

# KHC NEWSLETTER

Official Newsletter of the Kellogg Honors College,  
Cal Poly Pomona



## A New Vision for the KHC

BY DR. CLAUDIA GARCIA-DES LAURIERS  
INTERIM DIRECTOR, KHC



I am proud to serve as the current KHC director. I come to the KHC from the Department of Geography and Anthropology at Cal Poly Pomona. My training is in the archaeology and art history of ancient Mexico and Central America. I direct an archaeological project on the Pacific Coast of Chiapas, Mexico at a site called Los Horcones.

Occupying the role of KHC director is quite an honor for me. I am an alumna of Cal State Bakersfield where I majored in history and art history and participated in the honors program of that campus as an undergraduate. As a first-generation college student, I share a lot of similarities with our CPP students. While in the honors program at CSUB, I made life-long friends, learned to navigate campus life, and took amazing classes with a small cohort of intellectually curious and talented students.

My goals as the current KHC director are to not only continue the amazing work of the previous director Dr. Suketu Bhavsar and his team but to help make KHC an embodiment of inclusive excellence. To this end, in the fall of 2020, we put together a task force, and using design principles, we set out to re-envision the KHC honoring its past achievements and setting a course for a bright more inclusive future. Among the many new practices is the generation of a newsletter to stay in touch with current students, donors, and alumni. We hope that, in this first issue, you see all of the great work we have been up to, and all of the great achievements of our students and alumni. I also hope that you join us in charting this bright new future.

KHC Students Volunteering on a community garden clean up, Fall 2021



## This issue:

A New Vision for the KHC  
PAGE 01

KHC Director Dr. S. Bhavsar Retires  
PAGE 02

KHC Today, Our Students  
PAGE 03

Current Student Profiles  
PAGE 04

Sandra Harper Retires  
PAGE 07

KHC Advisory Council  
PAGE 08

KHC Alumni Profiles  
PAGE 10



## Dr. Suketu Bhavsar, KHC Director of over 12 years retires in 2020

BY WON CHOI  
KHC ACADEMIC COORDINATOR

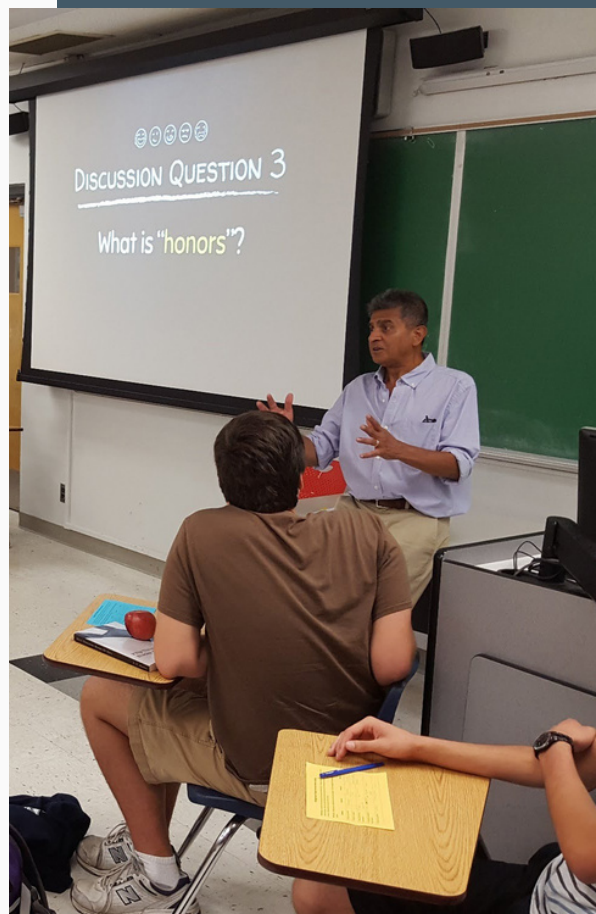
Dr. Suketu Bhavsar served as the KHC director and professor of physics and astronomy at Cal Poly Pomona from 2007 to 2020. Prior to coming to Cal Poly Pomona (CPP), Dr. Bhavsar served in similar roles at the University of Kentucky for 21 years. Including his post-doctoral work, Dr. Bhavsar’s career in academia spanned 42 years! As the first permanent KHC director, Dr. Bhavsar’s contributions were enormous.



"The heart of honors is its classes and its soul is its community"

SUKETU BHAVSAR  
KHC DIRECTOR, 2008-2020

He increased the number honors courses by connecting with faculty and administrators from every college at CPP, and tripled the number of students in the KHC by introducing transfer and sophomore admission entry points. During his tenure as director , he also advocated for more physical space for the KHC, and was able to add the Honors Commons meet and study space. Through educational, social, and cultural activities he built and strengthened our community. The KHC grew to offer scholarships and grants to attract and retain students, partnered with on-and-off campus organizations to offer students scholarly, and career-building opportunities. He reached out to faculty across CPP to offer mini-classes at the KHC Showcase of Excellence recruiting events. Dr. Bhavsar revised the KHC’s Civic Engagement community service requirement to be more socially and community-oriented and promoted participation in academic research by funding **Cont. p. 14**





KHC Students Volunteering at the Pomona Christmas Parade as part of their Civic Engagement Activities, December 2021

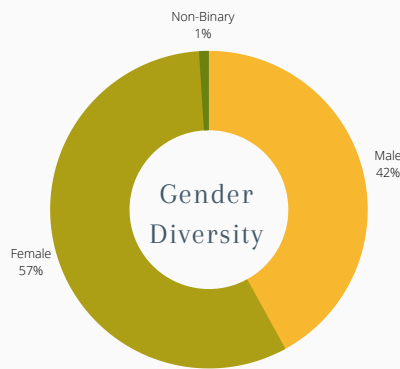
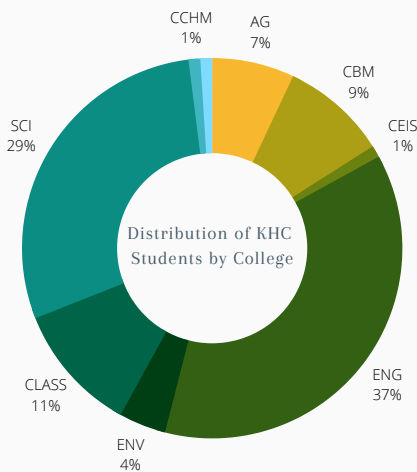
## KHC Today, Our Students

BY DR. CLAUDIA GARCIA-DES LAURIERS  
INTERIM DIRECTOR, KHC

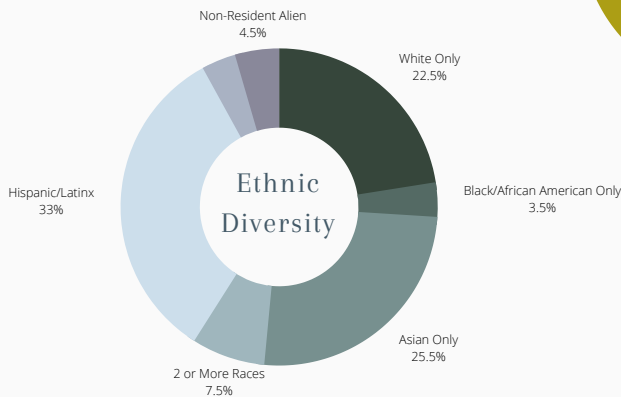
I cannot say enough good things about our KHC students. They have inspired me with their hard work and resilience during this really difficult time. The pandemic has brought about innumerable changes, but it has also highlighted the areas where we need to continue working and supporting our students. We began fall 2021 with 375 active honors students with representation from all colleges.

The most highly represented colleges are Engineering and Science with 66% of our student participating in majors and programs in these colleges. In terms of gender diversity, our community is represented by a greater number of women than men, and with the high number of STEM majors it suggests that we are doing well supporting women in these fields. The ethnic diversity of KHC mirrors the diversity of our campus.

However, we continue our efforts to recruit diverse cohorts of students and embody our CPP mission of inclusive excellence. Read more about some of our amazing students in our **Student Profiles**.



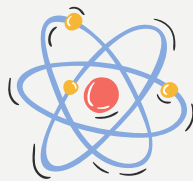
CPU2990H Students visiting the Makers' Space in the University Library, part of the Academic Innovation SIIL Labs ([Click Here to Learn More](#))



CPU2990H Students presenting at the Fall 2021, LTD FYE Showcase and Dr. Soraya Coley, President of CPP ([Click here to learn more](#))

# Student Profiles

## Noor Naji



**Preferred Pronouns:** She/Her/Hers

**Major:** Chemistry, ACS sub-option

**Minor:** Mathematics

**Year:** Fourth

**Expected Graduation Date:** May 2022

### What are your career goals?

I hope to pursue a physical chemistry Ph.D. after graduation to eventually become a researcher or professor.

### What awards, internships, achievements, scholarships, etc. have you earned that are relevant to your career goals?

#### Internships:

- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, La Verne
  - Chemistry Compliance and Quality Assurance Senior Intern
- City of Hope National Medical Center
  - MRI Tumor Segmentation Student Intern

#### Scholarships:

- Reza Ehsani Memorial Scholarship
- Golden (Au) 50th Anniversary Scholarship
- Friedrich J. and Hildergard A. Weck Scholarship
- Valspar Chemistry Student Development Scholarship
- Golden (Au) 50th Anniversary Scholarship
- President's Scholarship for Undergraduates

#### Other Awards and Accomplishments:

- Dean's List
- President's List

### How has the KHC contributed to your success at Cal Poly Pomona?

Honor's courses encourage students to think about course content in more depth and to discuss differing opinions in class discussions. This type of course set-up allowed me to retain more of the class material but also taught me how important discussions and peer engagement are to education. KHC has also created a diverse academic community from which I have learned a lot! It's also given me access to apply to scholarships and research opportunities that I'm very grateful for.



### What other organizations are you a part of on campus?

- Student Members of the American Chemical Society
  - President
- Science and Health Appreciation Club
  - Scheduler
- National Society of Leadership and Success
  - Member Development Chair
- Muslim Student Association
  - Fundraising Manager
- The Poly Post
  - Copy Editor
- Kellogg Honor's Society Student LSAMP Participant (2021-2022)
  - Achieve Scholars Member (2020-2021)
  - Achieve Scholars Peer Mentor (2021-2022)
  - Science Education Enhancement Member (2020-2022)

# Student Profiles

## Daniel Romero



**Preferred Pronouns:** He/Him/His

**Major:** Civil Engineering

**Year:** Fourth

**Expected Graduation Date:** May 2022

### **What are your career goals?**

I want to obtain my Professional Engineering License in civil engineering. I would like to work as a civil engineering project manager in a public works government agency. I feel that working at a government agency would allow me to best serve the public and give back to my community.

### **What awards, internships, achievements, scholarships, etc. have you earned that are relevant to your career goals?**

#### *Internships:*

- HR Green
  - Engineering Intern
- Riverside County Transportation Department
  - Professional Student Intern

#### *Scholarships:*

- President's Scholarship for Undergraduates
- Dwight D. Eisenhower Federal Highway Administration Transportation Fellowship
- Transportation Research Board Minority Student Fellowship

#### *Other Awards and Accomplishments:*

- Successfully led roadway design projects for two residential streets in Riverside County
- Obtained Engineering-in-Training Certificate for the State of California

### **How has the KHC contributed to your success at Cal Poly Pomona?**

The KHC has given me mentors to look up to so that I can strive to be the best person that I can be. Not only in an academic sense, but in an overall well rounded personality sense. The KHC has given me the resources and encouragement I needed to pursue research, fellowships, internships, scholarships, and volunteer work. All of these activities have pushed me to be a more well rounded individual.



### **What other organizations are you a part of on campus?**

- Bronco Pep Band
- Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity
- Cal Poly Pomona Steel Bridge Project Team

# Student Profiles

## Zane Landin

**Preferred Pronouns:** He/Him/His



**Major:** Communication and Public Relations     **Minor:** Philosophy

**Year:** Senior     **Expected Graduation Date:** Spring 2022

### What are your career goals?

I am currently interning with NASA, so I may work there full-time if the opportunity is available. I am interning over the Summer at General Motors, so that may become a full-time role as well. Lastly, my dream is to become a Chief Accessibility Officer, Chief Communications Officer, or becoming a lead marketer focusing in accessibility.

### What awards, internships, achievements, scholarships, etc. have you earned that are relevant to your career goals?

#### Internships:

- NASA – Jet Propulsion Laboratory
  - Universe Public Engagement Intern
- The United States Agency for International Development
  - Policy Analysis and Communications Intern for Disability Policy and Justice
- PRSA Foundation
  - Public Relations Intern
- SAGE Publishing
  - Corporate Communications Intern
- PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)
  - Consulting Externship

#### Other Awards and Accomplishments:

- Conducting research on Disability Cultural Centers and their impact on United States university campuses
  - Abstract was recently accepted for the Southern California Conferences for Undergraduate Research

### How has the KHC contributed to your success at Cal Poly Pomona?

The KHC has provided me with a dynamic, inclusive community and culture I have not experienced before. The KHC has encouraged me to do things I never would have thought I would do.



#### Scholarships:

- Communication Legacy Scholarship
- Marketing EDGE Scholarship
- LAGRANT Scholarship
- Access and Disability Alliance Scholarship
- Hispanic Public Relations Association Scholarship
- Public Relations Society of America Scholarship
- NBCUniversal Tony Coelho Media Scholarship
- President's Council Scholarship
- McNair Scholar
- Pace Setter Scholarship
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund

### What other organizations are you a part of on campus?

- Public Relations Student Society of America
  - President
- Multicultural Council
  - President
- Access and Disability Alliance
  - Vice President
- Latino Professional Alumni Chapter Board
  - Student Representative

# Sandra Harper Retires 2021

by Won Choi  
KHC Academic Coordinator

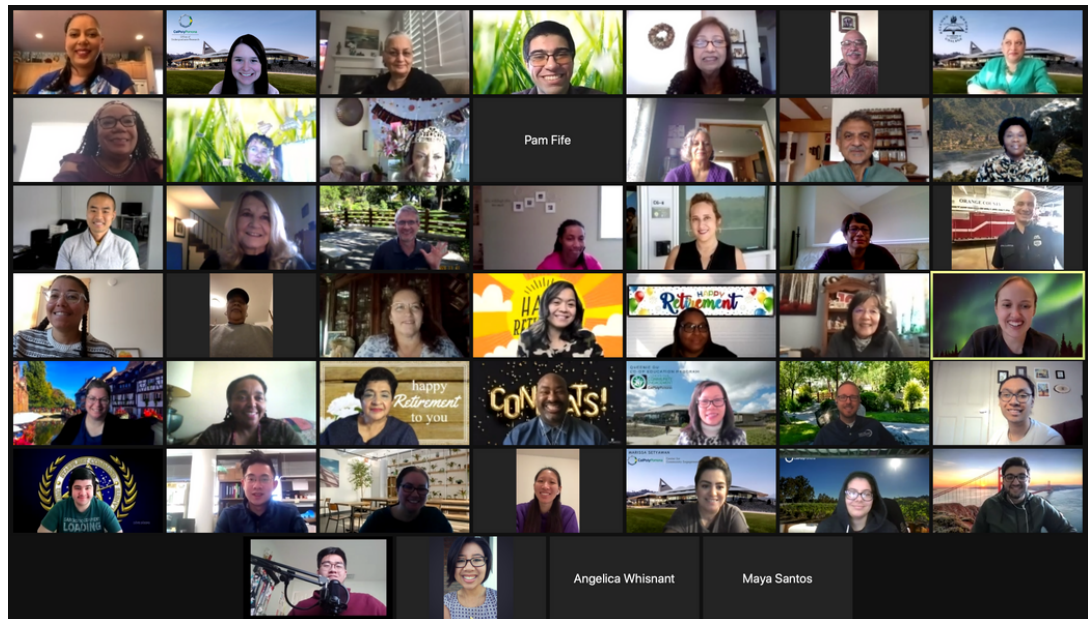


Sandra Harper

In January of 2021, we celebrated another retirement at KHC. Sandra Harper served as the KHC administrative coordinator from 2012 to 2021. Prior to CPP, Sandra worked in administration at Boeing for 13 years. In 2012 Sandra was new to CPP and immediately established contacts with departments across the university. Much of her work was behind the scenes but she was an essential member of the KHC team. Because of her efforts, students, faculty, and all of our administrative partners were able to engage with us successfully and seamlessly. Not only was Sandra an amazing staff person, but her smile and contagious good humor was a bright light in our community. Sandra's retirement was not only celebrated at KHC, but as an active member of the CPP community, several organizations will also miss her greatly. Her service to the CPP community went beyond serving students. She served CPP staff through membership of Staff Council's executive board and as a campus steward for the California State University Employees Union (CSUEU). Sandra resides in Southern California where she continues to be involved with organizations like the Red Hat Society. She is enjoying her retirement, and her contributions to KHC were significant. We wish her all the best in this new chapter of her life!



Virtual Retirement Celebration, January 2021



# KHC Advisory Council

The Kellogg Honors College Advisory Council is composed of faculty representatives from each college. The members of this body work with the KHC Director to review policies, procedures, and curriculum as well as help recruit new honors students and review applications for admission. They also serve as representatives and advocates for the KHC in their respective colleges, and as advisors to honors students from their college. The KHC Advisory Council works to help our program serve all of our CPP students, and support the strategic mission and vision of the Kellogg Honors College.

## **Council Members Not Pictured:**

Dr. Marta Albala-Pelegrin: College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences

Dr. Brian Garcia: College of Environmental Design

Dr. Dennis Quinn: College of Education and Integrative Studies



## Dr. Li Ge

### **Collins College of Hospitality Management**

Dr. Li Ge is a faculty member in the Collins College of Hospitality Management at Cal Poly Pomona. Since joining Cal Poly Pomona in 2018, she has taught several hospitality management courses and a general education course. Her research explores the multi-dimensionality of food choice and the complex relationships between food and its consumers. In working with the Kellogg Honors College, she seeks to help students engage deeply in their areas of interest, open their minds, and cultivate their talents. Her goals are to inspire and empower the students to reimagine a better future for themselves, their communities, and the world they live in.

## Dr. Janel Ortiz

### **College of Science**

Dr. Janel Ortiz earned her Ph.D. in Wildlife Science from Texas A&M University-Kingsville where her research focused on conservation education and bird-habitat relationships. She is an Assistant Professor here at Cal Poly Pomona in the Center for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and teaches courses in the Department of Biological Sciences while continuing her research in fields of urban wildlife and conservation education. Her goals for working with the Kellogg Honors College include expanding the honors curriculum, providing additional opportunities for community and research engagement, and improving her network with faculty and students of CPP.





# KHC Advisory Council



## Dr. Jon C. Phillips

### **Huntley College of Agriculture**

Dr. Jon C. Phillips is Chair of the Agribusiness and Food Industry Management/Agricultural Science Department and Professor of Agribusiness. He has published five peer reviewed journal articles and made more than 50 presentations at disciplinary conferences. He has addressed dozens of international delegations and has made scholarly presentations in Canada, China, Mexico, Uruguay, as well as throughout the U.S. His goal in working with the Kellogg Honors College is to assist however possible and to learn.



## Dr. Nolan Tsuchiya, PE

### **College of Engineering**

Dr. Nolan Tsuchiya is an Assistant Professor at the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (Cal Poly Pomona) in the department of Mechanical Engineering.

"I'm happy to support exceptional students embrace academic challenges that go above and beyond the standard curriculum. I have advised several Honor's projects for students in the College of Engineering and I enjoy watching our brightest students achieve their ambitious project goals."



## Dr. Preeti Wadhwa

### **College of Business Administration**

Dr. Wadhwa is an Associate Professor of Management at the College of Business Administration (CBA) at Cal Poly Pomona. As a teacher-scholar, her research and teaching interests broadly include innovation and change, diversity and inclusion, strategic human resource management, and ethics education.

What excites her the most about CPP is its students, witnessing transformations in them overtime, and seeing them succeed on campus and beyond. She has advised and mentored multiple KHC students over the years, and is now looking forward to working together with the KHC advisory council members in the re-envisioning of KHC as a more inclusive program, both in terms of its recruitment and its curriculum.

# Alumni Profiles

## Malak Habbak



*To connect with Malak, please contact the KHC Director*

**Preferred Pronouns:** She/Her/Hers

**Year KHC Began:** 2013

**Year of Graduation:** 2016

### **What are you doing now? Employment?**

I am an Associate Producer at CBS Mornings with Gayle King, Tony Dokoupil, and Nate Burleson. My tasks include writing live segments and tape packages, compiling information in breaking news situations, fact-checking scripts through primary source research, interviewing guests, transcribing interviews, traveling on shoots as a field producer, and securing strong visual elements.

### **What was your journey to your current position?**

During my university years, I learned to write and critique news stories. This knowledge manifested as a student reporter at The Poly Post, the campus' weekly newspaper. In Rebecca Franco's broadcast journalism class, I wrote broadcast packages, operated a camera, cut video using editing software, and shadowed a fully operational newsroom at ABC 7. My resolve to be a broadcast journalist solidified in that class. I landed my first internship at Al Jazeera English in Washington D.C. in my senior year. After graduation, I took on part-time jobs for radio and print outlets and ultimately landed my first full-time job in New York as a fellow for The Intercept, an online magazine that produces high quality adversarial reporting. It was during my time in New York that I was recruited into CBS. I gathered a wealth of experience in the News Associates program, a rotational initiative across CBS News shows for post-graduate students with the goal to build and shape them into versatile, off-air reporters and producers. I started at 60 Minutes and gradually shifted to the CBS Evening News, where I became staff. I later made my way back to Southern California, my hometown, to work for CBS Mornings.

### **How did KHC contribute to your professional development?**

The Kellogg Honors College has opened doors, from civic engagement to research opportunities. For college credits, I fed the homeless, critiqued theatrical school performances, and cleaned the streets of Pomona. Activism fueled my passion to give back further to the community, so I became a Justice Corps fellow. My work as a fellow was one of the most rewarding experiences in my life. In a 400-hour program at the Pomona courthouse, I provided legal information to underrepresented litigants in family and housing law. Working at the courthouse connected me to a community of advocates and lawyers that I later consulted in future news stories. I built a network, one that outlived my university years.

The Kellogg Honors College challenged, motivated, and supported me in my career path. I would not be who I am today without it. I am grateful for the connections and relationships it enabled and for the solid foundation it provided. Honors courses were among the most memorable. They allowed me the opportunity to interact with my professors on a more personal level, a perk that came naturally with the colleges' small class sizes. They also provided a stimulating learning environment. My colleagues and I explored topics and took discussions a step further, at a deeper level. An honors class dubbed "Media, Politics, Sex, and Violence" taught me to understand the news industry and look at media with a critical eye. The course readings and discussions changed the way I looked at the world. The professor of that course, Dr. Jane Ballinger, believed in me and pushed me to be a sharp reporter and critic. **Cont. p. 14**

# Alumni Profiles

## Kimberly Lee

**Preferred Pronouns:** She/Her/Hers



**Year KHC Began:** 2011

**Year of Graduation:** 2014

### **What are you doing now? Employment?**

Currently, I work as a Success Guide for Chaffey College where I assist students through academic counseling to complete their educational goals. I am actively applying for positions at colleges and universities in academic advising and equity programs. My goal is to assist marginalized students and to become a Dream Center Coordinator to assist undocumented students.

### **What was your journey to your current position?**

After receiving my Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Cal Poly Pomona, I worked in the public sector at the San Bernardino Library and Kroger before returning to school in 2018. I completed a Master's degree in College Counseling and Student Development from Azusa Pacific University in May of 2020 and gained experience assisting students in higher education. I worked for Azusa Pacific University coordinating an after-school tutoring program and assisting the Career Center. I also spent a summer at Auburn University in Alabama assisting STEM Summer Bridge students to acclimate to college life. In my current position, I continue to assist students to achieve their educational goals and career goals.

### **How did KHC contribute to your professional development?**

I am very thankful for the KHC and the support they provided for me throughout my years at Cal Poly Pomona and beyond. First, the mentorship and guidance I received from the advisors and former program director, Dr. Suketu Bhavsar, has been invaluable in my professional development. I was encouraged to seek out scholarships and programs and received support in applying. Additionally, the conferences that I attended as part of the KHC paved the way for me to pursue my current career.

### **What advice do you have for current KHC students?**

Get to know the KHC staff! They are there to support and mentor you, you just need to reach out. Also, attend all events that you can. I can't tell you how much the KHC expanded my cultural knowledge and paved a way for friendship, networking opportunities, and professional development.

### **What advice do you have for KHC's recent graduates?**

Keep trying. I know that right now with the current pandemic it has been hard for many recent graduates to gain full-time employment. I encourage each and every one of you to seek out assistance from mentors and those in your same industry. Don't be afraid to ask for help!



*To connect with Kimberly, please contact KHC Director*

# Alumni Profiles

## Priscilla Antunez



**Preferred Pronouns:** She/Her/Hers

**Year KHC Began:** 2006

**Year of Graduation:** 2009

### **What are you doing now? Employment?**

Assistant Director for Strategic Partnerships at the Center for Functional Nanomaterials (CFN), a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science User Facility at Brookhaven National Laboratory

### **What was your journey to your current position?**

After my Ph.D. studies in chemistry, where I researched materials for solar cells, I was hired as a postdoc to conduct research on solar cell materials and devices with an amazing team at the IBM T. J. Watson Research Center. After publishing my results in several high-impact journals and submitting 10 patent applications to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (seven of which have been granted), I was not ready for my project to end.

I knew research was hard, and I was more than comfortable with failure, but this time was different. I had given the project my all, met all the milestones and gone beyond them by publishing in my dream journals like Nature Energy and getting patents (a nice thing, but not needed for my project), but still the company decided it would focus its resources elsewhere. I needed lots of help and support. Unsure of where or how to find the job I wanted at the end of my postdoctoral position, I reached out to various people inside and outside my field and across my professional network. My ideal job would require both my technical and business expertise, so I could maximize my impact on science and society. One of the people I reached out to was Prof. Supratik Guha, whom I met at a poster presentation where he was reviewing the progress of my DOE-funded project at USC. He congratulated me on the work but warned me the material I was researching would not work for solar cells, and he was right (I had no idea then I would join one of his amazing teams at IBM almost five years later). Now that my solar cells were achieving record high, he was a bit wary of me leaving the lab (I was too). One day he told me “You have to meet this great group at Argonne National Lab. The team has lots of people with technical PhDs and MBAs, and I think they are doing what you said you’d be interested in.” He was right again.

The Business Development (BD) team at Argonne (another DOE National Lab) was fascinating, and their roles were very different from those of business developers from industry (another big lesson). The BD team at Argonne combined people with technical and business expertise—exactly the combination I was looking for. I joined as a BD Executive, helping Argonne researchers build partnerships, protect their intellectual property, and increase the impact of their work in collaboration with Argonne’s legal, contracts, and communications teams. Before moving from Chicago to New York, I called CFN Director Dr. Charles Black and suggested that the CFN should try a similar model. He invited me to join his team as the CFN Assistant Director for Strategic Partnerships. In this role, I form new partnerships between the CFN and universities, other research labs, and industry to advance scientific discoveries and technology development. **Cont. p. 14**



*To connect with Priscilla, please contact KHC Director*

# Alumni Profiles

## Monica Siasoco



**Preferred Pronouns:** She/Her/Hers

**Year KHC Began:**2014

**Year of Graduation:** 2018

### **What are you doing now? Employment?**

I currently work for Carbon Health Technologies as a Vaccination Site Lead for Los Angeles County. I assist with the opening and operating of COVID-19 mass vaccination sites, training scribes to utilize Carbon Health's Electronic Health Record, and managing clinicians on site. Through our coordinated effort with the city of Los Angeles and public health partners, Carbon Health has successfully vaccinated over 1 million patients in Los Angeles County.

### **What was your journey to your current position?**

Throughout my journey at Cal Poly Pomona, I knew that I wanted to organize and execute large-scale events that created a global impact. This passion propelled me towards unique opportunities on campus that allowed me to participate and organize events for Food and Beverage Professionals, intern for Cal Poly Pomona's Office of Events and Special Projects, and enroll in classes specific to my interests. After graduation, I focused on gaining experience in the events industry by interning for UCLA Conferences and Catering as their Summer Conference Coordinator. I organized events for nonprofit organizations that prepared students from underserved communities to obtain a higher-level education. Afterward, I joined the events department at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel and Suites as an Executive Meeting Specialist coordinating events for multi-day conferences for a 1,358 room hotel. Both positions were terrific opportunities to learn about hospitality operations and the importance of teamwork in large organizations. When the pandemic hit, the events industry suddenly stopped, and I was laid off from my position at the Westin. After several months of waiting for events to resume and weeks of job searching, I applied for an "Events Lead" role for Carbon Health. Eventually, the position transformed to operating one of the largest vaccinations sites in the world. This vaccination event has helped thousands of Angelenos obtain their vaccine and allowed Los Angeles to take a step forward to ending the pandemic.

### **How did KHC contribute to your professional development?**

The Kellogg Honors College has contributed to my professional development through several points of my college experience. For instance, I attended several hospitality conferences such as The Hotel Experience Conference in New York City and The National Restaurant Association Show in Chicago with the help of KHC's Honors Enrichment Grant Application for Student Research and Academic Enrichment Activities. With this opportunity, I connected with many industry professionals that turned into mentorships, discovered new trends in the hospitality industry, and attended seminars to develop my leadership skills. As a college student with a limited budget, this grant supplemented my travel expenses to participate in these industry events. Another example would be the Kellogg Honors Capstone project that created the opportunity to research anything that I desired that was not taught in a traditional classroom setting. This project led me to explore my passion for global sporting events such as the Olympic Games and their environmental and social impact on local communities. This learning experience has enhanced my understanding of global events, and the responsibility organizations have when they rebuild communities for their international event. **Cont. p. 15**



*To connect with Monica, please contact KHC Director*

### **Continued from p. 2, *Bhavsar Retires***

conference attendance, finding paid research opportunities, and connecting students with faculty mentors. Dr. Bhavsar's influence on honors education was felt beyond CPP. Dr. Bhavsar chaired the CSU Honors Consortium, which is comprised of honors colleges and programs from each CSU campus, and served as a board member, vice president, and later president of the National College Honors Council (NCHC), which includes over 800 honors colleges and programs from across the country. The Kellogg Honors College was fortunate to be led by such a luminary in honors education, and we wish him all the best.

### **Continued from p. 10, *Alumni Profiles, Habbak***

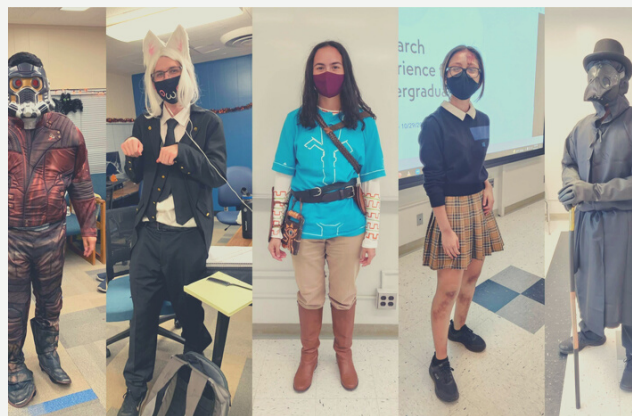
The Kellogg Honors College encouraged independent research as well; all honors students must complete a capstone project under the supervision of a faculty member. My mentor was the brilliant Dr. Nell Horowitz, who invited me to join her own academic research project. In the summer of my senior year, we collected data that examined the public's perception of public radio's role in broadcast media. I built upon my mentor's work to produce my honors capstone project examining public radio's efforts to innovate and stay socially relevant. For my research, I was awarded the "Best Undergraduate Student Project" by the Cal Poly Pomona Library.

### **What advice do you have for current KHC students?**

Don't close any doors and always be proactive. Visit the career center to learn how to prepare for job interviews and tailor your resume. Take advantage of all the resources that the school and college have to offer. When you look back you will reflect on the academic conversations you had with reverend, so take advantage of the time you have now with your professors. You will remember the people who helped shape you into who you are years later.

### **What advice do you have for KHC's recent graduates?**

Be open to change. Don't get discouraged when the job you were hoping for doesn't come. Another door may lead you to discover something new about yourself. Every opportunity, big or small, adds to your repertoire. It all matters, it all helps shape you into being the best version of yourself. Don't take rejection seriously. It's hard to jumpstart your career. It takes time, and that's completely fine. Remember that every moment in your life is an opportunity to grow, evolve, and mature. Learn to take constructive criticism from experts in your field and use it to your advantage. Don't be intimidated by your colleagues and superiors; they were once in your shoes.



**KHC Students, Halloween, 2021**

### **Continued from p. 12, *Alumni Profiles, Antunez***

### **How did KHC Contribute to your Professional Development?**

KHC provided me with the opportunity to work closely with incredible professors and fellow students. My first bachelor's degree from the Universidad de Sonora in Mexico was in industrial and management systems engineering, so I needed guidance with my second bachelor's degree in chemistry. At KHC, I received immense support—particularly from Prof. Suketu Bhavsar, who helped me explore activities that would strengthen my application and prepare me for graduate school. I was trying to do too much, and it was very helpful to get his feedback on what would look best on my applications and prioritize accordingly. He also provided me with invaluable career advice after I graduated from Cal Poly.

### **What advice do you have for current KHC students?**

What's better than having one amazing mentor? Having two, three, or more! It can be challenging to talk to people from your field of interest outside Cal Poly, so talk to your professors and peers about your plans, ask for feedback, and see if they can introduce you to others who could help you explore your options. This is easier said than done. In my experience, it's hard for someone who doesn't know you well to provide advice. So, be patient and selective of whom you pick to work with. And don't settle—there are lots of interesting projects going on around the campus! Working closely with people will help you build trust, understand them better, and ultimately allow you to ask questions that will result in them giving you better advice. You might even earn some killer letters of recommendation!

### How did KHC Contribute to your Professional Development?

My advice for current KHC students is to take advantage of the resources given to you while you are in college, especially the resources from the Kellogg Honors College! The staff and faculty that operate KHC work hard to develop a cohort of like-minded and high achieving individuals with the best classes and experiences. The ability to have priority enrollment was the best tool for scheduling my academic, personal, and professional life. Use this time as a college student to find classes and clubs that interest you and bring you joy at the end of the day. I joined the Food and Beverage Professionals club because I loved food and I enrolled in the morning tennis class each quarter to manage the stress of being a full time student.

What advice do you have for KHC recent graduates?



### What advice do you have for current KHC students?

My advice for recent KHC graduates is to utilize the experiences you have created and the resources acquired in college to push you forward in achieving your goals. An example of this may be connecting with old classmates and professors to find job openings or graduate programs in your field of interest. The job market is constantly growing and creating new positions that have never existed, so don't be afraid to explore and find something interesting for you!




KHC Students, Volunteering at INSAN, Preparing food for those in need, December 2021

## Connect with Us

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KHC Graduates, CPP Drive-through graduation ceremony 2021



**KHC CLASS OF 2021**



The grid displays 100 individual student profiles, each featuring a photo, name, and a short message. The profiles are arranged in a 10x10 grid. The top right corner of the grid features the Kellogg Honors College logo.

KHC Virtual Convocation 2021