

# AGRIcolumn

HUNTLEY COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

FALL 2018

## focus

ON THE FUTURE

80 YEARS AND STILL GROWING!



CAL POLY POMONA



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*On the cover:* Hands-on learning about urban agriculture,  
bee science, and equine science; some of the new programs  
currently offered to Huntley College of Agriculture students.  
*Urban Ag photo by Plant Science Professor, Aaron Fox.*



### HUNTLEY COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

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## MESSAGE *FROM THE DEAN*



Lisa Kessler, Interim Dean  
Huntley College of Agriculture

As we enter a new academic year – the first in the semester system – it is my honor to continue serving as the interim dean of the transformational Huntley College of Agriculture.

This issue of AGRicolumn honors our rich history of providing quality agricultural education for the past eight decades. We are grateful for our students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and community partners who have worked together to develop generations of industry leaders.

The Huntley College of Agriculture will continue its tradition of preparing students who are ready-to-work, think innovatively and seek out lifelong learning so they can function in the future of work. One of our goals is to promote student success by expanding the “learn by doing” opportunities offered to our students through on-campus programs such as those featured in this issue – and off-campus experiential learning made possible by external partnerships.

As we look to the future, the Huntley College of Agriculture is focused on identifying critical solutions to feed the world, stewarding our agricultural resources, and promoting human, animal and environmental health through education. In preparing for the world of tomorrow, our college is dedicating resources to sustainable urban agriculture to promote economic and social well-being in our society.

I invite you to join us on our journey to grow the future. Please share your thoughts and ideas with us, visit us on campus and help spread the word about our work together.

Sincerely,

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





## FOOD LABELING WORKSHOP

Faculty, staff, and food industry professionals attended the first food labeling workshop for the college last April. The course, sponsored by the Department of Nutrition and Food Science, was offered as an introduction to federal food labeling regulations for those who work in the food industry or agriculture, including entrepreneurs, registered dietitians, and food science and business students.

Workshop participants could earn continuing education units or contact hours from the International Food Science Certification Commission.

Debra Topham, director of the Knowledge Bank consulting firm, was the presenter at the workshop.



## *New* HORSEHILL VINEYARDS WINE

Cal Poly Pomona's latest wine is now available.

The 2016 Horsehill Vineyards Zinfandel comes from the same vintage as the gold-medal-winning 2016 Zinfandel Rosé that was released in 2017.

Horsehill Vineyards is a collaborative wine project between Cal Poly Pomona and South Coast Winery in Temecula that provides a unique learning experience for more than 200 students involved in the university's viniculture program.

Students from the Huntley College of Agriculture help grow and harvest the grapes from on-campus vineyards. South Coast Winery produces and bottles the wine. Students from The Collins College of Hospitality Management help market and sell the wine. The wine is available at the Farm Store at Kellogg Ranch and the Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch.

Visit [www.cpp.edu/horsehill](http://www.cpp.edu/horsehill) for purchasing and pricing details.



## CLASS OF 2018 CELEBRATED AT COMMENCEMENT

The Huntley College of Agriculture celebrated the end of the 2017-18 academic year with its annual Commencement. Nearly 500 undergraduate and graduate students participated in the ceremonies.

It was the last Commencement under the quarter system. The university converted to the semester system this fall, and next year's Commencement ceremonies will take place on May 18, 2019.

## ARBORIST HONORED AT FARM TO TABLE DINNER



The Huntley College of Agriculture honored a longtime arborist and businesswoman, Rose Epperson, at the 4th Annual Farm to Table Spring Harvest Dinner on April 14.

Epperson, who was presented with the Jim Hicks Agricultural Achievement Award, is a long-time principal in West Coast Arborists, Inc. and also created Epicenter Management, which manages the Western Chapter International Society of Arboriculture, the Society of Commercial Arboriculture and other green industry associations.

The Hicks award is given to an individual for his or her work in agriculture. The award is named after businessman Jim Hicks, a longtime supporter of the college and agricultural education.

Five students – one from each department in the college – also spoke about how their experience in the college and at Cal Poly Pomona has shaped their lives.

Chefs Travis Flood of Alexander's Steakhouse in Pasadena, Christopher Gendreau of Chase's La Verne, and the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation's Arnold Zavalza produced a menu using produce grown by Cal Poly Pomona students.

Event sponsors included Mariposa Landscaping, Hidden Villa Ranch, and Susan Kellogg-Bell.

## CALIFORNIA COFFEE SUMMIT DRAWS PROSPECTIVE GROWERS

The Huntley College of Agriculture hosted its inaugural California Coffee Summit on Jan. 18 for prospective growers.

More than 60 people attended the all-day summit at AGRIsclapes, which featured industry experts speaking about the challenges and opportunities of growing coffee in California. Among the topics covered were growing coffee, planting coffee with avocado trees, dealing with pests and diseases, processing methods, and marketing opportunities.

Professor Valerie Mellano, soils lab technician Duncan McKee, and graduate student Chris Van Norden spoke about growing coffee on campus, testing to see which varieties will thrive. Van Norden and senior Keith Kittridge are conducting research as student projects toward their degrees.

Experts from University of Hawaii Extension and the University of California Cooperative Extension also spoke at the summit.

Participants at the summit also sampled both Hawaiian and California-grown coffee. Another summit is planned for January 2019.



*Ramiro Lobo talks about field trials at the California Coffee Summit.*





## AUTHOR SPEAKS ABOUT "THE PERFECT HORSE"

In November 2017, the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center hosted a talk by New York Times' bestselling author Elizabeth Letts on her latest book, "The Perfect Horse."

The book is about a daring mission by U.S. troops to rescue Arabian horses from Nazi Germany – horses they would later bring to W.K. Kellogg's former ranch in Pomona.

Almost all the Arabians at Cal Poly Pomona can trace their lineage to the horses rescued from the Nazis.



*Kelsey Swayze is a grad student who played a key role in planning and designing the online website with the oversight of Nursery Manager, Monica Salembier.*

## SELLING PLANTS ONLINE

The Cal Poly Pomona Plant Nursery has entered the world of e-commerce and is now taking online orders and shipping them to customers in California.

"Online plant sales are a growing trend in the nursery industry with double-digit increases in sales each year over the last five years," Nursery Manager Monica Salembier said. "To make this a viable career option for our graduates, we need to be able to help them develop comprehensive business plans, navigate the complicated county and state restrictions, produce, market and ship the products and gain valuable work experience in a realistic setting."

To offer this new service, Salembier and her student employees had to find a webmaster and build a website, design a new logo, set up a secure sales system, select a shipping partner, develop pricing and sales policies, and run shipping trials to determine the best method of shipping each of the plant species.

The nursery is only selling 3-inch plants with an emphasis on unusual and difficult to find plants. The current inventory includes yellow dragonfruit, plumeria, Madagascar palm, and Zizi plants. In the future, the online team plans to offer poinsettia, coffee, papaya, and extremely hot pepper plants.

The nursery sales website is:  
**[calpolypomonanursery.com](http://calpolypomonanursery.com)**

## STUDENT VETERAN WORKSHOPS

The Huntley College of Agriculture and the Veterans Resource Center co-sponsored two events for student veterans interested in discovering more about agricultural careers.

The first Veteran Farmer Outreach Day was held last year at AGRIsapes. The second one, called The Veterans Agricultural Day, was held this past September. Both featured speakers, panel discussions and information booths for student veterans.

Many challenges are faced by veterans returning from active duty including finding employment. Since nearly half come from rural areas, the agricultural industry is a logical place for them to look for careers. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has developed a number of resources to help veterans get started in the industry, including internships, volunteer opportunities, and microloan programs.

For more information visit: **[www.cpp.edu/veterans](http://www.cpp.edu/veterans)**

## DEPARTMENT GETS A NAME CHANGE

This fall semester, the Department of Human Nutrition and Food Science changed its name to simply the Department of Nutrition and Food Science.

The name change would bring the department more into line with other nutrition departments in the California State University system.

The department does not have any courses, minor, or major with the word 'human' in front of nutrition, but it does offer an option in nutrition science that contains an emphasis in animal nutrition, which was sometimes confusing for students and faculty from other departments.

The name change was recommended by the department faculty, the Academic Senate and Provost Sylvia Alva. It was then approved by President Coley.

The CSU chancellor's office had already approved changing the name of the foods and nutrition major (FN) this fall to nutrition (NTR). This was to distinguish it from the other major in the department, food science and technology (FST).



## PROGRAM PREPARES STUDENTS TO WORK WITH LATINO POPULATION

The Estudiante de Dietetica nutrition program is helping prepare dietetic students to serve Southern California's large Hispanic population.

Students take three one-unit classes about Hispanic culture, practice counseling skills, and learn medical terms in Spanish.

They also provide nutrition education classes or individualized nutrition education through community organizations, like Head Start in Pomona. They go on to become registered dietitian nutritionists or work in nutrition services at local school districts and wellness centers.

"The Estudiante de Dietetica program provided me with extensive training in working with the Latino community, and that is what makes me unique compared to other dietitians," said Karina Diaz-Infante ('14, food and nutrition, dietetics option), an on-site health coach for Cigna in Anaheim.

More than 160 students have completed the program, which started in 2010 with a three-year, \$248,043 USDA grant and is now funded by the Huntley College of Agriculture.



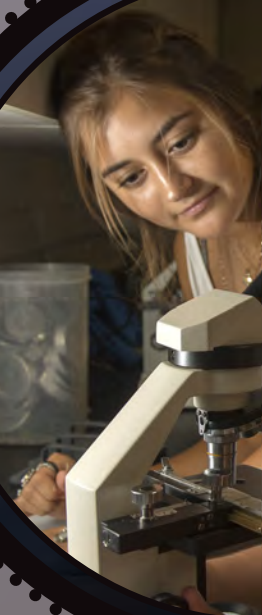
# focus

ON THE FUTURE

80 YEARS AND STILL GROWING!

*For 80 years, Cal Poly Pomona has taught students everything from agronomy to animal husbandry, but as the Huntley College of Agriculture enters its ninth decade, it is not content to rest on its laurels—it is expanding its fields of study and scholarship and incorporating technology and different approaches to prepare its students for an ever-changing world.*

Pierco





## Urban Ag-It's all the Rage!

This fall, the Department of Plant Science began offering a new minor in urban and community agriculture, the first such academic program nationally. The minor takes advantage of public interest in locally grown produce and the college's distinction as the only four-year agricultural program in a region with more than 18 million residents.

The program will cover the basics of small-scale sustainable production, business models, and policy and community development. Electives will include courses on farmers' markets and organic farming.

"We can also collaborate with other colleges and departments across the Cal Poly Pomona campus to create a truly multi-disciplinary program," said Professor Valerie Mellano, plant science department chair.

The College of Engineering has an aquaponics class, while the College of Environmental Design has conducted urban agriculture research and offered internships working on local elementary school gardens.

The minor is part of the Huntley College's new Sustainable Urban Agricultural Initiative, which will include a speaker series on urban agriculture and outreach efforts to bring schoolchildren on field trips to AGRIsapes to visit an agricultural discovery farm.

Aneika Solomon, a junior plant science major, said she has always been interested in urban agriculture.

"There is something liberating about having the ability to produce your own food while building a healthy relationship with the land around us," she said.

Growing up in Trinidad and Tobago, Solomon said islanders may not have had much financially, but they always had fruit trees, vegetables, and livestock to eat and share.



*Jenna is taking a class in vegetable crop systems where she learns about planting in a Filtrex GardenSoxx, perfect for urban gardens due to their simplicity and versatility.*



## The Ag-Textile Connection

Agriculture and fashion are linked through textiles and fabrics. So it's only fitting that the college's Department of Apparel Merchandising & Management is offering its students a new textiles option. Students will have the opportunity to explore the physical, chemical, and mechanical properties of textile materials and products, including emerging technologies related to fiber, yarn, fabrics, coloration, and finishing. Cal Poly Pomona is the only school to offer this option in the Western United States.

Muditha Senanayake, the department's interim chair, said demand for American-made textiles and clothing is increasing with the focus of bringing apparel production back to the United States.

"It is important that we supply our human resources with the textile technology background and focus on quality to cater to this demand," Senanayake said.

Students who graduate in this option will find jobs in textile technical design, technical development, quality assurance and control, management, sourcing, and sales.

*AMM students view fibers under a microscope to evaluate their visual characteristics including length, appearance, shape, and thickness.*

*Continued...*



# Animal Science Redux

Also returning this fall is the animal science option in the master's degree in agriculture program. Although the Department of Animal and Veterinary Science had offered the option before, it was on the verge of elimination after the department lost many faculty to retirement and students who moved to veterinary programs. But the department revived the program under the semester system after being bolstered by new faculty hires.

"It's a program for people who are interested in pursuing careers in research or teaching," said Cord Brundage, an assistant professor of animal and veterinary science and a veterinarian.

Twelve new students entered the program, exceeding faculty expectations for the first year. Among the students are a number of staff. Eva Jaeger ('02, animal science), the department's animal health technologist, is one of those enrolled in the master's program.

"I think it's a fantastic opportunity and a push out of my comfort zone. The master's degree in animal science will help with my current position along with opening up more opportunities in the future," she said.

Jäger added that her journey could serve as an example to other students that it's never too late to advance and broaden their horizons.



*Alondra Lopez practices proper laser handling techniques as part of her research in expediting and improving wound healing in animals.*



## Bees Create a Buzz

**Public interest in beekeeping has increased recently. News of widespread bee colony collapse has driven that interest and several communities have repealed bans on urban beekeeping, including the city of Los Angeles.**

**The plant science department has long offered a bee science class, but it is building a new apiary which is expected to open this fall. It will have hives, forage planted by students, an outdoor education center, a new honey extraction lab, classroom, and an observation center.**

**"We're raising money right now for equipment so our students can learn how to extract honey from the hives," says Mark Haag, an animal and veterinary science lecturer who teaches the bee classes with colleague Melody Wallace.**

**The college plans to make beekeeping classes available to the general public through the College of the Extended University. Haag already has held a couple of public workshops that have attracted more than 100 aspiring beekeepers eager to learn about best practices.**

## Student-Run CSA

An agribusiness and food industry management class is re-visioning the college's community-supported agriculture program, Poly Pack, which was started in 2016 as a staff-run program to showcase the student-grown produce here at Cal Poly Pomona.

Starting this fall, students in Lecturer Katie Horvath's (far right) special topics course are reviewing the current operation, conducting surveys of customers, and creating new marketing strategies.

"They're going to learn how to redevelop a business and brand management as they research and direct where this business will go," Horvath said. "We are looking into offering the Poly Pack to the public, but our main focus is our large student population here on campus."

"This will give students a valuable hands-on learning experience related to their major," said Professor Jon Phillips, chair of the Department of Agribusiness & Food Industry Management/ Agricultural Science.



# Eat Your Veggies!

The Department of Nutrition & Food Science is embarking on a new initiative to research vegetarian diets. Although a recent Gallup poll found that just 5 percent of Americans identify as vegetarians, sales of plant-based food grew to more than \$3.1 billion last year.

"It appears Americans are eager to include alternatives to animal products in their diets, but are not willing to give up animal products completely," Gallup concluded.

The department plans to focus specifically on researching the benefits of vegetarian diets.

"Our initiative will give our students new learn-by-doing opportunities, and we hope it produces findings that people will find useful and helpful," said Professor Harmit Singh, the department chair.

*Guests prepared sample vegetarian foods last spring at the inaugural Healthy Vegetarian Indian Food Competition. More than 60 people attended the tasty event.*



## Return to Equine Education

Starting in the spring semester 2019, the Department of Animal & Veterinary Sciences will offer a new minor: equine studies.

"Students with the intent of applying to veterinary schools need a certain number of 'animal handling' hours and equine courses are a great way of gaining hours of horse handling," said Shelton Murinda, professor and interim animal and veterinary sciences department chair.

Horses are rooted in Cal Poly Pomona's history dating back to W.K. Kellogg's original Arabian horse herd. The university had long offered equine courses – from horse training to production – and even had an equine option and research center. However, the department stopped offering equine courses in 2013 after losing the faculty that taught the classes.

The minor will include courses in genetics, breeding, nutrition, and physiology. It is open to all students, regardless of major. Since California has the second-most number of horses in the country, behind only Texas, equine careers are available.

Megan Bryant, a second-year animal science student from San Diego who has worked at the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center, believes the minor will expand her career options.

"I can continue to pursue veterinary medicine or decide I want to do something different but still emphasize in equine," she said.





## JUAN CANEDO

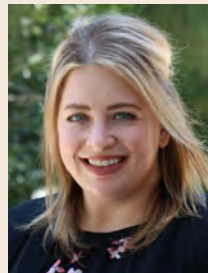
**Lecturer, AMM Department**



Juan owns the Milvian LLC business consulting firm and is a contracted event supervisor and recruiter for UBM. Previously, he was an account manager for Special Operations International and an executive team leader for Target. He has two master's degrees and is working on his doctorate in business administration from Argosy University.

## MICHELLE FISCHER

**Lecturer, NFS Department**



Michelle is a 2011 alumna of foods & nutrition and has a master's degree in kinesiology. She works as a registered dietitian at Community Hospital of San Bernardino. Michelle also worked at Prime Healthcare. She completed her dietetic internship at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

## RACHNA DHIR

**Lecturer, NFS Department**



Rachna is from UC Riverside, where she taught and conducted her doctoral research. She earned her doctorate in chemical engineering there. She has a master's degree in agricultural and biological systems engineering from the University of Nebraska and a bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering from Punjab Agricultural University.

## HYUNGCHUL HAN

**Assistant Professor, AVS Department**



Hyungchul is from Colorado State University, where he was an associate professor. Previously, he was a research scientist at Korea Cancer Center Hospital, and postdoctoral fellow at the University of Nevada and Oklahoma State University. He earned his doctorate from Oklahoma State University.

## MARCIA EWERS

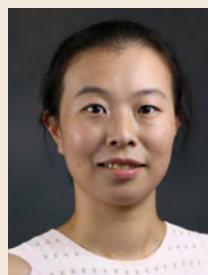
**Lecturer, AVS Department**



Previously, Marcia was with the College of Science as the director of Math and Science Help (MASH) and the director of Student Learning as well as LSAMP. She worked for 15 years as the founding director of the Charles Drew Biology Laboratory at Michigan State. She earned her doctorate in plant physiology from UC Berkeley.

## YISHUNAG SHANNON LI

**Lecturer, AMM Department**



Shannon earned her doctorate in consumer and design sciences at Auburn University, where she also was a teaching assistant and instructor. Her research experience includes exploring mobile language-based aids for intelligent decisions and conversational agents in web-based consumer environments for older users.



## KELLY PIÑA

### Administrative Analyst, Dean's Office



Kelly returns to the college as an administrative analyst for the dean's office after serving as an event specialist in University Advancement. Prior to that, she worked for 14 years at the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center. Kelly has worked at many campus events and continues to do so including the largest one, Pumpkin Festival.

## CLAIRE SOUTHERLAND

### Lecturer, AVS Department



Claire got her undergrad degree in animal science in 2017. She was a student manager at the sheep unit and exhibit attendant for the Cal Poly Pomona Petting Farm and the LA County Fair Petting Zoo. She is pursuing her master's degree in agriculture, animal science option, at Cal Poly Pomona.

## SANGEETA SHRIVASTAVA

### Lecturer, NFS Department



Sangeeta comes from Life Care Centers of America, where she had been working as lead dietitian. She also taught nutrition science, physiology, and kinesiology at the Art Institute of California. She is a registered dietitian who earned her master's degree in food and nutrition and doctorate in nutritional biochemistry in India.

## CHRIS VAN NORDEN

### Farm Coordinator, PS Department



Since 2012, Chris ('14, plant science) has worked on the agronomy farm, planting many different crops and managing campus pastures.. Chris is currently studying for his master's degree in agriculture, plant science option, at Cal Poly Pomona. His thesis project is evaluating the feasibility of growing coffee locally.

## AMBER SOARES

### Admin. Support Coord., AVS Department



Amber is a 2013 alumna of business administration. She was previously at the DeVry Education Group, as an operations support coordinator. She also worked at Nature's Specialties Manufacturing as an office manager and for Target as an assistant store manager. She earned her MBA from Cal State Fullerton.

## CLAIRE WHANG

### Assistant Professor, AMM Department



Claire earned her doctorate in design, apparel studies track, retail merchandising and consumer studies concentration, from the University of Minnesota's Graduate School of Design. Her research interests include technology-driven consumption, retail technology, social media, advertising cues, and consumer information processing.



## LEADERSHIP CHANGES IN THE COLLEGE



Professor **Jon Phillips** was named as the new chair of the Department of Agribusiness & Food Industry Management/Agricultural Science. He has been a faculty member for 15 years.



Professor **Shelton Murinda**, who has taught at Cal Poly Pomona since 2005, was appointed as the interim chair of the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences after Broc Sandelin's departure.



**Steve Archambault**, an assistant professor of agribusiness and food industry management, is the new Agricultural Research Institute campus coordinator.



Professor **Harmit Singh**, who first came to campus in 2011, was named as the new chair of the Department of Nutrition & Food Science.



**Olive Li**, an associate professor of nutrition and food science, is the new director of research and graduate studies



**Cord Brundage**



**Eva Jaeger**



**Olive Li**

## OF THE YEAR AWARDS

**Cord Brundage**, an assistant professor of animal and veterinary science, was named the Advisor of the Year.

**Eva Jaeger**, an animal health technologist, was chosen as the Staff of the Year.

**Olive Li**, an associate professor of nutrition and food science, was named Teacher of the Year.

All three were honored at Commencement on June 8.



### OUTSTANDING STAFF AWARD

Robbie Myers was chosen as one of four 2018 Outstanding Staff Award recipients selected from across campus by Staff Council.

Robbie has worked in the Dean's Office for six years as an administrative analyst.

The honor was given during Staff Appreciation Week on June 11.





*Dr. Chitra Dabas is an apparel merchandising and management professor who has been recognized for her use of technology to enhance her students' learning experience.*

## PROFESSOR IS ADDED TO THE

# Wall of COOL

Chitra Dabas was chosen for Cal Poly Pomona's "Wall of COOL," a competitive award that the university's eLearning office gives to courses that effectively use technology to aid students' learning and success. "COOL" stands for "Celebrating Outstanding Opportunities for Learning."

Dabas teaches an advanced retail buying class, AMM 350. In the class, students learn about apparel buying processes, strategic positioning, assortment and seasonal plans, and purchase order management for multiple apparel retail tiers.

The class is taught with the active-learning, flipped-classroom approach to her students, where they are introduced to course content at home with pre-recorded online assignments and discussions. They practice learning it during class with case studies, group activities and discussions.

The students must develop strong analytical skills, using computers, and making oral and written presentations. Among the technological applications they use are Adobe Connect, video editing program Camtasia, and the presentation and interactive whiteboard app Explain Everything.

## PROFESSOR TRAVELS TO AFRICA



Animal and Veterinary Sciences Professor Joanne Sohn traveled to Africa last summer to find more learning opportunities for her students. She joined 22 other California State University faculty on a mid-June trip to Ghana, courtesy of a CSU International Programs Faculty Seminar called, "Ghana Calls."

For one week, Sohn and the other CSU faculty listened to lectures from their Ghanaian counterparts. She learned that the country has a high incidence of rabies, which is a human health threat, but also prevents their livestock from being exported for meat.

Helping local veterinarians conduct mass rabies vaccination campaigns in outlying villages in Ghana is one possible learning opportunity for Sohn's students. The challenge, she said, is finding a way to fund it.

Sohn knows the value of hands-on learning experiences in developing countries that may have few veterinary resources. Last year, she took 13 animal health science students on a two-week trip to Thailand where they worked at an elephant sanctuary and a dog shelter, assisting with surgeries and caring for the animals.

"I see how the students grew," she said. "I see how it made their university experience, and their experience in our program, so much better."

## PROVOST'S TEACHER-SCHOLAR AWARDS

Four faculty members from the Huntley College of Agriculture were selected for the Provost's Teacher-Scholar Awards, which provide tenure-track faculty time or funding to pursue scholarly, research, or creative activities.

The goals are to encourage their development as scholars, develop life-long learning to students, and blend teaching and scholarship into a single, synergistic endeavor.

### The four faculty members are:

- **Cord Brundage**, assistant professor of animal and veterinary sciences, will use his time to help students with their research projects; invite them to participate in his research; work as a student club advisor; and chaperone students at conferences. He also will teach senior students to produce quality literature reviews.
- **Chitra Dabas**, associate professor of apparel merchandising and management, who wants to develop retail merchandising case studies to enhance student learning.
- **Gabriel Davidov-Pardo**, assistant professor of nutrition and food science, will train new students in lab techniques and procedures, write funding proposals for his research, and write one peer-reviewed paper.
- **Jon Phillips**, professor and chair of the Department of Agribusiness & Food Industry Management/Agricultural Science, plans to work on several projects, including submitting papers to a peer-reviewed journal and assisting graduate students in turning their theses into peer-reviewed journal articles.



# STUDENT *ACHIEVEMENTS*

Julian A. McPhee

## *Class* VALEDICTORIAN



**Roselle Gabrielle Mendez**  
*Animal Science*

John E. Andrews

## *Undergraduate* STUDENT LEADER



**Joseph Wolf**  
*Plant Science*

John E. Andrews

## *Graduate* STUDENT LEADER



**Oscar Del Real**  
*Plant Science*



## STUDENTS CREATE WINNING PRODUCTS

Two teams of Cal Poly Pomona food science and technology students won national and regional competitions, respectively.

A student team consisting of Corey Abesa, Kelly Gray, Blayne Nuccio, Briley Bliss, Eric Kinjo, Matthew Jordan, and Jamie Lam took first place in the Evolution of Food Waste Product Development student competition at the 2018 Research Chefs Association national competition March 26 to 28 in Savannah, Ga.

The team won \$1,000 for creating Toates – Totally Oat Cookies – out of food waste byproducts.

Another team took first place in a student product development competition at the Southern California Food Industry Conference on March 7 in Anaheim. The “Tenji Team” of Nelida Aguayo, YuGuang Zheng, Trey Jensen, Jennifer Wijaya, and Eddie Wu won \$900 for creating mango sticky rice balls as its winning product.

## AG SCIENCE STUDENT GETS LEADERSHIP TRAINING



Heaven Toussaint, a third-year agricultural science student, traveled to the November 2017 Agriculture Future of America Leaders Conference that was held in Kansas City, Mo.

The conference was intended to bridge the gaps between academic, leadership and work experience, provide networking opportunities, and increase awareness of career opportunities in food and agriculture. It drew more than 700 students from colleges and universities nationwide.

Toussaint also participated in the AFA Opportunity Fair, which gives human resource representatives a chance to communicate with and mentor students about career opportunities within the industry. Students also can find out about internships, graduate studies, and international travel to help grow their portfolio of experiences.



## TURF STUDENTS PLACE 1<sup>ST</sup>

For the second consecutive year, Cal Poly Pomona students took first place in a competition at the Golf Industry Show in San Antonio, Texas. The contest, which was sponsored by the Tee 2 Green golf tournament consultants, tested participants in turfgrass management, golf game history, and golf courses. The students were advised by plant science lecturers Alan Moss and Priti Saxena.



*Jonathan Mayorga, Viridiana Navarro, Gabriela Ramirez, and Ashley Garcia*



## LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS CELEBRATE MILESTONES

The Ag Ambassador and Peer Advisor programs have been around a long time, 25 and 15 years respectively. Both programs were designed to provide students in the Huntley College of Agriculture a unique leadership experience and the opportunity to make impactful contributions to the success of prospective and current students. Ag Ambassadors represent the college at campus events, high schools, community colleges, FFA events, and industry trade shows. Peer Advisors assist with advising and first year experience activities, and publish the college's annual student handbook and planner.

## AMM STUDENTS WIN BIG BUCKS!

Four apparel merchandising and management students won \$5,000 each in a national scholarship competition.

The YMA Fashion Scholarship Fund awarded Gabriela Ramirez, Ashley Garcia, Jonathan Mayorga and Viridiana Navarro scholarships in its annual case study competition.

Each participant explored how fashion retailers could improve their performance through digital technology and traditional shopping, rather than online sales. It was the most competitive contest in Fashion Scholarship Fund history, with 540 submissions from 60 member schools.

A fourth-year student from Fontana, Mayorga's submission was a hypothetical unisex collection for Macy's to attract younger clientele.

Navarro, a second-year student from Inglewood, proposed a partnership between Nordstrom and tech company Musion to create human-like holograms that could display any article of clothing that the store carries and draw more customers.

Ramirez, who is a fourth-year student from Vista, proposed building an algorithm and technology to better predict consumer behavior in stores.

Garcia, a senior apparel production major from Norco, proposed revamping Macy's Charter Club line and possibly capturing plus-sized consumers from the closing of Lane Bryant stores.

Scholarship recipients were honored at the FSF Awards Gala and Dinner on Jan. 9 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Times Square in New York City.





# Our students get around *The Globe*



## LONDON CALLING

AMM students have the opportunity to study abroad every spring and intern with fashion companies in the United Kingdom. Last spring seventeen students went on the trip, supervised by lecturer Teresa Faraone. Oh yeah, and they did some tourist stuff too!



## ALASKA BOUND!

Several Plant Science students had the opportunity to intern in Alaska last summer at Scenic Place Peonies where they experienced farming outside of California and helped the grower streamline her processes.





## COSTA RICA

In addition to seeing some pretty impressive bugs, students from the Agricultural Biology Club visited EARTH University, organic farms, a rainforest reserve, a banana plantation and packing plant, an integrated livestock project, and toured the Tortuguero Canals.



## SPECIAL THANKS

to Jim & Neta Hicks for providing an endowment that supports travel for agribusiness and plant science students to learn abroad.



## LAND OF SMILES: THAILAND

Animal & Veterinary Science students Salma Ramirez (above) and Julia Feldman (right) spent two weeks working alongside veterinarians with animals both large and small. The trip was arranged through Loop Abroad which works with animal welfare organizations in other countries.



\*Thanks to our students for providing the photos of their trips





## **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD**

Brett Chandler ('86, agricultural biology) was named the Huntley College of Agriculture's Distinguished Alumnus for 2018.

Since 2001, Chandler has served as president and general manager of Associates Insectary, a grower-owned cooperative in Santa Paula, focused on providing grower-members with premium quality integrated pest management services. In operation since 1928, Associates Insectary is the oldest commercial insectary in the United States.

Chandler and his wife, Coleen, whom he met when both were students at Cal Poly Pomona, have been married for 30 years. They have two sons: Sean, 24, an Air Force Special Operations pilot stationed in Florida and graduate of UC San Diego, and James, 17, a junior at Fillmore High School, who is interested in majoring in engineering at Cal Poly Pomona.



## **LEGAL AGRICULTURE EXPERT**

A Huntley College of Agriculture alumnus participated as an expert in a roundtable discussion of agribusiness and was also named one of the top lawyers in Sacramento.

Dale Stern ('84, agricultural biology) was one of three experts who took part in a Sacramento Business Journal roundtable discussion on May 11 about the challenges, the opportunities, and the future of the multibillion-dollar agricultural industry.

He also was named one of the top lawyers in 2018 in nonprofit organization practice area by Sacramento Magazine. The publication had previously named him a top lawyer in the governmental and legislative affairs practice area in 2016.

Stern is a partner/co-chair of the food and agriculture practice for Downey Brand law firm. He has more than 25 years of experience representing California's agricultural industry, serving as a trusted business and legal advisor to major agriculture producers, processors and retailers throughout California.

He is the chair for the Huntley College of Agriculture's Dean's Advisory Council and the 2010 recipient of the college's Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award.

# ARABIAN DREAM COME TRUE

## *Kelly Murphy Loves Horses*

From a very young age, the Glendale, Ariz., native rode and showed the animals. As a teenager she became active in the Arabian horse community.

During her senior year in high school, she encountered the Cal Poly Pomona equestrian team at the Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show. It was a fateful meeting that determined her college of choice.

"My family thought I was a little crazy for not having a backup plan, but Cal Poly Pomona ended up being the only school I applied to," Murphy said. "At the time, there was a long wait list to be able to keep your personal horse on campus. The joke was that my horse at the time was accepted to Cal Poly before I was!"

Murphy started off as an animal science major with an emphasis in the equine industry with the goal of managing a horse farm. She also rode on the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association team and was part of the barn rider program at the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center and had a horse assigned to her. After finishing her freshman year, Murphy decided to stay in California for the summer, but her parents insisted that she get a job. She applied for a job at Disneyland, not really expecting to get hired. But Murphy wound up working as an attractions hostess in Fantasyland. She liked it so much that she went from seasonal employment, to working weekends, and then full time.

During college, she worked her way up to becoming an attractions trainer and then a working lead at Disney. She changed majors and graduated from Cal Poly Pomona in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in food marketing and agribusiness management. Murphy was then accepted into Disney's management training program. The rest, she said, is history. Murphy has spent the past 15 years working for Disney, including 13 months living and working in China to help open Shanghai Disneyland.

Currently, Murphy works at Disneyland in Anaheim as a guest experience manager for the experience integration team, looking for ways to improve the guest experience by making things in the theme park safer and more efficient. But something was missing. While she was in China, her childhood horse died and her show horse retired. Murphy



*Kelly Murphy riding CP Sorcery*

began looking for a new horse, and one of the places she looked was the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center. "It has always been a dream of mine to own a Cal Poly-bred Arabian. I love the history of the Kellogg Arabians. It also felt like purchasing a Cal Poly horse would help me feel like I was giving back to the university," she said. "Cal Poly Arabians also have a reputation in the Arabian horse industry for being smart, talented horses with incredible personalities."

One of the horses that Murphy considered buying was CP Sorcery. She felt that his name had a Disney ring to it, but she had to meet him before making a decision.

"I walked into Sorcery's stall, and it was like he gave me a hug," she recalled. "He had the sweetest personality. I thought it was nuts to buy a 3-year-old horse with minimal training, but I just had such a good feeling."

Since buying CP Sorcery in 2016, Murphy and professional trainer Tracy Fincher Smith ('04, animal science) have ridden CP Sorcery in numerous equestrian competitions. In the past two years, the horse has won 15 regional championships titles in Southern California, competing in dressage, under saddle, and in hand events. CP Sorcery has competed at the Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show, which is considered the most prominent Arabian horse show, and the Sport Horse Nationals in Idaho in September. At the latter event, the horse took home six titles, including the High Point Junior Horse of Sport Horse Nationals.

"It's been a dream come true," Murphy said.



# Where are they NOW?



## STEFANIE BARTRA

**Hometown:** Diamond Bar, Calif.

**Year Graduated/Major:**  
'09, apparel merchandising and management

**Occupation:**  
Associate Buyer, Max Mara

**What made you choose Cal Poly Pomona?**  
I knew I wanted to study apparel merchandising and Cal Poly was one of the few schools at the time that offered this major, along with a four-year degree.

**How did Cal Poly Pomona prepare you?**  
Cal Poly Pomona gave me hands on experience with projects such as a six-month buying plan, presentations in front of industry panels and executives, and being able to attend the MAGIC fashion trade show.

**What advice would you offer to students today?**  
The retail industry is large, but at the same time very small and connected. Always aim to establish positive relationships with your peers and professors. You never know what contact can take you to the next level, whether it be a job opportunity, promotion, or just a mentor to help you along your path. The number one thing you can do is network. This is what has given me all of my opportunities, and I am grateful and thankful!



## JANET ERICKSON

**Hometown:** Fullerton, Calif.

**Year Graduated/Major:**  
'80, foods and nutrition

**Occupation:**  
Senior Director of Supply Chain Operations, Brinker International, 2013-2017; Executive Vice President of Supply Chain, Del Taco, 1990-2013.

**What made you choose Cal Poly Pomona?**  
My sister went to Cal Poly Pomona in the 70s. I was looking at my sister's course catalog and saw Foods & Nutrition. The classes looked interesting and I liked that there was a lot of science...and I love food. From my sister's experience I knew that Cal Poly Pomona did a lot of labs and experienced-based education, which was appealing.

**How did Cal Poly Pomona prepare you?**  
When I was a senior at Cal Poly Pomona, Denny's restaurants contacted my department and asked for a student to help set up a sensory evaluation program for the company, and I jumped at the opportunity. After graduation, Denny's hired me as a food technologist. I stayed at Denny's for seven years, starting in quality assurance where I used my Cal Poly Pomona education quite a bit.

**What advice would you offer to students today?**  
Network, network, network. Do everything you can to get exposure. Go to conferences and conventions and introduce yourself to people working for companies that look interesting. Ask what it's like to work there and what opportunities exist for people fresh out of college. LinkedIn is a great career networking tool for connecting with experienced people.

# Donor Highlight



## DONATION CREATES CAREER COUNSELOR POSITION

**Richard Fencer** ('67, agronomy) and his wife, Janis, have a vision of helping open students' eyes to the many career opportunities related to agriculture and to provide them with the resources to enhance their leadership skills. Richard Fencer came to Cal Poly Pomona with little background in agriculture, but his on-campus experience paved his career path in agriculture.

The Fencers' donation will partially fund the Fencer Agricultural Career Counselor position within the college. The Cal Poly Pomona Career Center will fund the remaining portion.

In addition, the Fencers' gift enabled Cal Poly Pomona students to travel last academic year to the Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities (HACU) and the National Agri-Marketing Association annual conferences.

Richard Fencer is a longstanding supporter of Cal Poly Pomona and was honored as the Huntley College of Agriculture's alumnus of the year in 2017.

## *Helping Students Get JOBS* The Career Counselor will provide:



*DeVonia Jordan is the new Career Counselor*

**ADVISING** and services to enhance students' career and job search skills, including counseling individually or in group settings on how to research the job market, develop networking opportunities, create effective resumes, and improve interviewing skills;

**INCREASED** internship and employment opportunities by developing and expanding the number of employers with internship and full-time employment for students;

**IMPROVED** employment resources, creating a database of internship opportunities and employment openings for students and alumni to utilize; and

**ASSISTANCE** in enrolling agriculture students in the Career Center's university-wide job preparation software program called Handshake.



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# Events and Dates



# 2018-2019



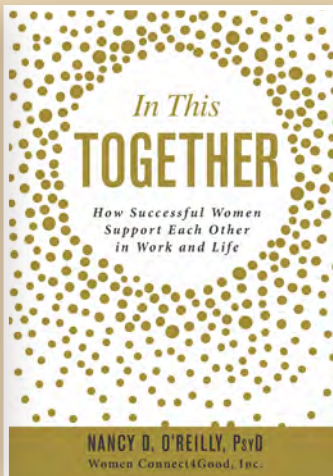
## SUNDAY HORSE SHOWS

First Sunday of every month  
from October through May



## HOLIDAYS ON THE FARM

December 1 & 2, 2018  
AGRIscapes



## BOOK SIGNING

January 29, 2019  
Arabian Horse Center



## AG CAREER DAY

February 7, 2019  
Bronco Student Center



## POLY VIEW/OPEN HOUSE

March 2, 2019  
Buildings 2, 7, and 45



## TOMATOZANIA®

March 8, 9, and 10, 2019  
The Greenhouse



## FARM TO TABLE DINNER

April 27, 2019  
AGRIscapes



## AG COMMENCEMENT

May 18, 2019  
University Quad

*Get the details about all these events and more at*

[www.cpp.edu/agri](http://www.cpp.edu/agri) (click on College Calendar)

Join our email list and get regular news and event updates





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## *Stay in Touch*

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

## *Fun in the Maze*

Two girls have fun trying to navigate the twelve foot tall, huge Corn Maze at the Pumpkin Festival held this October 6 & 7. The Pumpkin Patch, Petting Zoo, Pony Rides, and Hay Rides stayed open the entire month of October to the delight of more than 100,000 visitors!

