

AGRIcolumn

DON B. HUNTLEY COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, CAL POLY POMONA

SPRING 2023



Teaching
Sustainability
for **OUR FUTURE**



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Meet Our New Provost, pg 10

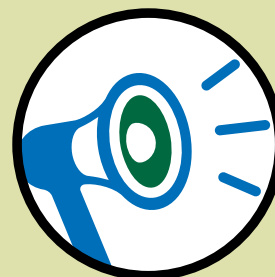
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AGRIcolumn

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Martin F. Sancho-Madriz
Dean (Interim)
Huntley College of Agriculture

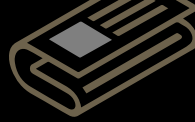
We deeply appreciate the generosity of committed donors last year, willing to support the student experience via essential programs, instructional and research equipment, scholarships, student travel to participate in competitions, and other important priorities.

As we look forward to the Academic Year 2023-2024, we remain excited about our current tenure-line faculty searches throughout our five academic departments bringing in eight new hires joining our faculty in Fall 2023. The new faculty members will be expected to embrace Cal Poly Pomona’s Teacher-Scholar model and participate in research and creative activities, contributing to the collective scholarly work of the Huntley College faculty. The research activities conducted by professors working with undergraduate and graduate students are critical to the mission of Cal Poly Pomona through our learn by doing approach to learning, promoting the sharing of knowledge and collaborations between our institution and industry, fostering creativity and strong analytical skills, preparing students to become tomorrow’s leaders and innovators, moving the State of California and our nation forward and improving people’s lives. It is essential to support the research efforts of new and current faculty hires. I am therefore pleased to announce our newest initiative: the creation of a Student and Faculty Research Fund that will help maximize and expand opportunities for hands-on learning and research throughout the college. Investing in research opportunities today ensures the future of the Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture, our faculty and our students. The enclosed envelope and our Giving web page include the research fund as an option for your support.

May you continue to be inspired as I am by our mission, cultivating success through experiential learning, discovery, and innovation.

Thank you,

Martin F. Sancho-Madriz, Ph.D.



Commencement 2022



The Huntley College of Agriculture returned to the Cal Poly Pomona campus for Commencement for the first time since 2019.

We celebrated 459 undergraduates across eight baccalaureate degree programs and 29 graduate students in two Master

programs, the MS in Agriculture and the MS in International Apparel Management. The ceremony was held May 20 on the university quad.

A.G. Kawamura, an Orange County farmer and former California secretary of food and agriculture, was the guest speaker.

STUDENT *Award* RECIPIENTS



Candace Downing
Animal Science
Julian A. McPhee
Scholar of the Year



Jacqueline Thach
Food Science & Technology
John E. Andrews
Undergraduate Student
Leader of the Year



Irma Villanueva
M.S., International Apparel
Management
John E. Andrews Graduate
Student Leader of the Year



CPP Student Elected to Head National Pre-Vet Organization

Christine Berry is the first Cal Poly Pomona student to be elected president of the American Pre-Veterinary Medical Association (APVMA). The Redlands native, who is president of Cal Poly Pomona's pre-vet club, was elected at the National APVMA Symposium in March 2022 at Kansas State University.

As president, Berry oversees creating agendas for APVMA meetings, finds host schools for future symposia, and will implement a new mentorship program.

The APVMA is a national organization of pre-veterinary students, which promotes and stimulates interest in veterinary medicine, connects pre-veterinary clubs and organizations nationally, and provides resources to students on pursuing the field of veterinary medicine.

Berry plans to attend veterinary school and is interested in practicing large animal medicine or parasitology.



AMM Celebrates 25th

Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters of the Department of Apparel Merchandising and Management (AMM) celebrated the program's 25th anniversary at the Kellogg West Conference Center on April 9.

More than 100 people attended the event, which also featured remarks from Professor Emerita Betty Tracy, one of the program's founders, and Associate Dean Peter Kilduff, the former department chair. Some of the guests included President Soraya Coley and Interim Dean Martin Sancho-Madriz.

In addition, the department recognized emerita faculty, industry advisory board members, and alumni and presented awards and certificates.

Saying Goodbye After 24 Years



If you've read AGRIColumn or the college newsletter, or visited the Pumpkin Festival, the Farm Store, or other college events, you've seen Deanna Stewart's work. She joined the college's development office in January 1999 and became the college's graphic designer the following year.

She is responsible for designing the magazine, flyers, brochures, websites, banners, and whatever else the college needs. But after nearly 24 years, she is retiring in December.

"It has been a pleasure working with Deanna all these years, her creativity, flexibility, team player attitude, cost consciousness, and commitment to the college have been exemplary," Interim Dean Martin Sancho-Madriz said. "All of us who work closely with her will miss her."



Horsehill Vineyards Wins Medals

Cal Poly Pomona's Horsehill Vineyards won silver and bronze medals at the 81st Annual Los Angeles International Wine Competition. The vineyard's 2017 wine took home the bronze medal in the Zinfandel category. The wine also won a silver medal in the Packaging Design: Color & Type category. Honorees in this category were selected for their clean, simple, and striking use of color and typography elements to carry the package design.

Students from the College of Environmental Design competed to create the label used on the Horsehill Vineyard wine.

The award-winning wines were displayed at the LA County Fair in May. More than 1,250 wines from 15 different countries were entered into this year's competition.

Introducing 2018 Red Blend

The Zinfandel grapes used in this red blend were hand-harvested on September 28, 2018, by students, staff, and faculty of the Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture. The label design was created by students and inspired by the Koi Pond located on campus. The Koi on the label is swimming upstream to symbolize the overcoming of obstacles and hardships students experienced during 2020.

Horsehill Vineyards is a partnership by the Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture, The Collins College of Hospitality Management, and South Coast Winery.



Plant Science major
Madalyn Johnson

Pilot Internship Program at Home Depot

Several Cal Poly Pomona plant science students gained valuable experience in a pilot internship program this summer while serving as nursery specialists to Home Depot customers in Southern California.

The students worked in Home Depot garden centers and nurseries, assisting customers with product selection, identifying weeds, diseases, and pests, and answering questions. The program was developed by Signature Retail Services, a national merchandising and fixture installation company that does business with Home Depot.

More than 25 students from five colleges participated in the paid internship program, working at least 24 hours a week. In addition, the students could earn \$250 scholarships for those whose attendance was 90 percent or better.

"It was fun, especially if you like talking about gardening!" said Madalyn Johnson, a plant science major from Fallbrook who participated in the program. "You definitely meet all kinds of people. After a while, you have regulars that come in that want to talk to you all the time."

The program was a resounding success. The stores were happy to have the extra help, but most importantly, the customers were happy: they were only going to stores when the interns were there.

It was so successful that Home Depot will offer it again in the fall, with plans to expand it throughout California and Hawaii next spring and in the South next fall.

For more information regarding career service opportunities, including how to offer internships, contact the Office of Alumni & External Relations at (909) 869-2963 or alumni@cpg.edu.

Academic Competitions

KEEP OUR STUDENTS VERY BUSY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

Students from three Southern California universities participated in the first intercollegiate baking competition hosted by CPP's Food Science Society Club in early April.

Graduate student Dion Chang and undergraduates Brenda Kwong, Alex Mathios, and Elvira Atmadja finished in second place at the Pacific Southwest College Bowl. The event, which was held on April 23 at Cal State Long Beach, is a Jeopardy-style competition where students were quizzed on their knowledge of food science.

Food science and technology students Angel Go, Marisela Robles, and Julia Duddles finished second in the annual American Society of Baking product development competition in March. Students were required to develop a new bakery food product with at least 6 grams of fiber per serving from an innovative source.

Jacqueline Thach ('22, food science and technology) took second place in the Research Chefs Association Food Evolution Competition, which challenges students to create new food products while repurposing byproduct ingredients traditionally considered food waste.

The team of Dion Chang, Jane Zhang, Jacqueline Thach and Christianne Yapor took third place in the Institute of Food Technologists Student Association (IFTSA) MARS Product Development Competition in July. The competition required students to develop a new food idea through marketing and production.

Agribusiness students Megan Davis, Glen Levstick, Eva Viveros, and Rebecca Jurado finished in seventh place at the National Grocers Association student case study competition in February. Participants had to determine the optimal setup for Woodman's Markets, a Midwestern grocery chain, for multiple platform retail sales.

The team of Brenda Kwong, Steven Foo, and Clarissa Artadi took third place in the National Dairy Council product competition in June. Competitors had to make products that were more than 50 percent dairy and high in protein.

Two food science and technology students received honorable mention at the IFTSA Undergraduate Research Competition. Christianne Yapor was honored for her research on avocados to extend their shelf life. Elvis Garcia was honored for his research on pomace which is the leftover of fruit after pressing for juice or oil.

Choyce Brown ('18, apparel merchandising management; '22, M.S. international apparel management) won the Cal Poly Pomona Library Research Award for her work "The North Face and Supply Chain Transparency."

Nathan Ball ('22, apparel merchandising and management) won a scholarship from the California Fashion Foundation for his short essay and a presentation of three garments showing creative usage of textiles and trims.

The IFTSA named Cal Poly Pomona's Food Science Society Club the Chapter of the Year for Support. The award is given to the IFTSA student club that best cultivates an inclusive environment.

Several Cal Poly Pomona students recorded top 10 finishes in individual events at the National Collegiate Landscaping Competition.

Plant science grad student Lillian Wang was part of the winning team in "Cultivate Tomorrow" an innovative competition to promote "cellular agriculture": producing food from cell cultures."

We are very proud of our students who are moving *On to Grad School!*



Cassandra Maya '17
food science and technology
University of Copenhagen
Ph.D. in Lifecourse
Nutrition & Health



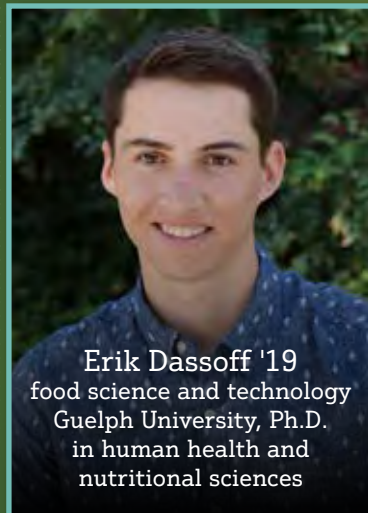
Christianne Yapor '22
food science and technology
Chapman University
master's in food science



Cristal Rivera '16
dietetics
University of Nevada,
Las Vegas dietetic internship



Roberta Bailey '22
animal science
Western University College of
Veterinary Medicine



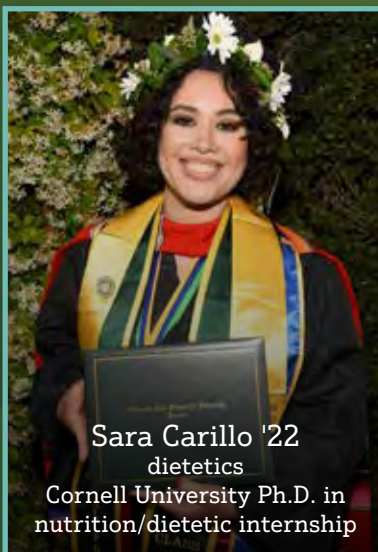
Erik Dassoff '19
food science and technology
Guelph University, Ph.D.
in human health and
nutritional sciences



Gabrielle Nelson '22
animal science
UC Davis School of
Veterinary Medicine



Karena Martin '22
animal science
Royal Veterinary College
(London)

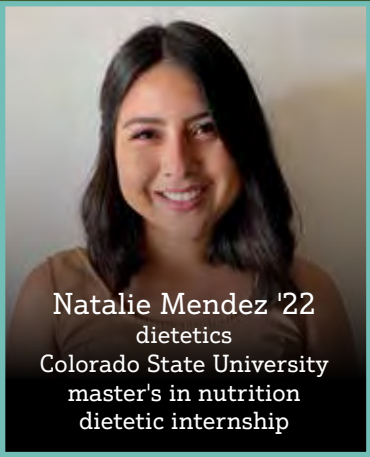


Sara Carillo '22
dietetics
Cornell University Ph.D. in
nutrition/dietetic internship



Jocelyn Chou '22
animal science
Carlson College of Veterinary
Medicine at Oregon State

and also...



Natalie Mendez '22
dietetics
Colorado State University
master's in nutrition
dietetic internship



Viral Shukla '20
food science and technology
Cornell University
Ph.D. in Food Science



Daniela De Leon Rodriguez '22
animal science
Ohio State College of
Veterinary Medicine



Steve Aguilar '22
M.S., AVS
Colorado State University
veterinary school

Sarah Albitar '22 animal science
Tufts University veterinary school

Kaylee Bacani '22 dietetics
dietetic internship program

Camille Bolos '22 animal science
Midwestern College, veterinary school

John Boules '22 animal science
Midwestern College, veterinary school

Seza Boyajian '22 animal science
Western University, veterinary school

Sydney Cook '22 animal science
Midwestern College, veterinary school

Courtney Coppolino '22 animal science
UC Davis, veterinary school

Bryant Diep '22 animal science
Western University, veterinary school

Ana Dominguez '22 animal science
Western University, veterinary school

Jonathon Dy '22 animal science
Carlson College, veterinary school

Martin Estrada '22 animal science
Western University, veterinary school

Julia Feldman '22 animal science
Royal Veterinary College (London)

Sylene Garcia '22 animal science
Midwestern, veterinary school

Cresenta Gutierrez '22 animal science
Ohio State, veterinary school

Viviana Gutierrez '22 animal science
St. George's, veterinary school

Moonhong Kim '22 animal science
Midwestern College, veterinary school

Tiffany Lee '22 animal science
Iowa State, veterinary school

Nathen Lewis '22 animal science
Western University, veterinary school

Bella Lopez-Giron '22 animal science
Midwestern College, veterinary school

Michael Martinez '22 animal science
Colorado State, veterinary school

Kerrissa McDavis '22 animal science
Western University, veterinary school

Andres Munoz '22 animal science
Western University, veterinary school

Jonathan Najera '22 animal science
Western University, veterinary school

Robert Nelson '22 animal science
Midwestern College, veterinary school

Aubree Peterson '22 animal science
Western University, veterinary school

Roberto Ramirez '22 animal science
Western University, veterinary school

Juan Sanchez '22 FST
Cal Poly SLO, MS food science

Quintin Sanchez '22 animal science
St. George's, veterinary school

Camille Weststeyn '22 animal science
Midwestern College, veterinary school

Zachary Winegar '22 animal science
Western University, veterinary school

Christopher Zavala '22 animal science
Ohio State, veterinary school

Jane Zhang '22 FST
CPP MS nutrition & food science

Graduate Degrees Earned



Francisco Gutierrez '17
food science and technology
University of Tennessee
Ph.D. in Food Chemistry

Naveen Hyder '03
horticultural science
Claremont Graduate
University
master's of fine arts



Melissa McCormick '04
animal science
Royal Veterinary
College of London
master's, veterinary
education



Mai Vang '11
AMM
University of Redlands
Ed.D.

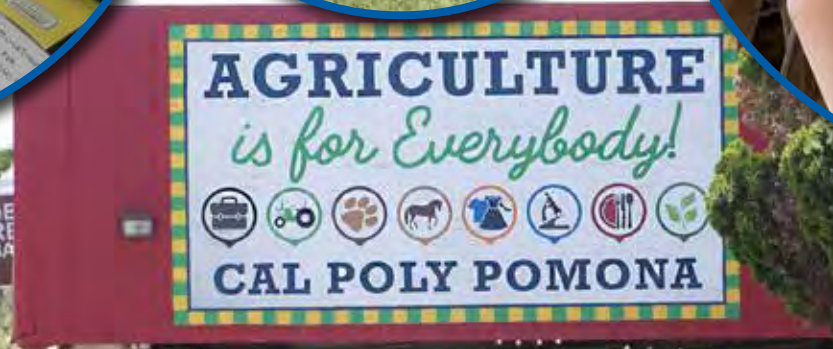


Edna Cebreros '13, dietetics
master's in public health, dietetic internship

Ben Steiner '18, food science & technology
Cornell University, Ph.D in Nutritional Science

also...

MAKING A *Huge* APPEARANCE AT THE *LA County Fair*



Visitors who came to see the animals at the **LA County Fair's Big Red Barn** saw something different from previous years: big banners reading "Cal Poly Pomona" and "Huntley College of Agriculture."



The banners reflected the expanded role the college had at the fair including exhibits featuring all five academic departments, its apiary program, urban and community agriculture, and Discovery Farm.

"We're extremely proud to have an expanded role this year and appreciate the college and university exposure it provided," Interim Dean Martin Sancho-Madriz said. "Thousands of fairgoers were able to learn about our programs and about our learn by doing approach from our students, faculty and staff."

In 2022, the fair was coming off a two-year, COVID-19-imposed hiatus and had a new president and CEO in Walter Marquez, a former Cal Poly Pomona associate vice president of facilities planning and management. During the hiatus, Marquez and organizers decided to make some changes, including moving the fair from September to May, when it is cooler. "We also looked at how to better engage our partners, like Cal Poly Pomona," Marquez said. "With their expertise in agriculture, we couldn't find a better university to expand on educating and entertaining our guests. The LA County Fair looks forward to continuing its partnership with the college".

The college eagerly agreed to the expanded role for the fair's centennial anniversary, but there were challenges. "We had about two months to figure out what we were doing, bring on people from the different departments to help design their exhibits and hire students to staff and build the displays," said Craig Walters, the AGRIsapes outreach director who oversaw the college's participation in the fair. "The fair was open four days a week, 12 hours a day and 24-hour coverage for the animals was needed.


Student workers were able to engage with people and share about what they are learning in their classes. More than 50 students worked with faculty and staff at the college's exhibits.

Fair organizers were very accommodating in providing what we needed, Walters said. "The big thing was they were willing to, in effect, underwrite the work we were doing to add value to the fair," he said.

The public response was extremely positive. "Based on our guest surveys, the farm continued to be one of the top three reasons people come to the Fair," Marquez said. "Besides the petting zoo and the animals in the larger pen, they found the displays informative."

Going forward, the college would like to add more educational and interactive components, such as demonstrations or talks, to engage kids, parents, and other attendees

"Through the Huntley College at the Fair exhibits children of all ages learn about agriculture. We're planting seeds for future Cal Poly Pomona students," Walters said.



**Provost Jennifer Brown
knows the value of**

Asking Questions

As a young woman exploring different career paths, asking questions helped Brown change majors from civil engineering and landscape architecture to choose a major and career in horticulture, consumer behavior and move into academia.

Although an agricultural-related career may seem unusual for someone who grew up on the southside of Chicago, Brown was drawn to horticulture because of the warmth of the industry and the ability to solve real-time problems.

"As I begin to explore an independent study my senior year, I was excited for the possibility to make a difference in the retail nursery and garden center industry," Brown said. "I wanted to help small businesses compete with larger well-known firms. In that process, I also recognized that I loved teaching and service to the community and the horticulture industry. I loved the immediate impact that businesses could use outcomes of my research in real-time."

Today, Brown is asking questions in her new job as the provost and vice president of academic affairs for Cal Poly Pomona. She came to Pomona from UC Riverside, where she served as vice provost and dean for undergraduate education, and a professor in the School of Public Policy.

As provost, Brown is the university's chief academic officer, overseeing nine colleges, the University Library, faculty affairs, academic planning and faculty excellence, enrollment services, research, and the Office of Student Success, Equity and Innovation.

Since starting in April 2022, Brown has spent time exploring the campus, meeting faculty, staff, and students, and asking questions.

"It's important to engage the campus community, to understand the folks within the institution, what we stand for, and the things that are important to the university," she said.

That has included learning more about the Huntley College. She visited the ag exhibits at the LA County Fair in May; she also met with the college's chairs and staff in August and toured the college's facilities and saw newborn piglets at the sheep and swine unit.

Brown was particularly interested to hear about the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center and its history, and the apparel merchandising and management program and its true polytechnic, hands-on nature and proximity to industry.



Photo by student,
Greg Litiatco

Last August Provost Brown visited the animal units.

"The college has a diverse set of departments that have made a great contribution to California and beyond," she said. "It was exciting to see the range of disciplines within the college and the pride shown by our faculty, staff and students."

A key priority for Brown is hiring a new dean for the Huntley College. The university has not filled the position permanently since the departure of Mary Holz-Clause in 2017. She hopes to have a permanent dean by the end of spring semester 2023.

"It's important to examine demonstrated evidence of key traits that are important to the deanship, but also important to hear the articulated vision, and to see demonstrated intentionality in working well with staff and faculty," she said. "Permanent leadership is important for the college to move forward."

Brown also wants to work with the college, its departments, and its faculty to develop a plan for moving forward that will showcase departmental programs.

There are many factors to consider – key trends and challenges facing agriculture, the impact of future enrollment on facilities and space for faculty and staff, how to involve the campus community – but the prospects are exciting, she said.

"What I would ask is that the campus community, alumni and community partners engage with me so we can create a vision together," she said.

The invitation comes with a caveat: as provost, Brown cautioned that she must remain impartial and consider all the colleges and programs on campus – not just agriculture – when it comes to planning and budgeting, despite her horticultural background.

"As provost, I look holistically to provide resources. Ultimately, I want each college to showcase their talents and do what they do best," she said. "You have to operate in a way that is beneficial to the campus."

Brown's priorities as provost also include enhancing student success by removing administrative barriers that may hinder students and ensuring that faculty and staff have opportunities for growth and advancement.

Ultimately, Brown said she hopes her tenure will prove to be innovative addressing regional and grand challenges, with creative partnerships, entrepreneurial activity, and stronger ties to industry.

"If I'm successful, we are a leader within the Cal State system and a model nationally in all facets of social mobility," she said, "showing what a true polytechnic experience is about."

SUSTAINABILITY

Teaching

How will the world's farmers feed earth's growing population?

Agriculture already covers 40 percent of the earth's land and accounts for 80 percent of deforestation, according to Aaron Fox, an associate professor of plant science. Food systems account for about a third of the greenhouse gas emissions, he added.

"We can't keep doing things the way we've been doing them," Fox said. "Where the debate comes in is what we do next."

These challenges are the subject of a sustainable agriculture class that Fox teaches every semester. It's a required course for all plant science students, and an elective for agricultural science, environmental biology, and urban and community agriculture.

Intelligent Discussions

Fox wants his students to be able to talk articulately about controversial agricultural topics, from water usage to GMOs and organic farming.

"Those are the types of questions you get from the general public when you're a graduate of the college of agriculture," he said.

Among the debates is how to improve farming productivity amid water scarcity and climate change.

One approach uses new technologies to increase productivity from existing farmland. For example, the Cal Poly Pomona students and faculty have experimented using drones to monitor crops to increase watering and fertilizing efficiency.

Another approach is what Fox calls "agro-ecological": combining farming and ecology to create resiliency. For example, instead of planting a single crop in a field, farmers could integrate different species to build diversity. At Cal Poly Pomona, coffee and avocado trees are grown together for their mutual benefit.

Fox's class never determines which approach is right: the goal is to prepare students to be arbiters.

The United Nations estimates that the earth will add another 2 billion people over the next 30 years. But clearing more land for farming may no longer be an option.

"There needs to be someone who can bring the two sides together, find compromise, find resolutions, find ways of moving forward," he added. "So, I never given them an 'answer.' I just want to make sure they understand the issues."

Alumnus Michael Zullo ('22, plant science) found the debates most interesting.

"The whole class debating is a great way to appreciate the challenges policy makers face," said Zullo, who aims to become an agricultural pest advisor.

Measuring Sustainability

The class also includes lab work measuring the sustainability of different farming practices.

Students learn how to assess the physical, chemical, and biological properties of soil to help develop fertilizer budgets.

They also audit irrigation systems for efficiency so farmers can budget their water resources better.

Each assessment provides information that can lead to some hard choices. Some parts of the field may require more fertilizer or water, which could lead farmers to apply too much.

"The fertilizer excess can turn into a pollution problem," Fox said. "It's also a cost, and that's a big part of sustainability is the economic portion of it."

Different Techniques

One possible solution is using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to apply fertilizer based on need on different parts of a field, instead of using one rate all over.

"The issue is how much that technology costs and does that make it accessible to everybody?" Fox said. "There are farmers I've worked with in developing countries who don't even have the resources to buy fertilizer, let alone a GPS-driven tractor and a couple of drones."

Students also learn about other techniques, like composting at the Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies.



Students in Prof. Aaron Fox's class learn about composting

Composting recycles those green waste and food scraps, using them to provide nutrients and create healthier soil. It also sequesters carbon in the soil.

"We can grow our food in such a way that we're taking carbon out of the atmosphere and storing it biologically in the soil," Fox said.

Real World Applications

Rose Olivas ('01, microbiology; '22, M.S. agriculture, plant science option) uses what she's learned from the class in her job with the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Cooperative Extension.

Olivas advises small farmers in Riverside and San Bernardino counties, especially those who are underserved and disadvantaged. Many are struggling to keep their business alive and thriving, she said.

"In my job today, I am able to see what is available to a farmer financially, environmentally, and socially, and advise them according to what they can afford in those three capacities," Olivas said.

"The topics I learned in sustainable agriculture class, such as water sourcing, crop production, meat processing, fertilizer usage, pesticide, herbicide usage and much more have aided me in discussions with small-scale farmers," she said.

Any solutions must address the "triple bottom line": people, planet, and profits, Zullo said.

"Only when we account for these three factors will we have a realistic framework for sustainability," he said.



A drone is used to survey the campus farms

Continued . . .

Sustainability

The Agribusiness Way

If you were a farmer, how would you like to be able to grow vegetable crops year-round using a tenth of the water it would take using traditional agricultural methods?

That's what graduate student Tim Rice and Associate Professor Steve Archambault are doing with an aquaponics system deep inside the greenhouses at AGRIScapes.

Aquaponics combines fish farming with growing plants in water instead of soil. Water from fish tanks is filtered and circulated through to plants embedded in a special grow table.

"The nutrients come from the fish, but it primarily comes from their liquid waste," said Rice, who is pursuing his master's degree in agriculture. "That gets broken down a lot more easily for the plants to uptake."

It's just one of the research projects in the Huntley College of Agriculture looking at how to make agriculture more sustainable.

The system consists of two 8-feet by 30-feet grow beds and three, 450-gallon tanks that hold more than 265 Mozambique tilapia.

"It's a hardy fish that can stand high temperatures," said Archambault, a faculty member in the Department of Agribusiness and Food Industry Management/ Agricultural Science. "They're a little more sensitive on the cold side, but we're still warm enough here."

Already, the system produces lettuce, bok choy, chard, spinach, kale, basil and cilantro that is sold in the Cal Poly Pomona Farm Store and served at former ag student Cat Castaneda's Native Fields restaurant in Walnut. Another burger restaurant is looking at buying lettuce from the aquaponics system, Rice added.

"I think we've proved it's a viable business concept," Archambault said.

Advantages of Aquaponics

- 1** It takes less time and water to grow produce. Growing lettuce in the aquaponics system uses one-tenth the water of traditional farming, Rice said. "Traditionally, it takes 52 days to grow a head of lettuce. I've been doing mine in 35," he added.
- 2** You can grow all year round. The greenhouse is a climate-controlled environment with fewer pest problems.
- 3** It doesn't require as much maintenance. Rice estimates the system requires about five hours of work a week, feeding the fish, emptying the filter, and planting seeds and transplanting.
- 4** Produce flavor tends to be better. Urban growers can provide restaurants fresher produce than providers who transport theirs from distant fields.
- 5** Growers can harvest the fish for food too. It takes about 10 months for the fish to grow big enough for harvesting, Archambault said. "You have to have a certain license in California to sell them ... (but) we're not producing huge volumes where it makes sense," he added.



Student, Tim Rice, checks on the aquaponic system in the campus greenhouse

Challenges

Money is the biggest barrier to entry: it takes a lot to get an aquaponics operation going.

Rice, who plans to start his own aquaponics business (see sidebar), estimates that it would take \$500,000 to set up a two-man, 10,000-square-foot growing operation.

"After two years, it would become profitable, so we would pay back our initial investment," he said. "Then two years after that we could look at expanding and doubling our size if we are ready to move in that direction."

Setting up an aquaponics system also can take longer than planting a field in traditional farming, Archambault added.

In addition, aquaponics isn't ideal for all crops. Grain crops need vast amounts to be profitable, and aquaponics is too costly per square foot, while root crops are difficult because the roots can rot with prolonged water exposure, Rice said.

Research

Archambault is interested in researching the economics of aquaponics and how to make it as efficient as possible.

For example, they are exploring composting the solid fish waste that is filtered from the system so that it can be converted into more nutrients for the plants.

Another angle is experimenting giving the fish different diets and see what kind of plant growth they get, Archambault said.

Currently, Rice uses commercial fish feed. But Archambault says they could feed leftover lettuce to black soldier fly larvae, which they could use to feed the fish and help close the loop in the system.

"That's kind of our next step," he said.

Who is *Tim Rice*?



From a young age, Tim Rice ('20, agribusiness and food industry management; '23, M.S., agriculture) was interested in gardening.

But there was just one problem: sometimes he would forget to water his plants and they would die.

While searching online several years ago for information on renewable energy sources, Rice discovered a possible solution: an aquaponics system - no watering required. A week later, Rice had built his own system.

"I got my system built for about \$200 and then \$100 or so for fish, seed, and bugs, and I was going," he said.

Rice brought his aquaponics passion to Cal Poly Pomona. On Rice's first day on campus, he bumped into Associate Professor Steve Archambault - who he didn't know from Adam - and said, "I want to start an aquaponics system. Who do I talk to?"

"Come back in a week so that we're actually established and then we can talk," Archambault replied.

Rice had no idea that Archambault had worked in aquaculture and knew aquaponics. From there, Rice and another student built the campus aquaponics system under Archambault's supervision.

Rice continues to run his own aquaponics system at his Santa Ana home. It consists of three 8-foot by 4-foot grow beds and a 375-gallon fish tank. (In contrast, the campus system has two 8-foot by 30-foot grow beds and three 450-gallon fish tanks.) He grows carrots, beets, onions, tomatoes, broccoli, cucumbers, pumpkins, celery, and herbs.

After he finishes his master's degree, Rice wants to start his own indoor farm providing produce to restaurants.

"But instead of harvesting them where they go bad sitting in a fridge, I want to provide it to them still growing, so they can harvest as they're ready to use it and then offer them service when they need to restock," he said. "It's as fresh as possible."

Continued ...

Teaching Sustainability in the Apparel Industry

Testing a leather substitute made of cactus. Designing fashion lines with organic fibers. Minimizing waste during apparel production. Transparent marketing.

Cal Poly Pomona faculty and students are exploring solutions to the sustainability challenges facing the apparel industry, which range from using large quantities of water during the dyeing process to the waste it generates.

Newly hired Assistant Professor Cindy Cordoba Arroyo's research work is in sustainability, while Professor Chitra Dabas is supervising a graduate student researching consumer perceptions of post-consumer textile waste and Assistant Professor Helen Trejo has supervised undergraduate and graduate students in research projects that look at possible solutions.

Sydney Williams, a kinesiology student minoring in apparel merchandising and management, studied the mechanical properties of a leather alternative that uses – of all things – cactus.

"Planting cactus is sustainable. Cactus is a carbon dioxide absorber," she said. "There is minimal water that they use. They don't use any pesticides or herbicides."

In addition, farmers don't damage the plant when they harvest cactus leaves: they take what they need and allow the plant to regenerate itself, Williams said.

Leather's Environmental Impact

Traditional leather, however, is not as sustainable. Leather is a by-product of the meat industry and processing leather for apparel and footwear requires the use of harsh chemicals and lots of energy, she said.

Leather also takes a long time to break down in landfills – possibly hundreds of years, Williams added.

Some fashion brands have begun using cactus leather as an alternative for handbags and even car interiors. Williams' research explored the tensile strength, elongation properties, and tear strength of cactus leather

from Desserto, the company that developed the cactus leather and is based in Mexico.

If cactus leather has a drawback, it has a shorter service life and it's more expensive currently, she said.

Williams decided to minor in apparel merchandising and management because she noticed during a physical therapy internship that apparel and footwear had a significant impact on patient's movement and mechanics.

"I got kind of encouraged to look more at the footwear industry and the different sciences they use to develop their products," she said. "I thought it would be good to get an AMM minor to get exposed to that industry."

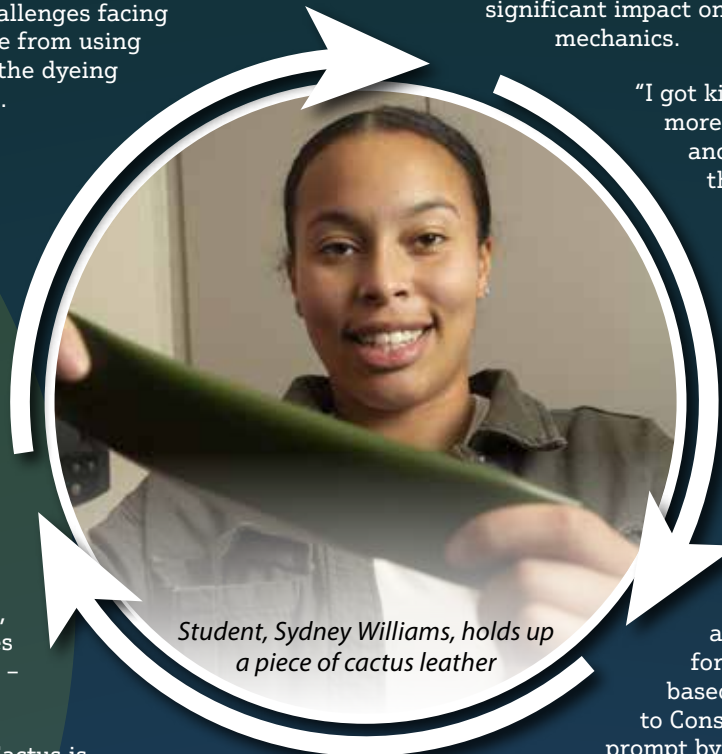
Natural, Organic Fibers

Meanwhile, second-year AMM student Kalina Rivera, another of Trejo's students, was part of team that proposed a sustainable fashion line for adventurous travelers based on an industry Concept to Consumer Design Competition prompt by the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC).

"I think once everyone starts trying to be more sustainable, and using a minimal carbon footprint, we can make an impact in the industry," Rivera said.

The team proposed to use recycled polyester or organic hemp and bamboo for the apparel – with the organic items grown without pesticides and using less water.

The students presented their project during the Huntley College of Agriculture's Student Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities (RSCA) Showcase last spring.



Student, Sydney Williams, holds up a piece of cactus leather

“Zero Waste”

Jennifer Hernandez ('18, apparel merchandising and management) researched “zero waste” strategies for her master’s thesis. She was intrigued by the concept after learning about it from Trejo and Associate Professor Seoha Min.

“Working in the industry for many years, I noticed a lot of waste production during the manufacturing process,” Hernandez said.

This includes fabric scraps left over from the cutting process and wastewater produced during dyeing. New technologies can help from digital printing which uses less water than traditional methods to trying digital patterns on a 3D avatar without needing to create physical samples, Hernandez said.

In addition, new production practices like zero-waste patternmaking and recycling fabric scraps to use for other products can reduce waste, she said.

“For zero waste to fully be implemented, everyone (in the supply chain) must be taught these practices to collaborate with each other and use them. Since my ultimate goal is to teach, I am hoping I can be the one to teach the future apparel design students about the importance of zero waste and sustainable practices,” Hernandez said.

“Transparent Marketing”

Choyce Brown, another master’s student, chose to research “transparent marketing” of sustainable apparel by manufacturers.

“The transparent aspect is in the legitimacy of the claims and whether the consumer can see proof,” she said. “Consumers want to trust retailers as being open and honest regarding their company processes.”

Currently, there are no U.S. regulations against “greenwashing” or deceptive advertising using false claims of sustainability, Brown said.

The graduate student identified some best practices in marketing sustainable products and created a framework for fashion brands that want to become more transparent and engage with consumers.

“What they say matters, and there could be a way to implement a measure so that everyone is happy,” she said.

Cal Poly Pomona Receives \$18.5 Million for Ag Facilities/Equipment

The funding will support state-of-the-art facilities and equipment that give students and faculty new opportunities for research in climate-smart agriculture.

During the budget process, Cal Poly Pomona proposed three climate-smart agriculture projects:

- An apiary lab to find solutions to mitigate climate change impacts on declining bee populations, which affects food production.
- Agricultural equipment to provide students with access to additional state-of-the-art tools, combined with drones and sensors, will allow them to increase productivity and reduce water, pesticide, and fertilizer use.
- A processing lab to help meet increasing demand for plant-based protein products, which can decrease meat production and its associated greenhouse gas emissions.

These projects are currently under review for cost and feasibility.

CPP Gets \$300K for Climate Change Research on California Crops

The grant comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture. It will fund a three-year project at Cal Poly Pomona that will help California farmers prepare for climate change.

Geography Professor Gabriel Granco, the lead investigator, said the project will explore the suitability of different regions for farming. Priti Saxena, assistant professor of plant science, is one of the researchers.

The research will draw from aerospace engineering, computer science, geography, and plant science to integrate machine learning, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and geographic information systems. Researchers will develop agricultural suitability models and web maps that farmers can use for decision-making under current and future climate conditions.

Up to 24 students will be hired to work on UAV flight plans; geospatial data analysis; and agronomical measurements.

Researchers will collect data from Spadra Farm, university citrus groves and organic tomato fields, and Huntley Vineyard.

Annual *Award* Recipients



Staff of the Year

Beef Unit Manager Efrain Loera ('18, animal science) was named the college's Staff of the Year



Teacher of the Year

Animal and Veterinary Science Lecturer Andrea Watson ('19, M.S., agriculture – animal science option) was named the college's Teacher of the Year



Mack H. Kennington Advisor of the Year

Associate Professor Olive Li from the Department of Nutrition and Food Science was named the Mack H. Kennington Advisor of the Year for the college.

Faculty *Accomplishment* Highlights

Nutrition and Food Science Assistant Professor **Xu (Victor) Yang** will receive \$200,000 in federal grant funding to research antibiotic-resistant bacteria in fresh produce.

Seoha Min, an associate professor of apparel merchandising and management, was part a research team that compared mask-wearing behavior during COVID-19 between South Korea and the United States. The Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal published the resulting paper and choosing it as its best paper in the apparel, textiles, and merchandising category and the overall best in 2021.

The California State University's Creating Responsive Equitable, Active Teaching and Engagement Awards Program (CREATE) will provide \$48,000 toward the proposal developed by Assistant Professors **Helen Trejo** and **Claire Whang** and Lecturer **J.C. Cañedo**.

Ron Heimler, an apparel merchandising and management lecturer, received the 2022 Assessment Revolutionary Award from the university Office of Assessment and Program Award. Heimler was chosen for his work creating an innovative program "The Fearless Classroom" that improves the learning environment for students across campus.

Associate Professor **Joanne Sohn** was selected for the Donald G. Low-California Veterinary Medical Association Practitioner Fellowship program, which helps California veterinarians like Sohn further their knowledge and experience. She also was chosen for the LEAD21 "Leadership for the 21st Century" program.

Associate Professor **Olive Li** (Nutrition and Food Science), Assistant Professor **Helen Trejo** (Apparel Merchandising and Management), Assistant Professor **Xu Yang** (Nutrition and Food Science), and Lecturer **Holly Greene** (Animal and Veterinary Science) were recognized by the university's Faculty Mentor STARS program for mentoring a "Research Distinction" student.

Muditha Senanayake, professor and chair of the Department of Apparel Merchandising and Management, also was chosen for the LEAD21 "Leadership for the 21st Century" program. The program provides leadership development for faculty from Non-Land-Grant and Renewable Resources Universities (NARRU) and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HIS) like Cal Poly Pomona.

New Faces



Dyandra Brown
Lecturer
Apparel Merchandising
and Management



Sophia Gaitan
Sheep and Swine Unit Manager
Animal and Veterinary Science



Joanne O'Sullivan
Lecturer
Plant Sciences



Cheyenne Thayer '22
Student Activities Coordinator
WK Kellogg Arabian Horse Center



Cindy Cordoba
Assistant Professor
Apparel Merchandising
and Management



Rebecca Keong
Financial Analyst
Dean's Office



Erika Soares
Admin Support Coordinator
Dean's Office

Retirements

Marybelle Foster retired as an administrative support coordinator in the dean's office. She had worked at Cal Poly Pomona since 2007.

Lola Culotti retired as an administrative analyst in the dean's office. She joined the college in 2020 after spending 12 years on campus with the Center for Advancement of Faculty Excellence and the Academic Research and Resources Office.

Mark Haag is retiring as a lecturer in the Department of Animal and Veterinary Science. He oversaw the college beekeeping program, offering workshops to the public and creating an on-campus apiary.

Ron Heimler retired after 16 years as a lecturer in the Department of Apparel Merchandising and Management.

Carla Matus retired after 10 years as a lecturer in the Department of Apparel Merchandising and Management.

Promotions

Peter Kilduff was named the college's associate dean after serving in that role on an interim basis for five years.



Anna Soper was promoted to associate professor in the Department of Plant Science.



Eileen Cullen is the new chair of the Department of Plant Science.



Chitra Dabas was promoted to professor in the Department of Apparel Merchandising and Management.



Saamee Lyu was promoted to associate professor in the Department of Apparel Merchandising and Management.



Allen Christensen, who was dean of the College of Agriculture from 1980 to 1994, died Sept. 8. He was 87.

As dean, Christensen served on the Consortium for International Development's board of trustees and the Agency for International Development's Joint Committee for Agricultural Research and Development. During his tenure, the Equine Research Center was established, and the apparel merchandising and management and animal health science majors were developed and approved.

Christensen was hired to teach animal science in 1964. He also was the livestock judging coach, managed the poultry unit and developed the college's vocational agricultural teaching program.

He served as campus coordinator for the California Agricultural Leadership Program for mid-career growers, farmers, ranchers, and others.

Christensen was acting provost and academic vice president from 1985-1987 and served on the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges' Board of Agriculture and the California State Board of Food and Agriculture.



Jim Hicks, a longtime supporter of agricultural education, died on Sept. 13. He was 83.

An agricultural businessman, Hicks served on the board of the California Ag in the Classroom program, which educates Californians – and schoolchildren in particular – on agriculture and food production.

He also provided scholarships for Cal Poly Pomona agriculture students.

For his stalwart support for agricultural education, the College of Agriculture presented Hicks with its first Agricultural Achievement Award in 2015. The award was subsequently named in Hicks' honor.

In 2016, Hicks and his wife, Neta, donated \$800,000 to expand educational outreach programs at AGRIsapes and create an endowment to support plant science and agribusiness students.

At the time, it was the largest single gift ever given to the college.

Jim and Neta Hicks are members of the Founders' Society, which consists of donors who have contributed lifetime gifts of \$250,000 or more to Cal Poly Pomona.

Edison Cabacungan, a professor emeritus and former longtime chair of the then-Department of Food Marketing and Agribusiness Management/Agricultural Education, died Oct. 17. He was 85.

Born in the Philippines on Dec. 15, 1936, Cabacungan earned his bachelor's degree from Central Luzon State University and his master's degree and doctorate from Virginia Tech.

Cabacungan came to Cal Poly Pomona in 1973 to teach agricultural business management. He was department chair from 1990 through 2000.

He entered the Faculty Early Retirement Program in December 2001.

Cabacungan, and his wife Nenita, a professor emerita in nutrition and food science, established a scholarship endowment to assist agribusiness students; the fund honored a former editor of the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, who helped Cabacungan attend college.

Donations can be made to the Drs. Edison and Nenita Cabacungan Scholarship Endowment Fund, c/o the Cal Poly Pomona Philanthropic Foundation, P.O. Box 3121, Pomona, CA 91769.





The W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center named a foal after the late **Lea Dopson**, dean of The Collins College of Hospitality Management.

Dopson passed away unexpectedly at her Upland home in April. She spent more than 15 years at The Collins College of Hospitality Management as a faculty member and then dean.

Naming the foal was the idea of Diane Gonzalez, the interim director of academic affairs business operations for the Colleges of Science and Engineering.

The foal's registered name is "CP Classie Lea".



Nicole Killigrew, was a Cal Poly Pomona animal science major who once worked with elephants and other animals in Thailand. She died June 14 after battling cancer at the age of 29.

Killigrew spent the summer of 2015 in Thailand with Loop Abroad, a Boston-based program that gives students opportunities to explore global issues and careers in conservation. She spent a week assisting veterinarians at a dog shelter in Chiang Mai.

The team then spent one week at the Elephant Nature Park in northern Thailand to work with the animals and learn about animal rescue and conservation. The park has more than 60 elephants who were rescued from trekking, logging or forced breeding programs.

Killigrew also was a member of the Cal Poly Pomona Bronco women's soccer team in 2012 and 2013.



Sharon Roth, a former longtime administrative support coordinator in the dean's office, died Nov. 12, 2022 at the age of 73.

Roth joined the College of Agriculture in 2000. During her tenure, she was responsible for planning the college's 70th anniversary celebration; was the college's disaster preparedness coordinator and commencement coordinator; and served on college safety and web committees. She also served on the university's strategic planning committee and the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation board of directors and as president of the Staff Council.

For her service, Roth was selected for the university's Outstanding Staff Award in 2003 and the college's 2010-11 Staff of the Year Award.

She retired from Cal Poly Pomona in December 2012.

Roth was preceded in death by two children, Michael and Lindsay. She is survived by her husband of 44 years, Brett Roth, and her grandchildren, Joseph and Elena.

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Join Now!



Food Service Supply Chain Consultant Named *Alumna of the Year*

The Cal Poly Pomona Alumni Association recognized Janet Erickson ('80 foods and nutrition) as the college's 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.

Erickson owns a food supply chain consulting firm. She previously served as a senior director of supply chain operation for Brinker International in the Dallas/Fort Worth Area, executive vice president of supply chain for Del Taco in Orange County, and manager for contract purchasing for Carl Karcher Enterprises.

Erickson was honored during the annual Alumni Awards Gala on April 30 at the Historic Horse Stables on the Cal Poly Pomona campus.

Janet will soon be joining the Huntley College Board of Advisors (HCBA).

Your Cal Poly Pomona Alumni Association connects over 149,000 alumni from all over the world. It is a great way to engage, network, and share your Bronco pride!



For more information on how to join the Alumni Association and the **Huntley College Alumni Chapter**, contact the Alumni Office at (909) 869-2963 or alumni@cpp.edu.





Tucker is the New Senior DOD

Patricia Tucker is the new senior director of development for the Huntley College. She takes the place of Pam Jones-Tintle, who was promoted. Tucker comes to Cal Poly Pomona from the University of Southern California, where she was executive director of the USC Black Alumni Association.

She has extensive experience in the corporate and higher education worlds. She was a regional vice president of sales for AT&T Corp., overseeing both sales and marketing operations, and director of development for the Viterbi School of Engineering at the University of Southern California. She also was a director of development for the University of La Verne and regional director of fundraising and major gift officer for The Hunger Project.

She holds a doctorate in educational and organizational leadership from the University of La Verne and an MBA from Pepperdine Graziadio Business School.

Tucker replaces Pamela Jones-Tintle, who was promoted to Cal Poly Pomona's executive director of development. Pam now oversees fundraising staff for various colleges—Huntley; Environmental and Design; Letters, Arts, & Social Sciences; Education & Integrative Studies—as well as Student Affairs and Athletics programs. In addition, Jones-Tintle will continue her work as the lead fundraiser for the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center.

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Guests enjoyed good food, libations, and roaming around the grounds at the first Pumpkin Fest Preview Night Fundraiser, September 30