF SOMETHING BIG

Grimm, who worked as a postdoc in Switzerland at CERN, said the California State University system has joined 45 other U.S. universities to be a member of the ATLAS collaboration. As a result, a group of students from Sacramento State, CSU Fresno and Cal State East Bay are able to access and study the data collected by CERN. The other two CSUs have sent students to the summer program for several years, but 2019 will be the first year Cal State East Bay will participate.

Each participant must have taken and done well in a particle physics class at Cal State East Bay and be currently enrolled in a computer programming class to learn the data-side skills needed to work at CERN.

Three students — Alex Penaflor, Guanhao Su and Madeline Monroy — were identified by Grimm earlier this year and are eager to put their skills to the test.

“It’s one of those collaborations that in this particular field is a really cool thing to be a part of, it’s kind of like saying you work for NASA, it’s kind of the particle physics equivalent,” Penaflor said.

And while the Cal State East Bay students are used to having access to hands-on experiments from virtually day one, at CERN they’ll instead see themselves as a small part of a much, much larger research effort.

“It’s really cutting edge the work they’ll be doing, but the fact is that because it’s so big, the part they are doing can feel really small,” Grimm said. “They have what we call tabletop experiments at East Bay where they do a large chunk of an experiment or research project, but there they’ll be doing just one tiny part.”

That cross-disciplinary work is key, Grimm said, for students who may or may not end up working within the particle physics fields.

“A lot of the same tools used for big data are involved in this work, so there’s a lot of people who have left particle physics and [gone] to Silicon Valley. So these are really good skills that can take students different directions.”

And that’s exactly what Penaflor is hoping happens.

“Recently I’ve been looking into engineering positions, but the experience I gain from the coding I’m going to do over the summer may be enough to get into the data science field,” he said.



(Left) The Globe of Science and Innovation is a visitor center at CERN and a symbol of planet Earth. (Middle) The accelerators within the Large Hadron Collider contain metallic chambers, seen here, containing an electromagnetic field known as radiofrequency cavities. (Right) The Large Hadron Collider steers particle beams toward the middle of the ATLAS detector, which is just shy of seven stories tall.  COURTESY OF CERN



Alex Penafior (center) works on a physics problem with Assistant Professor Kathryn Grimm (right) and fellow student Guanhao Su.  GARVIN TSO

NOT JUST SCIENCE

For two of the three students traveling to CERN, this summer experience will be their first time living and studying abroad.

Fortunately, while the scientists at CERN speak dozens of languages, the work is conducted in English. Still, Grimm says, there's value in students living abroad and challenging themselves in more social-science ways as they meet people from around the world and navigate cultural differences.

"They'll have to work with people from around the world, which means they have to learn to communicate what they've done to a diverse group of people," she said. "And this is a field of science where you have to work with other people; you can't just do your own thing. We can't all make particle accelerators."

As for what will happen when they return, Grimm says she's hoping to grow the program. She has plans to bring on a postdoc assistant and help drum up excitement from students who want to be on the cutting edge of their field.

"Particle physics tells us about the evolution of the universe ... in the beginning, there were all these free particles, but they came together to make where we are now," Grimm said. "And now we're testing exactly how much we know about those particles, how they formed our universe, and how they continue to shape the universe." 

Mindy Kimball did hands-on research as a student at then-Cal State Hayward in Death Valley National Park and (right) returned to the park as a professor years later with her West Point students.  COURTESY OF MINDY KIMBALL



ENVIRONMENT

ALUMNA LT. COL. MINDY KIMBALL IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF MILITARY'S PUSH TO PREVENT, RESPOND TO ENVIRONMENTALLY-CAUSED CONFLICTS

BY NATALIE FEULNER



TAL SECURITY



LIEUTENANT COLONEL MINDY KIMBALL was going to be an astronaut. Her plan was laid out perfectly — finish high school, graduate from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and then join NASA. Returning to her alma mater to teach the future leaders of the U.S. Army didn't figure on her life's roadmap. But sometimes life's detours have a way of surprising even the most meticulous of planners.

These days, Kimball is at the forefront of discussions and work on environmental security — the idea that the military has a role in preventing or responding to environmentally-caused conflicts as a means of peacebuilding. ▶



Mindy Kimball (left) with her students on a hands-on research project at West Point.  COURTESY OF MINDY KIMBALL

“When cadets graduate, they get commissioned as officers,” she said. “So the hope is that when they have an understanding of how environmental systems work, they will apply it when they’re on these deployments.”

DREAMING OF SPACE

As a child, Kimball grew up visiting Napa County’s Lake Berryessa and fondly recalls summers spent fishing and walking along the lake’s shore. These experiences led her to develop a deep, almost innate appreciation for nature and the outdoors.

“I’ve always loved the water and woods, and in school, I loved the environmental sciences,” she said.

After graduating from West Point in 1996, Kimball served in Bosnia and Korea as part of the Army’s Adjutant General’s Corps,

which is similar to what civilians might consider human resources.

She said it was a great few years during which she was able to travel the world, occasionally writing articles about space research and applying to transfer into the space program. But when West Point offered her the opportunity to go to graduate school and come back to the academy to teach, she swerved and took the detour.

“I knew I wanted to get back to California and sought out the good geology programs, which ended up being at Cal State Hayward,” Kimball said. “I feel so fortunate it was a small department where I had a lot of one-on-one attention from faculty, could go on field trips and did field-based geology work. I just loved it.”

Her mentor Jeff Seitz, now Cal State East Bay’s Associate Vice President of Research and Sponsored Programs, said he remembers Kimball as one of his favorite students, one who excelled despite having several commitments outside the classroom, including to her family and the military.

“She had a positive attitude and worked extremely hard in her classes,” Seitz said. “She always projected the attitude that her education was a top priority.”

DISCOVERING ANOTHER LOVE

After graduating from Cal State East Bay with her master’s in geology, Kimball’s life took another short detour while she completed a doctorate in sustainability at Arizona State University. By the time she returned to teach, the Army had sharpened its focus on environmental security as a way of preventing conflict before it happens.

Kimball, armed with two new degrees and an interest in geology (thanks to her fieldwork at Cal State East Bay) and sustainability, asked if she could teach both. Her West Point students have now traveled to and studied in Hawaii, Death Valley National Park and Iceland, among other locations, working on projects similar to the ones she did with Seitz and professor Luther Strayer.

That work can take the form of everything from decreasing a unit’s environmental impact on the country it is based in to finding ways to work with existing systems in a country that may experience a threat to resources which could result in conflict.

“We look at the stability of other countries and what sort of environmental hazards threaten to lead to conflict — whether that’s hunger, disease, food scarcity, energy, etc.,” Kimball said. “We look at whether taking care of those, taking care of the environment, can be a way of peacebuilding instead of peacekeeping.”

“We look at ... what sort of environmental hazards threaten to lead to conflict — whether that’s hunger, disease, food scarcity, energy, etc. We look at whether taking care of those, taking care of the environment, can be a way of peacebuilding instead of peacekeeping.”

Mindy Kimball poses with a group of king penguins on South Georgia Island, home to the second-largest population of king penguins in the world.

📷 COURTESY OF MINDY KIMBALL



West Point's mission is to "educate, train and inspire" its corps of 4,200 cadets. But Kimball said that since she's been teaching there, more often than not, inspiration goes the other way as well.

"It's very rewarding because every day you see cadets hungry for becoming a leader," she said. "They talk about how they can't wait to get their platoon and have this drive to serve in the Army, and I can come into the classroom and leave feeling energized by them."

And while she never planned on going back to teach at her alma mater (she wanted to be an astronaut, after all), Kimball said she'd found a new love.

"When I was selected to teach, I discovered another love and found out that I love teaching, which changed my long-term goals," she said.

LEANING INTO ADVOCACY

In addition to teaching, Kimball has become an advocate for women in the military and in the geological sciences, both fields that skew predominantly male.

She recently had a research project published that looked at gen-

der representation in professional geological publications. Looking at monthly newsletters produced over the past 20 years by the Geological Society of America, Kimball evaluated the ratio of women to men featured as authors, and whether or not photos included women in the field or just their portraits.

She found that while women are increasingly being included, there's still work to do until the association's publications accurately reflect the percentages of women in the geosciences.

At West Point, she's contributed to efforts to prevent sexual harassment and sexual assault at the academy following a report released by the Pentagon in January 2019 that showed the number of sexual assaults at the top three American military academies has risen sharply over the past two years.

As for her mentors from Cal State East Bay, Seitz said he's not surprised to see Kimball is not only rising in the ranks in her profession but that she's also advocating for others. It's how she's always been.

"When she was a student here, she was a leader among the students in our program ... she set a tone and standard for other students that focused on academic achievement, service and civility," he said. "Mindy exemplifies East Bay's Pioneer spirit." 



ROBOTS THAT GOLF

Former student athlete, alumnus Nate Weidner
bringing RoboGolf technology to China

BY NATALIE FEULNER PHOTOGRAPHY GARVIN TSO

Nate Weidner is bringing golf to China. The country of 1.3 billion is relatively new to the international golf scene, but it already boasts the world's largest golf club and is expected to have as many as thousands of clubs in the next 10 years.

Weidner, a Cal State East Bay alumnus and former golf pro who moved to China for the golf boom, has exclusive rights to install and run RoboGolfPro in all of China. RoboGolfPro is a tech startup training program that is using a robot to teach golfers proper alignment and correct their alignment mistakes.

"Golf is a very new game in most parts of Asia, but it's a fast-growing game, especially among the elite level earners," Weidner said. "I've only been in China for six months ... [but] I'm shocked at how many very uber-wealthy people there are at the top, and all of those guys love golf."

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Twenty years ago, the loquacious and enthusiastic Weidner had no idea he'd someday be living in one of the world's largest cities teaching golf. Until he took a quintessential post-graduation trip to Europe in 2007, he'd never been out of the country.

"I've always had a sense of wanderlust, I was that kid who would wander away from my mom in the grocery store just to check out the next aisle over, but nobody in my family travels," Weidner said. "That first trip [to Europe] triggered this long-dormant desire to be out there and see the world."

Weidner grew up in Castro Valley and played football and baseball as a youth and teen. But after not making the baseball team one year in high school, he gave golf a chance, showing up at tryouts with a bag of old wooden demo clubs his grandfather had picked up at a garage sale. And he made the team.

From there he was recruited to play football and golf at Chabot before transferring to Cal State East Bay, where he led the team while pursuing a degree in media arts. It was during those years as a Pioneer that he grew to love not just the game, but also the social and networking opportunities the sport afforded him.

"Golf to me is fellowship; it's the camaraderie you have with people when you play," Weidner said. "It's an individual sport, but my most successful and fun moments were with a team. Any golfer can go out by themselves, meet three strangers and walk off the course four hours later with three best friends for life."

Coach Alan Sue said he recalls Weidner was a hard worker in the classroom and on the golf course.

"He was a team leader and one of our top performers in competitions," Sue said. "His positive energy and loyalty to his teammates made him very popular with everyone on the team."

ROBOTS FOR GOLF

According to Sue and several golf-focused publications, including *Golf Digest* and the United States Golf Association website, technology has changed nearly every aspect of golf, from the sensors used to determine soil moisture to techniques for improving a player's swing.

That's where RoboGolfPro comes in.

Dubbed as the first and only swing trainer that "allows golfers to feel their ideal swing," the RoboGolfPro is a training robot that first records a player's swing then creates an updated "perfectly planed swing" with the length of swing adjusted based on the individual's flexibility.

"Instead of telling verbal cues to correct their swing, they can hold their club and feel their ideal swing," Weidner said. "Historically golf is a tough game to learn; this technology helps get people good at golf faster, and you enjoy the game more when you're good at it."

Over the past several years, RoboGolfPro has installed and trained golfers on more than 30 robots worldwide. At \$150,000 the robots aren't affordable for the everyday golfer, so Weidner and others have focused on finding clients at driving ranges, universities and fitness centers. There are a few elite PGA Tour players, including Bryson DeChambeau, who won four PGA events in 2018, who have adopted the technology and incorporated it into their home training facilities.

FINDING HIS COURSE

After his stint on the Cal State East Bay team, Weidner joined the professional circuit and played in tournaments around the country for several years. His eventual goal was to play pro for a few years, then use his communications degree to transition into a career as a sports broadcaster.

But after several tours, he was burned out.

"I worked my tail off, it was a wonderful experience, I got some amazing travel out of it, some great life stories, but on the golf side, it was quite disappointing," Weidner said. "I had goals of winning championships and meeting and beating Tiger Woods, and it didn't work out like that."

Weidner retired at age 27 and took a job in tech sales. But he always found his way back to the mecca of the golf world, Pebble Beach, every so often. And it was there he met Scot W.R. Nei, world-renowned instructor at the Pebble Beach Golf Academy. The pair hit it off, and after a round of golf (naturally) Weidner went on to work with the company at the PGA Tour's Safeway Open in Napa and continued on to promote and install the system at PGA Tour events, trade shows and golf courses before moving to London to expand the brand in Europe.

"Working for the tour is like working for a traveling circus, which is part of the work that I'd always admired, even if scares some people off — on the road 40 weeks of the year. After just seven days at that first tour event, I realized I want to do this for the rest of my life."

Sue said he wasn't surprised to learn Weidner had found success in golf after all, albeit in a different way than he'd planned.

"Nate's success in anything would never surprise me," he said. "He just has that 'it' quality about him. If our student-athletes could see Nate's positive outlook and his work ethic from his college years and through his working years immediately after college, they would understand how he became successful."

As for what's next? Now that he's settled into life in Shanghai, Weidner has some big goals in mind, starting with reaching out to golf clubs, fitness centers, universities and other places that might have the interest in and funding for the RoboGolfPro technology.

"I want golf and indoor golf facilities to become as popular as Starbucks with one on every corner and help as many people improve their lives through golf as possible," he said. 

HOW TO PROMOTE PEACE

Alumna creates Carol Sughrue Scholarship for International Peace and Understanding

BY NATALIE FEULNER

Cal State East Bay alumna Carol Sughrue (B.S., '69, Social Science) is a retired journalist, activist and humanitarian. These days she's also supporting the next generation of good-hearted world citizens with the newly-formed Carol Sughrue Scholarship for International Peace and Understanding by turning her required IRA distribution into a gift and a planned bequest.

Designed to support first-generation students who have committed to working with refugee and immigrant populations or promoting international peace, the initial \$25,000 scholarship received more than 130 applications. In recognition of the need to support more students, the amount was split into four scholarships, each of which will cover almost the entirety of the recipients' respective tuition fees for a year.

After a panel of 14 alumni volunteers reviewed the dozens of essays submitted in fall 2018, Elaine Perez-Cabrera, Joselyn De Leon Rodas, Karla Perez-Diaz and Luis Ledesma were ultimately selected as recipients and awarded \$5,937 each.

AN INSPIRATION THEN AND NOW

Sughrue, who now lives in Sacramento, said it was her then-Cal State Hayward professor John Gothberg who convinced her not to drop out of college. The professor also helped set her up with her first job as a reporter at the Argus in Fremont, which she says changed the trajectory of her life and demonstrated how vital student-faculty relationships can be.

After reconnecting with the university years later, she was happy to hear it was still the life-changing place she remembered.

"[I heard about Cal State East Bay's] diversity, its devotion to its students, its commitment to helping students in every way possible," Sughrue said. "I hadn't stayed in touch, and I was really impressed by the amazing work being done there."

She said it's the students she heard about that ultimately led her to give. She was inspired by their drive and commitment to serving their communities, a value that hit home for her.

"These students are the future, I can't control the future; I'm not going to be around ... but they're our future and they need to be prepared," Sughrue said. "These are good kids who want to better themselves and our country."

The four students who received the scholarship each sent Sughrue a letter thanking her for the gift, and she said she found herself moved by each one.

"I cried reading those letters," she said. "They are such wonderful human beings, I could not believe it. I couldn't believe how articulate they all were, how they were looking toward their future with plans in mind."

A LIFE OF SERVICE

After graduating from then-Cal State Hayward, Sughrue worked as a journalist for local newspapers and at Sunset Magazine for many years, later transitioning to corporate media. And although she retired several years ago, she never stopped finding ways to be involved in causes that moved her.

Most recently, after following the crisis in the Palestinian territories for some time in the news, she began searching Facebook for ways to help and stumbled upon a group promoting a free Palestine. She got to know the page administrators and ultimately became one herself, keeping the page's more than 80,000 followers up to date on the conflict in Israel and the Palestinian territories. She's also currently housing a Sri Lankan refugee who recently received asylum in the U.S.

Prior to this, Sughrue volunteered for six years with Project Open Hand in San Francisco preparing and delivering food to people living with AIDS. And she volunteered with the ACLU, which honored her with its Lola Hanzel Courageous Advocacy Award for her "extraordinary accomplishments as a volunteer."

When asked what motivates her to give her time and money, Sughrue said she sees it as a duty and an honor.

"I think most people want to help other people, they just don't know how or in what capacity," she said. "I believe we have to reach out and help other people and I'm just going to do as much as I can." ■

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GIFT MAKES A
DIFFERENCE.**

Think of the impact your legacy gift will make on Cal State East Bay Pioneers. Your planned gift can support student success, faculty priorities and much more. For more information, contact Holly Stanco, (510) 885-3183 or email legacy.giving@csueastbay.edu.

CAL STATE
EAST BAY
Rising in the East

CLASS NOTES

FOREVER PIONEER

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

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDEES

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes the accomplishments of individuals who have graduated from Cal State East Bay and made remarkable contributions in the areas of community or public service, or professional or personal excellence; demonstrate a commitment to the values of the university; contribute to scholarship, lifelong learning and civic engagement; assume positions of ethical leadership within the regional and/or professional communities; and provide exemplary service to, or in support of, the university.



DOUGLAS E. UCHIKURA (B.S. '75, Business Administration; MBA '95) most recently served as deputy general director for Chevron Upstream Europe, based in Warsaw, Poland. From 1979 through July 1988, Uchikura worked on obtaining the necessary federal, state and local permits for oil and gas exploration, development and production activities offshore California and onshore in Santa Barbara County, California.

ANNE CAMPBELL (M.S. '81, Counseling) has devoted her 40-year career to public education, most recently as the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools. She has been a major force in San Mateo



County for expanding access to quality early education, most notably helping launch The Big Lift, a countywide effort to ensure all third-graders become proficient readers through access to two years of quality preschool, summer enrichment activities, school attendance and family engagement.



LESLEY DI MARE (M.A. '82, Speech Communication) was the first female president in the history of Colorado State University-Pueblo, where she served since 2011 after a lengthy career in higher education administration around the country. While there, she established a new financial system, implemented the university's first online degree programs and partnered with the CSU-Pueblo Foundation to conclude the institution's first comprehensive capital campaign, which raised \$28.5 million.



RANDALL DAVIS (B.S. '02, Biology; M.S. '06, Biology) is the co-founder of Genia Technologies as vice president of research and development and helped build the company's single-molecule DNA sequencer. The firm was purchased by Roche Pharmaceuticals in 2014 and today Randy holds 20 issued or pending patents in molecular detection and DNA sequencing. Before founding his company, Randy worked in the semiconductor industry for 20 years in marketing, sales and applications management.

WOMEN ON THE RISE



BEALS



GONZALES



GREVEN



DE QUEIROZ



HAAS



O'MALLEY



ANANTHARAMAN

WOMEN ON THE RISE

alumni events recognize successful Pioneer alumnae and provide opportunities for Pioneer women to share their inspirational career stories, discuss the unique benefits and challenges of being a woman in the workforce and to connect with each other for support and networking.

WOMEN ON THE RISE: PIONEERS TRANSFORMING POLITICS

YVONNE BEALS (MPA '00) has worked in public policy and community building for more than 20 years. She worked in the California State Legislature for more than 10 years and served the City of Pittsburg as a council member and mayor from 2000-2004. She was the first African-American woman elected to the City of Pittsburg City Council and at the age of 30, was also the youngest. Beals continues to serve through her work restoring equity and social justice experienced by disadvantaged and marginalized populations.

SHANTHI GONZALES (B.A. '01, Political Science) was born in Hayward and grew up in an activist family. Her father organized for Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers. Inspired by her father's work, she realized how critical a strong labor movement is in creating economic security for low-income communities of color. She is now a freelance leadership coach working toward earning her teaching credential and was recently re-elected as an Oakland Unified School District Board Member.

HEATHER GREVEN (B.A. '15, Political Science) currently serves as political director for the Contra Costa Young Democrats. During the 2016 campaign cycle, she worked

as a pollster on races across the country, including Bernie Sanders' presidential primary race. Heather relocated to the Central Valley to run Andrew Janz's Congressional challenge to Rep. Devin Nunes in California's 22nd District and raised over \$9.2 million.

BRIYANA HAAS (B.A. '18, Political Science) was encouraged by her family to be curious and question the world around her. At Cal State East Bay, she found inspiration and opportunities to attend rallies, to intern for Rep. Eric Swalwell's district office, and Rep. Jared Huffman's office in D.C. via the Panetta Institute for Public Policy's scholarship. After completing her degree, Briyana moved back to the Central Valley and was hired as a staff member at ACT for Women and Girls. She is a campaign and policy coordinator and works to improve conditions in her community and the rest of California through campaigns, policy and legislation.

NANCY O'MALLEY (B.A. '77, Political Science) is Alameda County district attorney and a nationally recognized expert in human trafficking, sexual assault and domestic violence. D.A. O'Malley is the first woman to serve as Alameda County's elected district attorney. She is a leader known throughout California and the country for her innovation and vision. As a Pioneer, D.A. O'Malley received Cal State East Bay's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2017.

WOMEN ON THE RISE: PIONEERS IN STEM

ANUPAMA ANANTHARAMAN (B.S. '93, Computer Science) is the vice president of product management and business development for Interra Systems. Anantharaman is a media industry professional with more than 20 years of experience. She started her career as a software engineer in Compression Labs



LUU

and subsequently held product management and sales positions in various high-tech companies in Silicon Valley.

GABRIELA DE QUEIROZ (MBA '14, Statistics) is a data scientist and the founder of R-Ladies, a worldwide organization for promoting diversity in the R community, the language and environment for statistical computing and graphics. She has worked in several startups where she built teams, developed statistical models and employed a variety of techniques to derive insights and drive data-centric decisions.

LOI LUU (B.S. '05, M.S. '08 Chemistry) has more than 10 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry. Her experience began in the lab, where she synthesized potential drug candidates. In her current role as supply chain manager at CytomX Therapeutics, Inc., Loi oversees the supply and management of clinical materials for oncology research.

CHRISTA MARTING (B.S. '85, Geology) has helped grow ETIC Engineering from 10 employees to a 100-plus person firm offering a full suite of environmental consulting, engineering and construction services. As president and CEO, she collaborates with the executive team to drive the company's vision and growth strategy. In this role, she oversees business operations, program management, client relations, contract and regulatory compliance, business development, and health and safety programs.

SARA TOYLOY (B.S. '87, Biological Science) is the president of Elixir Medical Corporation. With more than 30 years of expertise in the medical device industry, she leads the company's efforts to deliver new therapeutic options that combine drug and device applications for the treatment of cardiovascular and neurovascular disease.



MARTING



TOYLOY

WOMEN ON THE RISE: SECRETS TO SUCCESS

GINA CENTONI (B.S. '87, Business Administration) is the CEO for Centoni Restoration and Development, a San Francisco design and build firm. She has more than 25 years of design, management and delivery expertise of consumer products, ranging from wireless devices to residential properties. She also spent more than 15 years on design and development teams at companies that include Apple, Sun Microsystems, Inc., and Openwave, Inc.

WENLI WANG (MBA '95) is the partner in charge for the San Francisco and Walnut Creek offices of Moss Adams, LLP where she also leads the firm's China team. Wenli was named one of the San Francisco Business Times' "Influential Women" in 2016. Wenli currently serves on the boards for the Bay Area Council, Peking University Education Foundation - North America, and SFMade.

SARA LAMNIN (M.S. '06, Health Care Administration) was elected to Hayward City Council in 2014. In her three years in office, she worked on issues related to public finances, economic development, homelessness, affordable housing, health care and public safety. She has also championed increased community involvement by working with her colleagues and city staff for inclusion of public comment periods in work sessions and earlier publication of council packets.

JAN GLENN-DAVIS (B.S. '84 Criminal Justice Administration; MPA, '11) is a recently retired deputy chief of police with more than 30 years of progressive law enforcement experience. She was the first African-American woman appointed as a police chief in the State of California.



CENTONI



WANG

WOMEN ON THE RISE: BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING

TAMMY CAMERON (B.S. '88, Business Administration), is the senior vice president of finance and chief financial officer for Labcyte. She has more than 20 years of accounting and commercial financial experience at public and private companies.

KAREN COLONIAS (MBA '88) is the president and CEO of Simpson Manufacturing Co. Inc., the world leader in structural product solutions. She has been the CEO of Simpson Manufacturing since January 2012 and in 2013 she was appointed to the board of directors. She also held the position of vice president of Simpson Manufacturing's subsidiary, Simpson Strong-Tie Company Inc.

ELANA HOBSON (B.S. '95, Business Admin., MBA '97), is the chair of California Diversity Council and the former senior vice president of operations for Jack in the Box, where she oversaw the operation of all company and franchised Jack in the Box restaurants in the United States. Hobson joined Jack in the Box in 1977 as a team member at a restaurant in Hayward, California.

NAYMISHA PATEL (B.A. '95 Chemistry-Biochemistry) currently serves as the head of quality at Prothema Biosciences and is responsible for driving the corporate quality agenda and implementing quality management systems for the company's planned clinical and manufacturing growth. She has 20 years of progressive experience in pharmaceuticals, biologics, devices, and combination products from early stage to late stage and commercialization.

LEONA TANG (B.S. '91 Business Administration) is a management consultant and serves on the advisory board of AverQ Software. She has more than 25 years of consulting, auditing and project management experience and specializes in assessing the functional performance of and leading change in internal audit departments.



LAMNIN

1970s



SHEREE WRIGHT-COX (B.S. '79, Speech Pathology/Audiology) was recognized by the Fremont City Council as the first African-American female police officer in the city of Fremont. She joined the Fremont police department in 1986. Officer Cox was selected in 1989 as one of the first Drug Abuse Resistance Education officers in the City of Fremont and helped develop the first citywide gang awareness pamphlet for distribution to schools, parents and community members.

1980s

ANGELA BROCK-KYLE (B.S. '80, Business Administration) recently transitioned to corporate director seats and global governance thought leadership after a 25-year career in leadership roles at the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America-College Retirement Equities Fund. She is also serving on the board of Hunt Companies, Inc., Guggenheim/Rydex Funds, the YMCA Retirement Funds and as a panelist on the Diligent Institute.



MARYAM ALEXANDRIAN-ADAMS (B.S. '86, Computer Science) has taken the role of chief operating officer for Workspot. Alexandrian-Adams is a seasoned technology industry executive with deep strategic and operational experience across go-to-market execution, product management, channel and field marketing and sales operations.

LANIECE JONES (B.S. '86, Criminal Justice Administration) is the new executive director for the Peralta Colleges Foundation. Jones joins the foundation after running her own Oakland-based marketing public relations and events firm, LA Jones and Associates, founded in 1991. She



GLENN-DAVIS



CAMERON



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HOBSON



PATEL



TANG

also spent more than 15 years working in corporate sales and marketing roles at Businessland, Citicorp, CNET, IBM, AT&T and Comcast.



JESSE TAKAHASHI (B.S. '87, Business Administration) is the new director of the finance and administrative services department for the City of Mountain View. Takahashi brings more than 20 years of municipal finance experience to the city with an emphasis on collaboration, efficiency and transparency.

FRANK VELASQUEZ (B.S. '88, Business Administration) is the founder and CEO of Cornerstone Technologies and will now take the reigns as CEO of Sonasoft Corp. He has more than 20 years of executive experience in business and technology, as well as sales leadership gained at companies such as AVCOM Technologies, Veritas and Symantec Corporation.



SCOTT MOSS (B.A. '89, Mass Communication) is a digital marketing and e-commerce expert and has joined the Emetry team as vice president of direct to consumer. He will lead the DtC strategy as Emetry sets a new standard for applying wine data sources and provides wine brands unique and exclusive insights fundamental to their future success.

1990s

TERRI MEAD (B.S. '92, Business Administration; MBA '97) is an angel investor in addition to being a business owner, podcaster, blogger, startup adviser and advocate for women. She jokes that once people find out she's a commercially-rated helicopter pilot, they perk up and take her seriously.



CATHY STELLING (B.A. '94, History) will begin as Bret Harte Union High School District's new athletic director at the end of the 2019 school year. The Bret Harte High School teacher of 20 years has done everything from teach Advanced Placement classes and coach softball, to oversee senior projects and be involved with leadership.

2000s

JENNIFER RUTH (B.S. '00, Business Administration) was recently elected as the San Francisco office managing partner for Bregante + Company LLP (Bregante), a full-service accounting and business consulting firm with offices in San Francisco, Novato and Pleasanton. She serves as the in-charge accountant on many of the firm's attest engagements and sits on the internal audit committee. A CPA since 2002, Ruth is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.



JARED RINETTI (B.S. '02, Criminal Justice Administration) is Union City's new police chief, who rose from the department's own ranks. The city council unanimously tapped him as the city's 11th top cop to succeed retired Darryl McAllister, who led the department a little more than four years. Rinetti, who started his career in Atherton, has been with the Union City Police Department since 2000.



LYNN MACKEY (M.S. '03, Educational Leadership) has

been elected as Contra Costa County's superintendent of schools. Mackey was elected in November 2018 and previously was deputy superintendent, where she also directed the agency's educational services department. She is a seasoned instructor and administrator with more than 20 years of experience and began her career teaching in some of the county's classrooms and schools within the county detention facilities.



CHRISTIAN SAMLOWSKI (MBA '04) is the new chief of BMW Motorrad Thailand. He has been working with the BMW Group since 2005, having previously served as head of area management sales in the company's Asia-Pacific, China, Russia and Africa regions for BMW Motorrad in Munich, Germany.



MICHAEL BYRNES (MBA '05) has more than 20 years of corporate finance and accounting experience, 15 of which have been in publicly-traded companies in the life sciences industry. Most recently, he was the chief financial officer of Ocera Therapeutics, which was acquired by Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals in 2017. Before that, he held finance positions of increasing responsibility at Maxygen, NeurogesX, Lipid Sciences and ADAC Labs.



DAVID H. CROUCH (B.S. '08, Business Administration) has been elected as firm managing partner for Bregante + Company LLP, a full-service accounting

and business consulting firm with offices in San Francisco, Novato and Pleasanton. Crouch is also taking on the role of Pleasanton office managing partner, where he is based.

2010s

MATHEW D. LAPLANTE (M.S., '10, Education) is an acclaimed science journalist and recently published his book "Superlative: The Biology of Extremes." He is also an associate professor at Utah State University and has reported from around the world for The Washington Post, Los Angeles Daily News and CNN.com, among others.



ANDREW WILKE (B.A., '11, Music), Richmond High School's inspiring young band director recently won an emerging educator award from the California Music Education Association. Four years ago, Andrew Wilke took over as the high school's full-time band director, directing a symphonic/marching band program that had just eight students and teaching five beginning band classes. Today, Wilke has grown the music program into a 70-student marching band, a jazz band and — for the first time since 1976 — a string orchestra.



SEGUN O. MOSURO (M.A., '12, Multimedia), Nigerian author and illustrator, Segun O. Mosuro, has called on authors and publishers to improve on the quality and content of literature available for African children who are just starting to read as it will help them develop an interest in reading. He made this charge as he introduced "Monday's Ball," a picture book for children, published by Plasmod9 Productions in hard copy, enhanced e-book and audiobook formats.



PARTING SHOT

Shovels rest against a fence before a ground-breaking ceremony for Cal State East Bay's new CORE building. Part 21st century library, part collaborative learning space, at CORE, students will explore problems in multidisciplinary teams and work together with one another, faculty and community thought leaders to develop solutions to complex issues.  GARVIN TSO



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