

AGRIcolumn

HUNTLEY COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, CAL POLY POMONA

FALL 2020

STILL
Growing

Impact of the
COVID 19 Crisis



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AGRIcolumn

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ON THE COVER

April Mason, an animal health science major, is with two day old Arabian colt, Brooklyn, born on May 12, 2020. Story on page 2.



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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Lisa Kessler, Interim Dean
Huntley College of Agriculture

I hope this AGRIColumn finds you and your family well. What a year 2020 has been! We have all experienced changes and challenges since COVID-19 came upon us. The Huntley College of Agriculture successfully converted our classes both in the spring and fall of 2020 to a virtual format and many of us feel like we are "Zooming" all the time! Although we manage to continue to be productive, most of us miss the in-person interactions with faculty, staff, and students.

I want to thank our essential staff and faculty who maintained our animals and crop operations and checked on the safety of our lab chemicals and equipment while the campus has been remote. As well, the Farm Store and the nursery all served the community by providing essential items during this time.

Amidst the changes, one important thing that has not changed is the dedication and commitment of our staff and faculty and most importantly our passionate students who continue to work hard to follow their dreams and make a positive impact on the world.

The search for a permanent dean was interrupted by COVID-19 and resumed this fall. The provost announced that Dr. Martin Sancho-Madriz will serve in the interim dean role beginning July 1, 2021. Until that time, it is my honor to continue to serve in the role of interim dean. I truly couldn't find a more inspiring, caring group of people to work with in an institution that promotes inclusive excellence and provides its students with such unique polytechnic experiences. Cal Poly Pomona equips its students with the tools needed to embrace life-long learning and become leaders in a multi-cultural global world.

I am always eager to hear from you and appreciate your support and ideas.

Sincerely,

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

STILL Growing

Impact of the COVID 19 Crisis



Cal Poly Pomona faculty, students and staff will remember 2020 as the year that the Coronavirus caused a major shift on campus.

With the pandemic spreading across the globe, the entire university came together and transitioned to remote instruction during the middle of the spring semester.

"Everything was so fast and surreal," said Daniela Soto-Robles, a fourth-year agribusiness and food industry management student.

Like their colleagues across campus, faculty in the Huntley College of Agriculture had a matter of days to convert their classes to remote instruction, using virtual tools such as the Blackboard class management platform and Zoom videoconferencing.

Many were forced to get creative in delivering lessons that typically are taught on the campus farm, food science or apparel labs, or the animal units.



Student Resilience

With classes shifting to remote instruction, university administrators urged students living on campus to return home as soon as was practical, but kept housing and dining services open for those who had no other options.

Some students were able to save money on housing and commuting expenses, while others were able to take on new job positions with more flexible schedules.

Taking classes at home during the pandemic presented some unforeseen challenges.

Phuc Nguyen, a plant science senior who graduated in the spring, said she had to drive to campus and sit in her car to use the university's wi-fi network for homework and Zoom meetings because she didn't have strong wi-fi service at home.

One of Nguyen's professors, Eileen Cullen, tried to help her obtain a mobile hotspot from the University Library. But student demand for such devices was high.

"I was on the waitlist until the last week of the semester when I needed to write a case study paper and take the final," Nguyen said. "The hotspot saved me in my last class of my college career."



Basic Needs

Some students were left struggling with financial hardships, having lost jobs in the pandemic. Supporters of the Huntley College of Agriculture donated funds to create an emergency assistance program to help students.

"We're grateful for the generosity of our donors, for wanting to help our students especially during this difficult time, when some students need help with basic needs," Interim Dean Lisa Kessler said.

The program was separate from the assistance the university provided through the Bronco Cares Emergency Program.

Students could apply for a one-time stipend of up to \$500. To qualify, they had to be enrolled in a major within the college during the current academic year and able to demonstrate an urgent financial need.

A small committee reviewed the applications, with all information remaining confidential.

The college was successful in raising more funds to assist students during the Giving Day campaign in April.

"Thanks to our supporters, we were able to provide students in their time of need and to get through the remainder of the semester," Kessler said.



Work-Life, Challenges, and Opportunities

Like many other industries, employees across campus were asked to work remotely, which presented both challenges and opportunities for faculty with children at home.

For nutrition and food science lecturer Jasmin Ilkay, that meant scheduling her day around her partner's work and two children who were also in school remotely.

"Finding an uninterrupted or quiet space in the home and dealing with limited Wi-Fi were amongst the bigger challenges," she said. "Sometimes it feels like I am always working, because when I am not cleaning, cooking and taking care of my family, I am checking emails, prepping, and designing my classes and grading."

Those with younger children faced other challenges, as Assistant Professor Aaron Fox discovered.

"Last spring, my daughter banged on my office door in the middle of my Zoom lecture, and I was worried that it was an emergency," the plant science professor recalled. "I told my class

I needed a moment, and when I opened the door, my daughter said she wanted an apple. The class laughed. I got her an apple and that led to a class discussion of apple varieties and genetic diversity."

But Zoom bombing did have its benefits, Fox said.

"My classes enjoy getting to know my kids. It relieves some of the stress, and it shared camaraderie with the students," he said.

Working from home also meant employees didn't have to commute and allowed them to spend more time with family.

Photo provided by Dr. Fox shown with his two kids.



Activities Limited

In addition to in-class instruction, many on-campus services, events, other activities were moved to a virtual format, suspended, or canceled.

With the shutdown, the university also stopped all research activities. However, essential staff maintained the crops, animals, and cell lines. Temporarily ceasing research activities presented a challenge to graduate students within the college who were trying to complete their theses.

Despite the limitations on research, faculty were still able to assist their graduate students with projects. Six master's students successfully defended their theses, while four students presented their thesis proposals.

"These graduate students and their faculty advisors deserve credit for being creative and flexible to maintain the quality of their theses as well as by maximizing the use of available results from previous research," said Associate Professor Olive Li, the college's director of research and graduate studies.

The graduate students showed resiliency despite the many stresses they experienced during the crisis, she added.

Faculty were able to submit a request in mid-June to resume research in the fall. A campus committee reviewed requests to decide which projects could safely resume. Four professors in the college were authorized to continue their projects. (see sidebar on research projects)

Essential Services

Meanwhile, work at essential college operations continued, including at Spadra Farm, the Farm Store at Kellogg Ranch, and the animal units.

Workers at Spadra Farm and the on-campus fruit groves focused on maintaining and harvesting crops to provide produce for the Farm Store and its customers.

Spadra Farm and the fruit tree groves have long served as the outdoor labs for the plant science, agronomy, crop production classes in the college, giving students valuable hands-on learning experience.

"If we did not tend to the crops, they would indeed mature beyond use and rot eventually," Farm Supervisor Chris Van Norden said. "The fields would become overrun with weeds, and it would be very difficult to regain control in the future without constant attention."

The Farm Store welcomed the fresh produce to sell to an eager clientele seeking food after the shelter-in-place directive was enacted.

"Our customers are so happy that we are open," Farm Store Manager Dawn Taccone said. "We hear many stories all day long about our customers' lives. They are so grateful for our produce and essential food items that we stock."

Because of COVID-19, farm workers and Farm Store employees took extra precautions to ensure safety.

Farm Store employees regularly cleaned surfaces and handles, wore gloves and masks, and used hand sanitizer. Sanitizer stations and disposable grocery bags were made available for customers.

Visit us at: www.cppfarmstore.com

Life Goes On

Pandemic or no pandemic, fifty-five lambs, 34 goat kids, and 29 piglets were born in the sheep and swine units over the spring and summer. An additional eight calves and eight foals were born at the beef unit and horse center, respectively.



Animal Science student Wendy Mayoral holds baby goats from this past summer at the animal units.

Job Prospects

Despite the pandemic, agricultural and nutrition jobs remained available for students because they are essential. Apparel students seeking retail work, however, were limited to remote work as buyers or online stylists.

"As the country shut down, so did all major retailers," said DeVoneia Jordan, the college's career counselor.

The pandemic also delayed some opportunities. Viral Shukla, who graduated this spring, planned to pursue a doctorate in food science at Cornell University. But pandemic-related budget cuts meant the university couldn't offer him a spot.

Instead, Shukla found a job with the American Association for Precision Medicine, ironically involving coronavirus research.

"I hope to attend Cornell in the spring or next fall," he said.

To help students and alumni find jobs, the Cal Poly Pomona Career Center organized a virtual career fair on July 21 that drew 540 participants.

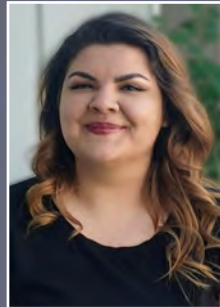
Forty-two prospective employers participated and held more than 1,100 interviews.

IN PERSON EVENTS POSTPONED

Finding ALTERNATIVES



Allison Alvarado
Apparel Merchandising
& Management



Yvette Bolanos
Agricultural Science



Stephen Degler
Food & Nutrition



Phuc Nguyen
Plant Science



Jenelle Pawluk
Animal Science

FARM TO TABLE Spring Harvest Dinner

Canceled for April 25, 2020

Traditionally, five students – one from each department in the college – speak at the event and share their experiences at Cal Poly Pomona. Scan the code to read the speeches they prepared.



Gamma Sigma Delta

National Honor Society of Agriculture

This year's spring banquet had to be canceled so the inductees received their acknowledgments by mail. The following people were inducted:

- Asijana Khairi Thao Etienne, senior, AVS
- Audrey Taryn Kover, junior, AVS
- Cynthia Yang, senior, AMM
- David Antonio Frausto, senior, AVS
- Denna Marie Agundez Walker, junior, AVS
- Derick Wong senior, NFS
- Elisabeth Wolfe, senior, AVS
- Hanna Atiyeh, senior, AVS
- Jennifer Isabel Borja, senior, AVS
- Kristen Luedde, junior, ABM
- Kristyn Hiyake, junior, AMM
- Lauren Alyssa Banales, junior, AVS
- Melissa Alvarez, junior, AVS
- Rachel Soans, senior, AVS
- Sommarani Chan, graduate student, NFS
- Summer Rose Childs, senior, AVS
- Teresa Park, senior, AVS

W.K.Kellogg Arabian Horse Center

The Center paused its monthly Sunday Horse Shows and closed its doors to the public.

Commencement

Ceremonies had to be canceled last May which forced some of our students to get creative such as virtual celebrations on Zoom. The university plans on welcoming graduates back for a formal ceremony when safe to do so.



AGRIscapes Events

Although Spring Field Trips, the Egg Hunt, Pick Your Own, and Pumpkin Festival were all canceled in 2020, some alternatives were created to continue our community outreach.

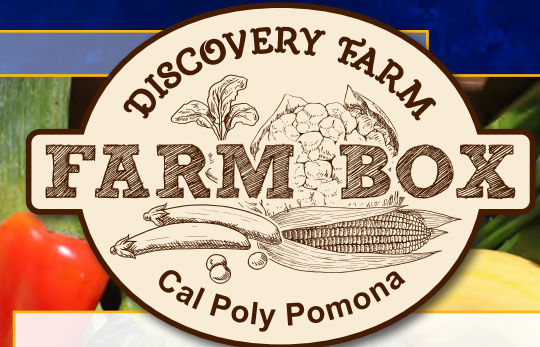


Spring is usually a busy time at AGRIsapes.

But not this past spring. With the COVID-19 pandemic forcing people to shelter-in-place, AGRIsapes was forced to cancel all field trips. Instead, it offered "Virtual Field Trips" with educational and fun material for schoolchildren.

"Since children can't come to the Discovery Farm, we thought we would bring it to them in the form of videos and activities," said Craig Walters, the center's director.

Over six weeks, the center introduced a different weekly fun and educational lesson on a farming-related subject. Upon completion of each lesson, they earned a badge and if they completed all six lessons, they became a Discovery Farm Junior Farmer.



The Farm Box was created so people can come get freshly picked produce grown by students at the center's Discovery Farm. In addition to the boxes of produce, people can order add-on items such as CPP honey, as well as other seasonal items.

Customers can make purchases at: www.cppdiscoveryfarm.com

In lieu of the Pumpkin Festival, pumpkins and other fun fall items were available for purchase on the site, limited to curbside pickup only.



Pepperzania Goes Curbside!

The Cal Poly Pomona Nursery retooled its annual Pepperzania plant sale event to make its 150-plus varieties of sweet and hot peppers available to order online at www.calpolypomonanursery.com for shipping directly to customers or a new no-contact curbside pickup.



Continued...

Moving Online

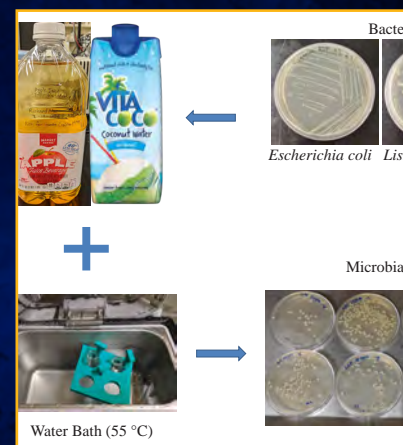
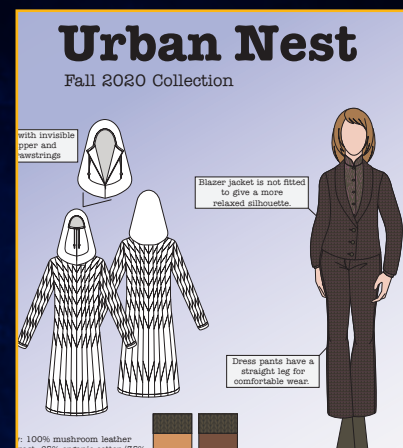
The college also went online with its annual Student Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities Showcase on May 1.

Sixteen undergraduates and five graduate students gave individual or group poster presentations via Zoom videoconferencing during the event. About 50 attended virtually, viewing a total of 15 poster presentations.

Gabriel Davidov, an assistant professor in nutrition and food science, was the faculty research advisor with the most student submissions.

Helen Trejo, an assistant professor in apparel merchandising and management, was the faculty instructor with the most course project submissions.

Attendees voting online declared that student Richard Mai had the most popular student poster display. Mai's poster presentation was on "Inactivation of Foodborne Spoilage and Pathogenic Microorganisms in Commercial Juices by Synergistic Applications of Lauric Arginate and Mild thermal Processing." A portion of his poster is displayed on the lower right.



LIMITED RESEARCH Resumes

Four professors in the Huntley College of Agriculture were authorized by Cal Poly Pomona administrators to resume research work this fall. Their research covers the following areas:

Lettuce Cultivars

Lettuce is one of the most consumed vegetables in the United States, and California produces 76 percent of the nation's lettuce. However, lettuce growers are facing water shortages related to climate change and restrictions on nitrogen fertilizers because they release greenhouse gasses.

Plant Science Professor David Still, research scientists Youngsook You and Linda Stroud, and graduate student Justin Medina are identifying genetic lines in lettuce to develop new lettuce cultivars that will require less water and nitrogen to grow.

They hope new cultivars will lead to reduced water consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

Urban Agriculture

Urban farmers commonly use animal manures to produce soil amendments high in organic-matter content. But that could potentially pose microbial foodborne pathogen risks on produce that may be consumed raw.

Plant Science Professor Eileen Cullen, Animal and Veterinary Science Professor Shelton Murinda and graduate student Rose Cesena Olivas are exploring these risks. Under the professors' supervision, Olivas is conducting greenhouse experiments using soil from Spadra Farm's USDA-certified organic field and amended with animal manure, and urban green waste. She measures potential pathogens and analyzes microbial counts.

This research will better equip urban farmers to follow state food safety guidelines and qualify as community food producers to grow fresh fruits and vegetables on land not zoned for agriculture.

Animal Industry Research

A research group led by Assistant Professor Hyungchul Han of the Department of Animal and Veterinary Science is exploring three different subjects.

In the first area, Han and graduate student Teresa Meza are researching how overfeeding sheep during pregnancy may affect its lambs' health. Obesity during pregnancy is a concern as it is related to childhood and adult obesity as well as metabolic syndromes such as diabetes.

In the second area, Han and graduate student Michelle Moran are studying the relationship between different retail cuts of meat and pathogenic bacterial contamination for consumer safety.

In the third area, Han and graduate student Anthony Mora are exploring whether supplementing horse diets with wine pomace will improve their health through evaluating changes in the microorganisms in the digestive tract. More than 8 million tons of wine pomace – the pulpy residue left after grapes are crushed – goes to the landfill, even though it is rich in flavonoids.

Reducing Food Waste

Orange juice production generates millions of tons of orange peel waste globally every year, creating a burden for the juicing industry as well as for the environment.

Gabriel Davidov-Pardo, an assistant professor of nutrition and food science; Olive Li, associate professor of nutrition and food science; and graduate student Sarah Caballero are exploring whether recovering micronutrients from orange peel is an effective means of reducing food waste.

Orange peel is rich in phenolic compounds, primarily hesperidin, which has been studied for anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties. Incorporating hesperidin into functional food products would add value to orange waste, encourage its recovery, and benefit the consumer.

Davidov-Pardo and Caballero are researching ways to incorporate hesperidin into food.



Sarah Caballero conducts research in the Foods Lab.

photo by Deanna Stewart

Fall Plans

With most university faculty and staff required to work from home, the annual Convocation and Fall Conference were also held via Zoom. The college traditionally holds a barbecue to welcome students back to the new term but this too was also held online, with trivia contests and other announcements.

Although students couldn't meet with industry leaders in person, the college established the "Future Friday" series in early October. They included leaders from agribusiness, food science, dietetics, apparel, animal science and plant science industries. Many of them served or have served on the Dean's Advisory Council. Speakers are pictured on the right.

AGRIBUSINESS



Karen Caplan



Jeff Burch

APPAREL



Frances Harder



Susan Kellogg-Bell

FOOD SCIENCE



Mike Real



Niyati Parikh

ANIMAL SCIENCE



John Resich



Paige Hashimoto

DIETETICS



Carol Sloan



Suzanne Kellon

PLANT SCIENCE



Terry Noriega



Landon Massey

OFFERING A POLYTECHNIC EDUCATION *in a Remote World*



When the coronavirus struck last spring and Cal Poly Pomona switched to remote instruction, some faculty adapted more easily than others..

"For faculty who did not have experience teaching remotely, it was extremely stressful," said Victoria Bhavsar, director of the university's Center for the Advancement of Faculty Excellence (CAFE). "They had a tremendous amount to learn in a very short time."

This past summer, Cal Poly Pomona offered faculty training in best practices for remote instruction and course design for the fall semester.

Alignment

Jasmin Ilkay, a nutrition and food science lecturer, requires students in her Food and Culture class to write an in-depth report about the cultural and food practices of a selected country or an ethnic group.

"Students also get a chance to prepare an authentic dish from that country, providing a tactile, hands-on approach to learning," Ilkay said.

The report guides students toward their learning outcomes for the class, which include identifying the historical, economic, social, and religious factors on food and culture, she said.

The assignment reflects one of the best practices to remote instruction: alignment or making sure that a course's learning goals, activities, work, and technologies all mesh, Bhavsar said.

Communication and Social Presence

Some students struggle adjusting to remote instruction. Kim Miller, an associate professor and academic advisor for the agricultural science major, monitors the Blackboard learning management system to see which students log in, and complete work.

She also communicates regularly to her students. "One of my best practices is to send out reminder emails about submission due dates and motivational audio messages to help the students stay on track throughout the semester," she said.

"We are all dealing with so much now," Miller added. "Supporting students any way that I can for their success is a huge benefit for me and for them." Having consistent, kind, and clear communication helps encourage students to succeed, Bhavsar said.

Adding Variety

In her Introduction to Arthropods class, Anna Soper, an assistant professor of plant science, normally requires her student to make an insect collection. But it is difficult to teach students how to make a proper collection online, she said.

Instead, Soper had students take insect photos and create a collection on Instagram.

"It has made it a fun and interactive experience," she said. "Now they are commenting on each other's pictures and interacting in a way they may not normally do in the lab."

Faculty and instructors don't want online classes to be boring, so providing a variety of activities is another best practice, Bhavsar said.

"It can be challenging, but interesting and fun," she said.

Asynchronous, Synchronous and Flipped

Instead of lecturing to her class, Soper "flips" the traditional instructional model by having students go over the material at home, like watching video lectures, reading online articles, or visiting websites to gather specific information.

Allowing the students to cover the material on their own time – or "asynchronously" – provides more flexibility for those who are working or caring for family members, she said.

Class time – or "synchronous" instruction – is reserved for interaction.



Student Andrea Vazques' pic of a swallowtail caterpillar

"I let them ask questions. Then we play a game like Jeopardy or Kahoot – an online quiz-style game – that lets them practice the material in a fun way," Soper said.

"Flipping" the classroom makes the most of class time, Bhavsar said. "If the class is just a lecture for 30 minutes, maybe it's better to put it in a video for the student to watch when they want to," she said.

Instructors can use class time to help students work through problems and apply the information they've learned.

"It makes it more compelling for students to be present," Bhavsar said.

Getting Creative with Labs

Since she couldn't meet her apparel merchandising and management students in person, Assistant Professor Helen Trejo found a creative solution for her Introduction to Textile Science lab.

She made pre-packaged fiber and swatch packets for her students, based on an idea from her colleague, Associate Professor Jiangning Che.

"Since we don't have access to microscopes, I added new lectures with images of natural and manufactured fibers under a scanning electronic microscope," Trejo said. "A pick glass with a 1-inch by 1-inch magnifying glass comes in their package, so they will focus on analyzing the fabric count of woven and knit fabrics as an indicator of quality this semester."

Deciding what to do with labs was perhaps the most challenging part of remote instruction. Labs provide essential hands-on learning for students from plant and animal sciences to apparel merchandising and management and food science and technology. Faculty and instructors like Trejo devised different solutions.

In another lab on apparel construction and quality, Trejo recorded hand-sewing demonstrations, showing students chain stitches, cover stitches, and overlocking used in ready-to-wear clothing.

Modifying In-Person Labs

Associate Professor Joanne Sohn's labs in surgical techniques, diagnostic imaging, parasitology, and animal diseases were among the few authorized to meet in person on campus this fall.

They were authorized because they teach essential hands-on skills for the animal health science major, which must maintain accreditation from the American Veterinary Medical Association. To gain approval from university authorities, Sohn explained the labs' importance and included all the safety measures that would be used. She also reduced the number of labs and class sizes.

"There are some procedures that can be taught over Zoom," Sohn said. "For instance, we will teach the basics of suturing in class, but have students show us their technique over Zoom so we can correct them if necessary."

Training Impact

CAFE assisted nearly 1,300 faculty members – nearly double the number that the center would normally interact with during the year. So far, the faculty training seems to have helped instruction.

"I believe it is much more organized than it was in spring because faculty have had more time to plan out their lectures and assignments," said Gabrielle Magpantay, a fifth-year animal science major.

"In some labs, I have watched videos of the lab being done instead of the students doing it," said Haley Rubia, a fourth-year animal science major. "In others, some professors talk more about the concepts and theories of what would have gone on in the lab if it were physical."

Enrollment Remains Stable

When high school senior Haley Chui was deciding where to go to college in the fall 2020, she wasn't afraid about the possibility of remote instruction. Chui wanted to major in animal science, and enrolled in the Huntley College of Agriculture.

"I knew I would try to make the best out of my education whether it is remote or not," said Chui, a San Francisco Bay Area resident. She chose Cal Poly Pomona because of its "learn by doing" philosophy and the chance to work with the college's livestock.

Chui wasn't alone. Enrollment in the Huntley College of Agriculture remained stable this fall despite switching to remote instruction because of COVID-19. Enrollment was 2,369 students, compared to 2,373 from the previous fall.

"Online learning is still weird on Zoom, but I enjoy not having to drive to campus and fight with parking," said Holly Diaz, a transfer student in nutrition. "I do miss meeting new people though."

Orientation & Advising Online

The university created a special online program for new student orientation while advisors helped register them through the Zoom videoconferencing platform.

"Orientation was virtual in every aspect that you can think of," said Rosa Lamas-Serratos, the college's student success services and recruitment coordinator. All told, 598 new students participated in summer orientation, including 329 freshmen and 269 transfer students, Lamas-Serratos said.

Your Support is the FOUNDATION for their FUTURE

Thank You!



Individuals

Steven Acevedo
Rielly Akins
Cortni Albritton
Giovanni Alfaro
David Alvarez
Dawn Anuszkiewicz-Lundgren
Emnet Assefa
Eeman At-Taras
Jeannette Baesel
George & Elizabeth Balteria
Sherry Barr
Tanya Bedolla
Katherine Kings-Beltran
and Gustavo Beltran
Christopher Bennett
David & Jill Bergman
Susan & Peter Bergstrom
Bernard & Margaret Bernheim
Hannah Bitetto
Gary & Peggy Bockman
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Nancy & Phillip Burbach
Cecily Burke
Caryn Butts
Ed & Nenita Cabacungan
Sarah Calderon
Michael & Deborah Campbell
Raymond Campbell
and Carol Campbell
Raul Canizales
Karen Caplan
Emory Carney
Federico Ceballos and
Kan Yee

Brett & Coleen Chandler
Abraham Chavez
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Paul Bickner
Alex Corning
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Adrian & Paula de Silva
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Rachmil & Esther Hakman
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and Eric Lizaro
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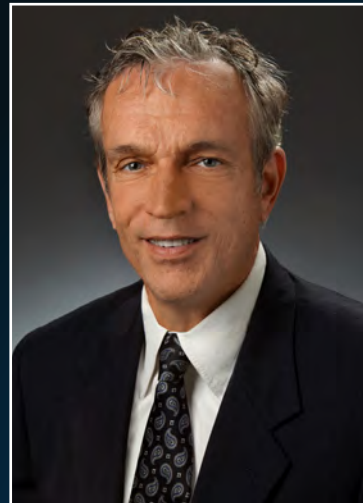


Photo provided by Hidden Villa Ranch

Ag Achievement Award

The Huntley College of Agriculture chose Tim Luberski, president of Fullerton-based Hidden Villa Ranch, for the 2020 Jim Hicks Agricultural Achievement Award.

Hidden Villa is one of the largest egg distributors and marketers in the country with annual sales of more than \$500 million. It also produces, processes, markets, trades, wholesales, and exports eggs and other products to customers worldwide.

While Luberski was at USC business school, his father died, and his family was forced to sell the family egg-laying business, Hidden Villa Ranch in Riverside. To support his family, Luberski began bringing eggs from Riverside County and selling them to customers in Los Angeles, using his apartment as an office.

Luberski grew his egg business, named after the former family ranch, adding supermarket customers to his initial foodservice customers.

In 1983 and 1984, Luberski and Hidden Villa Ranch were recognized by Inc. Magazine as one of the 500 fastest-growing, privately-owned companies. In the late 1980s, Hidden Villa Ranch created a dairy export division and became a major wholesaler and trader of cheeses, importing millions of pounds of German processed cheese per year.

The college planned to honor Luberski at its 6th Annual Farm to Table Spring Harvest Dinner in April, but the coronavirus forced the event's cancellation.



Stephanie Servano



Mandy Chen

Helping to Fight COVID-19

Two Huntley College of Agriculture students are doing their parts in the battle against the coronavirus.

Stephanie Servano, a food science and technology major, and Mandy Chen, a senior in apparel merchandising and management, are working at companies that producing essential products. A Pomona native who transferred to Cal Poly Pomona from Citrus College, Servano works at the biopharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences, which is researching whether an antiviral drug, remdesivir, can be used as a treatment for coronavirus.

Servano is a quality assurance inspector who reviews products before final release. She splits her work time between her Rancho Cucamonga home and the Gilead office in La Verne.

Servano started as an intern at Gilead. She expressed an interest in continuing to work for the company after the internship ended, so Gilead brought her back as a contractor, then hired her as a full-time employee. "It feels great to work for a company that always puts their patients first," Servano said. "I love knowing that I can help people."

Meanwhile, Chen is an intern at Nana Atelier, an apparel service manufacturer that has shifted gears to produce non-medical facemasks for essential businesses.

Nana Atelier accepts orders for masks and distributes the work to local factories and manufacturers it partners with so they can stay in business and pay their vulnerable workers. Customers can purchase masks at www.nanaatelier.com/order-masks.html.

Chen worked on the copy and marketing for the initiative. The internship has immersed her in the factory and production side of the apparel industry. "However, what sets this experience apart is that my boss dedicates her efforts to being a fair-wage and ethical factory that ensures paying her workers full benefits and a livable wage, especially for Los Angeles," said Chen, a senior in apparel merchandising and management, production option.

STUDENT *Leaders of the Year* AWARDS



Courtney Welch
Julian A. McPhee
Outstanding Student Scholar

Courtney is an animal science major who graduated this spring and was named the class valedictorian. She hopes to work as an analyst for the California Department of Food and Agriculture or another governmental agency.



Viral Shukla
John E. Andrews Undergraduate
Student Leader of the Year

A food science and technology student, Viral served as president of the Phi Tau Sigma Honors Society; Bronco Pep Band director, College Bowl team captain; rep on the Dean's Advisory Council; and the Pacific Southwest Area representative for the Institute of Food Technologists Student Association.



Franciela Garcia
John E. Andrews Graduate
Student Leader of the Year

Franciela is a graduate student in food science and technology. She was nominated for her leadership in the food science labs, the College Bowl Team, and the Food Science Association.



ARI *Showcase*

Faculty, staff and students made poster and oral presentations at the 18th Annual Cal Poly Pomona/Agricultural Research Institute showcase in February on research projects dealing with issues facing California agriculture.

For example, at least one out of every 141 Americans have celiac disease - meaning they cannot eat pasta, a wheat-based staple food - and half of those may not have been diagnosed yet.

Gabriel Davidov-Pardo, an assistant professor in nutrition and food science, with one of his students, Viral Shukla, and Associate Professor Olive Li, created a pasta out of high-protein legumes like fava beans and peas.

In addition to the Huntley College of Agriculture, faculty from the colleges of engineering and science were involved in some of the projects.

All the projects were funded by the California State University Agricultural Research Institute (ARI), which counts six CSU campuses as members or associates. The ARI supports research projects that explore and devise practical solutions to the challenges facing California agriculture.



Photo by Deanna Stewart

Celebrating the *New Wine*

Cal Poly Pomona's award-winning Horsehill Vineyards uncorked its first wines wrapped in labels created by CPP students.

The collaborative project between three colleges on campus included picking the grapes, creating the label for the wine bottle and marketing the product.

The Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture and The Collins College of Hospitality Management work with Horsehill Vineyards, who branched out for a fruitful partnership with visual communication design students from the College of Environmental Design (ENV) to rebrand the labels for the 2017 Zinfandel and 2019 Zinfandel Rosé wines. They were produced by 2020 graduating seniors Christian Venegas and Kazu Iwasawa and alumna Sarah Martinez ('19).

Horsehill Vineyards wine is available for purchase at 40% off (by-the-case) through December 23, while supplies last. It can be purchased at the Farm Store at Kellogg Ranch or ordered online for curbside pickup at: (www.cppdiscoveryfarm.com).

BY-THE-CASE
Holiday
Flash Sale

40%
OFF

Case Study Competition

A team of agribusiness and food industry management students entered into a national case study competition, the first time Cal Poly Pomona has participated in the event.

Shelbi Raasch, Brendan Jarret, Tyler Peterson and Gerardo Barragon entered the National Grocers Association (NGA) Foundation Student Case Study Competition in San Diego, Feb. 23-25. The event was held during the annual NGA Show.

The students presented a case study for a full financial and marketing plan for Buehler's Fresh Foods grocery to make it easier for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants and shoppers with produce prescriptions to maximize their food benefits by increasing their portions of fruits and vegetables in their groceries.

The team finished seventh out of the 14 universities in the competition. The students were the seniors with highest grade point averages in the Department of Agribusiness and Food Industry Management/Agricultural Science.

The NGA is the national trade association representing independent retail and wholesale grocers. The annual NGA



From left to right: Shelbi Raasch, Tyler Peterson, Brendan Jarret, and Gerardo Barragon
Photo provided by the group.

Show brings members together with food retail industry executives, manufacturers and service providers for networking and education.

New College Programs

The Huntley College of Agriculture is adding two new master's degree programs and a minor.

The master's degree in international apparel management started this fall and prepares working students for leadership roles in the apparel industry, teaching them analytical and management skills, how to identify problems, and develop solutions. Students hear first-hand from industry executives and work on real-world issues facing apparel companies.

Students can take electives in market forecasting and product line management, sourcing, supply chain and logistics, brand management, product innovation, and financial management and retail strategy.

The second program is an online master's degree in dietetics for those students interested in becoming registered dietitians or registered dietitian nutritionists.

Registered dietitians and registered dietitian nutritionists work with individuals and groups to promote and integrate proper nutrition practices into their lifestyles. They can pursue careers in clinical dietetics, community nutrition, food service management, research, consulting or private practice, or in business and industry.

The program will begin in the fall 2021. The college is offering both master's programs in conjunction with the College of the Extended University.

Meanwhile, the college began offering a plant-based nutrition minor this fall.

A plant-based diet typically avoids all animal-based products and focuses on minimally processed foods, including vegetables, fruits, whole grains, and nuts. The minor covers nutrition, cooking and meal planning, new food industry trends, and the effects of processing on bioactive components. Course work includes nutrition, food science, health, plant-based diets, plant-based cooking labs and electives in food safety, produce, and ethical issues.

The first cohort of students in the minor came not only from the nutrition and food science and technology majors, but also from agricultural science, animal science, liberal studies, plant science, and psychology.

Development of the minor was funded by Bipin and Rekha Shah.

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



Networking with Pros

More than 50 plant science, nutrition and food science, agribusiness and food industry management students attended a conference to learn about career opportunities in the produce and floral industries and network with industry professionals

During the Produce Marketing Association Fresh Summit Convention and Expo, students were paired with industry mentors who guided them through the exhibitor floor and interactions with company representatives.

The mentors included fresh produce and floral consultant Dick Spezzano, Jeff Burch of Bank of the West, and representatives from Dole Foods, Fruit Ripe, and Frieda's Specialty Produce.

More than 1,200 exhibitors, 3,200 buyers, and 22,000 participants from more than 60 countries attended the expo.

Lecturer Katie Horvath used the conference as an opportunity for her agribusiness sales course, and students were asked to develop a sales pitch and plan for networking with industry members. They had to engage with industry representatives, gather information about pre-selected companies, ask about any upcoming job opportunities or internships, and pitch themselves for employment or internships. The conference was held Oct. 18, 2019, at the Anaheim Convention Center. Although it comes to Southern California only once every four years, the 2020 conference will be held online, so Cal Poly Pomona students will be able to participate again.

College News Continued...



Photo provided by Holly Greene

Equine Research Data

Four animal and veterinary science students collected data at an equine endurance ride for a research project on animal biomechanics and fatigue.

Maria Popa, Ashley Cea, Kacie Lackey, and Joy Youssef traveled to Ridgecrest on Feb. 22 to attend the Twenty Mule Team Endurance Ride. They were accompanied by Associate Professor Cord Brundage, Lecturer Elizabeth Schilling, and Animal Compliance and Safety Specialist and Lecturer Holly Greene.

They collected data for Greene's research project on biomechanics and fatigue in endurance horses. The project is funded by the California State University Agricultural Research Institute.

The goal of the research project is to determine whether fatigue alters horses' gaits in a predictable manner that could prevent potential injury. Although endurance riding is the fastest-growing Federation Equestre Internationale discipline and the second-most popular after show jumping, there are relatively few studies focusing on fatigue and failure to finish in sanctioned events.

Studying the animals' locomotion will provide baseline data for studies on lameness and mechanical breakdown and a greater understanding of musculoskeletal fatigue that will help address the horses' health and safety.

The Twenty Mule Team Endurance Ride is sponsored by the American Endurance Ride Conference and features races ranging in length from 15 miles up to 100 miles in five different weight divisions.



Christina Bautista



Cord Brundage

Student, Professor Named to National Pre-Vet Group

Christina Bautista, a junior majoring in animal science, was elected as the national vice president for the American Pre-Veterinary Medical Association (APVMA) during the organization's annual symposium Feb. 28-29, in Blacksburg, Va.

Cord Brundage, an associate professor of animal and veterinary sciences, was appointed to the AVPMA advisory board of trustees after a year-long selection, vetting, and interview process. It's the second consecutive year that a Cal Poly Pomona student was elected as APVMA officer at the symposium. Last year, Jaylen Davis was elected APVMA's national treasurer.

Bautista, who lives in Palmdale with her husband and three boys, will serve a one-year term on the organization's executive board. Her duties will include networking with companies and other organizations to gain scholarship sponsors and facilitating collaboration between board members and advisors.

Bautista enlisted in the California National Guard in 2002, and she served as a heavy equipment tractor driver. Her unit was the first from California to deploy to the Middle East in 2003, and Bautista spent a year there. She was discharged from the National Guard in 2009 at the rank of sergeant.

Fifteen Cal Poly Pomona animal science students attended this year's symposium, accompanied by Brundage.

The APVMA is a national student organization that promotes interest in the field of veterinary medicine.

Trade Association Names AMM an Affiliate Program

An apparel trade association has named Cal Poly Pomona an affiliate school in recognition of its clothing industry connections and career-preparing curriculum.

Cal Poly Pomona is one of only 13 universities nationwide to earn affiliate status from the American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA). The association, which represents more than 1,000 world-famous name brands, retailers, and manufacturers, bestowed the recognition after reviewing the university's apparel merchandising and management program.

The review included an examination of the Department of Apparel Merchandising and Management's (AMM) curriculum and whether it addressed industry needs, as well as accounting for faculty participation in industry events, said Professor Muditha Senanayake, interim department chair.

Affiliate status makes AMM eligible to receive reimbursement funds from AAFA for sending faculty to industry events, he said. AMM often sends faculty members to conferences and trade shows to keep abreast of industry trends and issues; faculty also accompany students to industry events and organize AMM booths to showcase student work and initiate industry interactions.

The AMM program has had a long history with the AAFA. Until 2015, it was one of the few apparel production programs in the United States that was endorsed by the

AAFA. The endorsement was based on a comprehensive review process – conducted every five years – to evaluate whether the program was producing qualified workers for the apparel industry and enabled AMM to receive \$5,000 annually in scholarship funding to award as the department saw fit.

However, AAFA abandoned the program in 2015. Instead, it created the YMA Fashion Scholarship Fund, opening it up for any fashion student to apply and awarding the scholarships on a competitive basis. Universities and colleges that AAFA had previously endorsed could apply to become affiliates under the new program.



AMM Students Win Prestigious Scholarships

Two apparel merchandising and management students won prestigious \$5,000 scholarships after participating in a case study competition. Amanda Borja and Jocelyne Kinjo were awarded the scholarship from the nonprofit YMA Fashion Scholarship Fund.

A fourth-year student from Montebello who was Cal Poly Pomona's sole YMA Fashion Scholarship recipient last year, Borja proposed a design collaboration between Space X and Speedo to develop 3-D printed technical swimwear for the 2020 Olympics.

Kinjo, who is a senior in apparel production with an emphasis in international apparel management, submitted a case study where Adidas collaborated with Starbucks to create a sustainable line implementing fabric made from coffee grounds.



Amanda Borja



Jocelyne Kinjo

Founded in 1937, the YMA Fashion Scholarship Fund is the largest and oldest scholarship organization in the fashion industry, seeking the best and brightest students from around the world to lead the industry into the future.



National Baking Title

Students Viral Shukla, Gerardo Pedro, Chelsea Le, and Choco Chai took first place in the American Society of Baking (ASB) Product Development Competition, which was held March 1 in Chicago. The quartet beat out teams from the University of Florida and Purdue University in the competition finals. Each team had to create a new bakery food product using a “novel protein source” that is not commonly found in food: for example, insects, algae, seaweed, or rapeseed. This is the second consecutive year Cal Poly Pomona has won the competition.

The Cal Poly Pomona team created “Hoppers,” which was inspired by the classic American whoopie pie: a sweet, chewy marshmallow sandwiched between two French-style joconde cakes, topped with chocolate, pecans, and bacon bits.

The travel-sized snack used cricket powder as its source of novel protein and maple bacon to help make it more flavorful.

Each Cal Poly Pomona student received a \$5,000 scholarship for winning, and the team received a trophy. ASB also covered the team’s travel and lodging expenses.

The competition was held during the ASB BakingTECH 2020 Conference in Chicago, March 1-3.

ASB is the professional organization for the wholesale baking community. Members are commercial baking professionals; food technologists; and engineering, equipment, and ingredient experts who are dedicated

to advancing baking and baking science technology through education, leadership development, and networking.

BakingTECH is annually attended by more than 1,000 baking professionals from across the nation and around the globe.

FST PROGRAM GETS SEAL OF APPROVAL

The food science and technology program has received a prestigious professional group’s official seal of approval.

The program was named one of the Institute of Food Technologists’ (IFT) approved undergraduate programs. The IFT’s Higher Education Review Board (HERB) determined that the Cal Poly Pomona program met its undergraduate education standards for degrees in food science.

Cal Poly Pomona becomes just the third university in California to earn the recognition, behind UC Davis and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

The recognition entitles the food science and technology program to use IFT’s approval badge and publicize that the program has received IFT approval.



Photo provided by Plant Science Dept.

Making Turfbowl History!

Four Cal Poly Pomona plant science students made history in winning the annual GCSAA Collegiate Turf Bowl competition against colleges and universities from North America.

Kathy Nguyen, Stephen Espinosa, Julissa Gomez, and Hailey Taniguchi became the first winning team in the contest’s 21-year history to have female members. They were also the first winning team to come from the West Coast.

“This reflects the quality of our turfgrass program and is an example of Cal Poly Pomona promoting women in turf,” said Priti Saxena, an assistant professor of plant science and the first female to serve as advisor to a winning team.

They beat out teams from 30 other universities from the United States and Canada at the Jan. 30 event in Orlando, Fla., to take home the \$4,000 prize. Other teams that finished in the top 10 included squads from Purdue, Auburn, Penn State, the University of Maryland, Michigan State, Iowa State, and Virginia Tech.

The Turf Bowl, which is sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), challenges students about their knowledge of the agronomic, business, and financial management aspects of the golf course superintendent profession. A second team of Cal Poly Pomona students – Emma Riley, Matthew Ho, Daniel Carrillo, and John Lee – finished in seventh place and was awarded \$300. A total of \$10,000 in cash and prizes were awarded to teams that finished in the top 10. Cal Poly Pomona was the only university to have two teams in the top 10 at the Turf Bowl this year.

In addition to Saxena, the team’s advisors and coaches included plant science lecturer Alan Moss; and graduate students Oscar Del Real, Sean McLaughlin, Brian Fuertes, and Mark Nakatsui, who worked hard with the students and previously taken second place in the Turf Bowl in 2016 and 2017. This year marks the ninth time Cal Poly Pomona teams have finished in the top 10.

BRAINSTORMING URBAN AG IDEAS

Faculty and staff from across the Cal Poly Pomona campus convened for a Feb. 28 forum to discuss projects they are working on related to urban and community agriculture.

Consumer and societal trends such as income inequality and food insecurity have fueled interest in the area, said Rachel Surls, a Cal Poly Pomona plant science lecturer and sustainable food systems advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension. The Huntley College of Agriculture, which organized the forum at AGRiscapes, developed an urban and community agriculture strategic plan. Surls has assisted the college in drafting the plan.

Cal Poly Pomona is especially well positioned to become a leader in the area, because it has the only four-year agricultural program in Southern California and has resources like Spadra Farm and greenhouses, she added. There’s also a network of urban farms in the region.

The Huntley College of Agriculture created a minor for students in urban and community agriculture starting in 2018. Students can take courses in everything from small-scale farm production to urban agriculture policy and business models. Faculty from other colleges on campus spoke of their projects related with urban and community agriculture, including promoting food justice and healthy alternatives in South Los Angeles, and providing garden workshops and free seeds for urban farm plots in Pomona.

In addition to presentations, guests at the forum observed poster presentations on some of the projects and programs that were discussed.

There were also tours of the Children’s Garden at AGRiscapes, as well as a hydroponic and aquaponic farming systems – the latter still under development – in the adjacent greenhouses.



Photo provided by Plant Science Dept.

Plant Science Students Julieta Muñoz and Guy Hernandez

AMM & Engineering Team Up

Apparel merchandising and management and civil engineering professors were awarded a four-year, \$241,000 USDA grant that will provide learn-by-doing research experiences for undergraduate students with U.S. sheep farms and wool use.



Helen Trejo

In their project entitled "An Experiential Learning Approach: U.S. Wool and Water Re-Use for Sustainable Development," Helen Trejo, an assistant professor in apparel merchandising and management, and Simeng Li, an assistant professor in civil engineering, proposed

exploring ways to engage students with wool from U.S. sheep farms and develop a low-cost solution for wool wastewater treatment as a critical fiber processing step.

The USDA awarded them a grant through its National Institute of Food & Agriculture/Hispanic Serving Institutions program (NIFA/HSI), which seeks to increase rural prosperity and economic development. This project also addresses HSI educational needs to enhance curricula design, develop materials, students' knowledge of library resources, and experiential learning.

Trejo and Li will develop interdisciplinary research courses that will provide learn-by-doing experiences for undergraduate students, expanding their knowledge about U.S. sheep farming, wool use, sustainability, the supply chain, and economic development.

Trejo and apparel merchandising and management students will conduct surveys with U.S. sheep farmers to identify the types of wool from different sheep breeds, current fiber processing practices including wool washing on or off the farm, final products created, efforts to reach their target market, and any environmental challenges such as drought. A goal is to source raw wool from sheep farms in lower income areas.

Raw wool has a natural wax or grease called lanolin that can account for up to 25 percent of its weight. The wool must be washed in hot water and detergent multiple times to remove the lanolin, dust, and dirt before it can be processed into yarn, clothing, or textile products.

Li and undergraduate civil engineering students will experiment developing a low-cost water treatment approach to wool washing – which would allow reuse of the water – and evaluate its effectiveness with different types of raw wool.

CULINOLOGY PROGRAM

The Research Chef Association, a food industry professional organization, approved Cal Poly Pomona's Culinology program through 2023.

The association consists of more than 2,000 chefs, food scientists, and other industry professionals who provide culinary and technical information for food research and development. The organization developed and trademarked Culinology, which it defines as the blending of culinary arts and food science.

The Huntley College of Agriculture and The Collins College of Hospitality Management jointly offer Culinology as an interdisciplinary minor. It is intended for students majoring in food science and technology, foods and nutrition, chemistry, and related sciences, as well as for hospitality management students who have an interest in culinary arts and food science.

Coursework in the minor includes general chemistry, organic chemistry, food chemistry, professional cooking, world cuisine, and food product development.

Cal Poly Pomona is one of just 22 universities and community colleges nationwide that partner with the Research Chefs Association.



The project budget includes funds for undergraduate student assistants in each of the departments during the school year and summer over the next four years. Students will gain undergraduate research experiences, develop strong research papers, and presentations that can be presented at academic conferences, be submitted to the Bronco Scholar Library Repository, and can contribute to future peer reviewed publications. The experience can help them prepare for careers in food, agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences.

The project itself can expand researchers' knowledge about the range of farmers' experiences geographically and across diverse communities nationwide. It also can be helpful to farmers, fiber mill owners, fiber and textile researchers, as well as practitioners in the broader fashion industry that are seeking sustainable approaches and domestic production.

PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARS

Two Huntley College of Agriculture students were named 2020-21 President's Scholars for their exceptional student achievement.

Kiannah Shalise Barclay and Amanda Penicks were honored during an online ceremony by Cal Poly Pomona President Soraya Coley and Provost Sylvia Alva held on Sept. 24. An animal science major who is a member of the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center's equestrian team and Foal Watch program, Barclay was named the inaugural Jasen Strand President's Scholar.

Barclay also serves at Calvary Chapel Chino Hills and volunteers with the Equine Bucket Rescue, a local horse rescue rehabilitation organization. She wants to create an equine therapy ministry serving veterans and wounded warriors.

As the inaugural Jasen Strand President's Scholar, Kiannah's dedication to helping others and advocating for equal student access is a fitting tribute to Jasen Strand, the son of Peter and Tina Strand who created this scholarship in 2010 in his memory and provided additional funding in 2020.

Penicks is an agricultural science major and member of the Los Robles Horticulture Club and the Agriculture Council. She also has worked as a lab field intern at a medical entomology facility and a horticultural exterminator at Disneyland and hopes to become a vector ecologist.



Kiannah Barclay



Amanda Penicks

Penicks was named the Albert Zoraster President's Scholar. Christine Zoraster endowed this scholarship in the memory of her husband, Albert. It is awarded to the student who values hard work and is dedicated to the enrichment of their community.

The President's Scholars Program honors students who not only succeed in the classroom, but are committed to make society better by volunteering and working in the community.

Kellogg Foundation Provides \$75,000 to Arabian Horse Center

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation provided \$75,000 to the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center to help maintain pastures and support students who care for the horses during COVID-19.

"When you're on a farm, routines can't change and the daily needs of the horses continue," said John Lambert, the center's executive director. "The horses really don't have a clue that the world is dealing with a pandemic."

Many center programs are paused until in-person instruction can safely resume. Horses not being used for student programs graze along with the breeding horses, foals and retired horses, increasing the need to water and maintain pastures efficiently. The center has 17 pastures, each at about two acres. A group of six to eight horses rotate every 10 to 12 days to a new pasture. They're on a 100 percent grass diet and graze 24 hours a day. Each pasture takes up to four weeks to grow.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation's gift helped to purchase three high-volume, semi-automatic

watering reels, which take significantly less time to set up, providing staff time for other tasks. The gift will also cover stipends for more than 15 students, who feed horses, clean stalls, administer medication, assist with breeding and all other essential horse needs.

Natalie Moreno, a student worker, wants to become a small animal veterinarian, but taking care of the horses and working at the sheep and swine units allows her to explore working with larger animals. "The extra support will help students tremendously, especially during this time when people are struggling financially," Moreno said.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation was founded in 1930 by cereal magnate, William Keith Kellogg, who also established the horse center in 1925. Based in his hometown in Battle Creek, Mich., the private foundation works with communities to ensure students reach their full potential in school, work and life. The center continues to maintain an Arabian horse breeding program – 10 foals are expected next year.

NEW FACULTY/STAFF & PROMOTIONS



Steven Archambault
Assoc. Professor, ABM

Steve was promoted to associate professor. He came to Cal Poly Pomona in 2016 from New Mexico State, where he was an assistant professor of agricultural economics and agricultural business.



Cord Brundage
Assoc. Professor, AVS

Cord was promoted to associate professor. Cord, who has taught at Cal Poly Pomona since 2016, earned his DVM at Colorado State University and worked as a small animal general practice veterinarian in Colorado.



Michelle Buckley
Lecturer, AVS

Michelle is a new lecturer in the Department of Animal and Veterinary Science. She is a veterinarian and owner of Hidden Rock Large Animal Service Inc. She earned her DVM from Western University of Health Sciences.



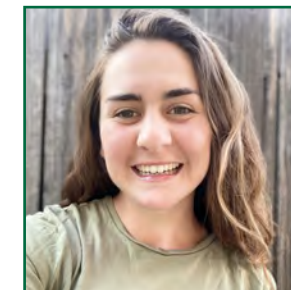
Claudia Grano
Admin. Supp. Coord, AVS

Claudia is the new administrative support coordinator for the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences. She has more than 15 years' experience in administration, including working for A1 Events, World Vision International, and Priom Inc.



Kellene Isom
Asst. Professor, NFS

Kellene is a new assistant professor in the Department of Nutrition and Food Science. She is a registered dietitian and was an associate professor of practice at Simmons University in Boston and a clinical dietitian at Brigham and Women's Hospital.



Maddie Ogburn
Trainer, AHC

Maddie is the new coordinator of horse training and farm operations at the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center. She is a 2019 animal science alumna. Maddie previously worked for Buck Davidson Eventing and Stachowski Farm Inc. in San Marcos.



Jenifer Cazares
Dean's Assistant

Jenifer is the new dean's assistant. Previously, she was the administrative coordinator for the Department of Agribusiness and Food Industry Management. She has been at Cal Poly Pomona for six years.



Stacey Cordua
RVTg, AHS

Stacey is the new animal health technician in the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences. She was the lead registered veterinary technician at Claremont Veterinary Hospital and earned her associate's degree at Mt. San Antonio College.



Lola Culotti
Administrative Analyst

Lola has been with the Cal Poly Pomona family since 2007. She worked at the Center for Advancement of Faculty Excellence and the Academic Research and Resources Office. Previous to this, she was the Budget Analyst with the U.S. District Court.



Omolade Owoleke
Lecturer, AVS

Omolade has a doctorate in animal production from the Federal University Technology Minna in Nigeria and worked as a university lecturer in Nigeria. She also taught in the Compton Unified School District.



Kelly Piña
Admin. Analyst, AHC

Kelly returns to the W.K. Arabian Horse Center as administrative coordinator. She worked there for 14 years before stints in the university's Office of Events and Special Projects and in the Huntley College of Agriculture's dean's office.



Michael Piña
Lecturer, PS

Michael is a new plant science lecturer. He has worked as an instructor and teaching assistant at UC Riverside, where he is earning his doctorate in plant biology. He earned his bachelor's degree in biology from Loyola Marymount University.



David Driscoll
Asst. Professor, AVS

David earned his doctorate in veterinary medicine from Colorado State. He has practiced veterinary medicine around Southern California, including as owner of Irvine Boulevard Animal Hospital.



Amber Freeland
Lecturer, AVS

Amber is a 2013 business administration alumna. She previously was the department's administrative support coordinator and earned her MBA from Cal State Fullerton.



Ondieki Gekara
Assoc. Professor, AVS

Ondieki was promoted to associate professor. Before joining Cal Poly Pomona in 2016, he was an associate professor of animal science at University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.



Zachary Smith
Lecturer, ABM

Zach is a new lecturer in the Department of Agribusiness and Food Industry Management/Agricultural Science. He is an attorney who advises agricultural clients on water transactions, regulatory and legal issues.



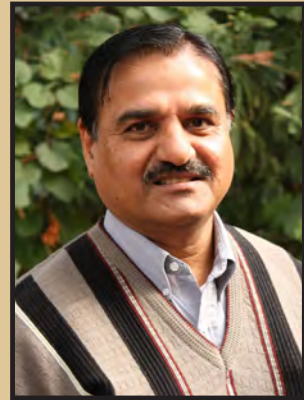
Fatheema Subhan
Asst. Professor, NFS

Fatheema is a registered dietitian and earned her doctorate in nutrition and metabolism and postdoctoral fellowship from the University of Alberta, Canada.



Lauren Young
Admin. Analyst, CSU/ARI

Lauren is the new administrative analyst for the California State University Agricultural Research Institute. She earned bachelor's in business administration from the University of the Pacific and her MBA from Cal State Monterey Bay.



Ramesh Kumar

Plant Science Professor Ramesh Kumar completed the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP) and finished teaching. Kumar came to Cal Poly Pomona in 1980 after earning his doctorate in agricultural engineering at UC Davis. He started as a lecturer and rose to professor. He served as acting chair of the Department of Agricultural Engineering in 1981, and then department chair from 1992 to 1995. He was instrumental in the development and success of the Center for Turf, Irrigation and Landscape Technology.



Robbie Myers

Robbie Myers retired in December 2019 after working as an administrative analyst in the dean's office since October 2012. "I truly loved working with the staff and faculty," she said. "I have made some friendships that I will cherish for life." Prior to joining the college, she worked in the dean's office in the College of Environmental Design from 2001 to 2012, and the university's financial services office from 1996 to 2001. Myers also worked at Cal State Bakersfield in the cashier's office.



Valerie Mellano

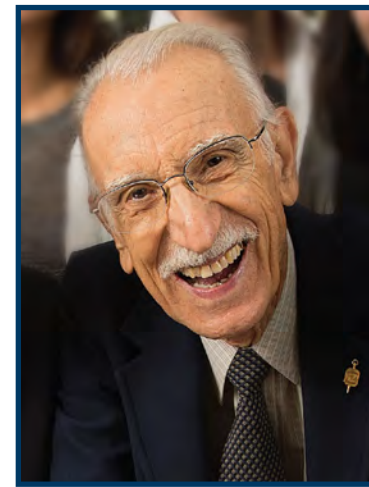
Valerie Mellano, a professor and current chair of the Department of Plant Science, has started FERP after eight years at Cal Poly Pomona. She won't be teaching in the 2020-21 academic year, but will continue to serve as department chair. Mellano had also previously served as chair of the Department of Agribusiness and Food Industry Management/Agricultural Science. She was the college's 2016 recipient of the Mack H. Kennington Advisor of the Year Award.



Penne Fode

Penne Fode, a longtime administrative coordinator for the dean's office, has retired after working at Cal Poly Pomona for more than 20 years. "It has been quite a ride in the College of Agriculture. I have watched many changes happen, many of those in me," Fode said. "I know that the college will be in good hands for many years to come. This is a true family. We argue, we cry, we mourn, we fight to maintain the quality college we all love, and we help each other." During her tenure, she received awards for distinguished service from the college, Staff Council, and Center for Community Service Learning.

Remembering an Icon



Ramiro Dutra, the Department of Nutrition and Food Science's founder, died at his Claremont home on April 20. He was 88.

Born in the Azores, Portugal, Dutra came to the United States when he was 17, traveling to New York City. He made his way to California by bus, where he enrolled at UC Davis.

Dutra earned his bachelor's and master's degrees there before earning his doctorate in agricultural and food chemistry also at UC Davis.

In 1959 Dutra was hired to teach chemistry classes at Cal Poly Pomona. He fully subscribed to its hands-on learning philosophy, providing his students with real-life examples from food technology, nutrition and food chemistry.

His chemistry classes were so popular that Dutra gained permission to create actual foods and nutrition courses. Eventually, the Department of Foods and Nutrition was established in the College of Agriculture in 1965 with Dutra as its first chair and only full-time instructor. He started with just 17 students and an initial budget of \$500.

Today, 55 years later, the program – now known as the Department of Nutrition and Food Science – has 11 faculty members, 14 lecturers, and more than 600 students. It has the largest food science and technology program in Southern California and regularly demonstrates excellence in national competitions.

During Dutra's tenure, the department received accreditation from the American Dietetic Association in 1987 to offer a post-baccalaureate dietetic internship.

Dutra received several awards during his long career, including the Outstanding Educators of America, the Gamma Sigma Delta Teaching Merit Award, and Cal Poly Pomona Outstanding Professor. He also served as associate dean and acting dean for the College of Agriculture. He retired in 1995.

During the department's 50th Anniversary Gala in 2015, Professor Dutra donated \$10,000: split between the Dutra Scholarship Fund and equipment for the food technology laboratory.

The family has said donations may be made to the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences or the university's Dutra Scholarship Fund.

Awards Of The Year



Jiangning Che
Mack H. Kennington
Advisor of the Year

Jiangning is an associate professor of apparel merchandising and management. The award is given to the advisor who does the best quality work in advising students on academics and their career plans.



Cord Brundage
Teacher of the Year

Cord is an associate professor of animal and veterinary science. The award is given to the faculty member who demonstrates exceptional teaching ability, planning skills, scholarly writings, professional development, and/or peer consulting.



Rubria Wilson
Staff of the Year

Rubria is the admin coordinator for nutrition and food science. She was given the award due to her good communication skills, initiative, planning ability, professional development, and her zeal for assisting faculty, students, and staff.

Joanne Sohn Named Fulbright Specialist



Joanne Sohn, an associate professor and veterinarian, was accepted into the Fulbright Specialists Program, which was created in 2001 by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The program pairs highly qualified U.S. academics and professionals with overseas institutions to share their expertise, hone their skills, gain international experience, and learn about other cultures.

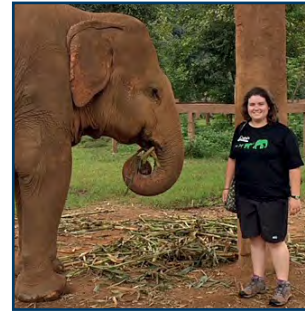
Fulbright Specialists are placed on a roster and are eligible to be matched with approved projects from more than 150 countries around the world.

"My expertise would be in creating learn-by-doing experiences that complement the curriculum, similar to what I do here via the Spa Day/Vaccine Clinic and spay/neuter month," Sohn said. "I also could do a seminar in anesthesia or some other veterinary-related topic."

A Cal Poly Pomona professor since 2014, Sohn directs the university's animal health science program, which prepares students to become registered veterinary technicians - veterinary equivalent of nurses. Sohn, who expressed interest in traveling to Africa or New Zealand, has experience working overseas.

She led a group of 13 animal health science students to Thailand in the summer of 2017 to work at an animal shelter and elephant park. In addition, she accompanied students on similar trip to South Africa in 2019 and to Ghana in 2018 with other California State University professors as part of partnership seminar with the University of Ghana.

Although the State Department has temporarily suspended the program and postponed all projects because of the global coronavirus pandemic, the program is still accepting applicants to become specialists. Sohn will be placed on the Fulbright Specialist roster for three years and remain eligible for exchanges.



AHS student Julia Freedman poses with an elephant on the Thailand trip in 2017.

Following in Her Mom's Footsteps



Growing up in Alhambra, Paige Hashimoto-Lizardo loved animals and dreamed about becoming a veterinarian. She fulfilled that dream in a journey that took her through Cal Poly Pomona's animal science program, veterinary school, and then to co-owning an animal hospital in Huntington Beach.

Now, her daughter, Marissa, is following her, enrolling in Cal Poly Pomona this fall.

"I was a proud mama bear," said Lizardo ('94, animal science), recalling when Marissa made her college decision. "I was proud to know that she would follow in my footsteps."

Marissa Lizardo, who graduated from Fountain Valley High School last spring and wants to become a veterinarian too, was accepted to four other Cal State University campuses in biology. But Cal Poly Pomona was close to home and had a pre-vet program. "Once I got into Cal Poly Pomona, it was set in stone. I knew I was going there," Marissa said.

Different Animal Experience

Paige Lizardo had household pets growing up, but when she enrolled at Cal Poly Pomona, she discovered that other animal science students had different experiences. "A lot were farm raised. They came to class with hats and boots," she recalled. "They did work at the horse unit or were raised with large animals."

Although she knew she wanted to work as a small animal veterinarian, Lizardo knew that she needed to broaden her experience. She spent three years volunteering at the L.A. Zoo, working with the primates, and then working at an emergency vet clinic.

"This was all just for me to put on my application for vet school to show I did have a wide range of experience with a lot of different animals," Lizardo said.

Going to Vet School

After graduating from Cal Poly Pomona, Lizardo enrolled at Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine in Alabama. Her Cal Poly Pomona education and experience - with the large-animal classes and hands-on learning experiences - helped.

"Most veterinary school students come from a biology program. They haven't touched an animal," she said. "Having those classes there was a plus." Lizardo not only finished with a degree in veterinary medicine, she also met her future husband, Eric, there.

Family Practice

The two wound up in Southern California after veterinary school, serving internships at the same 24-hour veterinary medicine referral center in Orange County before purchasing the Beach Boulevard Pet Hospital in Huntington Beach in 2004.

Marissa also has worked at her family's pet hospital, answering phones, making appointments and prepping for them, changing and cleaning animal cages, and walking dogs.

Because of COVID-19, pet owners can't come into the hospital, so Marissa goes out to the curbside to pick up or return their pets or deliver medications.

The Next Generation

Marissa doesn't have very many expectations about attending Cal Poly Pomona yet because it hasn't fully sunk in that she was admitted. The COVID-19 pandemic, however, will limit her experience to remote instruction for now. "I am a little disappointed that I can't go in person," she said.

As to her career aspirations in the veterinary field, Marissa's interests have changed over time. She went through a phase where she was really interested in horses. Then there was a phase she was interested in marine life. Both times, she returned to her original plan to become a small animal veterinarian.

Currently, she's exploring becoming a zoo veterinarian.

"I want to work with big cats, like tigers," Marissa said. "I haven't wanted to go back to being a domestic (pet) veterinarian yet. We'll see."

ALUMNI NEWS

BYU Honors CPP Animal Science Alum



David Kooyman ('82, animal science; '86, M.S. animal science, physiology) was awarded the Thomas Martin Professorship, which is one of the most prestigious honors bestowed by BYU's College of Life Sciences. The award was presented during BYU's fall conference in August.

The endowed position is given to a faculty member with a long-standing history of excellence in research, teaching, and service. It comes with a generous three-year stipend and significant research support.

After earning his doctorate in molecular and cell biology from Ohio University, Kooyman began working as a professor at BYU in 1997, first in the Department of Animal Science and then the Department of Physiology and Developmental Biology.

He also served as associate dean of BYU's College of Biology and Agriculture from 2001 to 2003.

Alumna Named Young Agri-Food Leader



Fabiola Perez ('17, plant science, agribusiness and food industry management) was chosen for the Farm Foundation Young Agri-Food Leader (2020-21).

The program engages emerging leaders in food and agribusiness in a year-long series of interactive learning and networking experiences.

"I hope to learn about the different perspectives in the agriculture industry during the COVID-19 pandemic and better understand broader ag issues in general," said Perez, who works in Iowa as high-value crop specialist for the application marketing team for John Deere. "This pandemic experience is going to have longstanding implications in the agriculture industry and food chain as a whole"

"The college is proud of the accomplishments that Fabi has already made in the agricultural industry - and will continue to make well into the future," said Lisa Kessler, interim dean of the Huntley College of Agriculture.



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Last spring we had a lamb naming
contest for our newest addition to the
Petting Farm and the winner was OREO!