

# KHC NEWSLETTER

Official Newsletter of the Kellogg Honors College,  
Cal Poly Pomona



## KHC Celebrating 20 Years of Inclusive Academic Excellence

BY DR. CLAUDIA GARCIA-DES LAURIERS  
DIRECTOR, KHC

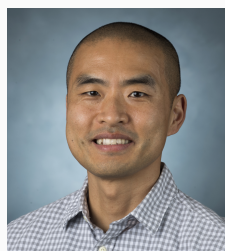
February 13, 2003 is the date that the Honors Program was officially established at Cal Poly Pomona with a class of 60 students and led by Dr. Amanda Podany from the Department of History. In the 20 years that have passed, KHC has been led by Geographer, Dr. Sara Garver (2005-2007), Astrophysicist, Dr. Suketu Bhavsar (2007-2012), and I am the fourth director of this incredible program. In 2006, the Keith and Jean Kellogg Honors College is officially named with 270 students enrolled at that time. Ms. Jean Kellogg's donation supports enrichment experiences for honors students, study abroad, support for student research, and conference attendance.

The Poly Scholars floor was established in the Montecito Residence Hall in 2007 and Academic Coordinator, Won Choi joins KHC in 2010, and continues to be the welcoming face of our office. Along the way we have had the support of amazing administrative coordinators including Ashley Ly, Dorothy Fleck, Theola Johnson, and recently retired Sandra Harper, each one of them an essential part of the KHC team and success of our program. **Cont. p. 3**



**Photos from Top-Bottom:**

Ms. Jean Kellogg, Dr. Amanda Podany, Dr. Sara Garver, Dr. Suketu Bhavsar, Dr. Claudia Garcia-Des Lauriers (former and current KHC Directors), Won Choi, KHC Academic Coordinator



*20th Anniversary Logo*

In the fall 2022 semester, we held a competition for designing the 20th Anniversary Logo which appears at the top of this newsletter. The winning entry was designed by KHC Student, Computer Science Major, Raphael Napinas.

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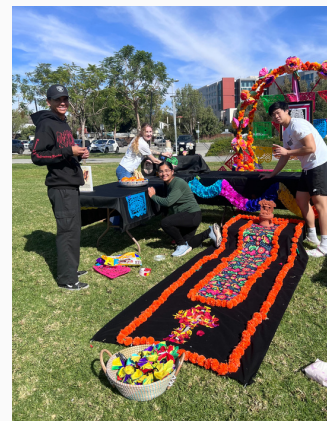




# KHC Students Celebrate Día de los Muertos

BY CLAUDIA GARCIA-DES LAURIERS  
DIRECTOR, KHC

The Cesar E. Chavez Center for Higher Education reached out to the KHC Director to collaborate on the annual Cal Poly Pomona Día de los Muertos Celebration. As a faculty advisor, I was tasked with creating the community altar. This was a great opportunity to not only participate in an amazing campus event, but to also introduce my honors course, ANT3790H: Culture Areas of the World, Mesoamerica to the Precolumbian roots, Colonial persistence, and contemporary resilience of this celebration. Along with lectures and discussions about the symbolism of altars, the purpose of the ritual, and the commemoration of life, death, and loss in Latin America, we learned-by-crafting the components of the community altar and then assembling the altar at the event itself. The KHC offices became a workshop for our students and staff who were interested in the goings on, where we made and discussed the meaning of each component that would adorn the community altar. In making the altar, we built community by serving our CPP community, discussed ancestors, music, food, and helped make the Día de Muertos Celebration at CPP a success.





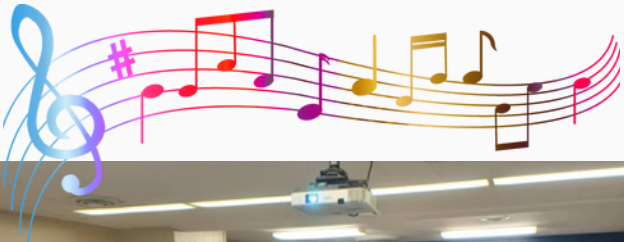


Recruiting new students at Fall preview day, November 2022.

## KHC Celebrating... cont. from p. 1

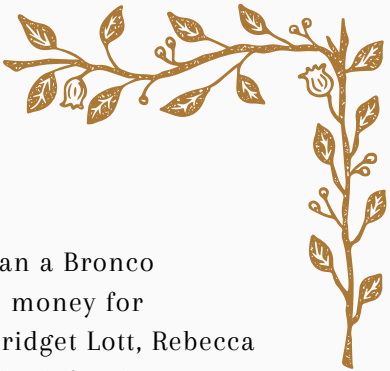
Perhaps our greatest accomplishment has been providing innovative academic experiences to over 2000 students, graduating over 651 alumni, and creating a wonderful community of scholars that embodies inclusive academic excellence. We begin this 20th year reflecting on how far we have come, celebrating this wonderful milestone, and charting course for the next 20 years and beyond. It is my privilege to lead the KHC at this important juncture, and commit to sustained alumni outreach, expanding our collaborations with other campus units, and increasing opportunities for our diverse honors student community.

Join me in this year of celebration click [here](#) to see our planned events.



Musical Mondays in the KHC Commons, Fall 2022

## Fall Fundraising



During the fall semester we ran a Bronco Launchpad campaign to raise money for scholarships. Thank you to Bridget Lott, Rebecca Franco, Erick and Lynda Shadrick for their generous donations. We look forward to make this a regular part of our philanthropic efforts.

## Join the Bronco Mentorship Network!

In collaboration with CPP Alumni relations, we are inviting current KHC students and alumni to join the Bronco Mentoring Network. They have created a Kellogg Honors College affinity group where alumni and current students can connect, seek out advice, and mentorship. Alumni can share opportunities, recruit recent KHC grads, and give back to our community. To join, **click on the icon below**, create an account and begin connecting! Help us build a strong supportive network for our current students and alumni and stay in touch with KHC.



## Alumni Profiles

WON CHOI

ACADEMIC COORDINATOR, KHC

### **Patricia Hsia (Class of 2013, Civil Engineering)**

Patricia is a civil engineer at the Los Angeles County Sanitation District's waste water research technical services department. Patricia evaluates new technologies and processes for potential systemwide implementation. She enjoys the technical aspects of her research and development job, and values working in public service.

Patricia earned a masters in civil engineering at UCLA a year after graduating from CPP, and two years later, she earned her professional engineering license. Patricia has worked for City of Los Angeles' Bureau of Engineering. While at CPP she participated in concrete canoe, American Society of Civil Engineers, Chi Epsilon civil engineering honors society, Tau Beta Phi engineering honors society, was a Kellogg Honors College ambassador, and academic research on water sheds. Patricia's undergraduate internships included the City of LA's machine shop, Aluminum Precision Products aerospace parts manufacturing, and the LA County Sanitation District. For fun she loves to cook, play golf, and garden. Reflecting on her experience in the Kellogg Honors College, Patricia values the members of our community who motivated each other to accomplish great things. Patricia appreciates the collaborative spirit at the KHC and CPP. Patricia's advice for current students is to get involved as soon as possible. "Take those opportunities and do things."



### **Leo Issagholian (Class of 2021, Biology)**

Leo is a second year medical student at the California University of Science and Medicine (CUSM). Upon graduation from CPP Leo began job shadowing an orthopedic surgeon, which led to his career interest in orthopedics. After medical school Leo will apply to orthopedic residency programs. During his first year of medical school, Leo participated in academic research projects examining hospital stays and hip and knee replacement treatments. The research led to multiple peer-reviewed publications and an orthopedic conference presentation in Texas. Leo also co-started a non-profit organization called VI Corporation that provides wellness and health services to low income and unhoused populations in San Bernardino county. In his second year Leo is president of the surgery interest group, a teaching assistant in the anatomy lab, and continues two academic research projects. Leo's involvement at CPP included virus research, physiology tutor for the biology department, premedical club, volunteering with INSAN, and the Kellogg Honors College. Leo credits acceptance into medical school to advising from the pre-health advisor at the CPP biology department, completing several graduate level biology courses, and accumulating over 1300 hours as an emergency department medical scribe. Leo recalled his favorite Kellogg Honors College experience was the service learning honors sociology class where he learned how to create a non-profit organization. Leo's hobby is bodybuilding, which he does while listening to biology lectures. Leo's advice to current students is to find the field they want to work in, and then build a resume toward it. Leo added, "What do you want people to remember you by? Find that niche."





## Alumni Profiles Cont.

### Joyann (Barber) Donaldson (Class of 2014, Chemistry)

Joyann is a principal scientist at Pfizer biopharmaceutical corporation. She leads a team of medicinal chemists who research oncology therapeutics at the small molecular level. Her team's research is shared with process chemists for mass production. Joyann earned a PHD in chemistry from UCLA, where she focused on organic chemistry. She researched strain cyclic allenes, which resulted in over 15 publications. Joyann initially planned on a career in teaching, but an internship at Pfizer during her third year at UCLA switched her interest to industry. Joyann plans to stay at Pfizer where she enjoys leading projects while maintaining lab involvement. At CPP, Joyann researched chemistry education with **Dr. Laurie Starkey**, who Joyann credits for invaluable mentoring. Joyann entered CPP as a chemical engineering major, but changed to chemistry. She is very appreciative of CPP's learn by doing philosophy. The freshman hands-on experiences helped determine her interest in developing medicines aligned with general chemistry over engineering. CPP's small class sizes of under 50 allowed her greater interactions with faculty. At UCLA Joyann was a teaching assistant for undergraduate classes of over 300 students, of which 90 were assigned to her. At CPP Joyann had on-campus jobs at Einstein's Bagels and later grading for the chemistry, math, and physics departments. Reflecting on her experience in the Kellogg Honors College, Joyann is most appreciative of the student community in honors classes and the honors residence hall. In fact, Joyann met her husband as a freshmen in the Kellogg Honors College. Joyann's interests outside of work include artistic roller figure skating. From 2012-2019, Joyann represented Team USA at international competitions in Asia, Europe, and South America. Today she coaches, judges, and stays involved with the association. Her advice for current students is to take advantage of opportunities and ask for help. "So many people want to help you, if you just ask." Joyann added, "Keep working hard and you'll be rewarded in the end."



Click on the skates to learn more about Artistic Roller Figure Skating



Preparing for finals with breakfast for dinner at Crunch Brunch 2022



Fall 2022 Civic Engagement, Sowing Seeds for Life





# Freshman Class Presents at the Poly X FYE Showcase

BY DR. CLAUDIA GARCIA-DES LAURIERS  
KHC DIRECTOR

The Learn Through Discovery (LTD) initiative at Cal Poly Pomona strives to provide students with a signature PolyX experience. Every year they hold the a showcase of projects put together by students in the First Year Experience classes. The themes of the projects may be inspired by the CPP Common Read or by their particular course instructors. Students in these courses present their projects the PolyX FYE Showcase every year. Our CPU2990H course, required of our Freshman cohort encourages students to participate in this event. Every year our First Year Freshmen students come up with creative projects, and we encourage them to keep these projects alive by applying for funding to the CPP Projects Hatchery or other on campus programs that support student innovation and entrepreneurship. This year our students continue to present innovative ideas that address real world problems.

*To learn more about these programs click on the icons below.*



CPP Learn Through Discovery



CPP Common Read



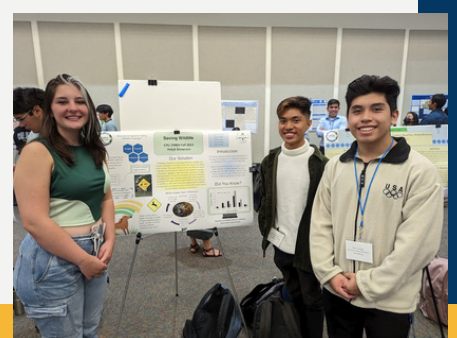
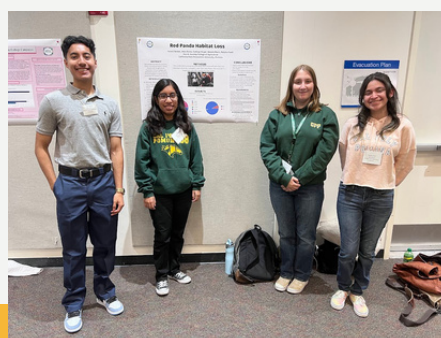
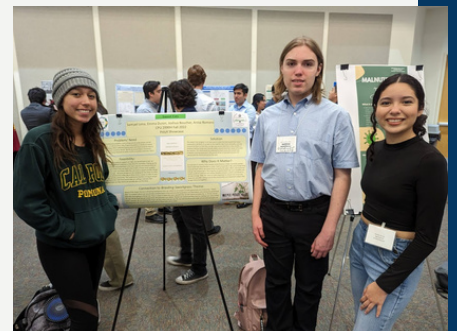
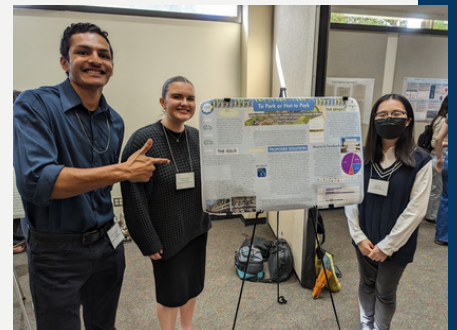
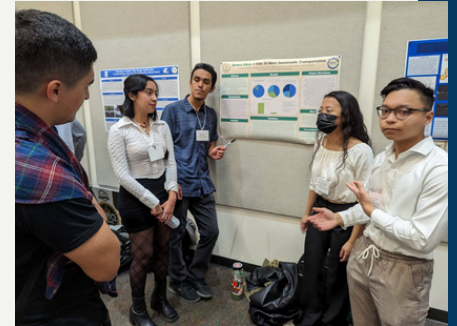
CPP First Year Experience



CPP PolyX FYE Showcase



CPP Projects Hatchery







KHC Students enjoying Honors Happy Hour talks by Dr. Carlos Castro (Mechanical Engineering) & Ms. Holly Greene (Animal Science), Fall 2022

# KHC Student Internships

BY RAPHAEL NAPINAS  
STUDENT ASSISTANT, KHC

KHC students share their experiences participating in diverse internship opportunities.

**Name: Jason Jones**

**Year: Senior**

**Major: Computer Information Systems**

Jason completed a summer internship at Costco's headquarters near Seattle, Washington. Jason was part of a team responsible for Costco's IT infrastructure, network, and application monitoring. Jason applied for the internship through Costco's website. Pictured is Jason hiking in the mountains around Costco's headquarters in Washington state.



**Name: Justin Huang**

**Year: Junior**

**Major: Mechanical Engineering**

Justin interned at Toyota R&D's Connected Powertrain Development Group for Electrified Vehicle Control in Michigan. Justin analyzed sheet metal packaging for a power inverter and predicting sales using consumer surveys and market benchmark data. The highlight of his internship was observing crash testing up close.



**Name: Ana Jurado**

**Year: Senior**

**Major: Mechanical Engineering**

Ana completed a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) at Stanford University. She worked at Stanford's Flow Physics and Aeroacoustics Lab doing computational work relating to wind turbines. Ana's data analysis will be used to create a more accurate wake loss model of offshore wind farms.





## Jaelyn Thomas (Kinesiology)

Jaelyn is a third year student majoring in kinesiology and a member of the CPP track and field team. She chose to major in kinesiology after interning with an athletic trainer in high school. Jaelyn's goal after graduating CPP is to earn a doctorate in physical therapy from USC and establish her own clinical practice. Born and raised in Fresno, Jaelyn moved to Chino Hills during high school. She began running in elementary school and later made the varsity team every year of high school. Outside school Jaelyn honed her skills in unattached track meets. As a high school student Jaelyn was recruited by several colleges from across the country offering four-year scholarships. She chose CPP after a campus visit. Jaelyn was attracted to CPP's lush green campus and the supportive staff and teammates of the track team. Jaelyn's specialties are the 100, 200, and 4x100 meters. This year she added the 400 and 4x400 meters to her repertoire. Jaelyn trains 13 hours a week, in addition to traveling and competing at meets as far as Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, and Washington. Jaelyn's on-track achievements include NCAA Division 2 100M and 200M finalist, and member of the 4x100 conference champions. Off-track Jaelyn received all-academic team and academic achievement awards from the CCAA and US Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. Jaelyn's CPP involvement also includes the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), Residential Intensive Summer Education (RISE) participant and resident advisor, and a job at University Housing Services. Off campus, Jaelyn is involved with the Ladylike Foundation. As a Kellogg Honors College student, Jaelyn enjoys the in-depth discussions and close faculty interactions of honors classes. Jaelyn's interests include traveling and trying new foods. During the pandemic lockdown she began practicing greater self-care by following strict routines for her mental health, nutrition, physique, skin, and hair. Jaelyn lives the by the motto, "Get better each day."



## Jose Ortiz (Computer Information Systems)

Jose is a second year transfer student majoring in computer information systems. Jose was born in Columbia and spent his childhood there and in California. He is a first-generation college student who did not complete Don Bosco Tech High School, but credits it with teaching him skills in computer programming, electrical, machining, and construction. At age 19 Jose earned his GED and enlisted in the US Army for a year. Jose managed projects at the City of Vernon for five years and then at Southern California Edison for eight years. During that time Jose bought a house, married, had a child, and divorced; while attending community college on-and-off. In 2020, Jose quit his project management job at a custom window and door manufacturer to attend Pasadena City College full-time to study computer application development. In 2021 Jose earned an associate's degree and transferred to CPP. His involvement at CPP includes designing an inventory tracking database for the Farm Store, several research projects with the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR), Forensics and Security Technology (FAST) club, first place in the Management Information Systems Student Association (MISSA) data analytics competition, Big Data Cloud Computer apprenticeship, computer programming tutor for the College of Business, CPP President's Scholar, and Kellogg Honors College. Jose's research at CPP includes cybersecurity, blockchains in urban agriculture food supply, dementia and Alzheimer's big data automation and analytics, and autonomous driving using deep learning. Jose will graduate in Spring 2023 and start the master's in business analytics program at CPP in the fall. After CPP, he wants to work at a non-profit, academic, or government institution conducting big data analytics for dementia and Alzheimer's research. In regards to his experience in the Kellogg Honors College, Jose feels the faculty are encouraging, students are motivated, and events are great way to meet people outside class. Jose's interests include cars, live music, and hiking. "Get two things you love doing and smash them together."





## **Zoe Andal (Mechanical Engineering)**

Zoe is a third year student majoring in mechanical engineering. Zoe's passion for engineering began in childhood watching internet videos on robotics and circuits, which led to building her own machines. In high school, Zoe led a team building a motorized solar-powered canoe. She completed a summer internship with Los Angeles Metro, where she designed a bus transmission component using Solidworks. Zoe overcame stereotypes about women in engineering and kept pursuing her passions. In her freshman year at CPP, Zoe was selected for the SMART Scholarship from the US Department of Defense, that led to an internship with the Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center where she designed components for the Lighter Amphibious Resupply Cargo vehicle. Zoe's involvement at CPP includes the Filipino American Student Association, Barkada, the Northrup Grumman Collaboration Project, and the Kellogg Honors College. After graduating CPP and KHC, Zoe will work for the Department of Defense for four years as part of the SMART Scholarship commitment, while working toward a professional engineering license. She is considering a master's degree in engineering. Zoe appreciates the community of Kellogg Honors College students, faculty, staff, and alumni who supported her throughout her CPP experience. Zoe's interests are baking, public transportation, and traveling. "I love learning new things, how they work, and how I could apply it to a future career."



## **Jason Jones (Computer Science)**

Jason is a second year transfer student majoring in computer science. He is a first-generation college student who left high school to support himself financially. After several years of numerous part-time jobs, Jason started full-time work at Costco and rose to supervisor positions. At age 24 Jason earned his GED and began courses at Norco College part-time. Jason participated in several NASA student projects and earned an associate's degree in math and science in four years. Upon starting CPP in 2021, Jason transitioned to part-time at Costco to focus on education. Jason's involvement at CPP includes founding president of the Google Developers Student Club, Reading Advising and Mentorship Program (RAMP), Big Data Cloud Computing apprenticeship (later becoming cloud administrator and advisor), STEM Advantage program, and Kellogg Honors College. Jason is a father of two young children, and appreciates the sacrifices made by his partner and family. Jason plans to graduate in 2024, then move his family to Washington for a software engineering position at Costco. As a member of the Kellogg Honors College Jason appreciates the community that motivates him to continue striving for excellence. Jason's interests include mindfulness, philosophy, biohacking, and skateboarding. "A positive attitude and optimism is important to take risks. Do things that combine play and work."





# KHC in the News

Click on the icons on the left to read about some of the newsworthy activities that KHC students and staff participated in Fall 2022.



## Dia de Los Muertos, a day of honor, respect, love, and celebration

*Poly Post*



## Broncos Gain New Experience, Learn, and Excel in Summer Internships

*PolyCentric, All of the case studies are KHC students*



## Kellogg Honors College promotes new director

*Poly Post*



## Coley launches Native American Repatriation Committee

*Poly Post*



## Kellogg Honors College Celebrates 20th Anniversary

*PolyCentric*

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KHC students look for jobs and volunteer at the Fall 2022 Career Fair



Halloween 2022