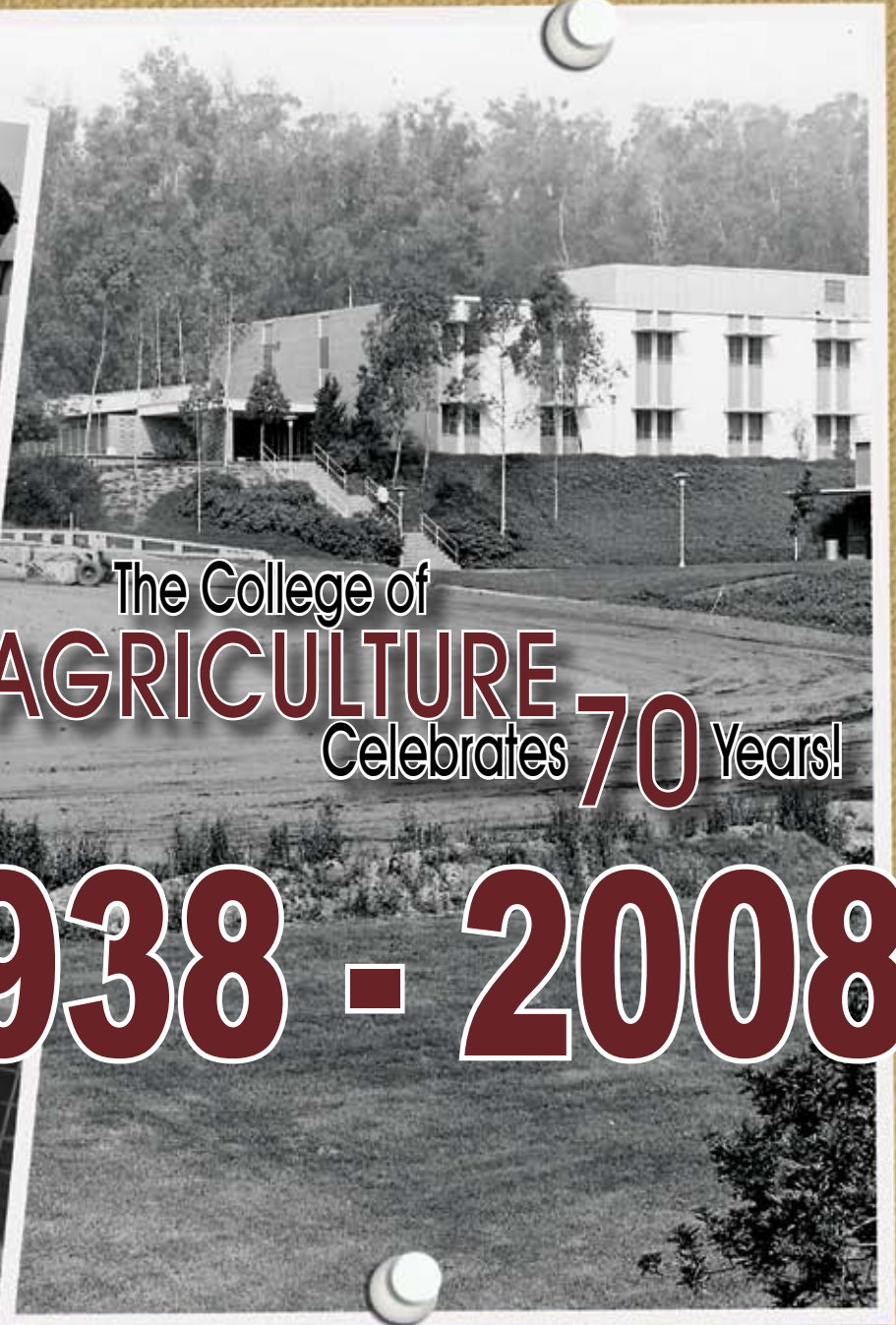


AgriColumn

magazine

Fall 2008



The College of
AGRICULTURE
Celebrates **70** Years!

1938 - 2008



Message from the Dean



Dr. Lester Young, Interim Dean

In March 2008, Dr. Lester C. Young was appointed Interim Dean of the College of Agriculture. Dr. Young has served the College as Associate Dean since 2002, except during the 2006/07 academic year when he filled in as Associate Vice President of Student Affairs. A recipient of the College's Advisor of the Year Award, Dr. Young taught in the Plant Science Department prior to his move to the Dean's Office. He coordinated the Ag Biology program and was also in charge of the College's very successful Faculty Student Mentoring Program. Dr. Young received his B.S. degree in zoology from CSU, Los Angeles; his M.A. in biological sciences from CSU, Hayward; and his Ph.D. in entomology from U.C. Berkeley.

These are exciting times for the College of Agriculture. We are busily preparing for our 70th year anniversary celebration as the founding college of Cal Poly Pomona, which will culminate in a gala weekend affair on March 21st this spring. The roots of our college go very deep into the Voorhis era from its humble beginnings in 1938 as a young men's agricultural vocational school started in San Dimas. Over the past seven decades we have evolved into a comprehensive college with programs of excellence that have graduated nearly 9,000 students. With over 1,600 students enrolled, our college is now the second largest agriculturally related undergraduate college in the state. The fact that we are located in southern California surrounded by an urban sprawl of nearly 20 million people gives us a unique niche found nowhere else in the world. We come from a background steeped in agricultural tradition and are prepared to take on the challenges of institutionalizing into our academic curricula new innovations in science, technologies, and business to meet the educational needs of future college students.

Our faculty and staff are currently immersed in completing the College's five-year strategic plan which coincides with internal and external reviews of all of our programs. This is a great opportunity for us to reflect where we have been, assess where we are today - take a deep breath - and confidently move forward into the future with our plan in hand. The College of Agriculture at Cal Poly Pomona is poised to make significant higher educational contributions to California. After serving 25 years as a faculty member of the college and the last six years in administration, I am very confident, as the college's interim dean, we will not only prevail as a college, but we will continue to significantly grow and produce outstanding graduates who are destined to make momentous contributions to agriculture and related industries.

The College, however, faces significant challenges in the upcoming decade. We face dwindling support from the State's general fund and the cost of providing a quality education based on our "learn by doing" teaching philosophy has significantly risen. We must seek funding and resources external to state funding to meet our future goals and initiatives. This will require our College to make aggressive efforts in obtaining research grants and contracts, industry support, and generous contributions and donations from our alumni. Our goal is to play a significant contributory role in the University's upcoming comprehensive campaign to meet the financial needs of providing our students with quality faculty, a modern educational infrastructure, and additional research capacity required to become a college of excellence.

I am very proud to be part of the College of Agriculture with dedicated faculty and staff who have worked very hard to get us to where we are now. The College of Agriculture is ready and able to make its leap into the future. I have every confidence we will be successful.



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ACHIEVEMENTS



ALUMNI



AMBASSADORS



HISTORY



RESEARCH



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Photo by Tom Zasadzinsky

Deanne Ecklund and Ryan Connelly are students involved in the Herb Garden project.

HERB GARDEN TO BENEFIT PLANT SCIENCE AND COLLINS COLLEGE

The ground near the Collins College of Hospitality Management has been prepared for planting. Four students supervised by Prof. Dan Hostetler, Chair Plant Science Department, will oversee the growing of herbs and spices that will find their way into the kitchens of the Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch. The garden will serve as a living laboratory for Collins students, who help manage and prepare the meals at the Restaurant, as well as for Kyle McEnroe (landscape architecture), Ryan Connelly (plant science), Sarah Henry (agronomy), and Deanne Ecklund (horticulture) who will need to meet the challenges that come with tending a garden—water, pests, and soil. They already proved themselves worthy of the task by overcoming the initial obstacle of picking and designing a site that could not only be seen by patrons but was also “tractor-friendly;” a task made difficult due to the location of the Restaurant and College which are perched on a hill overlooking Ag Valley.



2ND ANNUAL TRACTOR & CAR SHOW ON THE ROAD TO BECOMING A CLASSIC

Attendance at the 2nd Annual Tractor and Car Show sponsored by the Plant Science Department doubled in size from last year and more than doubled in the number of entries—from 25 to 60 vehicles this year. Nearly 1,000 people enjoyed a variety of activities that appealed to all ages. In addition to the classic car show, the College of Agriculture’s fleet of vintage tractors and present day farm equipment were on display. Tractor rides were a big hit with the kids along with the petting zoo and horse rides. There was strawberry picking from our patch, and Cal Poly grown fruit and produce as well as ornamental plants available for purchase from the Farm Store. Several food vendors were on hand and booths displaying a wide assortment of art and kraft items were nestled in the AGRIsapes courtyard. Delighting visitors for the first time, were demonstrations of restored gasoline and steam engines, tractors, and farm machinery by members of the Western Antique Power Associates, Inc. (WAPA).

The main attraction, of course, was the car show. The winners were:

- Best Engine Compartment – Terri Gard’s 1968 Chevy Camaro
- Best Paint – Jim Costanza’s 1935 Chevy 2-Door Sedan
- Best Interior – Greg & March Vaughan’s 1934 Ford Sedan
- Best of Show – Charlie Tachdjian’s 1933 Ford Roadster



Photo by Tony Espinas

Mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual
Tractor & Car Show
SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2009



Photo by Tony Espinas

Participants at the symposium are looking at samples of fabric printed using novel coloration techniques that produce high quality results without using water and toxic chemicals.

AMM SPRING SYMPOSIUM FOCUSES ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental sustainability is a topic you might not associate with the apparel industry but it was the focus of the Apparel Merchandising & Management Department’s 2008 Spring Symposium. Because textile plants are major contributors to air pollution, guest speaker Bonnie Bullock Julian, Vice President of Marketing and Design for Transprint USA, urged students to support eco-friendly technology in connection with the dyeing of textiles. Howard Gabe, representing the Global Eco Trade Show, emphasized the importance of using organic fabrics. Approximately 100 students, faculty and staff attended the Symposium and end-of-the-year banquet which was held at AGRIsapes.

THE CHANGING FACE OF AG BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

An Agricultural Business Management Department was first established on the Voorhis Campus in 1953. The Department and major have existed in the College of Agriculture—in one form or another—ever since. Over the years, the name was revised and the coursework updated to meet changes in the industry and areas of increasing career opportunities for students. Last winter, approval was obtained to change the name of the Food Marketing & Agribusiness Management major and minor to Agribusiness and Food Industry Management effective with the 2009-10 academic year. An ABM prefix will once again be used to identify courses in the major.

The FMAM major is experiencing rapid growth as more and more students are attracted to the areas of agribusiness—animal industry and agribusiness—food industry. Graduates of the program who are interested in animals, the food chain (from the farm to the table), or the environment will be able to turn one or more of their passions into a business career: marketing, sales, management, logistics, and product development - just to name a few!

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO THE W. K. KELLOGG AND BOSWELL FOUNDATIONS . . .

On this our 70th Anniversary, we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge and express our gratitude for the long-time support from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and the J. G. Boswell Foundation.

Since the initial donation of the Kellogg Ranch in 1949, the W. K. Kellogg Foundation has been an integral part of the College and University. The connection to the Kellogg Ranch, along with our beginnings at the Voorhis campus, has provided us with a rich and endearing history that truly makes our campus unique. Likewise, since 1977 the Boswell Foundation has provided discretionary funding through grants based on our College’s participation in the California Agricultural Leadership Program—a program which both Foundations helped implement and is responsible for inspiring and motivating agriculturists to achieve higher levels of leadership responsibility.

The on-going support from the Kellogg and Boswell Foundations has enabled us to enhance our educational programs and our facilities, and to take advantage of new opportunities benefiting our students, faculty and staff. It is not an exaggeration to say that the College would not be where it is today without the generosity of these two Foundations.



COLLEGE WELCOMES NEW ASSISTANT HORSE TRAINER

College of Agriculture alumna, Marissa Shotwell-Tabke, joined the staff at the W. K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center in August, as an assistant trainer. Marissa was no stranger to the Center and its residents having worked there as a student assistant since 2004. She earned her bachelor's degree in animal science (equine industry option) here at Cal Poly Pomona, graduating in 2007. As assistant trainer she will be helping with the development and implementation of a Western English training program., providing assistance with the undergraduate and graduate equine science laboratories, and participating in the decision-making process with regard to horse breeding, evaluation of young horses, and development of sales lists.

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH CPP'S HORSE HILL RESERVE WINE

Producing wine for the first time on this campus turned out to be a "learn-by-doing" experience for both the students and professors. Prof. Dan Hostetler began developing the vineyard seven years ago with lottery funds and cuttings provided by the Galleano Winery in Mira Loma and Rancho Cucamonga's De Ambrogio Ranch. Disease and slightly cooler temperatures at Cal Poly proved to be formidable challenges and dashed Prof. Hostetler's hopes of producing a Cal Poly wine last year.

Perseverance, however, and careful tending of the vineyards by graduate student, Paul Nurre, resulted in success. Approximately four tons of grapes were harvested this year and sent to South Coast Winery in Temecula. Harvested earlier than planned to avoid "bunch rot," a fungal disease which attacks the clusters of grapes, the fruit will be processed into a white Zinfandel that should be ready to serve to diners at the Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch during the holidays. "Without Paul's input," said Dan, "this would never have happened." Paul has tended the vineyards for the last three years, organizing student work crews to take care of the necessary pruning.

As a result of this experience, the students and professors have learned that more aggressive pruning or thinning of the fruit will be needed next year to avoid disease, produce larger fruit, and improve the sugar content. A sweeter grape will allow Prof. Hostetler and his students to meet their ultimate goal of producing a higher value Horse Hill Reserve red wine, named after the area where one of the vineyards is located.



Photo by Tom Zasadzinsky

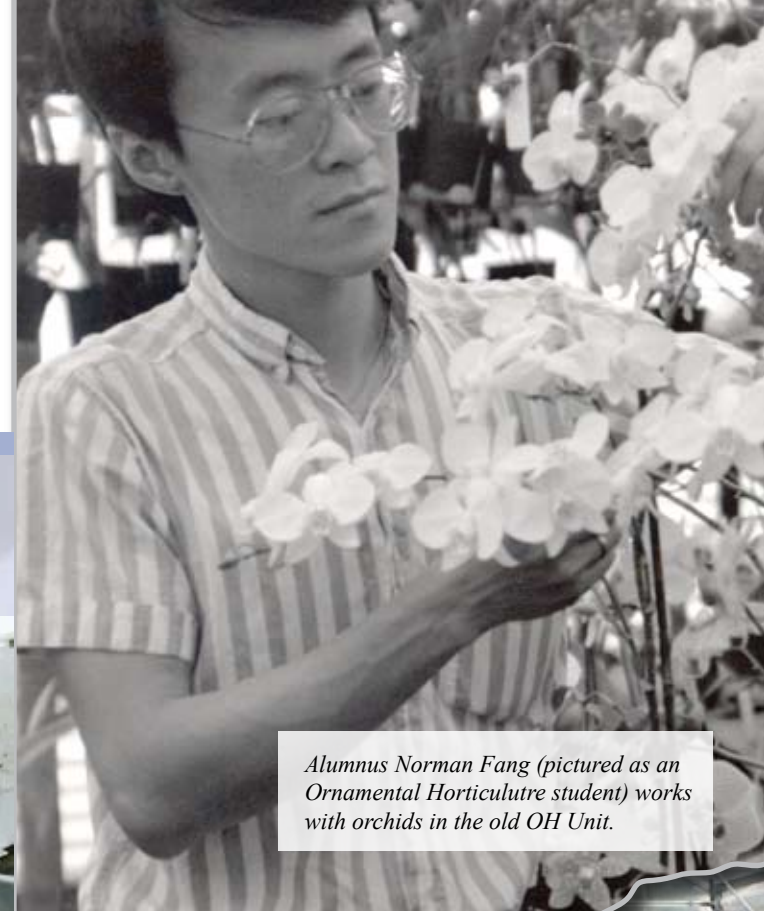
Approximately four tons of grapes were harvested this year and sent to South Coast Winery in Temecula.



SPOTLIGHT

ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Celebrates 70 Years of Preparing Students for Rewarding Careers



Alumnus Norman Fang (pictured as an Ornamental Horticulture student) works with orchids in the old OH Unit.

When the Voorhis Campus opened its doors in 1938, Ornamental Horticulture and Subtropical Horticulture were two of the three programs offered. Like the campus, the programs and department have evolved over time to meet the needs of a growing population of students, changes in the industry, and in technology. In 1971, the Ornamental Horticulture Department merged with Plant & Soil Science. The undergraduate program in ornamental horticulture continues to this day in the renamed Department of Plant Science.

The OH Unit has undergone a similar transformation. Constructed in 1959, it consisted of approximately 26,000 sq. ft. of greenhouse space and laboratories. Members of the campus and local community began purchasing ornamental plants from the nursery sales facility in the 1960's and continued to 2001 when sales were moved to the garden center of the new Farm Store at AGRIsapes. When a \$1.9 million greenhouse project was completed in summer '07, the OH Unit that had housed the Department's ornamental plants, research projects, and laboratory classes for over 40 years was vacated and the entire inventory moved to the new greenhouses at AGRIsapes. Built with support primarily from Conley's Greenhouse Manufacturers, Norman's Orchids, Hidden Villa Ranch, and Week's Wholesale Rose Growers, the new greenhouses provide 35,000 sq. ft. of space for production, propagation, student projects and research.

Rosey Partnership Generates Opportunities for Students

After 70 years at their Upland, California location, Weeks Roses moved their administrative offices to the Cal Poly Pomona campus in 2006 in order to escape encroaching urban development. As a result, a rosy partnership with the award-winning rose producer took root and grew. A producer of more than 4 million plants to wholesale nurseries around the country, Weeks Roses now occupy 8,000 sq. ft of space in the new greenhouse range for propagation and research in addition to a few acres of open land at Spadra Ranch. In return, Plant Science students participate in on-going research conducted on campus and are able to apply for internships and potential employment with Weeks Roses.

Mr. Tom Carruth, head of Weeks' research department, was behind the decision to join the Cal Poly Pomona community. His skill in developing new varieties of roses has led to Weeks' 14 All-American Rose Selections (AARS), the rose industry's equivalent of an Olympic gold medal. Carruth, who maintains an office on campus, will oversee the annual hand-pollination of 35,000 flowers in the Cal Poly Pomona greenhouses, resulting in about 200,000

continued . . .



Lydia Rodriguez, a junior Plant Science major, removes seeds from rose hips as part of the research conducted at Weeks Roses.

Background image by Gene Sasse Photography

Photo by Tom Zasadzinsky



Gloriana Lew works with the plants in the hydroponic area of the greenhouses.

Hydroponics – Preparing Students for a Growing Industry

Included in the new greenhouses is a section devoted entirely to hydroponics (growing plants without soil). Although hydroponics has been around for a long time, it is getting more attention as urban development continues to devour available farmland, competition for water supplies increases, and amid growing concerns for the safety and security of our food supply. In North America, the hydroponic greenhouse farming industry is valued at more than \$2.4 billion and is growing at a rate of 10% per year (Progressive Gardening Trade Association). In California, greenhouse/nursery products are the second leading agricultural commodities behind only dairy products, according to the USDA.

Plant science major, Gloriana Lew, oversees operations at the College of Agriculture's hydroponics greenhouse and supervises the students who tend the various crops. Vibrantly green leaves of 4-5 different types of lettuce and a variety of leafy Asian vegetables burst from snow white trays where nutrient-rich water is circulated over their roots. Tomatoes, cucumbers and eggplant—plants with larger root systems—can also be seen potted in larger containers using different types of moss. Problem pests are controlled by using natural predators and nutrients are monitored and automatically added to the recycling water as needed.

Gloriana has discovered that she can grow 13 crops of lettuce in one year. Traditional farming methods would have taken twice as long and would have been more costly due to the need for more resources—water, labor, heavy equipment, herbicides. Could hydroponics replace traditional farming someday? Ornamental horticulture professor, Dr. Terry Fujimoto, thinks it is possible and stated that in some places—like New Zealand—it already has because of the poor quality of the soil.

seeds, which will be harvested, planted, and carefully nurtured.

Tom hopes that Cal Poly Pomona will eventually become one of the AARS test gardens (currently, there are only 24 different locations in the country). In the meantime, an All-American rose garden at AGRIsapes is on the drawing board. In addition, he has lent a hand to the renovation of the University's historic Rose Garden by replacing 400 aging plants with 650 bushes and 50 trees of prize-winning and top-producing varieties.

Attention OH & Los Robles Club Alums!
The PLANET Needs Your Help!

Los Robles Horticulture Club is our oldest student organization. Founded in 1940 with 9 members, the club became involved in competitions the following year and placed 4th in the flower judging contest at the National Flower Show. This marked the beginning of the club's success and proud tradition of excellence at national horticultural contests. This year Los Robles will be competing once again in the national Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) Student Career Days (SCD) contest March 26-29, 2009. Known for many years as the ALCA Field Day, this year's event will take place at Cal Poly Pomona. Last year the SCD attracted 850 students and more than 60 schools. There will be 26 events in this year's contest. Professors Fred Roth and Eudell Vis and Los Robles are currently recruiting volunteers to assist with organizing and running the events, and expect to need between 150 and 200 people in order to make this run smoothly. If you were part of an SCD or a Field Day event as a student, here's a chance to be a part of the excitement again. We really need your help. Contact Eudell Vis at (909) 869-2084 or Fred Roth at (909) 869-2172 to get your name on the list.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

ARI – An Investment in California Agriculture

Agriculture production is forecast to contribute \$377 billion to the U.S. economy in 2008. Despite being the most populated state, California is still an agricultural powerhouse with sales of agriculture products of \$31.4 billion, nearly twice that of the next biggest agricultural state, Texas. In fact, the top five agricultural counties in the nation are all in California. California's unique and favorable climate allows us to grow more than 400 commodities. No other state even comes close to the diversity of crops we grow.



Photo by Tom Zasadzinsky

Agriculture still requires farmers and ranchers to produce crops and livestock using traditional methods, but farming is not a static enterprise. The ability of our farmers to produce enough food for an ever-expanding population will require our agriculturists to increase crop and livestock yield with less inputs such as water, fertilizers and pesticides. Increasingly, crops will be grown on lands once considered marginal for agriculture because of urban demands for land use. Agriculture practices will be mandated to continue to reduce its environmental impact to ensure long-term sustainability. Global warming is expected to increase the frequency of weather extremes making farming even less predictable. Thus, the long-term sustainability and the vigor of tomorrow's agricultural economy will depend on a significant investment in research. To fill this research need, the California Agriculture Research Initiative (ARI) was formed in 1999 among the four CSU agricultural campuses, which include Fresno State, Chico State and the other Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo.

The future of agriculture is acutely dependent upon attracting bright and energetic students to study in this discipline and who will choose agriculture as a career. Research opportunities in college often convince students that agriculture is the right

career choice for them. The ARI at Cal Poly Pomona has funded over 100 projects worth over \$6.9 million and student intellect and labor are at the center of this research. In fact, 669 undergraduate and graduate students have been involved in ARI-funded research at Cal Poly Pomona. The ARI granting program encourages collaboration with industry and the requirement of a cash match has doubled the total amount of research dollars generated to a total of almost \$14 million. The research projects have been led by more than 50 faculty members from Cal Poly, many of which have been featured in the pages of AgriColumn. The ARI has funded widely diverse projects including biotechnology, food safety, development of avian flu-vaccines, medicinal plants, nutritional programs, turf grass, and genomics-aided plant breeding, to name a few. The ARI program has been greatly successful, offering research opportunities to the students and faculty not available to previous alumni. It will continue to enhance the educational experience of our students and demonstrates our commitment to the success of California's agriculture industry.

Research Highlights continued . . .

Above: Meilen Chang Munoz talks about her research during the 2007 Agricultural Research Initiative Showcase at AGRIsapes.

Right: Visitors to the ARI Showcase enjoy a large variety of research posters that detail project results.



Photo by Tom Zasadzinsky

Research Focuses on the Link Between Genetic Variations and Diet

Thanks to thousands of scientists and billions of dollars, we now have highly affordable technology that is making individualized genetics a reality. Knowing a person's genetic code has great potential benefits. For example, the metabolism of one person may not be the same as another, and this has consequences in terms of allergies, processivity of medicines, and diet.

Some variations in genes are more common in certain ethnicities or gender, and this might make the dietary needs different from the population as a whole. One such example is with the required nutrient folate, which is a B vitamin found in leafy green vegetables, orange juice, legumes and enriched cereal grain products. Folate is used for red blood formation and growth, and deficiencies can lead to anemia. Dr. Marie Caudill* and Dr. Bonny Burns-Whitmore, professor in the Human Nutrition and Food Sciences Department, are studying folate metabolism.

A key gene, called "MTHFR", controls folate metabolism, and this gene has several different variations in its genetic code. DNA is composed of four different types of molecules which are commonly abbreviated as "A", "C", "G", or "T". Dr. Caudill has found that a so-called "TT" genetic variant of the MTHFR gene is found in about 10% of the U.S. population, but almost 20% of Mexican Americans have this genetic variant. The MTHFR gene controls the levels of a critical compound involved in folate metabolism, called homocysteine. High levels of homocysteine have a toxic effect, a condition known as hyperhomocysteinemia, which is associated with increased risk of heart disease, certain cancers and cognitive impairments.

Following a 12-week controlled feeding study focusing on Mexican-American men, Dr. Caudill and her students and associates determined that 80% of the men with the "TT" genotype had low folate concentrations and undesirably high homocysteine concentrations. They also discovered that the rise in homocysteine due to folate inadequacy could be reduced by relatively high levels of riboflavin and vitamin B12.

With this project, Dr. Caudill and associates are among the first scientists to demonstrate that a genetic sub-group of the population may benefit from genetically driven dietary recommendations.

**Dr. Marie Caudill recently joined the Department of Nutritional Sciences and Genomics at Cornell University. In 2008, she received national recognition for her research and was awarded The Norman Kretchmer Memorial Award in Nutrition and Development sponsored by Abbott Laboratories, Ross Products Division.*



Christian Abratte, a Human Nutrition and Food Science graduate student, extracts plasma samples for choline analysis.

In Search of an Even Better Edible Egg

The typical Westerner's diet usually falls short when it comes to eating the recommended amounts of fish, fruits and vegetables. Americans, however, do consume a lot of eggs which, thankfully, are an excellent and economical source of protein, unsaturated fatty acids, vitamins and minerals.

The other good news is that by changing the hen's diet, we may be able to compensate for our nutritional shortcomings. Dr. Danilo Franco, an assistant professor in the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences at Cal Poly Pomona, is studying the effect of a hen's diet on the production of omega-3 fatty acids. For example, by providing hens with a diet consisting of 10-20% flaxseed, the omega-3 fatty acid content of eggs can be enriched. However, it is somewhat difficult for hens to digest so a constant diet of flaxseed is not tenable and Dr. Franco's research seeks to address this issue. Omega-3 fatty acids are associated with a reduced risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer, and arthritis. In addition to the anti-inflammatory effects of the omega-3 fatty acids, they appear to play an important role in the development of the eye, brain and nervous system in babies and are found in breast milk.

In addition to omega-3 fatty acids, egg yolks are also a good source of lutein, a key compound linked to providing nutritional support to our skin and eyes, and reducing the risk of eye macular degeneration. Interestingly, the bioavailability of lutein from eggs is higher than lutein from other dietary sources like fruits and vegetables. This, along with the fact eggs are commonly consumed, suggests eggs are the best and an inexpensive alternative to provide amounts of lutein sufficient to prevent chronic disease in humans.

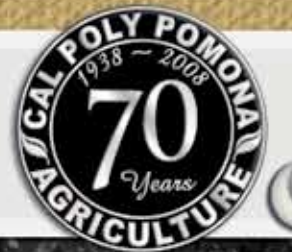
So, where can we buy eggs with both high omega-3 fatty acids and lutein? The answer is nowhere, at the moment. A fact not known by most is that egg yolks actually develop in alternating layers, one dark, one light, etc. Currently, hens are fed the same diet on a daily basis but Dr. Franco believes that by introducing other ingredients into their diet these may be incorporated in the alternating layers. Thus, by alternating the diet of the hens with feed containing flaxseed or lutein, it may be possible to reduce digestibility problems associated with flaxseed simultaneously increase the egg content of both omega-3 fatty acids and lutein.



Tina Huynh, a senior animal science major, gathers eggs which are weighed and tested as part of the research process.

The College of AGRICULTURE

Celebrates 70 Years!



The Beginning...

(Taken from "A Cal Poly Chronology" by Harold O. Wilson)

In the spring of 1938, the California Polytechnic College, Voorhis Unit, San Dimas, was founded when a \$2 million school and farm were deeded to the State of California by Charles B. Voorhis of Pasadena and his son, Jerry Voorhis. The Voorhis campus became the southern arm of Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo which transferred its entire horticulture program to that facility. The major programs offered were: Agriculture Inspection, Subtropical Horticulture, and Ornamental Horticulture. In the Fall of 1938, approximately 80 students enrolled at Voorhis, the majority of whom resided on campus. Two members of the original 80, Kenny Holmes and Bill DuBois, were present at this year's Fall Conference and were recognized by President J. Michael Ortiz.

The campus was closed from 1943-1945 due to the onset of World

War II. In 1946, however, President Julian McPhee was persuaded to re-open the Voorhis campus. Harold O. Wilson, a former Regional Supervisor of Agricultural Education and War Production training programs in the high schools and junior colleges of Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties, was appointed Dean. He was also one who had argued in favor of bringing the campus back to life.

Dr. Wilson served as Dean from 1946-1950. During that time, it was his responsibility to rehabilitate the buildings and grounds, hire all staff and faculty, and purchase and/or transfer from the San Luis Obispo campus the furnishings and equipment required for instruction and housing of 260 students—90% of whom were veterans.

By the end of 1947-48, it was apparent that the campus needed to expand. Through the efforts of President Julian McPhee and widespread support from state officials and a majority of California agriculture, farm and industry organizations, the W. K. Kellogg Foundation donated the 812-acre Kellogg Arabian Ranch in Pomona to the College. In 1956, the Voorhis staff and employees moved to the former ranch (500 students; 30 faculty) and a year later, 57 agriculture majors graduated from the Kellogg campus.

The College of Agriculture is proud to be able to trace its roots to the very beginnings of this

University. Looking back, credit must be given to the students, faculty and staff who laid the groundwork during the early years at Voorhis. Dean Wilson firmly believed that the success and growth of the Voorhis program and the eventual expansion to the Kellogg Campus was the direct result of the strong bond among the members of the Voorhis community.

There was a great camaraderie between students and staff and their families. The faculty and staff at Voorhis during those 1946-50 years not only were fully qualified in their respective fields of expertise, but they were endowed with the missionary spirit to provide service beyond what could have been expected from their conditions of employment. Hours of work were secondary, rather it was, "How much can we do in the hours in a day that are available."

The students of that era are also to be praised and admired. They not only accepted limitations of facilities and services, but also established new and maintained traditional college activities in cooperation with a supportive and enthusiastic faculty and staff.

It is to them that we dedicate this issue of AgriColumn in honor of the 70th anniversary of the College of Agriculture.



The College of AGRICULTURE 1938-2008

1938 The Voorhis School for Boys, San Dimas is deeded to the State of California by Charles B. Voorhis and his son Jerry Voorhis.

Eighty students begin taking classes in Fall '38. Three programs are offered: Ornamental Horticulture, Subtropical Horticulture, Agricultural Inspection.

Charles B. Voorhis

1949 The W. K. Kellogg Foundation donates the 812-acre Kellogg Arabian Horse Ranch in Pomona to the College. By 1950 the two campuses become known as the Kellogg-Voorhis Unit.

1950 Carl Englund is appointed Dean of the School of Agriculture.

1953 Two new departments are established and B.S. programs offered: Animal Science (Prof. Weslie Combs, Chair) and Ag. Business Management (Chair, Dr. Bob Lloyd). *Animal Science is currently the College's largest program with 793 majors in 2008.

1946 After closing down for WWII, the Voorhis campus is reopened and the Ornamental Horticulture (Jolly Batchellor, Chair) and Agricultural Engineering (H. Quinn Conard, Chair) Departments are established.

Carl Englund

Jolly Batchellor

Quinn Conard

1957 The first graduating class on the Cal Poly Pomona campus was held at the Rose Garden. There were 57 agriculture majors.

1962 The Agricultural Education Foundation is formed. Cal Poly Pomona joins CSU Fresno, San Luis Obispo and U.C. Davis as co-sponsors. Funded by the J. G. Boswell Foundation. Nearly 1100 students have benefitted from this two year leadership program.

1964 Prof. Norman K. Dunn is appointed Director of the W. K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center.

1965 A program in foods and nutrition is offered and the Department of Foods & Nutrition is created (Dr. Ray Dutra, Chair)

1966 The Kellogg-Voorhis campus at Pomona is split from Cal Poly, SLO and becomes a separate college.

1968 The Plant and Soil Science Department is formed with Robert Procsal as Chairman.

1972 The college officially becomes California State Polytechnic University.

Dr. Allen C. Christensen initiates the Ag. Education Program.

Allen Christensen

Robert Procsal

Norman Dunn

Ray Dutra



1974 The W. K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center is moved from the original Kellogg stables to its present location constructed with support from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.



1993 The college hosts the first annual Pumpkin Festival which now attracts 20,000 visitors each year.



2001 AGRIscapes opens and houses a visitor center, farm store, classrooms, theater, and more.



1980 Dedication of the Equine Research Center (ERC). Funded completely with donations, primarily from the Oak Tree Racing Association, this 3,500 sq. ft. facility houses a research laboratory, conference room and covered stalls.

1999 The Agricultural Research Initiative program is implemented funded by an allocation from the State. Research projects must enhance California agriculture and requires industry partnerships.

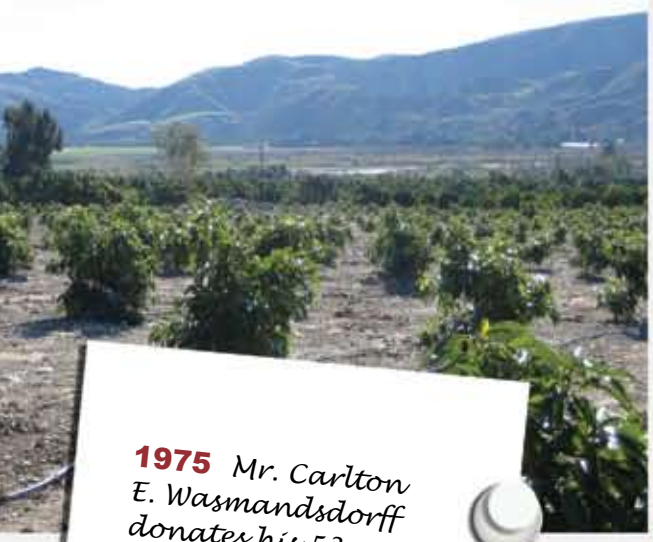


2001 The Apparel Merchandising and Management Department is born with Elizabeth Tracy as Chair. This rapidly growing program now has 272 students.

2005 The 1st Annual Western Collegiate Food Marketing Competition, developed by Professor Nancy Merlino, is held. Teams from 2-year and 4-year colleges present detailed marketing plans for a specific product to a panel of judges.



1975 Mr. Carlton E. Wasmandsdorff donates his 53-acre avocado and citrus ranch (Pine Tree Ranch) in Santa Paula to support the Fruit Industries program.



1986 Reign On, a stallion from the W. K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center, captures his third Park Horse Championship at the prestigious Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show.



1988 The School of Agriculture attains college status.

1994 The Ag Ambassador Program is created. As of 2008, 135 students have been trained to represent the College at high schools, community colleges, fairs, national conferences, and on-campus activities.

2000 Research conducted by Dr. A. S. "Narain" Naidu to determine the potential for using activated lactoferrin in the prevention of bacterial contamination of beef, results in a major discovery that makes national headlines.



2007 The \$1.9 million, 35,000 sq. ft. greenhouse project is completed thanks to partnerships with Conley's Greenhouse Manufacturers, Norman's Orchids, Hidden Villa Ranch, and Week's Wholesale Rose Growers.

2008 The Ornamental Horticulture Unit relocates to its current space in the new greenhouses at AGRIscapes.



Reign On

The College of AGRICULTURE in 2008



In the years since 1938, orange groves, farmland, and wineries have given way to urban and industrial development, particularly in Southern California. As the face of agriculture changed, the College had to broaden its scope and create programs that would reflect the changing landscape and appeal to students who had no background or experience with traditional agriculture. In response to the growing career opportunities in the animal, food, and apparel industries, B.S. degree programs in Animal Health Science, Foods & Nutrition, Food Science & Technology, and Apparel Merchandising & Management were added to the more traditional programs still offered in Agricultural Science, Animal Science, Food Marketing & Agribusiness Management, and Plant Science.

The campus itself has changed dramatically with the addition of new facilities and the remodeling and expansion of existing buildings. Although the number of on-campus acres farmed by the College has decreased, this has been offset by sites that have either been donated to the college or made available for our use. Pine Tree Ranch, a 53-acre lemon and avocado ranch in Ventura County was donated to the College in 1975 by Mr. Carlton E. Wasmandsdorff, and in 2003 the College gained 1,000 acres of land to farm and support instruction through a long-term lease agreement with the California Department of Corrections.

With help from major partners like the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, Oak Tree Racing Association, and the L.A. County Sanitation District, a new home was built for the Arabian Horse Center, the Equine Research Center was added and later expanded, and AGRIscapes became a reality. A major campaign has also begun, sparked by a lead gift from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, to raise funds for an Arabian Horse Library which would be a transformational addition to the existing W. K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center.

Today, nearly 1,700 students are enrolled in the College of Agriculture. They continue to benefit from the "learn-by-doing/hands-on" philosophy for which Cal Poly Pomona is known and which has been further enhanced by advancements in technology, involvement in research, and partnerships with industry. According to Interim Dean, Lester Young, "The College of Agriculture at Cal Poly Pomona has positioned itself to meet the new demands and challenges of the future. Our Strategic Plan will be our beacon of light to guide us to becoming a college of excellence."

Photos by Tom Zasadzinsky

FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Chad Cleveland – Staff of the Year

Even as a student assistant, Chad Cleveland seemed "tailor made" for the job of farm manager, exhibiting an unusually high level of maturity and professionalism for such a young man. Over time, he gradually assumed responsibilities for the day-to-day operations of the Spadra Ranch under Department Chair Dan Hostetler's careful tutelage. As proof of the confidence and trust he had in Chad, Prof. Hostetler offered him a full-time staff position as Farm Manager while Chad was in his senior year at Cal Poly Pomona.

Chad's first assignment was to "turn a struggling 1,000 acres of weed-infested property into a thriving educational farm for the students of our Department," explained Prof. Hostetler. Chad not only succeeded, but forged many valuable partnerships with local farmers, dairies and businessmen. Profits from the ranch enabled the Department to purchase up-to-date farm equipment including a GPS-guided John Deere tractor. In addition, he has hosted numerous labs for our students at the ranch, supervised student interns, and organized field trips to local dairies and other agriculture-related businesses.

Chad "has continued to be one of the most hard working and honest individuals I have ever known," stated Samuel P. Lewis, Owner of Chino Welding & Assembly. "Although I have farmed for over 30 years, Chad's knowledge, excellent communications skills, and enthusiasm for his work never cease to amaze me." Dan Hostetler believes Chad, who was awarded the College of Agriculture's 2008 Staff of the Year Award, "will become a true leader within the agricultural industry. . . and is a great example of a young farmer who holds much promise for our State."



Photo by Tom Zasadzinsky

Penne Fode – A Voice for Those Suffering From and Living With Autism

As the mother of an autistic child, Penne Fode is keenly aware of the unique and daunting challenges faced by all those who suffer from and live with autism. Not content to sit on the sidelines, Penne has been actively involved in a number of organizations and activities in order to help parents, to improve legislation and to raise public awareness of this disease that claims more children each year.

In 2008 alone, Penne assisted with organizing 36 different autistic organizations within California to meet and form an alliance to address on-going California legislative issues affecting the disabled community. She helped organize conferences, served as a presenter, and lectured to Cal Poly Pomona credential students on the challenges of raising an individual with autism and the obstacles from a parent's perspective in dealing with school personnel. Currently, she is 1st Vice President of the Greater Long Beach/San Gabriel Valley Chapter of the Autism Society of America.

For her efforts on behalf of the autistic community, Penne was awarded Cal Poly Pomona's 2008 Staff Award for Excellence in Civic Engagement. The award was presented at a special ceremony sponsored by the Cal Poly Pomona Center for Community Service Learning and the Division of Academic Affairs.



Photo by Tom Zasadzinsky



Prof. Daniel G. Hostetler – Caring Mentor and Outstanding Advisor

When it was announced that Prof. Dan Hostetler had been selected for the College’s Mack H. Kennington Outstanding Advisor award, the typical reaction was that it was long overdue. “It is difficult to imagine a better mentor and advisor than Dan Hostetler,” said Paul Nurre, a former Student Leader of the Year and currently a graduate student in the Plant Science Department. To Dan, every student is important. Dr. Fred Roth agreed: “He sees his role in guiding students through the program and into rewarding careers as his main function and he has personally told me that this is what gives him the greatest feeling of satisfaction.” Dan is particularly skilled at advising students who are in trouble academically. According to Dr. Terry Fujimoto, “He will bend over backwards to assist students in the “at risk” categories and counsel them with encouragement, most of the time with much success.”

Dan’s devotion to each of his students has encouraged them to get the most out of their education and experiences here at Cal Poly Pomona. “I can’t say enough about the work and assistance provided by Dan,” said Daniel C. Delgado, Jr., President of Los Robles Horticulture Club. “I decided to stick around an additional year and work towards a second B.S. degree because of his willingness to help students achieve their goals while making it a fun experience.” Paul Nurre also chose to further his education because of Dan. “My deeply appreciative relationship with Dan, as a student and a friend, was a decisive factor in my continuing at Cal Poly Pomona for post-baccalaureate studies.”

The Mack H. Kennington Advisor of the Year Award program was initiated in 1994. It is funded by an endowment established in 1992 by alumnus Richard Klein and included a matching gift from his employer, Pfizer.

Teacher of the Year Michele Rash Sets High Standards for Her Students and Herself

Honored by the College in 2006 for outstanding advising, Michele Rash was recognized once again in June as the College of Agriculture’s Outstanding Teacher of the Year. An assistant professor in the Animal Health Science program, Michele “. . . set high expectations for her AHS students from the very beginning of her teaching career at Cal Poly Pomona,” said former department chair Dr. Ed Fonda. “The quality of her instructional presentations is outstanding,” he added.

Michele’s close interactions with students resulting from her supervision of externship programs, serving as advisor to the AHSTA student club, and as coordinator of the Pet Assisted Activities and Therapy Program, to name a few, have made her not only a very popular instructor but also one who enjoys a great deal of respect from students. “I loved attending her classes,” said Alexandra Bodan, AHS student and President of AHSTA. Even though the course material was difficult, “. . . she made it so easy by keeping her students attentive to the discussion.” “If it was not for her,” said Jana Helgeson, “I probably would never have applied to the Master’s program.” To the students there is no mystery behind the fun they have in her classes, the weekends she sacrifices for club and community service activities, or the line of students outside of her office waiting to see her. As Alexandra explained, “Professor Rash is not just a great teacher dedicated to her work, but she is a great teacher dedicated to “her kids, ‘her students.’”



Photos by Tom Zasadzinsky

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

’08 Valedictorian, Jenna Becker, Drew Inspiration from Cal Poly Family

“I wasn’t sure how I was going to make it past high school,” admitted Jenna Becker as she addressed students, faculty, staff, administrators, and guests during the June commencement ceremony. The transition from high school to college can be overwhelming to many students, but something inside Jenna made her take that first step on the road to continuing her education.

Inspired at an early age to focus on a career in nutrition, Jenna enrolled at Cal Poly Pomona with the goal of becoming a Registered Dietitian. “From the first moment I stepped onto the campus . . . in the College of Agriculture, I knew I was at home. It didn’t even feel like we were in class, rather just having a good time, while learning about what we all loved: nutrition.” She credits her professors with teaching her “. . . a whole new way of thinking, figuring out the process, and applying information rather than just memorizing . . .” They also taught her to trust and believe in herself.

After graduation, Jenna took only a brief rest before she began preparing for her 9-month, ADA (American Dietetic Association) accredited dietetic internship at Mission Hospital in Mission Viejo. As an intern she will split her time between the hospital, food service, and the community in order to gain the practical experience and knowledge she will need to pass the Registered Dietitian (RD) exam.

Reflecting on her time at CPP and her own experiences, she advised students to “Listen to your mentors, yourself and, most importantly, have passion for what you are doing.” To her fellow graduates she said, “. . . celebrate what you have accomplished, yet also be looking for how you, too, can be an inspiration for others.” Quoting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. she told them, “Take the first step, in faith; you don’t have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.”



Joanna Reguis - Recipient of the John E. Andrews Student Leader of the Year Award

The ‘07/08 academic year witnessed an increase in participation by students in Ag Council and other club and college-wide events due, in large part, to the efforts of Ag Council President, Joanna Reguis, and her “spirit point” system. There was more interaction among club representatives, more sharing of information and requests for assistance from colleagues resulting in a stronger sense of community. In addition, she initiated and obtained approval for changes to the by-laws enabling Ag Council to hold elections earlier in the year, providing newly elected officers the opportunity to shadow and learn from the outgoing team.

Joanna maintained above a 3.0 GPA while also overseeing all of the traditional events sponsored by Ag Council each year: the Fall Leadership Luncheon for club officers and advisors; Club Fair & Ice Cream Social, a membership drive for College of Ag clubs; AG Council’s booth at the Pumpkin Festival; Halloween Bash; Ag Career Day; quarterly student forums with the Dean; Ag Beautification projects; and Spring Fling, an end-of-the-year celebration for students, faculty and staff. She also found time to support university-wide events such as Relay for Life, represent Ag Council at the ASI Outreach Tour, and serve as an officer on Interhall Council.

For her leadership and efforts on behalf of the students, faculty and staff in the College of Agriculture, Joanna was selected for the John E. Andrews Student Leader of the Year Award and recognized during the June commencement ceremony.



Photos by Tom Zasadzinsky

AMM Class Project Benefits Newborns

In their AMM 381 Apparel Production class, AMM (Apparel Merchandising & Management) students learn the theory and practice of apparel production by designing and producing a basic apparel product, simulating all stages of apparel manufacturing practiced by the industry.

This quarter, 16 students were challenged by instructor Muditha Senanayake to develop and execute their own product concept based on the theme “Thermal Baby Products”. The final products were to be donated to needy families at the Pomona Valley Hospital. Between them, the teams designed and developed a collection of four items as a coordinated gift set: thermal mittens, a hooded blanket, a quillow (a quilt and pillow combination) and a baby sack. The teams used 100% cotton fleece fabrics donated by American Apparel Inc. with suitable thermal performance characteristics.

Yvonne, one of the “Mitten” team members noted that this project not only gave her first hand experience that will give her a competitive advantage in her career but it was also for a good cause. Terra Mack, a member of the “Quillow” team said that the benefit was three fold: “This class gave me a chance to learn production theories and gain hands on production experience, while having a great chance to serve the community.”

Officer Frank Garcia Jr., community service coordinator for marketing and public relations from the Volunteer Department of Pomona Valley Hospital, assisted in organizing the donation to the Neonatal Intensive Care unit. Tricia Cohen, RN, accepted the goods to be given to the needy families. The donation took place on June 10, 2008 at the Pomona Valley Hospital.



Cal Poly Pomona’s Winning Food Marketing & Agribusiness Management Team (l to r) Nathan Phares, VP Advertising; Jordan Twycross, Chief Financial Officer; Prof. Rick Mathias, CEO; Jenn Yniguez, VP Marketing; Veronica Roper, VP Human Resources; Pam Lee, President and Chief Operating Officer.

Food Marketing Team #1 for Developing AND Marketing A Product

A team of four Food Marketing & Agribusiness Mgmt. students won 1st place in the Four-Year Division of the 4th Annual Western Collegiate Food Marketing Competition with Gia Dolce, a high fiber sorbetto they themselves developed. Their success did not come easy, but with determination and contributions of time and talent by each team member, the students were able to reach their goal.



Identifying a healthy and tasty product was the first step. After much trial and error, the students and their advisor, Prof. Rick Mathias, selected a Sorbetto recipe from which they actually developed three types of products: Hi-Fi Delights (high in fiber), Pro-Delights (bacterial additive) and Pre-Delights (carbohydrate additive to curb appetite). Then, focusing on the product attributes, the students began working on a marketing plan. Each team member assumed a corporate title to match their specific assignment and was responsible for putting together their slides and dialogue. According to Prof. Mathias, “The team went through daily changes and revisions of the presentation, sometimes 2 or 3 times a day for months.” Rehearsals and revisions

took place even on the day of the competition as they were chosen to be last up for their 20-minute presentation before a panel of industry and academic judges. When the initial results were tabulated, Cal Poly Pomona tied with Cal State Chico. Our team’s outstanding advertising campaign, however, proved to be the tie breaker, earning our students an additional 4 points.

The Western Collegiate Food Marketing Competition (WCFMC) is the brainchild of alumna and professor, Nancy Merlino, who recognized the need for a competition that addressed the unique characteristics of advertising in the western United States because of the influence of the movie industry. This year’s competition was held for the first time at Cal Poly Pomona and was made possible by the generous donations from the following sponsors: Illuminators, Western Association of Food Chains, California Grocers Association Education Foundation, and Hidden Villa Ranch. The WCFMC had entrants from five western states in three separate divisions: 2-Year Community College, 4-Year Western Division, and 4-Year International Division. Next year’s event will be held April 17-18 at Cal Poly Pomona. For information on sponsorship, judging, or attending, please contact Prof. Nancy Merlino, at (714) 401-6399 or namerlino@csupomona.edu.

Dosier Earns Top Agronomy Award

Senior agronomy student, Patrick Dosier, was selected as a 2007 Golden Opportunity Scholar by the American Society of Agronomy. Patrick was one of only 15 college students nationwide to earn this honor. He is also a 2007 recipient of the College of Agriculture’s Student Leader of the Year Award.

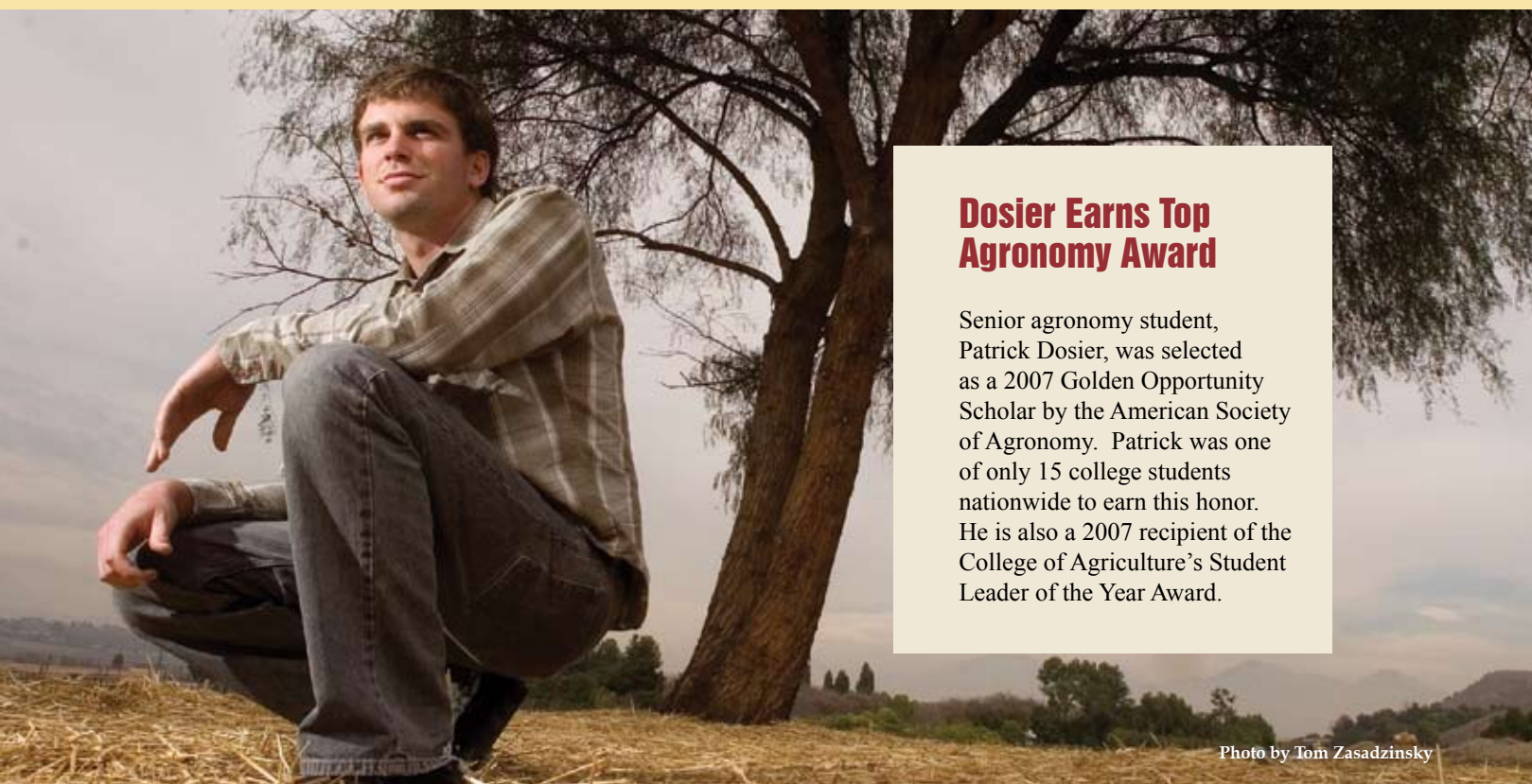


Photo by Tom Zasadzinsky

No Reason to Skip Breakfast Anymore- C-REAL is Here!!

In February, a team of four Food Science and Technology students won first place at the Annual Product Development Competition sponsored by the Southern California Institute of Food Technologists (SCIFTS) as part of their 21st Annual Southern California Food Industry Conference.

Focusing on the 20% of busy Americans who skip breakfast, team “Grain Basics” developed a bite-sized on-the-go, gluten free breakfast meal named C-REAL which they packaged in single-serving pouches to take anywhere. The team was rewarded not only with a \$2,500 cash award and plaque, but with the satisfaction that comes from successful collaboration with colleagues. “Developing a new product with the Grain Basics team was an awesome experience for me,” said Woo Young Jang. “It was challenging at times. . . but the experience and the excitement achieved was beyond what I ever imagined.” Kirollos Guirguis felt that “Competing with my fellow food scientists. . . truly made me a better and more well rounded student and person.”

For team advisor Dr. Ann Marie Craig, it was not only her first product development competition but her first year at Cal Poly Pomona as a faculty member in the Human Nutrition and Food Science Department: “I was greatly impressed by the knowledge and tenacity of the students. It was such a wonderful experience, certainly made easier by the well-trained and dedicated students that made up the Grain Basics Team.”



*Product Development Team from left to right:
Kirollos Guirguis, Woo Young Jang, Dr. Ann Marie
Craig, Kate Hwan, Andrew Miyashiro*



Photo by Tom Zasadzinsky

Cal Poly Pomona Horse Show Teams – A Lesson in Teamwork

Cal Poly Pomona can be proud of its Horse Show Teams which made a good showing at regional and national competitions this past year. At the end of the regular season, both Western and Hunt Seat Teams were first place overall and moved on to the regional competitions and then to the Semi-Finals. Although the Western Team did not make the final cut, 3 of our 5 individual riders qualified for the Nationals. The Hunt Seat Team placed 2nd, and all individual riders placed 1st or 2nd at the Zone Championships which allowed them to advance to the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Nationals held at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center in Burbank, CA on May 8-11, 2008.

At the conclusion of the four-day national competition, Western rider Katie Stricklin captured 3rd place overall, the highest placing ever by a Cal Poly Pomona student. Teammates Cindy Barnes placed 4th in Advanced Western; Alice Gifford took 8th in Novice Western; and Krystina Snyder placed 6th in Intermediate Western. Cal Poly Pomona’s Hunt Seat Team placed 11th overall with Carolyn LaPrade placing 4th in Intermediate Flat. In addition to participating in the competition, the Hunt Seat Team helped host the Nationals, locating the approximately 200 horses used during the competition and supplying up to 50 volunteers each day to assist with the running of the show.

Preparing for the different levels of competitions throughout the year is truly a team effort. For the Zone Championships, the team practiced 2-3 times a week. “Both of the hunt seat captains, Hailey Quirk and Carolyn LaPrade, were very instrumental in keeping everyone motivated and promoting a positive team spirit before, during and after the competition,” said Coach Jennifer Earles. “The majority of the actual coaching is done by the students themselves. The captains and other more advanced students run most of the practices and teach the lower level students. I teach practices about once a week to help the captains out, but to me it is really important that the students take the initiative and do most of the work. I think it’s a great learning experience for them, and that is what college is all about!”

The IHSA has more than 350 colleges and more than 7,500 riders, making it the world’s largest intercollegiate equestrian organization. The Cal Poly Pomona team competes in shows throughout the region. For more information about the Cal Poly Pomona Horse Show team visit www.csupomona.edu/~horseshowteam/index.htm.



Photo by Tom Zasadzinsky

Cal Poly Pomona Rodeo Team Hosts Annual Spring Rodeo

Braving the cold and rain, teams representing 10 colleges competed in the Annual Spring Rodeo hosted by Cal Poly Pomona’s Rodeo Team. The two-day event was held at Glen Helen Regional Park on March 14-15, 2008. The Team and Rodeo Club members sponsor many activities throughout the year, including high school and intercollegiate rodeos. Pictured is Club President, Rob Oakleaf, who competed in the bareback competition. For more information about Cal Poly Pomona’s Rodeo Team and Club, contact Dr. Broc Sandelin at: basandelin@csupomona.edu. For more information regarding Cal Poly Pomona’s annual Spring Rodeo, visit www.csupomona.edu/~agri/news/rodeo.shtml.

Left: Rodeo Team Club President Rob Oakleaf is shown riding a bucking bronco at the spring rodeo.



'08 Distinguished Alum - Kelly Duke

"Kelly was the first person from horticulture who helped a fledgling department chairman feel comfortable with the industry," stated Dan Hostetler who was appointed chair of the Plant & Soil Science

Department in 1992. Kelly, who is Vice President of Pre-Construction Services for ValleyCrest Landscape Development, Inc., has continued to be involved in the Department in a variety of ways. He consistently supports 10-20 students who cannot afford to come to the Department's annual award banquet. His sponsorship of the Department's PLANET (Professional Landcare Network) Horticulture Team has allowed the students to participate in this national competition each year. (The '07/08 Team placed 5th out of 70 schools.) Beginning with the '07/08 academic year, he also taught the Landscape Contract & Estimating class for the Department and proved to be an outstanding instructor.

It should be noted that Kelly has not only given back to his alma mater, but has maintained contact with a number of individuals from his college days. Each year, for the last 27 years, he and his wife have gotten together with a group of former students with whom he shared the same dorm. In fact, a few of them were on hand to support him during the Distinguished Alumni reception last April.

Kelly has worked for ValleyCrest Landscape Development, Inc. Systems since 1985. He developed systems to prepare detailed budget estimates and project schedules that took him to the top of his company and helped his company stay on top of its industry. He has managed and prepared estimates for multi-million dollar projects including the Civic Park in downtown Los Angeles; Census Bureau National Headquarters, Washington, D.C.; Huntington Library, Art Collection, and Gardens; Eagles Stadium, Philadelphia, PA; The Getty Center; "Africa" at Disney's Animal Kingdom; and the Georgia International Horse Park for the '96 Olympic Games.

Kelly attributes his success, at least in part, to his education at Cal Poly Pomona: "As students we were compelled to address those things that were not necessarily stated in the curriculum but were necessary and logical to anticipate in the real world. The practice business plans helped me better understand the workings of ValleyCrest and allowed me to empathize with the needs of our customers. My department constructs are, in essence, the very same financial models that were at the heart of all of those Cal Poly hypothetical business plan term projects."

Kelly, who shares his excitement for the field of landscaping with high school students as a volunteer for the national Architecture, Construction, and Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program at Van Nuys High School and the Pasadena School District, appreciated the recognition from the College of Agriculture: "To be recognized by the College of Agriculture as a distinguished alumnus is both an unexpected honor and an inducement to furthering my support of this institution."

A Salute to Our Distinguished Alumni

- 1962 **Claude M. Finnell** (1950, Ag Biology) (Overall Distinguished Alumnus)
- 1964 **Harold F. Greek** (1960, Ornamental Hort.)
- 1965 **Henry House** (1943, Agriculture-Dairy Mfg.)
- 1967 **Walter P. Hollywood** (1959, Agriculture)
- 1971 **Richard (Dick) H. Greer** (1959, Ornamental Hort.)
- 1977 **Warren D. Reed** (1951, Fruit Industries)
- 1978 **Gary A. Madenford** (1970, Soil Science)
- 1979 **Ronald W. Fream** (1965, Ornamental Hort.)
- 1980 **Robert N. Berlin** (1952, Ornamental Hort.)
- 1981 **Peter C. Hoppe** (1964, Animal Science)
- 1982 **Karl I. Bakken** (1953, Agronomy)
- 1983 **Jack E. Christensen** (1982, Botany)
- 1984 **Roger W. Mandigo** (1961, Animal Science)
- 1985 **Edward Lugo** (1964, Animal Science)
- 1986 **James M. Griffin** (1949, Ornamental Hort.)
- 1987 **David G. Kelley** (1955, Citrus Fruit Production)
- 1988 **Henry R. Agonia** (1978, Park Administration)
- 1989 **Lyle G. McNeal** (1964, Animal Science)
- 1990 **Alfonso A. Guillin** (1961, Ag. Business Mgmt.)
- 1991 **John W. Provine** (1966, Ornamental Hort.)
- 1993 **James E. Connelley** (1971, Animal Science)
- 1994 **Michael W. Tess** (1971, Animal Science)
- 1995 **Mario A. Rosas** (1977, International Agriculture)
- 1996 **David Lannom** (1970, Ornamental Hort.; 1989, Ag. Science)
- 1997 **Sandra S. Witte** (1973, Foods & Nutrition)
- 1998 **Raymond N. Watje** (1959, Agronomy)
- 1999 **Norman A. Dierker** (1960, Ag. Business Mgmt.)
- 2001 **Rex O. Baker** (1962, Ag. Biology; 1983, Ag. Science)
- 2002 **Linda J. Baisley** (1974, Foods & Nutrition)
- 2003 **Michael P. Kenna** (1979, Horticulture)
- 2004 **Don B. Huntley** (1960, Animal Husbandry)
- 2005 **Norman K. Fang** (1988, Ornamental Hort.)
- 2006 **Terry Noriega** (1979, Ornamental Hort.)
- 2007 **Stuart Sperber** (1956, Horticulture)
- 2008 **Kelly Duke** (1982, Horticulture)

Honorary Doctorate

- 2007 **Stuart Sperber** (1956, Horticulture)



Photo by Tom Zasadzinsky

Kim Rhode Wins 4th Olympic Medal at Beijing Olympics

Animal & Veterinary Sciences alumna, Kim Rhode, brought home her fourth career Olympic medal by taking second place in Women's Skeet Shooting at the Beijing Olympics. Kim won gold medals in women's double trap in 1996 and 2004 as well as a bronze medal in 2000. After the IOC dropped the double trap event for women after the 2004 Athens Olympics, Kim switched to skeet shooting. She first competed in skeet shooting at the 2004 games in Athens, placing fifth. In 2007, she won that event at the World Cup in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and placed sixth at the World Championships in Nicosia, Cypress. Earlier this year, she finished first in the U.S. Olympic Team Trials, earning a spot on the 2008 Olympic Team.

NOTES FROM OUR ALUMNI *Thanks for the memories!*

Below are responses to a short, e-mail survey sent to College of Agriculture alumni in June 2008. Below is but a small sampling of the input we received. Thanks to all who shared their memories, experiences, and advice.

1950'S . . .

John Fritsche (1951; Horticulture)

John is retired and living in Santa Barbara. He is interested in connecting with his classmates. So, Class of '51, please contact the Dean's office if you would like to get together with John, reminisce about your days at Voorhis, and do a little catching up on the years since graduation.



Chet Dacayana (1952; Agricultural Services and Inspection)

As a student on the Voorhis campus, Chet was voted MVP in baseball, played lead alto sax in a dance band

called the "Hill-Toppers," and served as a student body officer (Athletic Manager). Living on the Voorhis Campus, said Chet, "...was like being in one big family!!!" Chet is retired and living in Oregon where he spends a lot of time landscaping the 7 acres around his home, salmon fishing, and serving in the Port Orford Rotary Club.

Paul M. Alexander (1953; Agricultural Services and Inspection)

Before retiring for the third time, Paul taught Plant Pathology at Clemson University, served as Director of Education for the Golf Course Superintendents Association, Vice President of Sea Pines Co. (SC), National Training Director, Franchise Div., ChemLawn Corp, and Professor at Horry-Georgetown Technical College. He remembers with fondness, all of his fellow students—"especially those living in Smith Hall, where I was dorm superintendent and dorm president."

Doug King (1957; Ag Biology)
Following graduation, Doug followed his plan to the letter and accepted a

position at UCR working on research projects in the area of biological control. After that he worked as a teacher and counselor for 28 years in Riverside and Fillmore public schools.

Ray D. Copeland (1958; Crop Science)

The President of Biagro Western Sales, Inc., Ray was first a UC farm advisor and then Superintendent of the UC Lindcover Field Station, Tulare County. He believes "The field of agriculture needs young people that are well trained in the science of agriculture . . . but have a background of how to apply the science in the field. Many agricultural opportunities exist today that did not exist when I was a student making it imperative that one realizes that continual education is not an option but a necessity. . ."

1960'S . . .

Charles Stark (1960; Agricultural Engineering)

Chuck Stark credits Prof. Quin Conard

continued . . .

with his decision to teach at Cal Poly Pomona—which he did in the Agricultural Engineering Department for 33 years. His fondest memory: “Living on the old Voorhis campus. I met some life-long friends there, including my wife of 50 years.”



Larry Emlet (1962; Crops Production)

Although he planned to go into farming, an opportunity to work for a major manufacturer of fertilizers led to a rewarding career in the fertilizer and crop protection business. He is grateful to Cal Poly Pomona for his education saying, “The hands on, practical side of doing things has carried me throughout my life.” To our current students he advises: “It is not grades. . . that will carry you through life as that body of knowledge will change quickly. It is the putting forth great effort in everything that you do; learn to communicate, . . . relate to people . . . and never stop learning.”



Gerald L. Blakley (1962; Animal Science)

Jack Gesler’s meat science classes paid off for alumnus Gerald Blakley who went to work for Rath Packing Co. following graduation. This eventually led to management positions with Oscar Mayer and then Danola to set up a manufacturing plant to process thin sliced luncheon meats. When the plant moved to Mississippi, Gerald accepted sales and management positions at Pro-Pak Corporation and then at Meat Packers and Butcher Supplies Co. before starting his own consulting firm, Stainless Solutions. Now retired, his fondest memories of Cal Poly Pomona are of the Arabian Horse Unit, the Meat Processing Lab and “watching the campus grow from a farm environment to the state it is today.”



Robert J. Pettis (1963; Agronomy)

A senior project on a new and developing hay packing system called hay cubing led to a position with John Deere and several dream jobs marketing farm equipment. Now retired, Robert owns a small wine grape vineyard near Paso Robles. He says “The most important experience I had at Poly was chairing and co-chairing the 1962 and 1963 Rose Parade Floats,” and feels indebted to Henry House for this experience. “He convinced us (Robert and fellow alum, Ron Simons), we could do the impossible: Ron and I could make a Rose Float. And we did, twice.”



Ted D. Pate (1967; Animal Science)

After completing graduate school at the University of Nebraska and Baylor College of Medicine, Dr. Ted Pate served as an assistant professor in the Department of Physiology, UT Health Science Center at Houston Dental Branch. He is now a full professor at that institution and believes that he “received a great education at Cal Poly Pomona that has served me well throughout my career.”



Marilyn Marks Bernal (1969; Animal Science)

Western dancing in the barn out in the orange groves, riding horseback, learning about livestock and horses, meeting other students are Marilyn’s fondest memories of Cal Poly Pomona. A desire to work with animals led her to Cal Poly Pomona and the animal

science program. She and her husband now own a small cattle ranch; she also works in a vet clinic with large and small animals.

1970'S . . .

Susann Boyer Godfrey (1969; Agronomy/1970; Foods & Nutrition)

A former consultant dietitian, Sue now helps her husband and fellow alumnus, Tony Godfrey (yr. grad; major) manage their wholesale indoor plant nursery. Her advice to our students—“Seek what you love—your passion; look beyond the tried-and-true career choices of your major—be creative—the things you learn can be applied in a variety of ways. Hug an Aggie—they will keep you grounded!”



Jeffrey Martin Abrahams (1971; Soil Science/International Agriculture)

Jeffrey has been an executive search consultant for 13 years and is Managing Director of Abrahams & Associates, a boutique executive search consultancy located in Brazil focusing on the fields of biosciences, bioenergy, agribusiness, financial services and media/entertainment. He encourages the College to “make the U.S. students more aware of globalization including . . . how to deal with different cultures.”



Donald DeLano (1976; Ornamental Horticulture)

Don has not strayed far from his alma mater. After overseeing the OH Unit and teaching in the Ornamental Horticulture Department at CPP for several years, Don moved on to a position at the Fairplex, supervising all horticulture and most floriculture activities at the L. A. County Fair complex. His son is a graduate and he hopes his grandchildren will be too!

Ken McKeever (1979; Animal Science)

Ken is proud of the fact that he played goalie on CPP’s varsity water polo team which won the CCAA conference four years in a row (1974-1977). Today he is Associate Director for Research, Equine Science Center, in the Department of Animal Science at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. His advice to the College of Ag: “Above all, do not lose that ‘learn by doing’ approach that . . . prepared many of us for careers in the science of animal agriculture.”

1980'S . . .

Janet D. Erickson (Simmons) (1980; Foods & Nutrition)

Janet changed her plans to work in the technical side of the restaurant industry after completing her senior project at Denny’s Restaurants. She stayed with them for 7 years before accepting a position at Del Taco where she is now the Executive Vice President of Purchasing and Quality Assurance to which she recently added Product R&D to her responsibilities. Her advice for students: “Try to get an internship or job in the field you think you want to work in to see if it really is your passion. Don’t be afraid to try new things, but apply yourself and work very hard at every job you have.”



Dr. Cynthia A. Holte (1981; Animal Science)

Cynthia is a wildlife ecologist. She is pictured above in Nepal with her guide, Bala Kaji, where she was conducting surveys on the Asiatic black bear.

Grace Lusiola (1982; Home Economics)

Losing her mother at an early age inspired Grace to work toward improving the health of expectant mothers in Africa where, today, many women still die in childbirth. As the County Director of Engender Health (Tanzania), a U.S. Based organization focusing on sexual and reproductive health activities, Grace manages a multi-million dollar health program which addresses family planning, HIV/AIDS and general maternal health. Grace encouraged the College of Ag to expand its programs and activities in the area of international development.



Timothy J. Sovich (1986; Agricultural Engineering)

Tim fondly remembers and values the individual attention he received as an undergraduate. Dr. Joe Hung influenced him the most, but he credits all of his major instructors for his positive experience at CPP. Tim is a California-certified Principal Engineer and has served the Orange County Water District in Fountain Valley, CA, for the last 20 years, specializing in groundwater hydrology. His formula for success: “In the workplace, it’s often not just what you know, but how you interface and work with others as a team player and what type of attitude and work ethic you have.”



Douglas Branson (1981; Agricultural Business Management)

Doug is currently the Director of Supplier Quality for The Boeing Company’s Global Mobility Systems Division in Long Beach, CA. His fondest memory: “The instructors demonstrated caring and sincerity.”



Lisa Ann Somerville (1980,B.S.; 1984, M.S., Ag. Science)

Lisa, who is a middle school principal in the Ontario-Montclair School District, says that Prof. Flint Freeman influenced her the most while a student at CPP. Her fondest memories: “Finally figuring out “Organic Chemistry,” and . . . hanging out at the beef unit. . . (something about a late night egg fight or two...).”

1990'S . . .

Jane Delahoyde (1997; Agricultural Biology)

A pest control advisor with Oxnard Pest Control Association, Jane is also president of Ventura CAPCA, is active in Women for Agriculture, and works with Ag in the Classroom teaching agriculture in elementary schools.

continued . . .

She credits Dr. Greg Partida and opportunities for hands-on learning for her success in what was considered a man's world.

◆◆◆◆
Jennifer L. Sommers (Griffith) (1992; Animal Science)

Competing on the Intercollegiate Horse Judging Team as a student and then teaching and coaching Cal Poly Pomona's teams following graduation prepared Jennifer for a lifelong career training students to compete at the national level. Jennifer is also a breeder of world champion Morgan horses and an internationally licensed Morgan judge. Jennifer remembers Norm Dunn, Bill Hughes and Robert Bray cheering for her in the stands when she won High Individual at the International Arabian Horse Show in New Mexico. "It was as if they were cheerleaders and their school football team just won the playoffs. That is a memory I will always keep with me."



◆◆◆◆
Holly Greene (1994, 1998; B.S. & M.S., Animal Science)

A student assistant position helping Dr. Steven Wickler prepare visual material for his Animal Disease course eventually led to a permanent position as the equine research technician at the Equine Research Center at Cal Poly Pomona, a position she has held for the past 14 years. Holly assisted faculty and mentored students who were involved with research and completing their master's projects. "Our Center was a family of students and, with every one of them that moved forth

in their educational endeavors, I too experienced growth within my mind, body and soul."

◆◆◆◆
Christopher Wilson (1996; Soil Science)

Christopher fondly remembers strawberry fights with classmates and "planting a quarter acre of tomatoes, peppers, and cilantro for a U-pick salsa operation." He began his career as an environmental scientist and now does consulting and leads the environmental department at the Portland, Oregon Office of Terracon, a nationwide firm of consulting engineers and scientists. As the public's social consciousness becomes greener, Christopher hopes the College will support, grow and expand the plant science programs as they will give us a distinct advantage.

◆◆◆◆
2000's . . .

◆◆◆◆
Kristi Lee Graham (2001; Food Marketing & Agribusiness Mgmt.)

After graduation, Kristi first served as a wholesale sales manager at Oasis Date Gardens before joining the Peace Corps as an Agricultural Development Volunteer. Currently, she is in her third year at Thomas Jefferson School of Law and eventually hopes to practice in the area of agricultural law. She credits Dr. Edison Cabacungan with motivating her to do more than she thought she could.

◆◆◆◆
Melissa Tompkins (2005; Animal Science)

As a student, Melissa was involved in a number of extracurricular activities: Ag Council, Pre-Vet Club, O.A.S.I.S., and Golden Key Honor Society. A hospital manager at The Cat Care Clinic in Orange, Melissa advises current students to do likewise because they "will give you some of the best memories of your life."

◆◆◆◆
Ralph Mozqueda (2005; Agriculture Science)

Ralph teaches agriscience, vet/plant science, and agriculture mechanics at Hemet High School, Hemet, CA. As a student he enjoyed working at the Beef Unit, riding horses in the hills surrounding the campus, and competing with the Equestrian Team. "Try new things, learn from your mistakes and grow from your experiences," is his advice to our agriculture students.

◆◆◆◆
Kellie Konysky (2006; Foods & Nutrition, Dietetics)

A health class at a community college influenced Kellie's career choice and Dr. Kara Freeman showed her all the career options available in the area of nutrition. Kellie is now the nutrition coordinator of a Head Start Program in Downtown Los Angeles and keeps in contact with her classmates "even though they are all spread out throughout Southern California."



◆◆◆◆
Lisa Petrich (2006; Animal Science)

Drs. Matsushima, Wickler and Mr. Mathias top Lisa's list of memorable instructors. She worked in real estate while going to school and it turned into a rewarding career. Lisa is now a licensed realtor in Palos Verdes specializing in horse property and large estates.

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AGGIES *Make a Difference*

Peer Advisors Rock!

The AGREES (Agriculture Education Enhancement Services) Peer Advisors took a giant step forward in 2007-08 when they assumed the role of teacher's aide in the AG 100 Orientation to Agriculture courses. All incoming freshmen are required to take AG 100 and some transfer students take it at their option. It is a rite-of-passage for our new students and who better to assist with an introduction to college than current Cal Poly Pomona students.

Each of the Peer Advisors were assigned to an AG 100 section in either fall or winter quarter. They were responsible for talking about such topics as college clubs and events, classroom etiquette, and student services on campus. Peer Advisors also assisted faculty with class activities and assignments, held office hours each week in the AGREES Center, conducted college tours, and sponsored out-of-class activities. As upper-division students, the Peer Advisors brought to their classes a wide variety of college experiences, and the opportunity to share these experiences with our new students made the AG 100 experience much more valuable.

Feedback from their students was very positive. Class evaluations included comments like: "It was nice to have an experienced student in my AG 100 class." "My Peer Advisor made me feel like I belong here at Cal Poly." "She helped Cal Poly seem less big and helped me see it as a student." "She has made my adjustment to Cal Poly Pomona easier and has helped me to understand that I can succeed if I try."

The AGREES Program has been a staple in the College of Agriculture for many years, and Peer Advisors have been around since 2004-05. But last year's Peer Advisors took their role to a whole new level. The College of Agriculture would like to congratulate the 2007-08 Peer Advisors for the outstanding job they did: Cindy Barnes, Kim Fong, Cathy Gilabert, Vihaney Gonzalez, Gina Hosterman, Katie Jenny, Alex Martinez-Chavira, Kriscelle Mendoza, and Lindsay Rogeness.



Ag Ambassadors Celebrate Anniversary

Fifteen years ago ten students accepted the call to become the first group of Ag Ambassadors for the College of Agriculture. Since then, over 135 students have volunteered their time on behalf of the college, participating in hundreds of outreach events and connecting with thousands of prospective students.

Ag Ambassadors have come a long way from a handful of students participating in a few activities, to an organized and trained group of college representatives that have an established calendar of events that they participate in each year. Ag Ambassadors have played an important role in the growth of the College of Agriculture and the growing presence our college has in the agriculture community in California. Their contributions have been enumerable.

As part of the College of Agriculture's 70th Anniversary Celebration, the 2008-09 Ag Ambassadors will be hosting an Ag Ambassador Reunion on Sunday, March 22, 2009, in conjunction with the 70th Anniversary Horse Show and Deep Pit Barbeque. All Ag Ambassador Alumni and their families are invited.



70 The College of Agriculture is celebrating
YEARS of EDUCATION and You're Invited!

1938 - 2008

Mark your calendar for Saturday & Sunday

March 21 & 22, 2009

The weekend will kick off with a special Anniversary Banquet and Silent Auction on Saturday evening.

Join us for a special 70th Anniversary W. K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Show and an old fashioned, deep pit beef barbeque luncheon on Sunday. There will also be horse rides, a petting zoo, and farmer's market at AGRIsapes.

For more information and registration visit:
www.csupomona.edu/agri
and click on "News and Events"

College of Agriculture
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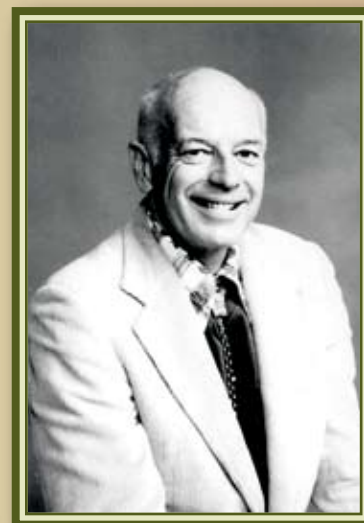
In Memoriam

Dr. George Schmitz

Dr. George Schmitz, Professor Emeritus from the Plant Science Department, passed away last spring. He served as a professor of Soil Science for 26 years from 1961-1987. Dr. Schmitz's expertise was in soil fertility and soil materials utilized on the farm, in turf grass and landscaping. He was well respected by the industry and developed an active consulting business and soil testing laboratory in Fullerton. He hired many of his students who got their first introduction into the business through his laboratory.

Dr. Schmitz was a champion for students, who flocked to him for advice, both scholarly and personally.

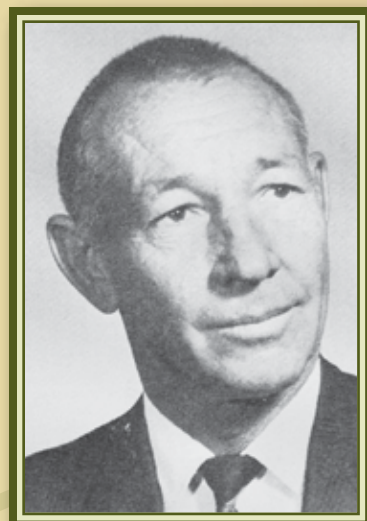
A scholarship endowed by his widow, Mrs. Berit Schmitz, was established in celebration of their lifelong love of Cal Poly Pomona and Dr. Schmitz' love for his students. Donations in memory of Dr. Schmitz should be made payable to the Cal Poly Foundation and mailed to the Plant Science Department or call (909) 869-2214 for more information.



Prof. Theodore "Roy" L. Lieb

An alumnus of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo who later taught at the Kellogg Campus, Prof. Roy Lieb passed away on March 7. Hired in 1955 as a professor of agronomy and farm manager, "Roy was instrumental in turning the Kellogg Ranch into a working instructional farm for students, laying out many of the fields and pastures still in operation today," said longtime friend and colleague Dan Hostetler, Chair of the Plant Science Department. He served as an advisor to the Los Rancheros Club and was an active participant in every student activity. In 1969, he was voted the University's Teacher of the Year. "He was an advisor extraordinaire," explained Dan, "mentoring over 700 agronomy students who are industry leaders today."

Prof. Lieb served the University for 25 years before retiring in 1980. His family and alumni from the Department have established a memorial scholarship in his name via the Plant Science Department in the College of Agriculture. Call (909) 869-2214 for more information.



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE DIRECTORY



Photo by Tom Zasadzinsky

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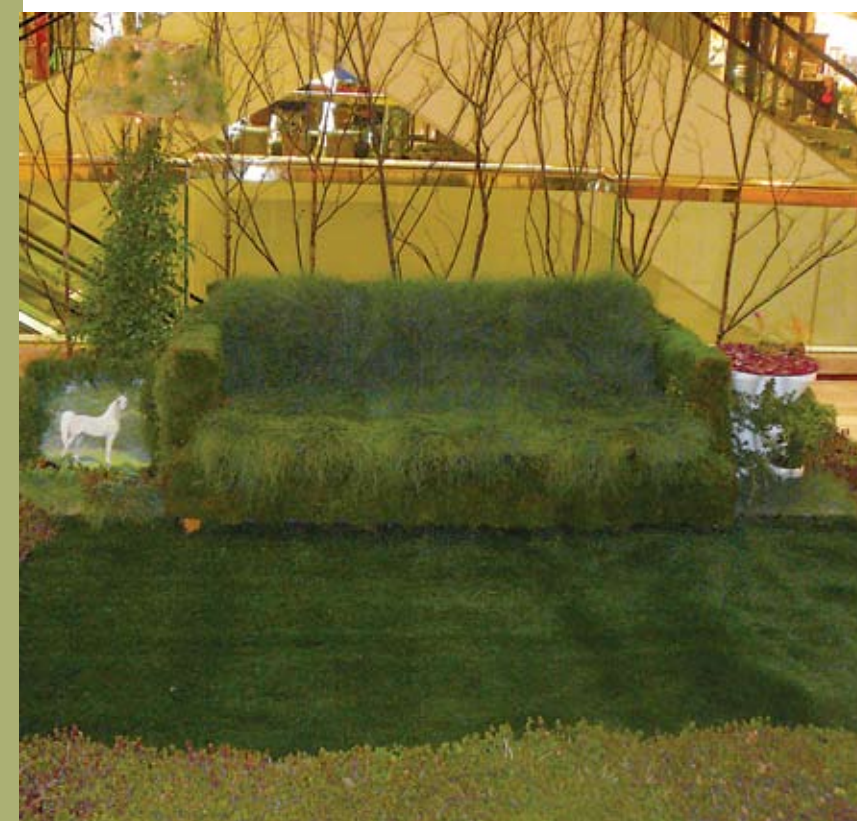
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Meat Lab
www.csupomona.edu/meatlab



Thinking totally outside of the box, horticulture student Alexandra Denatale designed this unique entry entitled "Outside In" for the 19th Annual Spring Garden Show at South Coast Plaza, April 2008. The "living" room features grass sofa cushions; a pole lamp made of vines, Spanish moss and tillandsias; and walls made of birch branches.



Photos by Tom Zasadzinsky

**We want to
keep in touch!**

**If you are planning
a move, please let
us know.**

**CALL
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