

# AGRIcolumn

HUNTLEY COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, CAL POLY POMONA

FALL 2019



FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
**ROCK STARS**



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## AGRIcolumn

Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture  
Cal Poly Pomona

Dr. Lisa Kessler, Interim Dean  
lakessler@cpp.edu

Dr. Peter Kilduff, Interim Associate Dean  
pkilduff@cpp.edu

Dan Lee, Editor  
dblee@cpp.edu

Deanna Stewart, Graphic Designer  
dstewart@cpp.edu

Tom Zasadzinski, Photographer  
tzasadzinski@cpp.edu

3801 West Temple Avenue  
Pomona, CA 91768-4039  
(909) 869-2200

## ON THE COVER

Food Science & Technology students rocked at product development competitions across the country. Story on page 2.



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## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Lisa Kessler, Interim Dean  
Huntley College of Agriculture

Greetings to you, our supporters, alumni, and friends!

I am excited to invite you to experience the 24<sup>th</sup> edition of the Huntley College of Agriculture's AGRIColumn magazine. We have a lot of news to catch you up on – including my extreme honor to serve another year as interim dean of the college!

In this issue, you'll read about how our students have excelled this past year in both regional and national competitions that addressed global challenges related to food and agriculture. We invite you to take pride with us in celebrating their accomplishments!

You'll also see how our students are collaborating with community partners and helping the Huntley College become a knowledge center for urban and community agriculture in Southern California.

Additionally, you'll learn the ways our alumni and donors are providing our students with hands-on learning experiences that will further expose and prepare them for careers in agriculture.

As the campus and college continues its tradition of delivering academic excellence, we ask that you welcome our new faculty and staff who have joined us this Fall across our academic disciplines.

We hope you are inspired by our students' stories and join us in raising the next generations of leaders in the food, farming, and fashion industries.

As always, you have an open invitation to join us on campus to attend events, tour our farms and facilities, or share your expertise with students.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kessler, DrPH, RD  
Interim Dean, Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture

FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

# ROCK STARS

1

A **CLEAN SWEEP** at a regional product development competition

2

**VICTORY** in a statewide student research symposium

3

**CONQUERORS** at national baking and food science and technologist events



Cal Poly Pomona food science and technology students had a banner year in 2019, taking home contest honors from Anaheim and Fullerton to Chicago and New Orleans.

"We're very proud of our students' accomplishments," said Professor Harmit Singh, chair of the Department of Nutrition and Food Science. "It's a tribute to their passion and hard work, and to the faculty and staff who encouraged them."





Photo provided by American Society of Baking

1<sup>ST</sup>

## BAKING ROCK STARS

The victory parade began when Eric Kinjo, Breanna Barragan, and Steven Pham took first place in the finals of the American Society of Baking (ASB) annual Product Development Competition, Feb. 24-26, in Chicago.

The trio competed against teams from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, the University of Wisconsin, and Purdue University to create a new flatbread bakery food product.

The flatbread product could take the form of pizza, naan or tortillas, but had to be at least 15 percent of one or more of the “ancient grains” – spelt, Korasan wheat, freekeh, bulgur, farro, einkorn, emmet, millet, barley, teff, oats, sorghum, quinoa, amaranth, buckwheat or chia – based on flour weight.

The product had to have a shelf life of more than three weeks or at least six months for frozen products. Judges evaluated the product proposals

on their potential success in today’s market. In addition, they judged the entries based on the problem-solving skills the teams used in product development.

The Cal Poly Pomona entry was a “Grilled Cheese and Tomato Soup Flatbread.” The frozen product was filled with a cheese blend and had tomatoes baked into the bread, giving it the flavor of tomato soup and grilled cheese in every bite.

Each of the students received a \$2,000 scholarship, and the team received a trophy for display on campus. In addition, the students earned full tuition to the AIB International Baking Science and Technology course, a 16-week residency program for bakers that includes hands-on lab experience.





AQUAFABARK  
TEAM



DIP-A-ROOS  
TEAM



PYRO BITES  
TEAM

## CLEAN SWEEP

This victory was followed by three teams of Cal Poly Pomona students completing a sweep at the Southern California Food Industry Conference's product development competition on March 6 in Anaheim.

The competition called for contestants to create a new food product. Judges evaluated the entries for potential success in today's market and the technical, problem-solving skills used in product development.

The team of Matthew Jordan, Kevin Nguyen, and Giorgio Guzman took first place with a snack product called AquaFabark with three distinct layers: a water made from sugar and aquafaba; a repurposed waste food ingredient made of the viscous water that beans are cooked in; a soy protein, coconut cream drizzle on top; and a chocolate-coated bottom covered with almonds and pistachios.

Sarah Caballero, Erik Dassoff, and Ryan Young took second place for their product Dip-A-Roos, a three-component snack food that would be marketed toward children and their health-conscious parents. It consisted of a whole-grain oat and wheat biscuit, a hidden cauliflower and milk based pudding, and a blueberry-apple sauce.

The team of Esther Moon, Melissa Hearvy, and Maria Caravantes finished in third place with their product Proyo Bites - ready-to-eat, yogurt-filled cheesecake bites that are made using high-quality ingredients such as whey protein isolate, nonfat cream cheese and nonfat sour cream. The post-workout snack has low-fat graham cracker crust, strawberry yogurt filling, and cheesecake batter.

The first-place team members received \$300 each, while the other teams won \$700 and \$400, respectively, to split.





## INDIVIDUALITY

While the Cal Poly Pomona student teams were sweeping the Southern California Food Industry Conference, Sarah Caballero, was excelling with an individual research project that would earn her honors on multiple levels.

Caballero's project was "Comparison of Plant and Animal-Origin Proteins for the Impact of Maillard Conjugation on Nanoemulsion Formation and Stability.

She started off by giving one of the top oral presentations at Cal Poly Pomona's 7th Annual Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities Conference in March.

As a result, she was chosen to present at the 33rd California State University Student Research Competition in April at Cal State Fullerton. At the competition, Caballero won the Biological and Agricultural Sciences Undergraduate Award.

A Yorba Linda native, Caballero was named the Julian A. McPhee Outstanding Student Scholar as the valedictorian for the Huntley College of Agriculture's Class of 2019. The college honored her at Commencement on May 18.

## IMPRESSIVE RESULTS! IFT 19 ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 2-5 IN NEW ORLEANS

**1<sup>ST</sup>** Sarah Caballero (First Place)  
Undergraduate Research Competition

**3<sup>RD</sup>** Dip-A-Roos team (Third Place)  
Smart Snacks for Kids Competition

**CHALLENGE:** Develop a fun and nutritious food or beverage product targeted at kids or teens. The products had to abide by the USDA's Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools recommendations. Give an oral presentation and taste test.

PRIZE: \$500 + \$1500 travel reimbursement

### HONORABLE MENTION

Aquafabark  
IFTSA & Mars Product Development Competition

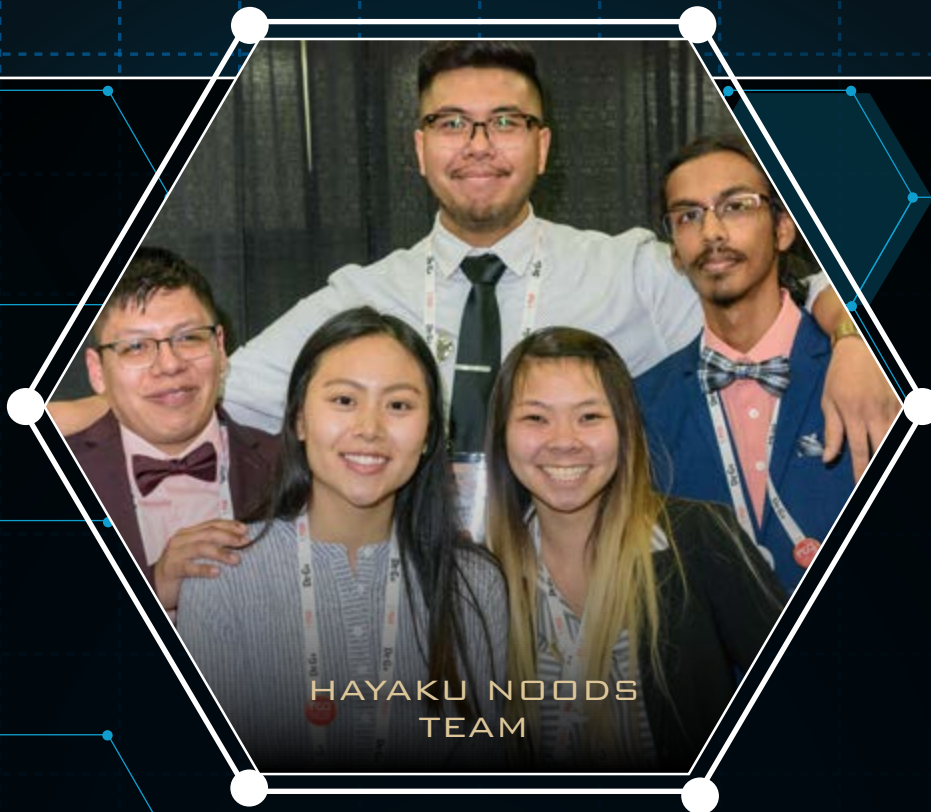
**CHALLENGE:** Develop a new food product and take it from concept state through production and marketing. Give an oral presentation and taste test.

PRIZE: \$1500 travel reimbursement

### ACCORDING TO

Assistant Professor and faculty advisor Gabriel Davidov-Pardo, "The level of these competitions is really high, and students from universities across the United States bring their 'A' game. Our students worked very hard for the past 10 months, and this is the culmination of their work.

*Continued...*



HAYAKU NOODS  
TEAM

## FOOD WASTE FIGHTERS

Another team of students Eduardo Cortes, Viral Shukla, Gerardo Pedro, Choco Chai, and Chelsea Lee - finished third in the National Evolution of Food Waste Competition at the Research Chefs Association Conference, March 13-15, in Louisville, Ky.

The Cal Poly Pomona team created lobster flavored Hayaku Noods, which incorporated the byproducts of brewer's spent grain and a natural lobster concentrate. The product provides a good source of fiber, iron, and protein and is low in fat.

Olive Li, an associate professor on nutrition and food science and the college's director of research and graduate studies, credited several people for the food science and technology program's success this year.

They include Davidov-Pardo, lecturer Karoline Harrison and Dianne Trinh, instructional technician Donna Ha, and Biological Sciences Professor Wei-Jen Lin, who helped teach food microbiology, safety and other technical courses over the years.

In addition, the food science and technology faculty received grant support from the university and the college to test a change in student course work.

Instead of the usual requirement of having students do projects in all senior courses, students conducted a capstone project that consolidated and integrated all the food science components.

"The idea was to reduce student course loads and focus on integrated quality learning," Li said.

The emphasis seems to have reaped large dividends this academic year.

Shukla, a food science and technology student who has served on the Dean's Advisory Council, credited the Department of Nutrition and Food Science faculty for the university's success in competitions this year.

"We are quite a close-knit major, and it's the relationship we have with the faculty that really nurtures this," he said.

Cal Poly Pomona's program has long been an underdog competing against larger programs like those at Penn State University and Cornell, Shukla added.

"We are becoming more prominent in the field and are making a name for ourselves," he said. "I think it's the drive to be something and putting us on the map."

Photo Courtesy of Brian Bohannon



# TRAVEL

# Experience

# Jobs



Cal Poly Pomona prides itself on the learn-by-doing education offered to students. But some opportunities would not exist without contributions from donors, industry organizations, and businesses.

Huntley College of Agriculture students have benefited from the generosity of supporters to gain invaluable opportunities to learn more about the industries they will work in and lead.

*Continued . . .*

# Careers in AG TOUR



Photo courtesy of Western Growers

Western Growers sponsored the tour as part of its Careers in Ag Program, which seeks to introduce college students to educational paths that lead to STEM-related careers in agriculture.

Ten science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) students explored possible careers in agriculture during a three-day tour of Northern California farming operations in June.

The students visited seed developer Seminis Inc. in Woodland and then traveled to the Salinas Valley, where they visited Ocean Mist Farms, Taylor Farms, grower Andy Boy (D'Arrigo California), Western Growers, Monterey Mushrooms, Driscoll's, and harvester manufacturer Ramsay Highlander.

During the tour, they learned about crop science, genetics, soil science, nutrient management, engineering, robotics, technology, automation, entomology, and sensory analytics.

"The most interesting part of the trip was hearing personal stories from working professionals who initially did not intend to have a career in agriculture," said Linh Hali Nguyen, a food science and technology student from Santa Ana.

"With the global population reaching 9.3 billion within the next 30 years, the agriculture industry will be growing at an even faster pace. We are going to need a skilled, knowledgeable and innovative future workforce to

help feed the world," said Tom Nassif, president and CEO of Western Growers.

The college selected participants after reviewing applications that included an essay describing students' interest in agriculture careers. Animal science major Gissel Quero wanted to learn more about other career possibilities outside of veterinary medicine. The East Los Angeles native also appreciated hearing workers' stories about their careers.

"It was truly inspiring and gave me some hope that I, too, would find my niche in the industry," Quero said.

Western Growers began sponsoring the biannual tour for college students in 2016, alternating between visits to farming operations in Northern California and the Coachella and Imperial Valleys and Arizona.

Students from UC Davis and Cal State Los Angeles also participated in the tour.



# DONOR-SPONSORED *Conference* TRIPS

Amanda Borja and Irene Ngo were both able to attend national conferences, thanks to a donor's generosity.

Borja was one of four Huntley College of Agriculture students who traveled to Chicago in October to attend the 33rd annual Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) conference.

The three-day conference, which had the theme "Championing Hispanic Higher Education Success: Meeting the Challenge of Prosperity and Equality," drew more than 1,850 people from across the nation, including more than 600 undergraduate students.

A senior in apparel merchandising and management from Montebello, Borja was interested in attending the conference because of HACU's history of developing student leaders. A memorable experience was a Google panel discussion on "impostor syndrome."

"The speaker explained his own experience with feeling inadequate and undermining his own successes, but then explained the steps he took to overcome this mindset," she recalled. "To do so, he had us partake in exercises that allowed us to develop a sense of confidence regarding our professional fields."

Borja, who hopes to work in apparel product development and possibly develop her own clothing line, credited the conference with helping her develop greater self-confidence.

An animal science major, Ngo attended the Agriculture Future of America Food Institute in January.

Ngo also serves as a college peer advisor wanted to attend the institute to gain more networking experience.

During the conference, the Buena Park native participated in career roundtables and went on industry tours of research and development laboratories and production facilities. She connected with industry professionals, as well as other students. The experience provided her with a wealth of insight into different careers.

"The biggest thing I learned from this trip was just that there are so many opportunities for advancement in the food industry and there are so many sectors that anyone can dive into and learn," Ngo said. "I will utilize what I have learned to hone in on what my interests are and find my own career path."

Borja and Ngo's trips were made possible through a donation from Richard Frencher ('67, agronomy), a retired agricultural sales consultant and independent food production professional who was named the college's Alumnus of the Year in 2017.

Frencher's funding also enabled 6 undergraduate agribusiness students to travel to a competition at the National Agri-Marketing Association's (NAMA) annual conference and trade show in Kansas City in April.

The students, who are part of the Cal Poly Pomona chapter of NAMA, spent several months conducting market research, and developing a plan to market a dietary supplement made with turmeric and dried plantains, and creating a presentation. Six student presenters, a graduate assistant, and faculty advisor traveled to the conference.



HACU Conference



Irene Ngo



NAMA Conference

Continued . . .

# A PERFECT

# Fit!



Unlike others, Cheyenne Thayer didn't have to travel far to get her own hands-on learning experience.

A first-year student from Norco, Thayer came to Cal Poly Pomona to study animal science with the goal of becoming an equine veterinarian.

"Horses are a major aspect of my life, and I have always wanted to have a career that involves horses, especially one that revolves around saving the lives of these majestic animals," she said.

Because of her love of equines, Thayer walked into the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center and asked if a groom position was open. In addition to grooming, she was also interested in training the Arabian horses that perform in the center's monthly Sunday Horse Shows.

Initially, there wasn't an opening, but thanks to alumnus John Resich ('69, business, finance, and insurance), an opportunity became available.

Resich, an attorney who owns farming and ranching operations in Wyoming, supports students who live and work on campus ranching and farming operations.

Thayer is grateful for the educational job opportunity.

"This helps with my career goals because it allows for me to gain experience with a horse breed I did not work with before," she said. "Most jobs outside of the school do not work around your hours, which makes it challenging to keep up with schoolwork."





Photo by Melissa Watkins

# Renovations CLOSE TO HER Heart

Cheryl Robinson remembers working in the kitchen labs when it first opened in 1970.



The kitchen labs were part of Building 7, the \$1.8 million facility that opened in 1970 and also housed the offices of the then-Department of Food and Nutrition.

"I was hired as the very first lab tech who kept the individual kitchens clean and organized the supplies for the foods classes," she recalled.

Today, every nutrition and food science student attends classes in them, whether it's for dietetics or product development.

But the labs are nearly 50 years old and need upgrades.

Linoleum floors need replacing with an epoxy surface that's easier to clean and skid resistant. The kitchens need new stainless steel sinks and counters, Assistant Professor David Edens said.

The consumer stoves, which date back to when Cal Poly Pomona had a home economics program, need replacement with commercial ranges, like the settings students will work in after graduating, Edens said.

Cal Poly Pomona helped prepare Robinson for a full career in hospital food service administration. She had an opportunity to work with Midway Hospital, Los Angeles, Centre City Hospital in San Diego, Lakewood Regional Medical Center in Lakewood, Los Alamitos Medical Center - and the Kinkaid School, a private school, in Houston.

"When my husband and I started planning our trust and beneficiary list, I thought of Cal Poly Pomona, which had such a big impact on my career," she said. "I thought this would be the perfect place to allocate some money."

The Robinsons' planned gift is much appreciated, Interim Dean Lisa Kessler said. The Department of Nutrition and Food Science is hoping to raise additional support to make current upgrades to the kitchens, she said.

"We want to give our students hands-on learning opportunities with the best equipment and facilities," Kessler said.



A woman wearing a wide-brimmed hat, a red long-sleeved shirt, and work gloves is working in an urban orchard. She is looking upwards and to the right, with a slight smile. The background is filled with green leaves and several dark green oranges hanging from the branches. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day, with a lens flare effect in the bottom left corner.

**Urban Agriculture**

is **HOT**  
in the **City**

Although many Southern California farms have given way to suburban sprawl, there is still a place in this urban region for agriculture, and the Huntley College of Agriculture is leading the way.

In the last few years, the college has started initiatives and programs aimed at fostering urban and community agriculture.

"Since we're surrounded by urban areas, focusing on urban agriculture makes a lot of sense," said Lisa Kessler, the college's interim dean. "It enables us to highlight our college's knowledge and expertise and share it with all of Southern California."

A circular inset photograph in the bottom right corner shows a young child, possibly a girl, focused on a task. She is wearing a dark shirt and is surrounded by colorful objects, including what looks like a yellow container and some green items, possibly related to an educational or agricultural activity.



Students across campus have shown great interest in the Department of Plant Science's minor in urban and community agriculture, which was introduced in Fall 2018.

"We have students in the minor who are not from the college or our major," said Professor Valerie Mellano, the department chair.

Engineering and landscape architecture students are among those who have signed up for the minor, she said.

## Classes and Community Outreach

Students in the minor take core courses in urban and community agricultural policy, urban farm business models, and small-scale production, which includes hands-on experience growing herbs and other plants for the culinary garden.

Among the electives offered in the minor are classes on organic agriculture and bee science.

The college is converting a 10-acre section of the Spadra Farm for organic production. (See sidebar). It will provide a working laboratory for students to learn and apply the philosophical and biological foundations of organic agriculture.

Bee science has become a popular topic of study as more communities are allowing urban beekeeping and interest has grown. "There are gardeners who want pollination, and there are well-intentioned folks who want to help save the planet because the plight of bees is very serious," said animal science lecturer Mark Haag, who teaches the bee science class. Students in the bee science course gain hands-on experience working with the two dozen hives in the on-campus apiary, learning about pollination, bee biology, and honey production.

In addition to classes, The AGRIsapes Center does a great job reaching out to the community. PumpkinFest, held this past October, had about 100,000 people come out to the farm. There were a number of educational demonstrations such as honey extractions, sheep sheering, and cow milking among others. Students are an integral part of the experience, working throughout the month and assisting in the demonstrations.

The Farm Store sells student-grown produce, and its nursery has opened up its greenhouses for numerous plant sales events throughout the year such as poinsettias, Tomatozania and Pepperzania. AGRIsapes has hydroponic systems for growing berries that customers can pick in the spring.

In addition, the center has created a one-acre Discovery Farm for schoolchildren to visit on field trips to go along with the Children's Garden and Petting Farm that operate at AGRIsapes.

Students teach the schoolchildren on the field trips about plants, insects, and nutrition using newly developed graphic displays, hands-on activities, and worksheets that they can take home. About 9,500 schoolchildren and parents visited AGRIsapes for field trips last fall, with about 6,000 visiting the Children's Garden.



## The Organic Way

To receive organic crop production certification, the Huntley College of Agriculture had to show that it has not used synthetic pesticides or fertilizers on the 10-acre plot at Spadra Farm for at least three years, according to federal standards. In addition, it had to follow organic practices, such as crop rotation, organic seed sources, approved inputs, on-farm nutrient cycling and bio diversity. The college developed an organic record-keeping system plan showing all the practices employed over the past 36 months for review by an accredited certifying agency.

Much to our delight, the college received certification on November 14, 2019.

The Department of Plant Sciences offers a class on organic agriculture that covers the many aspects of organic farming. In addition students go on field trips to organic farms.

**Student organic learning has already begun.**

Assistant Professor Aaron Fox's students have participated in a CDFA-funded Healthy Soils Demonstration Project which aims to show the benefits and costs of building healthy soils.

Assistant Professor Priti Saxena's students are working on a project with UC Davis and the Organic Seed Alliance Company to evaluate and identify tomato breeds for hybridization.

*Continued...*



## To Market, To Market

Students aren't confining their talents and education to campus – they're taking them out into the community.

The college offers classes that educate students about the business, production, logistical and regulatory aspects of farmers markets. A number of students volunteered with SEE-LA - Sustainable Economic Enterprises of Los Angeles - a nonprofit organization that runs several farmers markets.

Farmers' market vendors must have documentation certifying the county their produce was grown in. The students worked at the Hollywood Farmers' Market, checking the more than 80 fruit and vegetable vendors to make sure their certifications were up to date, that the required signage was posted, and that they were only selling certified produce.

This work requires knowledge about the rules and regulations that govern certified farmers' markets as well as strong produce identification skills," said Assistant Professor Aaron Fox, who taught the farmers' market class.



Photo by Aaron Fox

Hollywood Farmers' Market management was so impressed with the Cal Poly Pomona students that they asked for more students to help the market managers on a quarterly basis, he said. Efforts are underway to raise funding to provide these students a stipend to serve in this capacity, Fox said.

Meanwhile, Archambault and a few students are working with Pando Days, a series of events designed to bring together innovative people and help make Los Angeles County a more sustainable region.

The goal is to develop projects that would bring the county's groundbreaking sustainability plan to life, Archambault said.

With expertise in urban agriculture, Archambault and the students are developing a prototype food commons designed to improve city dwellers' access to affordable, locally-grown, healthy foods. They plan to present their work at future Pando Days events.

## Research Projects

Agribusiness and food industry management students and faculty are conducting aquaponics research. Aquaponics combines the raising of fish with hydroponic cultivation of crops in a sustainable indoor system that uses less water and no soil.

"The goal is to basically look at the financial feasibility of aquaponics on a commercial scale," said Steve Archambault, an assistant professor in agribusiness.

Aquaponics uses 90 percent less water than traditional agriculture because the water is recycled through the system. In addition, it can yield produce faster than traditional growing methods, and it has the added benefits of nutrients created by the fish, Archambault said.

Aquaponics systems could fit in well in urban areas, where arable land and healthy soils are limited.



Photo by Deanna Stewart

Tim Rice, an Agribusiness Management major, works on the Aquaponics project in the greenhouse



# SHAPING Policy

Urban agriculture, however, is far more than learning how to grow crops in the city or about how to manage a farm business and sell produce.

Lecturer Rachel Surls has taught a class on urban agriculture and policy and community development where students have grappled with real-world issues.

During one semester, students worked closely with a local nonprofit, the Institute for Public Strategies, to develop policy recommendations for urban agriculture for the city of Pomona.

They interviewed local residents and city staff members regarding open green space and healthy food access. They developed several recommendations, such as creating an incentive zone giving property owners reduced taxes in

exchange for allowing vacant lots to be used as gardens and using rooftops to grow food and cool buildings.

The students presented their recommendations at a community forum, hosted by Mayor Tim Sandoval, which was attended by city officials and more than 40 residents.

More recently, Surls' students worked with a local nonprofit organization, My Pomona Community Garden, that is starting two new community gardens on K-12 school properties.

"The students are conducting focus groups and are helping to plan a opening celebration at one of the community gardens," said Surls, a sustainable food systems advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension in Los Angeles County.



When the City of Hope cancer research hospital in Duarte built an organic community garden on its grounds to help raise awareness of healthier, cancer-preventing foods, it looked to the Huntley College of Agriculture for an intern to help maintain it.

## Sharing Expertise

Alan Melgoza Calderon ('18, plant science) was hired to oversee the Garden of Hope, shortly after finishing his bachelor's degree.

"The position and project also spoke to me in a personal level, having experienced cancer in my family," he said. "My grandmother's green thumb has sparked my curiosity in gardening, but has also helped her cope through cancer. I took the chance and applied for the position for the opportunity to inspire change and dedicate my efforts in her memory."

Calderon oversees and recruits new volunteers who help maintain the garden and educates them on agricultural and horticultural practices.

The 300-square-foot garden area, which includes benches, shade trees, and space for an aquaponics system, has produced lettuce, kale, spinach, cauliflower, broccoli, and beets. City of Hope also hosts educational events about gardening skills, harvesting, and cooking.

"Many patients have also come forward and used the garden as a recreational and educational space during stressful times," Calderon said. "We also open our doors to any other prospective or curious gardeners in the community. We hope to continue expanding and reconnect people with their food and the environment while healing any wounds in the community."

# Your Support is the FOUNDATION for their FUTURE Thank You!



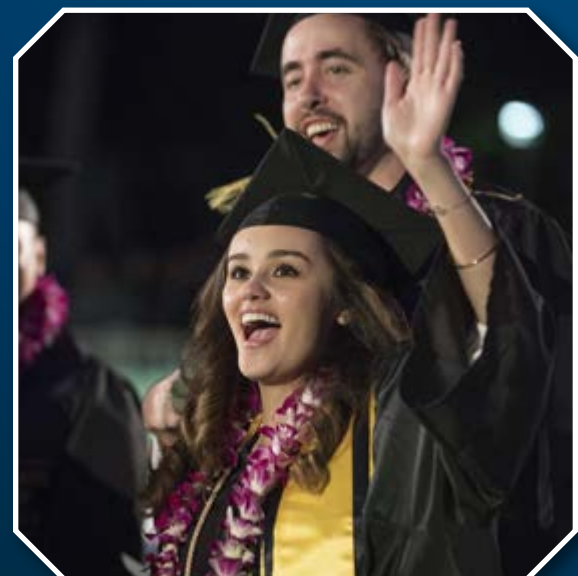
## Individuals

John & Donna Adamek  
 Mark & Jeannie Adams  
 Renee Akiyama  
 Eric Binder & Lisa Alex  
 Lisa & Pablo &res  
 Adam Arredondo  
 George & Elizabeth Balteria  
 Br&on Barents  
 Sherry Barr  
 Damber & Pushpa Basnet  
 Manuela Batalo &  
 Gregory Zerovnik  
 Zachary Batista  
 Teresa Becker  
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 & Gustavo Beltran  
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 Paul Bickner  
 Sylvia Cortes  
 John & Cynthia Creed  
 Rafael Cuadras  
 Merle & Brenda Cunningham  
 Christopher Curry  
 Michelle Curry  
 Chitra Dabas  
 Steven Daugherty  
 James & Carolyn Davis  
 Adrian & Paula de Silva  
 Oscar Del Real  
 Donald & Sherri Domenigoni  
 Joseph Dominguez  
 Alexandra Dorough  
 Gina & Jeffrey Dorrington  
 Susan Dow  
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## NATIONAL TREASURE

A third-year animal science student was elected the treasurer for a national organization of pre-veterinary students.

Jaylen Davis will serve as the national treasurer for the American Pre-Veterinary Medical Association (APVMA). The Rancho Cucamonga native was elected at the APVMA Symposium, which was held March 8-9, at Penn State.

As treasurer, Davis' duties will include maintaining the organization's financial accounts and overseeing dues collection from APVMA's 3,000 members. She also will arrange association's fall and summer meetings, manage the sale of APVMA's apparel and other items online, and participating in weekly teleconferences with the e-board and other board members.

The symposium exposes prospective veterinary students to the diverse field of veterinary medicine and provides them with valuable networking and professional development opportunities.



## KELLOGG-BELL HONORED AT DINNER CEREMONY

A descendant of W.K. Kellogg was presented with the Huntley College of Agriculture's highest award in a springtime celebration that included local cuisine and produce.

The college presented Susan Kellogg-Bell with the Jim Hicks Agricultural Achievement Award at its Farm to Table Spring Harvest Dinner on April 27 at AGRIsapes.

The award recognizes honorees for their accomplishments in agriculture and is named after Jim Hicks, a longtime supporter of agricultural education.

Kellogg-Bell is a longtime fashion industry executive and consultant. She serves on the advisory board of Cal Poly Pomona's Department of Apparel Merchandising and Management and recently joined the board of directors for the university's new philanthropic foundation. Like W.K. Kellogg, her great-great-grandfather, she is a horse lover. The annual dinner is also a showcase of produce grown on campus by students and prepared by area chefs.



## *New* PLANT-BASED NUTRITION MINOR

The Huntley College of Agriculture will get a jumpstart on a new plant-based food and nutrition minor, thanks to a donation from Bipin and Rekha Shah.

The minor would complement the college's studies in nutrition and food science. A plant-based diet typically avoids meat and focuses on minimally processed foods, including vegetables, fruits, whole grains and nuts.

Bipin Shah is the CEO and chairman of Kovair Software in San Ramon, California. He also contributed towards Cal Poly Pomona's Ahimsa Center, which guides students, educators and others on living through nonviolence.



## New AMM MASTER'S DEGREE

The Department of Apparel Merchandising and Management will begin offering a master's degree in international apparel management starting in fall 2020.

The program will provide students with a high-definition perspective on the emerging technologies, players, competitive processes and consumer trends reshaping the global apparel sector. It will offer an advanced education in the analytical and management skills needed to evaluate these dynamics and devise effective solutions.

The curriculum will be structured so students can complete a course of study tailored to their professional interests and different aspects of the apparel business, including apparel production, product development, and merchandising and marketing.

Students will have the option of performing thesis research or an industry-sponsored applied research project.



Mariana Garcia Rocha



Heidi Holmquist

## STUDENT LEADER AWARDS

Mariana Garcia Rocha was selected as the John E. Andrews Student Undergraduate Leader of the Year Award. The Pasadena resident is majoring in food science and technology with a minor in Culinology. She plans to graduate this fall and work in product or research development.

Garcia has served in several leadership capacities in the Food Science Society as an undergraduate, including peer mentor, Ag Council representative, vice president, and event coordinator; her experience includes organizing field trips, fundraising activities and community service activities. She also became the student representative of the Southern California Institute of Food Technologists Section's executive committee.

Heidi Holmquist received the John E. Andrews Graduate Student Leader of the Year Award. A Simi Valley native, Holmquist ('17, plant science) is pursuing her master's degree in agriculture, plant science option.

She is a leader in the Cal Poly Pomona Nursery's greenhouses at AGRIsapes. Holmquist also has been part of the Los Rancheros plant science club since her undergraduate days; a member of Zeta Tau Alpha fraternity from fall 2014 to her graduation; a member of the American Phytopathological Society since 2017; and was recently invited to join the Gamma Sigma Delta agricultural honor society.

After finishing her master's degree, Heidi plans to finish her research on the invasive Polyphagous Shothole Borer and then work for a plant pathology diagnostic lab.

## WINNERS AT THE NCLC

Several Cal Poly Pomona students took first place in individual events in a national landscaping competition.

Plant science students [Stephen Espinosa](#) and [Phuc "Kathy" Nguyen](#) won in the landscape lighting and turf and weed identification events, respectively, at the National Collegiate Landscape Competition at Colorado State on March 20-23. Botany student [Summer Blanco](#) finished first in the woody ornamental plant identification event.

Twenty-two Cal Poly Pomona students participated in the competition, which is sponsored by the National Association of Landscape Professionals and featured teams from more than 60 universities across the country.

Landscape architecture student [Cesar Delgado](#) finished in third place in the interior landscape design event.

Overall, the Cal Poly Pomona team finished in 13th place in the competition. [Bryan Loza](#) was the highest scoring student on the team, finishing 18th overall among the 788 students who competed.

# NEW FACULTY & STAFF



## Eeman At Taras Asst. Professor, AVS

Eeman served as assistant professor of physiology at King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences and the College of Medicine at King Fahad Medical City. Eeman's doctorate is in physiology from UC Davis, her master's degree in animal sciences from the University of Illinois.



## AnnaLyce Brockham Lecturer, AVS

AnnaLyce is a 2019 animal health science alumnus and a registered veterinary technician since 2014. She has worked at Banfield Pet Hospital, the Humane Society of San Bernardino Valley, PetCo, and Loma Linda Animal Hospital.



## Chelsi Dimm Lecturer, ABM

Chelsi has a master's degree in philosophy from Claremont Graduate University and another master's degree in African Studies from UCLA. She has completed fieldwork on women's roles in agriculture development in Cameroon.

## Henry Flores Retention/Grad Specialist

Henry earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from Cal State Dominguez Hills and his master's degree in higher education from Cal State Fullerton. Most recently, he acquired an Innovation Grant to enhance the first-year experience of first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented students.



## Patricia Holley Lecturer, ABM

Patricia is the workforce development manager for Foothill Unity Center in Monrovia and Pasadena. She has an MBA from the Keller School of Management and her bachelor's degree in business from Cal State Long Beach.



## Emily Kiresich Asst. Professor, NFS

Emily earned her doctorate in health promotion services and her master's in public health from the Claremont Graduate University. A dietitian, Emily also completed a master's degree in exercise physiology and nutrition and a dietetic internship at Cal State Long Beach. She has worked in hospital settings and as an instructor.

## Kit Kwok Lecturer, AMM

Kit is a 2015 AMM alumnus. He was the director of TUKAtech Inc. before he joined Cal Poly Pomona in Spring 2019. He has more than 15 years of experience in the garment industry, specializing in product development and apparel production strategies.



## John Lambert Executive Director, AHC

Since 1997, Lambert has trained, bred, and managed Arabian horse farms and judged numerous competitions. He has a B.S. in animal science from Michigan State University. He owned Lambert Arabians from 1999 through 2015 and most recently worked for Stachowski Farms, the largest Arabian training and breeding program in the country.

## Efrain Loera Beef Unit Manager

Efrain is a 2018 animal science alumnus. He has worked at Select Sires as an artificial insemination technician; a feed store; packing plant, and at the Beef Unit.



## Seoha Min Assoc. Professor, AMM

Seoha was previously an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro from 2013 to 2019. She earned her doctorate in apparel students at the University of Minnesota and her master's degree in aesthetics of dress at Seoul National University.







### Claudine Papillon Lecturer, AMM

Claudine is a business owner and design/marketing professional with more than 25 years of academics, business, design, management, marketing, retailing and teaching practices.



### Gian Pimentel Lecturer, ABM

Gian is a new lecturer in the Department of Agribusiness and Food Industry Management/ Agricultural Science. He has worked as a teaching assistant in the department and a student assistant at the university's International Center.



### Priti Saxena Asst. Professor, PS

Priti has spent the past four years as a lecturer and adjunct for the Plant Science department and advisor to the Cal Poly Pomona Turf Club and Turfbowl Team. She earned her doctorate in plant biology from Rutgers University, and her master's degree in agriculture from the Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology in India.

### Natalie Rodriguez Education Coordinator AGRIscapes

Natalie is a 2018 Agricultural Science alumnus. She will be involved in educational activities for field trips and events such as the Pumpkin Festival, Holidays on the Farm, and Spring on the Farm.



### Helen Trejo Asst. Professor, AMM

Helen earned her doctorate and master's degree in fiber science and apparel design from Cornell University and her bachelor's degree in fashion design from UC Davis. She has performed research at San Diego mesa College and at Cornell and also worked as a consult.



### Rosa Lamas Serratos Student Success Spec.

Rosa previously served as COMPASS program coordinator for Whittier College's Center for Engagement with Communities and was a special events and community outreach coordinator for the Southern California University of Health Sciences. She has an MBA from the University of La Verne.



### Sophia Shahin Lecturer, NFS

Sophia received her master's degree in experimental and molecular pathology from the University of Southern California and her doctorate in biological sciences from City of Hope's Irell & Manella Graduate School. Sophia is a research scientist and professor specializing in the development and translation of novel therapeutics in ovarian and breast cancer settings.



### Andrea Watson Lecturer, AVS

Andrea is a 2019 M.S. animal science option, alumnus. She earned her B.A. in animal science from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and minored in equine science. She worked in the Cal Poly Equine Nutrition Enterprise and the Reptile Husbandry Enterprise.

### Patrick Webb Lecturer, ABM

Patrick is an Air Force veteran and CEO of CruiseStar.com. He has more than 30 years of experience in sales, marketing, IT, finance and management. He is a licensed SEC/FINRA securities trader and earned his MBA from the University of La Verne. He also teaches at UC Irvine and Mike Russ Financial Schools.



### Xu (Victor) Yang Asst. Professor, NFS

Victor earned his doctorate in food science and technology from Ohio State University in 2017. Yang's research interests primarily focus on food safety, especially developing antimicrobial approaches to decontaminate food. He is also interested in utilizing food waste.



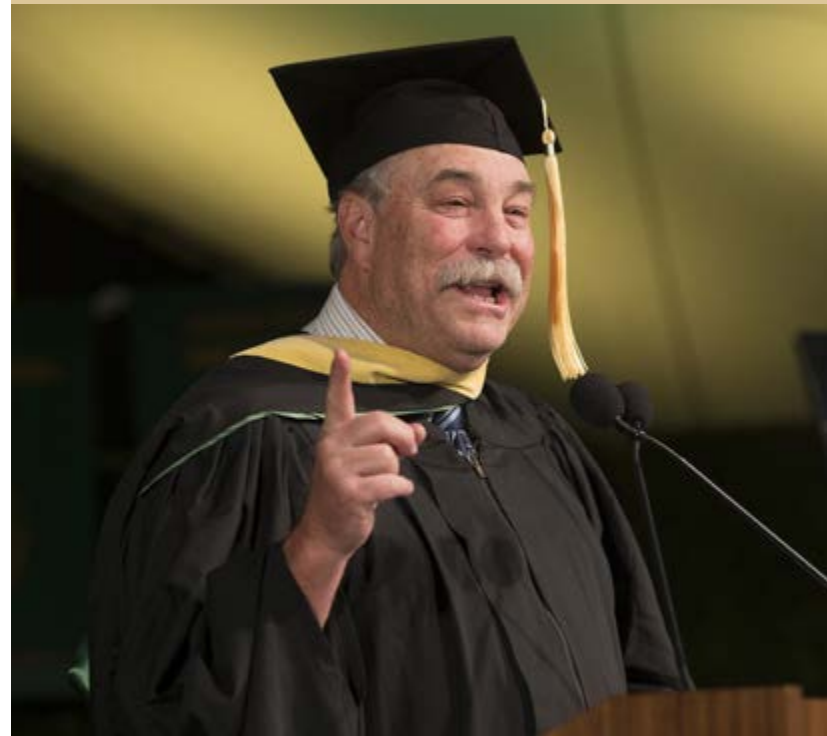


## Rhonda Ostrowski

After 24 years as the college's first recruitment and retention coordinator, Rhonda retired in August 2019. The position was established in 1995 to develop an outreach plan, coordinate Ag Career Day, and create an ag ambassador program. Ostrowski created aspects of the job from scratch. Initially, her role included making classroom presentations at high schools and community colleges, attending college fairs, and participating in ag-related events, like the World Ag Expo and FFA conferences. She also provided college tours and advising to prospective students, coordinated the annual Ag Open House, created special activities and events, and developed a communications plan for applicants and prospective students. The job expanded to include producing an email newsletter to current students, establishing the Peer Advisor Program, teaching AG 100, participating in new student orientation and providing academic advising. During her tenure, she supervised more than 350 students as Ag Ambassadors and Peer Advisors. Ostrowski was honored with the college's Staff of the Year Award in 2000 and the Outstanding University Staff Member award in 2010. Prior to joining the college, Ostrowski worked for 11 years in the university's financial aid office.

## Dan Hostetler

Dan Hostetler, professor and chairman emeritus of the Department of Plant Science retired last spring. He began teaching at Cal Poly Pomona and managing the university's farm operations in 1980. In 1992, he became chair of the Department of Horticulture, Plant and Soil Science, while continuing to manage farm operations. During his 22-year tenure as chairman, Hostetler remodeled the plant science curriculum from five majors to one with different career tracks and options; developed the AGRIScapes Center and Farm Store; renovated and moved the Horticulture Unit to AGRIScapes; established the 14-acre Huntley Vineyards to provide students with experience growing wine grapes; established a one-acre culinary garden for the Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch; and started the Pumpkin Festival, Car & Tractor Show, Taste of the Farm Store and Strawberry Festival. He is the recipient of the Provost's Award for Excellence in Service to Cal Poly Pomona; the California State Farmer's Degree from California Future Farmers of America; and a USDA/HACU Kika De la Garza Fellowship. An alumnus, Hostetler ('75, agronomy; '82, M.S. agricultural science) served as a ranch manager and irrigation foreman in the San Joaquin Valley after graduating. He returned to campus in 1976 to become the Kellogg Ranch farm supervisor.





# Where are they --- --- --- *now*

Doug Lewis came to Cal Poly Pomona in 2002 as chair of the Department of Human Nutrition and Food Science. He became associate dean of the college in 2010 and served for three years before retiring in 2013.

Today, Lewis lives with his wife outside San Antonio, Texas. He spends his time taking care of his seven acres of land, doing some acrylic painting, building model ships and planes, and various maintenance tasks.

He has fond memories of teaching students in his Lifecycle Nutrition and Advance Nutrition Metabolism classes.

Lewis last visited the Cal Poly Pomona campus in August. He plans a longer visit in January.



Ed and Nenita Cabacungan retired nearly 20 years ago, but they are still involved with Cal Poly Pomona.

The couple, who met during college in the Philippines, live in Walnut, and they enjoy growing fruits, vegetables, roses, orchids, and papayas. They attend Zumba classes at a local fitness club and monthly senior dinner dances. They have two children and six grandchildren.

When they are not gardening, exercising or socializing, they have season tickets for opera at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, musical shows at the Pantages Theater, the California Philharmonic at Disney Concert Hall, and ballet shows at Segerstrom Concert Hall in Costa Mesa.

Ed, who was chair of the Department of Agribusiness and Food Industry Management for 14 years and retired in 2001-02, is a member of the Riverside Rotary Club and raises funds for the American Red Cross.

Nenita retired after the 2002-03 academic year as a professor emeritus in the Department of Nutrition and Food Science.

When they retired, they established an endowment with the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation that generates two annual scholarships for students in agribusiness and nutrition, respectively. The Cabacungans created the scholarships as a way of giving back and recognizing the individuals and organizations who had helped them when they were students.



# *In Memoriam*

A scholarship named in memory of the late Wayne Bidlack, a former dean of the College of Agriculture, will be awarded for the first time this spring.

The Huntley College of Agriculture established the scholarship in Bidlack's honor after he died Nov. 2, 2018. He was 74.

Bidlack was a dean from 1995 to 2007, a period of great change for the college. He implemented plans to consolidate or eliminate majors, while facing growing enrollment and increasing financial challenges as state funding for higher education declined. Despite the challenges, he championed the college as a fundraiser and was an advocate for faculty research.

During his tenure, the college established the AGRIscares Center, which included the Farm Store at Kellogg Ranch, classrooms, educational exhibits, a theater, a recycling education center, and office space. Greenhouses were added in 2007.

In addition, the college added apparel merchandising and management, first as a baccalaureate program and then as its own department in 2000. It also phased out the home economics program as high schools eliminated similar programs.

Other programs developed during Bidlack's tenure included the food science and technology baccalaureate in 1999; the animal health science baccalaureate in 2004; and the Culinology emphasis in 2006. The college also began leasing 1,000 acres around the California Institution for Men in Chino to farm and support instruction in 2003 and planted vineyards on campus. Before Cal Poly Pomona, Bidlack worked as chair and professor of the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at Iowa State and at the USC School of Medicine.

Among the honors he received was the Wang Family Excellence Award from the California State University System. He also was appointed as the CSU representative to the state Board of Food and Agriculture by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2006.

After stepping down as dean in 2007, Bidlack returned to teaching until his retirement in the Winter 2015.

He is survived by his wife, Wei, a lecturer in the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences and campus point person for the Cal Poly Pomona Agricultural Research Institute program.



# College Awards



Mack H. Kennington  
Advisor of the Year  
Dr. Gabriel Davidov-Pardo

Gabriel is an assistant professor in the Department of Nutrition and Food Science. He was cited in particular for his efforts to prepare his students for the conversion from the quarter system to semesters.

Davidov-Pardo also was praised for his enthusiasm and passion for food science and his commitment to students. He was previously named the college's 2016-17 Teacher of the Year.



Teacher of the Year  
Ben Lehan

Ben is a lecturer in the Department of Plant Science. Students said Lehan is very knowledgeable and is always prepared for his classes, incorporating different teaching methods.

In addition, Lehan encourages students to participate in the class discussion and creates an environment where students aren't afraid to speak up, a student said.



Staff of the Year  
Jenifer Cazares

Jenifer is the administrative support coordinator for the Department of Agribusiness and Food Industry Management/ Agricultural Science, was selected for the college's Staff of the Year Award. Since her 2014 hiring, Cazares has held several positions with numerous responsibilities in the plant science and agribusiness and food industry management departments, and the dean's office.

## Outstanding Staff

Penne Fode, a longtime administrative coordinator for the dean's office in the Huntley College of Agriculture, was one of four university employees chosen this year for the Staff Council's Outstanding Staff Awards.

The awards are presented to employees who have exhibited expertise, dedication and enthusiasm in their job performance. These employees have also demonstrated active university-wide involvement and a willingness to assist others.

Fode has worked at Cal Poly Pomona for more than 20 years. She is a previous recipient of the 2008 Staff Award for Excellence in Civic Engagement from the university's Center for Community Service Learning for advocacy on behalf of autistic children and their families. In addition, she was a recipient of the Outstanding Staff Award in 2006 and 2009.





## Faculty Travel to China

Four Huntley College of Agriculture faculty traveled to China last summer as part of a developing relationship with Nanjing Agricultural University.

Valerie Mellano, chair of the Department of Plant Science; Jon Phillips, chair of the Department of Agribusiness and Food Industry Management; Olive Li, an associate professor of nutrition and food science; and Cord Brundage, an assistant professor in animal and veterinary science, flew to Nanjing for a week-long visit there with students, faculty and staff.

The trip was organized by Cal Poly Pomona's College of the Extended University's Global Education Institute as a follow up to a Nanjing faculty visit of the Pomona campus. The visits were orchestrated to encourage collaboration in research, pedagogy, and global proficiency between the two universities.

During the meetings, faculty from both universities discussed opportunities for exchange programs and program development. The Nanjing faculty also gave tours, which provided their Cal Poly Pomona counterparts with context on government regulation, national priorities, Chinese agriculture's infrastructure capabilities. The Cal Poly Pomona faculty led workshops on active learning and best practices in agricultural education.

## Gekara Appointed ARI Campus Coordinator



The Huntley College of Agriculture has named Ondieki Gekara as its new campus coordinator for the California State University Agricultural Research Institute program (ARI).

Gekara, an assistant professor in the Department of Animal and Veterinary Science, will administer and oversee ARI-funded research projects on the Cal Poly Pomona campus.

He came to Cal Poly Pomona in fall quarter 2016 from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, where he was an associate professor of animal science.

Gekara takes the place of Assistant Professor Steve Archambault, who was named to the post last year. He assumed the position on July 1.

ARI is a diversified, multi-campus applied research program focused on high-priority issues facing California agriculture. It aims to help policymakers make informed decisions to ensure the sustainability and preservation of agriculture and natural resources.





## Murinda Named Department Chair

Professor Shelton Murinda is now the permanent chair of the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences. The move became official in April.

Murinda became interim chair after Professor Broc Sandelin, the previous chair, departed last year to become dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at Delaware Valley University in Doylestown, Penn.

Murinda has taught at Cal Poly Pomona since 2005, specializing in teaching biotechnology applications in animal science and meat science and industry classes.

He has served as director of the university's Center for Antimicrobial Research & Food Safety since 2007. In 2015, he was appointed as the campus coordinator for the California State University Agricultural Research Institute.

## Lyu Wins Sustainable Design Award

An assistant professor was presented with a design award at the annual convention for the largest apparel and textiles association in the United States.

Saemee Lyu won the Educators for Socially Responsible Apparel Practices Award for Sustainable Design for her athleisure hanbok. The award is given for excellence in design development that is focused on the sustainability of the environment or people's well-being through the selection of materials, processes, and outcomes.

Lyu created a contemporary (Gaeryang) hanbok design satisfying both aesthetic and utilitarian design attributes for athleisure purposes by using recycled materials to encourage redesign used apparel products.

The hanbok is a type of traditional Korean clothing that is worn for holidays and special occasions these days. It typically consists of a slim, tight-fitting jacket and a wide, tube dress. The hanbok design has evolved along with the passing generations and contemporary hanbok design has been developed to be worn on a daily basis.

Lyu designed her hanbok for athleisure – a popular fashion trend where apparel designed for working out is worn in other places, like the workplace, school, or social occasions. Athleisure garments require light textile materials that provide breathability, temperature and moisture control, and wind and water resistance that enable them to be versatile and fashionable.

Her hanbok design also was developed with sustainability in mind. Lyu used recycled materials in an attempt to reduce post-consumer textile wastes; all pieces of the design were made using recycled garments, except the metal jacket buttons.

Lyu was honored with a certificate at the 2018 annual conference of the International Textiles and Apparel Association in Cleveland.





## CAPCA Honors Mellano

Professor Valerie J. Mellano was presented with the 2019 Outstanding Contribution to Agriculture award by the California Association of Pest Control Advisers (CAPCA).

The Outstanding Contribution to Agriculture award recognizes individuals or organizations that have made a significant contribution to California agriculture. Mellano will be added to a distinguished list of contributors in the agricultural industry. Mellano currently serves as the chair of the Department of Plant Science in the Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture. The award will be presented at the on Nov. 4 in Reno.

## \$1 Million Federal Grant Awarded



The California State University Agricultural Research Institute (ARI) has received a \$1 million, four-year federal grant to help 100 underrepresented students develop professional and scientific skills.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture Hispanic Serving Institution program awarded ARI Executive Director David Still for his project, "No More Silos: Multi-Disciplinary and Data Intensive

Training for Careers in Agricultural and Natural Resource Industries and Agencies."

The project will include four, five-day intensive workshops to teach students big-data analytic skills. The students also will receive fellowships in science, agricultural journalism, and public policy, and career mentoring through leadership and scientific communication workshops. The goal is to give students improved critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and improved knowledge of multi-disciplinary team approaches to problem solving.

ARI supports applied research that benefits California agriculture, natural resources and food systems and develops the next generation of agricultural leaders.

Sandra Robinson, an associate professor at Cal State Monterey Bay, is a co-principal investigator on the grant. Youngsook You, a senior research scientist in Still's lab at Cal Poly Pomona, will run the week-long bioinformatics training workshops associated with the grant.

## ALUMNI NEWS



## Alumni of the Year

A CEO of a dairy cattle feed company was named the Huntley College of Agriculture's 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.

William Bunnett ('59, animal science) is the CEO of Energy Feeds International LLC, which is a leading provider of rumen inert bypass fats of palm fatty acids and mineral supplements to the dairy industry.

Bunnett attended classes as the original Cal Poly Voorhis Unit in San Dimas and then - after a two-year stint in the U.S. Navy - at the Kellogg-Voorhis Unit in Pomona. He managed the sheep center, assisted in teaching sheep husbandry, and helped with lambing, feeding, shearing, and breeding. The Scottsdale, Ariz., resident also participated in the Sunday Horse Shows and was president of the Animal Husbandry Club.

The Cal Poly Pomona Alumni Association honored Bunnett and the other 2019 award recipients at an April 13 ceremony at the Pacific Palms Resort in Industry.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# Professor for a Day

### ONE OF THE MANY WAYS TO GIVE BACK

When attorney, Dale Stern ('84, agricultural biology), was talking with USDA investigator Carla Young about a case, he discovered she was also a Cal Poly Pomona alum. He suggested that Young participate in the Alumni Professor for a Day Program.

Started in 1998, the program invites alumni back to campus to teach a class and share with students how their education applies to the real world.

"I was humbled and happy to hear my experience might help current students," Young said.

#### A unique story to tell:

A Huntington Park native, Young came to Cal Poly Pomona to study animal science and become a veterinarian. Unfortunately, Young was not accepted into veterinary school after graduating in 1988. Instead, she wound up working in livestock development for the Peace Corps in Guatemala. She tried to become a livestock technician, but the USDA had a veterinary services hiring freeze. However, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service was hiring so she took a job inspecting cargo containers for prohibited plants and animals at the Long Beach/San Pedro Harbor.

Young referred any discoveries to USDA Investigative and Enforcement Services, which could penalize the shippers.

She later took a job with the USDA's Office of Inspector General in 2001. Currently, she conducts criminal



investigations into theft and fraud in more than 200 USDA-funded programs.

"My job involves conducting the investigation, combing through records and information in the process of putting a case together, and ultimately going to court for the criminal proceedings," she said.

Young returned to campus in April to talk with current students about USDA job opportunities. She called it a rewarding experience.

#### What advice does she have for today's students?

"Sometimes the path in life is not immediately clear. Take chances, be ready to accept the unexpected, keep an open mind so you can see and consider something you might not have thought of before, and whatever you're doing in life or work, give it your best effort."

### *Share your Expertise!*

If you would like to participate in Alumni Professor for a Day, please contact Deanna Stewart at [dstewart@cyp.edu](mailto:dstewart@cyp.edu) or (909) 869-5390



## Horticulture Alumni Reunited

More than 70 people attended the college's first luncheon for horticulture alumni.

The alumni – some of whom hadn't been back to the Cal Poly Pomona campus in more than 20 years – got a tour of the nursery greenhouse at AGRIsapes before the March 26 lunch.

They were then joined at the luncheon by current Huntley College of Agriculture students, faculty, and staff.

# Grateful

## For all the HELP



### FABIOLA PEREZ

As a plant science and agricultural science student at Cal Poly Pomona, Fabiola Perez had to juggle her studies with working full-time to pay for her education. It was difficult balancing competing obligations, but Perez succeeded, thanks to people who helped her along the way with encouragement, advice, or a scholarship. She graduated in 2017 and went to work for John Deere. Still, Perez hasn't forgotten what it was like as a student. So she decided to help other students by giving to the Huntley College of Agriculture to support scholarships.

*"I knew that I wanted to give back and support the agricultural program at Cal Poly Pomona even when I was a student. I made a goal post-graduation to give back,"* Perez said. *"I hope to alleviate some of the financial burdens of college expenses so they can focus a little more on their studies."*

Perez is one of a handful of recent Huntley College of Agriculture alums or students who already are giving back to their alma mater. And they are hopeful that other fellow alums will follow their example and support the college.

### OSCAR DEL REAL

Oscar Del Real, who finished his master's degree in the plant science option this past summer, is another alumni donor. Like Perez, he also worked full time - with the Los Angeles Dodgers grounds crew and as teaching assistant in a plant pathology course - while going to school.

*"I did not get to where I am today by myself. I was guided in the right direction to where I am today,"* he said. *"Now I would like to repay the favor by helping out our fellow leaders in our industry and the world, whether it be by helping students for their books, school supplies, or outside resources."*

*"I don't make six figures or anything close to that, but giving back is such an honor, and I would like to help Cal Poly Pomona students, peers, and friends to succeed in their goals and dreams,"* Del Real said.







## ROBIN REESE

Robin Reese ('14, agribusiness and food industry management) was the recipient of multiple scholarships when he was a student. Now an employee at Bemus Landscape, Reese has contributed funds for scholarships in the agribusiness program and Cal Poly Pomona's landscape competition team.

"Contributing back to the college honors those who came before me and made my education possible," he said. "If my gift will help even one or two students attain the skills to better themselves, it's worth it."

Money isn't the only thing that alumni could contribute, he added. Alumni in the field can donate career and professional advice, internships and job opportunities, Reese added.

"Any opportunity to help students succeed, I will be there to support," he said.

It doesn't take much to give, Reese added.

"You don't have to contribute much to make a huge difference, and I've never missed any of the time or money given back to Cal Poly Pomona," he said. "In 20 years, I want to look back proudly at how I've helped rather than kick myself for doing less than I could have."



## WHAT'S SHE UP TO NOW

### SHANNON CARRIGAN

'16, agribusiness and food industry management

Winemaker, Plum Hill Vineyards, Gaston, Ore.

Shannon Carrigan came to Cal Poly Pomona because she loved agriculture and wanted to study it.

"My mom was a graduate of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and she told me about Cal Poly Pomona and the Arabian Horse Center," Carrigan said.

Carrigan majored in agribusiness management with an emphasis in the animal industry. But she took a course in wine, beer and spirits – for fun and because she was interested in it. Getting to tour wineries in Temecula sparked her interest in winemaking as a career.

After graduating magna cum laude, Carrigan moved to Oregon where most of her extended family lives and has a farm. She found a job at Plum Hill Vineyards and has been their winemaker since 2018.

Although winemaking was not her major she credits the Huntley College of Agriculture for teaching her basic lab techniques, interview skills, how to work in groups, and how to be a leader.



Photo by Melissa Watkins

## DEPARTMENTS

### Agribusiness & Food Industry Management/

#### Ag Science

Dr. Jon Phillips, Chair  
(909) 869-3721  
jcphillips@cpp.edu

### Animal and Veterinary Sciences

Dr. Shelton Murinda, Chair  
(909) 869-2089  
semurinda@cpp.edu

### Apparel Merchandising and Management

Dr. Muditha Senanayake, Interim Chair  
(909) 869-4227  
mudithas@cpp.edu

### Nutrition and Food Science

Dr. Harmit Singh, Chair  
(909) 869-3023  
harmitsingh@cpp.edu

### Plant Science

Dr. Valerie Mellano, Chair  
(909) 869-2214  
vmellano@cpp.edu

## DEAN'S OFFICE

Dr. Lisa Kessler, Interim Dean  
(909) 869-2201  
lakessler@cpp.edu

Dr. Peter Kilduff, Interim Associate Dean  
(909) 869-2203  
pkilduff@cpp.edu

Robbie Myers, Administrative Analyst  
(909) 869-2205  
rmmyers@cpp.edu

Dan Lee, Communications Specialist  
(909) 869-4617  
dblee@cpp.edu

Penelope Fode, Dean's Assistant  
(909) 869-2201  
pafode@cpp.edu

Marybelle Foster, Associate Dean's Assistant  
(909) 869-2200  
marybellef@cpp.edu

## DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Melissa Watkins, Senior Director of Development  
(909) 869-2863  
mewatkins@cpp.edu

Deanna Stewart, Graphic Designer  
(909) 869-5390  
dstewart@cpp.edu

## CENTERS

### AGRIsclapes

Craig Walters, Director  
(909) 869-2780  
chwalters@cpp.edu

### Apparel Technology & Research Center

Dr. Peter Kilduff, Director  
(909) 869-2203  
pkilduff@cpp.edu

### Center for Turf Irrigation and Landscape Technology

Dr. Priti Saxena  
(909) 869-2213  
psaxena@cpp.edu

### Farm Store

Dawn Taccone, Manager  
(909) 869-4906  
dmtaccone@cpp.edu

### W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center

John Lambert, Executive Director  
(909) 869-4988  
jelambert@cpp.edu

## OTHER

### Agricultural Research Institute

Dr. Ondieki Gekara, Campus Coordinator  
(909) 869-2190  
ojgekara@cpp.edu

### Agricultural Science (Education)

Dr. Kimberley Miller, Coordinator  
(909) 869-2206  
kamiller@cpp.edu

### Research and Graduate Studies

Dr. Olive Li, Director  
(909) 869-3021  
yaoli@cpp.edu

### Student Success

Rosa Lamas Serratos, Coordinator  
(909) 869-3718  
rserratos@cpp.edu

## WEBSITES

Huntley College of Agriculture  
[www.cpp.edu/agri](http://www.cpp.edu/agri)

Agricultural Research Institute  
[www.cpp.edu/ari](http://www.cpp.edu/ari)

AGRIsclapes  
[www.cpp.edu/agrisclapes](http://www.cpp.edu/agrisclapes)

Donate to the College of Agriculture  
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Farm Store  
[www.cppfarmstore.com](http://www.cppfarmstore.com)

Pumpkin Festival  
[pumpkinfestival.cpp.edu](http://pumpkinfestival.cpp.edu)

# EVENTS

# &

# DATES



# 2019-2020



## SUNDAY HORSE SHOWS

First Sunday of every month  
from October through May



## POINSETTIA SALES

Begins November 25, 2019  
Farm Store/Greenhouse



## AG CAREER DAY

February 20, 2020  
Bronco Student Center



## FLOWERING PLANT SALE

February 29, 2020  
AGRIscapes



## TASTE OF THE FARM STORE

March 7, 2020  
Farm Store



## TOMATOZANIA®

March 13 - 15, 2020  
The Greenhouse



## FARM TO TABLE DINNER

April 25, 2020  
AGRIscapes



## AG COMMENCEMENT

May 17, 2020  
University Quad  
Guest speaker: Karen Ross  
CA Secretary of Agriculture

*Get the details about all these events and more at*  
[www.cpp.edu/agri](http://www.cpp.edu/agri) (click on College Calendar)

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(909) 869-2200 WWW.CPP.EDU/AGRI

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## *Stay in Touch*

Keep your contact information current to get our latest news and information. It's easy!  
Visit: [bit.ly/AgUpdate](http://bit.ly/AgUpdate) or call (909) 869-5390.

# *Sunflower Heaven!*

Hundreds of sunflowers were grown this past October for the participants of PumpkinFest, a month-long event at AGRIsapes. About 120,000 people enjoyed the huge pumpkin patch, games, demonstrations, hay rides, a giant corn maze, petting farm, and so much more!