

AgriColumn

magazine

Fall/Winter 2007



Exciting *Careers* In Agriculture





Photo by Brandon Tan

Dr. Donald Straney, Interim Dean

The College Welcomes Dr. Donald O. Straney

Last June, faculty, staff and students welcomed Dr. Donald O. Straney into the College as their Interim Dean. Dr. Straney, who is also the Dean, College of Science, was appointed to the post following the departure of Dr. Wayne Bidlack who returned to the classroom during this academic year.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to say “Hello” as the new Interim Dean of the College of Agriculture. I am learning a lot about the important contributions made by this college to the University and to the community, and I have enjoyed the opportunity to get better acquainted with the faculty, staff and students who are its driving force.

My background is in biology. I spent many years studying the evolution of bats and ants in the tropics. For 23 years, I served as a professor and administrator at Michigan State University; from that experience at a land grant university, I know what an important role a college of agriculture can play in the life of a university.

This year the faculty and staff will be updating the College strategic plan and restating our goals for the next 5-10 years. This comes at a good time because the University is examining models for restructuring colleges, and you may get wind of discussions on campus regarding the future role of agriculture. You can be assured that agriculture will remain a central and important part of Cal Poly Pomona. By the end of the year, we will be able to share with you our vision for the future and how we plan to implement it.

The articles in this issue of AgriColumn are but a small sampling of the accomplishments of our faculty, staff and students this past academic year. I wish there was room, for example, to feature all of the funded research projects (totaling over \$2.6 million) conducted by our faculty and students, or the conferences and workshops sponsored by our college, departments and centers—all of which enhance the education of our students and benefit the community and industry. I am very proud of how hard our faculty and staff are working to understand agriculture in California, and improve the health of the agriculture sector of our economy.

I hope you enjoy the highlights of the past academic year as presented in this issue of AgriColumn. On behalf of the College I want to thank our readers, alumni and industry colleagues for your continued support and welcome your input as the College plans for the future.

Donald O. Straney

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Photos by Tom Zasadzinsky



Michelle Moyer Accepts New Position

After three years as the College of Agriculture's Director of Development, Michelle Moyer accepted a position last July with University Advancement as their Director of Planned Giving.

"When she joined us in May 2004, Michelle brought with her an excellent capability built upon her experiences at Casa Colina in Pomona and at Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center. She was very eager, hard working and dedicated to the many needs we had to attract monies and enhance the infrastructure for the College," said former Dean, Dr. Wayne Bidlack. According to Prof. Dan Hostetler, Chair, Plant Science Department, "Without Michelle's help, several of our projects would never have gotten off the ground. She was instrumental in securing our partnership with Weeks Roses, raising funds for our new greenhouses, and in getting several scholarships."

Michelle played a major role in obtaining a \$5 million grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, \$2 million of which is a lead gift for the new W. K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Library and the remaining \$3 has been endowed for the care and maintenance of the W. K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center.

The projects above are but a small sampling of the many Michele worked on for the benefit of the College of Agriculture. We are sorry to lose this skilled professional. "She was always a pleasure to work with, . . . always professional and demonstrated her skills with enthusiasm and patience," said Dr. Bidlack. "She immediately became one of the Ag-family and will always remain one."



Cal Poly Pomona Hosts California State Board of Food and Agriculture

Future technology for agriculture and environmentally controlled agriculture production were the main topics at a meeting of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture held at Cal Poly Pomona on June 26-27. Former Dean of the College of Agriculture and a member of the 15-member board, Dr. Wayne R. Bidlack, served as host and planned the two-day event. Secretary of Agriculture, A.G. Kawamura, addressed the gathering: "Promoting research and encouraging innovation is a necessary ingredient for agricultural growth in the future. This session gives us an opportunity to ensure that California's agriculture research needs are addressed as we call for a significant investment increase in this important field in the 2007 Farm Bill."

Dr. Bidlack reinforced the Secretary's call for improved technology, noting the challenges to California agriculture—rapid population growth, loss of land to development, legislative and environmental controls, water availability, and the cost of transportation. He introduced presentations by academics and industry professionals which explored "improved applications of existing technology, new insights to production under controlled environments, the means to enhance nutritional quality, and, importantly, targeted population food delivery."

Presentations by Cal Poly Pomona professors Drs. Michael Reibel, Sowyma Mitra, and Doug Lewis along with alumnus Bo Shropshire, a pest Control Advisor for 35 years who works for Helena Chemical in Browley, CA, addressed new applications of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS). Each described how this technology could be used to help plan crop utilization, improve yields by accurate application of fertilizers and pesticides, provide access to fresh fruits and vegetables to low income neighborhoods in Los Angeles, and pinpoint/assess soil contamination in urban environments.

Dr. Dickson Despommier, professor of public health and microbiology at Columbia University in New York City, and Dr. Gene Giacomelli, professor and Director of the Controlled Environment Agriculture Center (CEAC) at the University of Arizona, Tucson, tackled the problem of how to produce fresh fruits and vegetables nearer to urban centers of high population density. According to Dr. Despommier and his students, "Vertical Farms" many stories high could be situated in the heart of the world's urban centers and offer the promise of urban renewal, sustainable production of a safe and varied food supply (year-round), and the eventual repair of ecosystems that have been sacrificed for horizontal farming. Dr. Giacomelli proposed controlled environment agriculture, an integrated science and engineering-based approach to establish the most favorable environmental conditions for plant productivity while optimizing resources.

Agriculture can provide foods that contain higher levels of specific nutrients for selection by individuals to enhance dietary needs and diminish chronic disease expression. Cal Poly Pomona alumnus, Dr. Martin Lemmon, technical Resources Manager for Monsanto, and CPP professors Drs. David Still and Marie Caudill reviewed the advantages of biotechnology. Dr. Still described his research which uses genomic, molecular and traditional approaches to improve lettuce cultivars. Dr. Caudill, a major participant in the field of human nutrigenomics, uses controlled feeding studies in her research program aimed at providing data that will aid in the customizing of dietary recommendations by genotype.

California's State Board of Food and Agriculture advises the governor and the Secretary of Food and Agriculture on agricultural issues and consumer needs. Members are appointed by the Governor. Meetings are held about once a month and are open to the public.



Dr. David Still



Dr. Michael Reibel



Dr. Sowyma Mitra

1st Annual Tractor & Rod Show

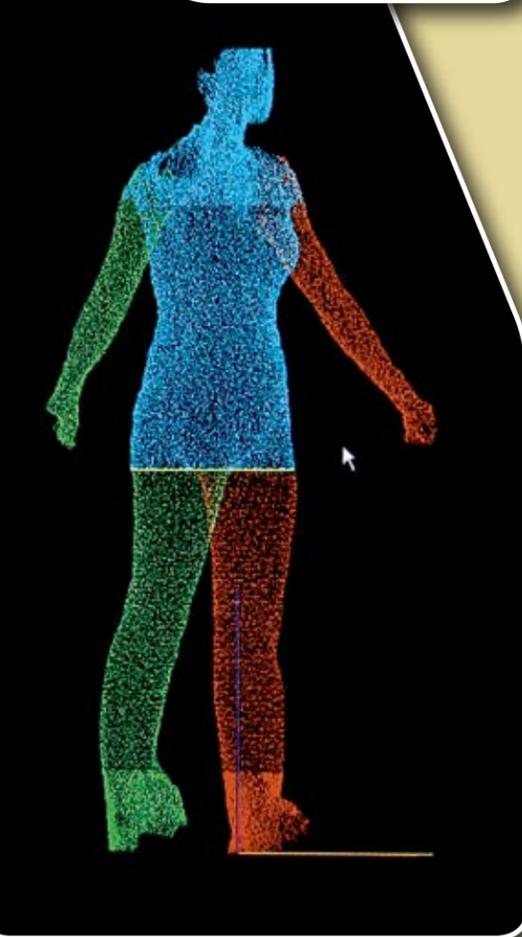
Over 20 classic cars and hot rods were center stage alongside vintage and modern tractors for the Farm Store's 1st Annual Tractor & Rod Show held on Saturday, May 12. Billy Bronco and Tony the Tiger mingled with the crowd throughout the day and posed for numerous photos with the adults and children who were there to enjoy the festivities which included tractor rides and demonstrations, horse rides, petting zoo, and picking strawberries. According to Prof. Dan Hostetler, Chair of the Plant Science Department and the Show's originator, "The tractor rides were a big hit and ran all day long." With oldies and hot rod tunes by D.J. Havoc

Blake Piña sits atop one of the tractors on display at the Rod and Tractor Show.

playing in the background, visitors cruised through the display of classic cars and hot rods, bought Cal Poly grown produce at the Farm Store, and enjoyed tacos and root beer floats provided by College of Agriculture clubs. Cal Poly Pomona faculty, staff, students, and alumni, in particular, were invited to showcase their vehicles and many responded. Among them were Plant Science student, Alfred Garcia, who displayed his powder blue 1948 Chevrolet Fleetmaster Cabriolet, and FMAM major, Jamie Costanza and her father who own a black 1935 Chevrolet Master.

A family event centered around the Farm Store, it was a tremendous success, bringing 300-400 people to the campus. Due to the overwhelming response and the encouragement of visitors and those who participated in the car show, Dan hopes to make the Tractor & Rod Show a Cal Poly tradition with more to offer in the way of classic cars, other exhibits and fun activities for families in the surrounding communities.





AMM's Spring Symposium Focuses On "Fast Fashion"

In response to the impatience of consumers, manufacturers like Dell and Nissan have learned how to make their products available to consumers at a much faster rate. The retail fashion industry needs to follow suit, according to Mr. Ken Watson of London-based researcher, Industry Forum Services, who spoke at the first Cal Poly Spring Symposium sponsored by the Apparel Merchandising and Management Department on May 31. He described a process by which designs are based on fabrics secured—usually at a bargain price—which has been used successfully by retailers in Europe. Typically, these businesses downplay advertising and do little in the way of research and development, depending on contracted celebrities and word of mouth to promote their lines.

Cal Poly Pomona First to Have Bodyscanning Technology with "Fast Fashion" Applications:

Mass customization, which addresses sizing issues, is another approach to improving the efficiency of apparel manufacturing. Dr. Muditha Senanayake, one of the newest members of the Apparel Merchandising & Management (AMM) Department, told symposium participants that one out of three apparel purchases is returned due, primarily, to sizing issues. Last spring, Cal Poly Pomona became the first University in California to have bodyscanning technology with the purchase of a 3D body scanner by the AMM Department. This impressive piece of equipment, manufactured by (TC)², is capable of scanning the whole body in seconds and rapidly producing a true-to-scale 3D body model. Exposure to this state-of-the-art technology will not only enhance classroom instruction, but will provide research opportunities for both faculty and students. Applications include custom fitting apparel, sizing surveys, and apparel sizing standards development. Outside the apparel industry, this technology can also be used for animation and graphics, health and fitness management, medical, and computer gaming.

Dr. Muditha Senanayake, who joined the Department in September, will be taking the lead in developing the research and outreach capabilities related to body scanning. He will identify industry partners as he builds a research team with an eye on the Department's long-term goal of creating a center for mass customization. "As we understand the success of concepts such as mass customization which depends on the use of new technologies such as body scanning, we can replace the functions we used in conventional product development," explained Dr. Senanayake, "in order to give consumers what they want."

The symposium was organized by Dr. Peter Kilduff, Chair of the AMM Department. Attending this first-time event were AMM students and industry professionals including Frances Harder, executive director of Fashion Business Inc.; Henry Cherner, president of AIMS software; and Kristine Gloviak, vice president of software company PAD System Technologies.

Christina DeNino (top), an Apparel Merchandising and Management student, has her body scanned by the NX-16 3D Body Scanner. The image (bottom) is then displayed on the computer.

Photos by Tom Zasadzinsky

Faculty Projects Benefit Local Community

Students in **Victoria Corless'** apparel production class immediately warmed to her idea of mass producing a simple item, like a baby blanket, for a local women's center in Long Beach. When students were asked to design their own items, "there were so many good ideas that we decided to make a blanket, a pillow shaped like a cat, a hat that looked like a duck, a burp cloth, and a large pillow a child could sit on." Knowing that others would benefit, the students "were very passionate about the quality of their ideas and work," said Victoria. As the deadline approached, all items were completed except the hats. "One of the students really wanted them to get finished, so she took them home and finished them herself in time to bring them to the shelter." In the end, 120 items were delivered to the shelter by Victoria and her students.



Victoria Corless (seated) with her students in an apparel production class.

Thanks to **Drs. Susan Algert and Doug Lewis** (left in photo) of the Human Nutrition & Food Science Department, Cal Poly Pomona-grown produce was distributed for free on a weekly basis to low-income, elderly Hispanic women at the Washington Park Senior Center in order to study and improve their diet and nutrition. The mobile food pantry program is part of a larger effort to "increase the consumption of fruits and vegetables by elderly Hispanic women," said Dr. Algert. "Many of these women, who are at high risk of hypertension and diabetes, have not been able to incorporate enough fruit and vegetables into their diet because of accessibility and cost. Some of them don't have enough money to eat three meals a day."



Elena Rodriguez, site manager at the Washington Park Senior Center, said the 40 participants were pleased and eager to collect their 11-14 pounds of fresh produce each week. "They seem to be eating more vegetables and fruit," Ms. Rodriguez said. "They really like the idea."

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Pumpkin Festival Photo Wins Contest

A Cal Poly Pomona alumna who majored in Urban and Regional Planning, Martiza Contrer Sanchez, brings her son, Sebastian, to the Pumpkin Festival each year. "The Cal Poly Pumpkin Festival is the only pumpkin patch that truly brings the 'Spirit of the Season'," she explained. "There is so much excitement from the families that participate in this event as they walk across Temple Avenue with their kids and wagons."

Last October, Martiza took several photos at the Festival, one of which she submitted to the State of California website photo contest. To her amazement she won 3rd place in the adult category. "I was extremely happy and proud to be able to share with Californians one of the many wonderful events Cal Poly Pomona has to offer its students and the local communities." Our thanks to Martiza for sharing her photo and our congratulations on her 3rd place award!



The College Bids A Fond Adeieu To Professors Jean Gipe And Cedric Matsushima

After serving the College and University for 32 years, **Prof. Jean Gipe** is finally enjoying a well-deserved retirement. Jean wore many hats during the course of her career on campus. During her early years on campus as a professor in the Foods & Nutrition/Home Economics Department, she taught classes in the area of clothing construction and textiles. Then in 1992 she and her colleague, Betty Tracy, joined forces and established the ATRC which provided assistance to the apparel industry. The creation of a major in Apparel Merchandising & Management Major and a new Department to house it soon followed. While Betty ran the Department, Jean served as Director of the ATRC which quickly grew into a full-fledged factory working on a variety of projects including a \$10 million contract with the Department of Defense. This contract led to Prof. Gipe receiving the Vice-President Gore "Hammer Award" for Reinventing Government.

When her long-time colleague retired, Jean put off her own plans to leave the University and returned to serve as Interim Chair of the Apparel Merchandising & Management Department during the search for a permanent replacement. She delayed yet one more year to serve as Interim Associate Dean when Dr. Les Young filled in as Interim Associate Vice President in Student Services. During her year in the Dean's Office, all were amazed at her level of productivity and her ability to address difficult issues and bring them to resolution. "Jean organized those of us who believed we were organized and showed us what organization really could accomplish," said former Dean, Dr. Wayne Bidlack. "Jean is certainly among the most competent and knowledgeable individuals with whom I have worked," said Dr. Doug Lewis, Chair of the Human Nutrition & Food Science Department. "She made contributions in an efficient optimistic and caring way."

Although we did manage to persuade her to return and teach one class in the fall, Jean is ready to wear only one final hat—that of full-time retiree!



Jean Gipe

"Cedric has always been a dedicated, hardworking leader in the Animal & Veterinary Sciences Department," said former Dean, Dr. Wayne Bidlack. As a faculty member and associate chair, he provided strong support to the Chair and the faculty. "Cedric guided the students, advising those needing it most, while also having an open door to all who needed him. The students loved him." Comments from students and faculty during his retirement celebration echoed these sentiments. "It would not be an over-exaggeration to recognize that Dr. Matsushima has been personally responsible for assisting many of these students in turning their lives around and becoming success stories and graduates of Cal Poly University," said Dr. Ed Fonda, Interim Chair of the Department. "Cedric developed entrepreneurial relationships with industry that generated resources, not for him, but for the Department and its faculty. He always placed the Department needs as a first priority, never thinking of himself," added Dr. Bidlack.

Dr. Matsushima retired in June to spend more time with his family. He also plans to dust off his fishing poles for some deep sea fishing, a hobby he's had little time for during the past 36 years while serving as a faculty member, associate and interim chair of the Animal & Veterinary Sciences Department. He leaves behind a department and College enhanced by his contributions and students who have achieved their dream of a college degree thanks to his dedication and commitment to their education.



Dr. Cedric Matsushima

Research Highlights

CPP Partners with PUSD, ConAgra Foods and the University of Minnesota for Food Acceptance Study

School children at Armstrong Elementary in Pomona had an opportunity to provide input into a food acceptance study conducted by Dr. Maria Botero-Omary and her students in the Human Nutrition & Food Science Department at Cal Poly Pomona. The project, funded by the Agricultural Research Initiative (ARI) and ConAgra Foods is a continuation of food product development research focused on whole grain and fiber-enriched foods that Dr. Omary has been working on with Dr. Doug Lewis Chair of the Department. "The ultimate goal of this research has been to create nutritionally sound foods, particularly rich in whole grains and soluble fiber to help elementary school children meet dietary guidelines and improve the quality of their food intake," explained Dr. Omary.

Maria and graduate students Ayako Toma and Diana Frost, along with undergraduate students Mon Prasopsunwattana, Sutida Chongcham, Sylvia Lee and Elyse Petersen, developed whole-grain and fiber-enriched tortillas and chocolate chip cookies in their product development lab at the University. The study at Armstrong Elementary from March 9 to June 11 involved separate testing periods for control and treatment products including bean and cheese burritos and cookies. During the school lunch hour, children were offered either the regular products (control) or the test products. The Cal Poly Pomona students assisting with the project collected and weighed the plate waste to determine acceptability of the products and then conducted quality evaluation tests in the product development lab at the University.

According to Armstrong Principal, Mrs. Patricia Savage, "The students at Armstrong School enjoyed participating in the acceptance study. As part of the curriculum, they learn about the scientific method, so it was exciting for them to see an actual research study being conducted. For my part, as the school administrator, it was wonderful working with such a professional group." PUSD Nutritionist, Mrs. Heather Sloan, R.D., was also excited about the study and working with CPP: "Working with the staff from Cal Poly was enlightening. It was exciting to see how the initial blueprint of the study materialized into an actual project involving our students and staff. We can't wait to find out the results of the research!"

For this study, Maria and her students collaborated with the University of Minnesota, a research institution that has conducted similar studies. "We were fortunate to have excellent assistance from Dr. Len Marquart at the University of Minnesota. His expertise in whole grains and as a registered dietitian was very valuable to our project," noted Dr. Omary.

Plans to present the results to students at Armstrong Elementary and promote the importance of including foods that contain whole-grains and soluble fiber in their diet are underway. "If the outcome of the study is positive," said Dr. Omary, "the District may adopt these foods in their menus." "Partnering with PUSD, ConAgra Foods and the University of Minnesota on this study was a very exciting and rewarding experience that required a lot of close communication and coordination. We look forward to additional collaborations of this nature with these organizations," concluded Dr. Omary.



Graduate student Ayako Toma (right) and Kate Hwan, a senior in the FST Program, watch as students at Neil Armstrong Elementary School receive whole-grain and fiber-enriched chocolate chip cookies.



Erik Park, an elementary student at Neil Armstrong School, enjoys a whole-grain and fiber-enriched burrito.



Photo by Tom Zasadzinsky

Student Rosemary Lewis transfers mycelia from a Ganoderma mushroom that is being tested for its ability to treat small-cell lung cancer.

Mushrooms: A Possible Treatment for Lung Cancer?

ARI Researchers examine the validity of plant-based medicines.

Thanks to advances in medicine, most of us can look forward to longer life spans. Living longer, however, also means an increased dependency on prescription drugs. Currently, about 80% of Americans over the age of 75 take at least one prescription drug.

Before the age of wonder-drugs produced by pharmaceutical companies, humans had a long history of using plants for healing purposes. Even today some very useful medicines are derived from plants, including salicin (also known as aspirin, from the willow tree), taxol (from the

Pacific yew tree used as a chemotherapy drug) and vinblastine (derived from Madagascar periwinkle, used to treat leukemia).

Over time, a disease causing agent, like bacteria, may become resistant to drugs. Chemotherapy drugs, for example, may lose their effectiveness during treatment for cancer. Research conducted by Dr. David Still is exploring an alternative approach to chemotherapy treatments, specifically a mushroom common in Chinese and Asian herbal medicines with purported anti-cancer properties. Assisting in this research, former College of Agriculture Master's student, James Kim, collected the known species of Ganoderma mushrooms and obtained their genetic fingerprint. This information allowed Dr. Still and his students to distinguish between the 26 or so species of Ganoderma mushrooms.

Working collaboratively with Dr. David Sadava, a cancer expert from the Claremont Colleges, whose current research is focused on small cell lung cancer, Dr. David Still and his students hope to determine if the anticancer properties of Ganoderma mushrooms will aid in the treatment of this disease. Small cell lung cancer affects ~213,000 Americans each year. For most patients, current treatments do not cure the cancer and the median survival from diagnosis is only two to four months. Chemotherapy improves life expectancy by four to five-fold. However, over time, the tumors develop multi-drug resistance and these treatments quit working. Reports suggest that the anti-cancer properties of Ganoderma mushrooms result from a complex sugar (called polysaccharides) but the exact mechanism of action is not known. Dr. Sadava has screened our 26 species of mushrooms and has selected some that work as well as current chemotherapy drugs and others with no effect. This indicates that not just any old mushroom will work; again emphasizing the importance of knowing exactly what species one is working with. Dr. Sadava performed experiments in which he identified the pathway affected by the mushroom. Dr. Still's laboratory then conducted gene expression assays and determined the precise genes of the pathway the mushroom targets. Their hope is that the mushrooms (a low-cost alternative) can be taken in addition to the standard chemotherapy drug to extend its effectiveness in prolonging the life of those affected by small-cell lung cancer.

Cal Poly Pomona Researchers Use GIS & GPS to Pinpoint and Assess Contamination in Soil

Although some heavy metals are essential for proper cellular function in humans and plants (iron, copper, manganese, zinc, for example), at relatively low levels they also pose a health risk by impairing normal physiological and metabolic processes in all biological organisms.

There is evidence that heavy metals dispersed atmospherically by industrial activities are quite persistent. Some especially high deposits have been traced to metallurgic activities of the Greeks and Romans over 2000 years ago. In our modern urban environment we often coexist in close proximity to metallurgic industrial activities. It is therefore prudent to determine the risks considering the historical record of airborne pollution and the persistence of these metals.

Pollutants from industrial sources can be difficult to monitor because their emissions and distribution pattern can be affected by numerous factors. Using spatial modeling, weather patterns and a sound sampling plan, Dr. Mitra's lab in the College of Agriculture at Cal Poly Pomona is working on detecting heavy metals in the soil in the area surrounding an industrial park in the City of Industry in Los Angeles County. Many factors affect the distribution of pollution around this facility but three factors are especially important. First, the facility is located in a dense and active urban environment surrounded by three major freeways. Second, it is located within a topographically dynamic environment that includes dramatic elevations from small mountains to hills and valleys. Third, the facility is bordered by the San Gabriel Mountains to the east and the Pacific Ocean on the west which creates unusual wind and weather patterns. All of these factors complicate the distribution patterns of pollution.

Dr. Mitra's group initially used a sampling design in which the size of a property determined the number of sampling points needed to accurately assess a given area. Once they had a rough idea of the sampling areas, they employed geographic information systems (GIS) to determine exact locations in which to collect samples. Next, they used software to refine the placement of the samples, again to increase the likelihood of obtaining samples that reflected the reality on the ground. Their final sampling plan contained 361 sampling locations from 70 sites within a 5 km radius from the point source of pollution. Armed with these coordinates, Dr. Mitra and his graduate students went out to the field with a hand-held global positioning system (GPS), shovels and sampling cans to



Dr. Magdy N. Fam, Post Doctoral candidate in the Plant Sciences Department is collecting soil samples from schools and parks in the City of Industry to study the level of contamination of heavy metals which persist in the environment

collect the soil samples. Scraping off the top 5 cm of the soil into his sample cans they carried the samples back to the lab to determine the concentration of seven heavy metal pollutants including arsenic (As), cadmium (Cd), chromium (Cr), copper (Cu), nickel (Ni), lead (Pb), and zinc (Zn).

After analyzing the data, his group discovered a surprisingly high amount of local variation in heavy metal concentration among the sampling sites. As expected, areas closer to the industrial park had higher amounts than areas further from the park. The GIS data were then analyzed against the sample concentrations to model contaminant levels. Their analysis indicated that high levels of contamination were observed within 2 km from the industrial park. The concentration of heavy metals in the soil declined after the 2 km radius from the industrial park but its distribution was also affected by elevation and proximity to freeways. The information from Dr. Mitra's data can be used to assess the risk factor for the residents of this area and if needed, to pinpoint areas requiring bioremediation. In addition, the methods developed by Dr. Mitra can be used by others to assess map pollutants in other areas of the country and assess their risks. Dr. Sowmya Mitra is an associate professor in the Department of Plant Science. His expertise is in environmental soil chemistry, turfgrass stress physiology, weed science, and soil fertility.

Echinacea:

Is it really a cure for the common cold?

Herbal remedies are widely used to treat cold symptoms despite a general lack of scientific proof of the efficacy, or for that matter - the lack of efficacy - of most herbal remedies. Echinacea turns out to be a good example of this phenomenon. The number of clinical trials in which Echinacea helped prevent or lessen the duration of a cold is about equal to the number in which Echinacea had no effect. The latest study, published in the July 2007 medical journal *Lancet*, concluded that Echinacea decreased the odds of developing a cold by almost 60% and reduced the duration of a cold by about 1.5 days. A previous study, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, came to the opposite conclusion: there was no benefit from Echinacea.

Why the difference? There are a multitude of reasons. For instance, the common cold is caused by more than 200 species of viruses. Some of the participants may have used different preparations of Echinacea. For example, extracts taken from a leaf have a different chemical composition than those taken from a flower.

Similarly, if the plant was harvested in the spring versus the summer or fall, the chemical composition would differ among them. Additionally, there are twelve Echinacea species and each has a different chemical composition and therefore, possibly a different clinical outcome.

Assuming Echinacea is effective, the next step is to figure out how it works. Studies conducted in Dr. Nancy Buckley's laboratory have discovered that Echinacea extracts stimulate the immune system in a non-specific manner by enhancing the activities of macrophages and natural killer cells which destroy foreign bodies and other pathogens that invade your body. These effects of Echinacea, then, would seem to indicate the herb might be effective in fighting off colds caused by viruses-- but it's a bit more complicated than that.

In response to different invasive materials, your immune system may produce a signaling chemical called a cytokine which helps the body "gear up" to deal with pathogens. Dr. Buckley found that Echinacea extracts lowered the production of two types of cytokines (IL-2 and interferon- γ). These extracts contain a rich mixture of phytochemicals, so it is difficult to identify the active compound that suppresses the cytokines. However, other studies have shown that compounds called alkamides are responsible. Alkamides found in the roots of Echinacea have also been reported to inhibit macrophage cell function. On the surface, Dr. Buckley's research seems to indicate that these specific effects of Echinacea are not affecting the immune system in a manner that would prevent or shorten colds.

Dr. Buckley's studies also included the marijuana plant, and she suspects both regulate the immune system through a common pathway. When a pharmaceutical company develops a new medicine, it targets a specific pathway, often blocking production of a particular molecule. However, as we are all aware, there are often side effects to these drugs, some minor, others major. In light of these adverse effects, phytotherapy is a promising alternative in affecting the immune system. One of the criticisms of botanical medicines, however, is their uncertain chemical composition. Indeed, plants contain literally thousands of compounds of which the function of most is not known. Yet, it is generally agreed by the scientific community that the purported benefits of medicinal plants (and for that matter fruits and vegetables) are derived from the complex chemical mixture as opposed to single compounds. So what is the bottom line? Eat your vegetables (and perhaps Echinacea, too).



Christian Aguilar, a senior, studying Biotechnology, prepares dilutions of the ethanol Echinacea purpurea root extract.

New Faces

Human Nutrition & Food Science (HNFS) Welcomes Four New Faculty Members

Dr. Ann Marie Craig's academic background, teaching experience, and strong interest in food chemistry and analysis made her a perfect fit for a food science and technology position in the HNFS Department. Before coming to California, Ann Marie taught graduate classes and served as a research assistant at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, while working toward her Ph.D. in Food Chemistry. Her research project focused on quality improvement of military MPE cheese spread product and resulted in active involvement with the Combat Rations Network (CORANET). She is a current member of the Institute of Food Technologists and past president of the Food Science and Technology Club, UT Chapter. She obtained her M.S. in Chemistry at Southwest Missouri State University where she also taught graduate classes. As a research assistant there, she worked on a project sponsored by DuPont for chromium waste clean-up and conducted research at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory for a project on radionuclide separation and application in nuclear medicine.

Former Dean, Wayne Bidlack, was "...impressed by the passion she had for food chemistry. Her training is excellent; she is a well-qualified chemist who clearly knows her field; she has analytical strength. ..." The Department is confident that she will make significant contributions to the ongoing development of the Food Science & Technology program.

The following three faculty members bring a variety of expertise in support of the Department's programs in nutrition and community nutrition.

After serving the HNFS Department well for the last 12 years as a temporary faculty member, **Dr. Bonny Burns-Whitmore** was appointed to replace Dr. Marie Caudill who left the Department in August for a position at Cornell University. According to Department Chair, Dr. Doug Lewis, Bonny went above and beyond what was normally expected of a lecturer, doing the work of regular tenured faculty. "She helped students on M.S. theses, developed three courses as part of the department curricular development ... attracted significant research funding and provided quality research experience for at least 3 Cal Poly students." An instructor who has received excellent reviews from both faculty and students, Dr. Burns-Whitmore earned her Dr.P.H. from Loma Linda University while holding continuous positions as a part-time and full-time lecturer for the Department. She obtained her M.P.H. in Public Health Nutrition as well as a B.S. in Microbiology and an RD also from Loma Linda University.

In terms of research, Bonny has already demonstrated her potential with a successful project for the California Egg Commission as well as her doctoral research on walnuts. According to Dr. Bidlack, "She has demonstrated independence and passion for scholarship, attracting funding, carrying out research, engaging students, and publishing the results."

An impressive background in community nutrition made **Dr. Lisa Kessler** the obvious choice to fill the position left vacant by Dr. Susan Algert last December. A registered dietitian, Dr. Kessler earned her Dr.P.H. in maternal and child health from Johns Hopkins, a M.P.H. in nutrition at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and a B.S. degree in Biology at Muhlenberg College, PA. Because of her husband's position with the state department, she traveled extensively for the last 16 years, accumulating a wealth of experience while serving in adjunct/assistant professor positions all over the world. "She demonstrated a can do attitude with initiative and perseverance by developing nutrition education and community nutrition programs in diverse areas such as Saudi Arabia, Cyprus, Austria and the East Coast of America," said Dr. Doug Lewis. Her experiences include Health Educator in the Student Health Center at the University of Texas, Research Program Coordinator at Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, Dean of Students at the American University in Dubai, and Director of Health Education at King Fahd Hospital in Saudi Arabia. As further explained by Dr. Lewis, "Her publications and her ability to conceive, conduct and evaluate nutrition programs demonstrate that Dr. Kessler can make significant contributions to the graduate program." (continued on page 13)



Dr. Ann Marie Craig



Dr. Bonny Burns-Whitmore



Dr. Lisa Kessler



Dr. Sharonda Wallace

(continued from previous page)

The addition of **Dr. Sharonda Wallace** to the HNFS faculty this fall will help establish the Department as a leader in nutrigenomics (the study of genes and diet/nutrition) education, according to Dept. Chair, Dr. Doug Lewis. Attracted by the strength of the nutrition program here at Cal Poly Pomona, Dr. Wallace left sister university, San Francisco State where she served as an assistant professor and Director of the Dietetic Internship program. She served as a postdoc at St. Luke's Hospital Obesity Clinic at Rockefeller University in New York following her graduation from Penn State University with a Ph.D. in Nutrition. She obtained her M.P.H in nutrition from Tulane University in New Orleans, and her B.S. from UCLA.

In June Dr. Wallace was appointed to the executive committee of the NCMHD Center of Excellence for Nutritional Genomics at U.C. Davis. The Center is supported by the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health. The mission of the Center is to reduce and ultimately eliminate health disparities through the study of diet/gene interactions as they relate to chronic disease and certain cancers. This appointment ties in to her goal of optimizing nutrition care by increasing Registered Dietitians' understanding of the emerging field of nutrigenomics. "The HNFS Department is one of the first to develop and teach an undergraduate nutrigenomics course," stated Dr. Lewis. "Clearly, Dr. Wallace's interests will contribute to our Department's efforts in this critical area."

The Apparel Merchandising & Management Department attracts two new faculty members to help with the on-going development of its programs, to explore research opportunities, and to teach an ever-increasing student population.

A native of Sri Lanka, **Dr. Muditha Senanayake**'s background is a combination of high quality industrial experience with teaching and research in the areas of product development and production management. He earned a B.S. in Textile and Clothing Technology, a M.S. in Textiles and Product Development, and a Ph.D. in Textile Technology Management, with a minor in Industrial Engineering, from North Carolina State University. Between degree programs, he worked in industry in Sri Lanka and in research and development at Maidenform, Inc., Bayonne, NJ. Dr. Senanayake has an exceptional, broad base of teaching experience in positions at N. Carolina State, Berkeley College, NJ, and Kansas State University covering areas of new product development, technology management; marketing, merchandising and sourcing strategies; fashion business, textile analysis and buying procedures, apparel production, and production organization, to name a few.

Because of his diverse background, including 12+ years of industry experience, Muditha says he is "motivated not only to train students to take responsibility in the textile/apparel industry but also to carry out applied research with industry collaboration or carry out research that has direct applications to the textile/apparel industry." The AMM Department's strong program, with an emphasis on research, and its close proximity to the California apparel industry, therefore, was the deciding factor in accepting the position with the AMM Department.

Dr. Hyunjoo Im completed her Ph.D. in Textiles and Clothing, with a minor in Quantitative Psychology, in a nationally renowned program at Ohio State University. She earned her B.S. degree in Clothing and Textiles, with a minor in business administration, and a M.S. degree from Seoul National University, Korea. According to Department Chair, Dr. Peter Kilduff, "She gained significant teaching experience as part of her doctoral program" and has "... very high quality industry experience with globally renowned brands in product development." Her industry experience included positions with Umbro Korea, Feruza Co. in the area of product development and marketing; Cheil Industry, Inc., Samsung as an assistant manager on e-commerce launching a new brand; FUBU Korea Design Team in the areas of product development and product management. In addition, said Dr. Wayne Bidlack, "... she is proficient in 6 different statistics programs and 8 computer programming languages." This unique background in experience and functional application will serve to further enhance the AMM program.



Dr. Muditha Senanayake



Dr. Hyunjoo Im

The College of Agriculture Welcomes Seven New Staff Members

In October 2007, **Marybelle Foster** was appointed as the Administrative Support Coordinator for the Agricultural Science (AGS) program. Marybelle will be assisting coordinator, Alex Hess, with the day-to-day operations of the program office which administers the B.S. and M.S. programs in Agricultural Science and prepares teachers of agriculture education for the public secondary schools of California. This office is also responsible for Ag Field Day, a state-wide contest, which attracts nearly 600 high school FFA students to campus each year.

The health and well-being of the College's computer equipment are in the capable hands of **Michael Tambash**. Michael has his hands full maintaining approximately 200 computers scattered across campus including two computer laboratories. He works with college administrators, faculty and staff to determine the most effective and efficient use of technology to enhance instruction and operations. Most recently he has lent his expertise to the implementation of the College's re-designed web site and will provide on-going assistance with the maintenance of all College web pages.

Fortunately for Dr. David Still, Director of the Agricultural Research Initiative (ARI), it did not take long for **Andrea Frontino** to learn the intricacies of this research support program. She quickly learned how to keep track of ARI's \$728,000 budget and to guide college researchers through the grant proposal and allocation process. ARI's annual research showcase, which she planned and organized last fall, had record attendance and, due to her efforts, the ARI web site has been upgraded and additional features added. A real team player, Andrea also contributed to the planning of the Plant Sciences Department's 1st Annual Tractor and Rod Show.

The high volume of outgoing mail from the Recruitment & Retention Office to prospective and current students, parents, teachers, counselors, and employers is just one of **Marie Robb**'s responsibilities. Marie manages the office's extensive data base and its budget; responds to a variety of requests from those interested in learning more about Cal Poly Pomona and the College of Agriculture; assists the Coordinator with events like Open House and Counselor Day and the recruitment activities of the Ag Ambassadors; and provides oversight of Ag Council's annual Career Day.

The faculty in the Human Nutrition & Food Science Department depend on Instructional Support Technician **Donna Ha** for the smooth operation of their instructional and research laboratories. Donna manages and schedules the labs and equipment; maintains and prepares equipment for classroom instruction, and trains students to use equipment safely; and assists faculty with lab instruction and supervision. She also develops and revises lab exercises, writes and edits lab manuals; purchases all necessary laboratory supplies; and assists faculty with their research projects.

Patty Mutz joined the College to provide administrative support to Dr. Peter Kilduff, Chair of the Apparel Merchandising & Management Department. Patty manages the day-to-day operations of the Department Office which serves approximately 250 students, 4 full-time faculty, and a half-dozen lecturers. Her responsibilities include managing the department's budget, maintaining the quarterly class schedule, responding to inquiries; preparing correspondence, reports, and instructional materials; deciphering a myriad of student academic problems for a culturally diverse student body; and maintaining the department's web site.

Sherri Reichardt joined the College when the Animal & Veterinary Sciences Department needed an Animal Health Technician to fulfill accreditation requirements for the rapidly growing Animal Health Science (AHS) program. Sherri, a licensed R.V.T., provides administrative support to the program coordinator, assists the AHS faculty with preparation and the administration of laboratory courses including exposing/developing radiographs, preparing patients for and assisting in surgery, and inducing/monitoring anesthesia in dogs, cats and small mammals. In addition, Sherri purchases laboratory supplies, manages the AHS budget, and assists in the preparation of annual accreditation-related surveys and reports.



Marybelle Foster



Michael Tambash



Andrea Frontino



Marie Robb



Donna Ha



Patty Mutz



Sherri Reichardt

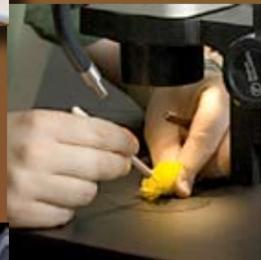
Exciting *Careers* In Agriculture

If you could choose a career based on what you were passionate about, what would it be?

The faculty and staff in the College of Agriculture here at Cal Poly Pomona are convinced that an abundance of exciting and rewarding careers can be found in agriculture and agriculture-related industries. With this in mind, the College embarked on a new marketing campaign last year focusing on job opportunities. We want the public to know that we can help them build a college education and career around something they are really passionate about. Finding the information you need on our programs and related careers should now be easy and fun! ▶

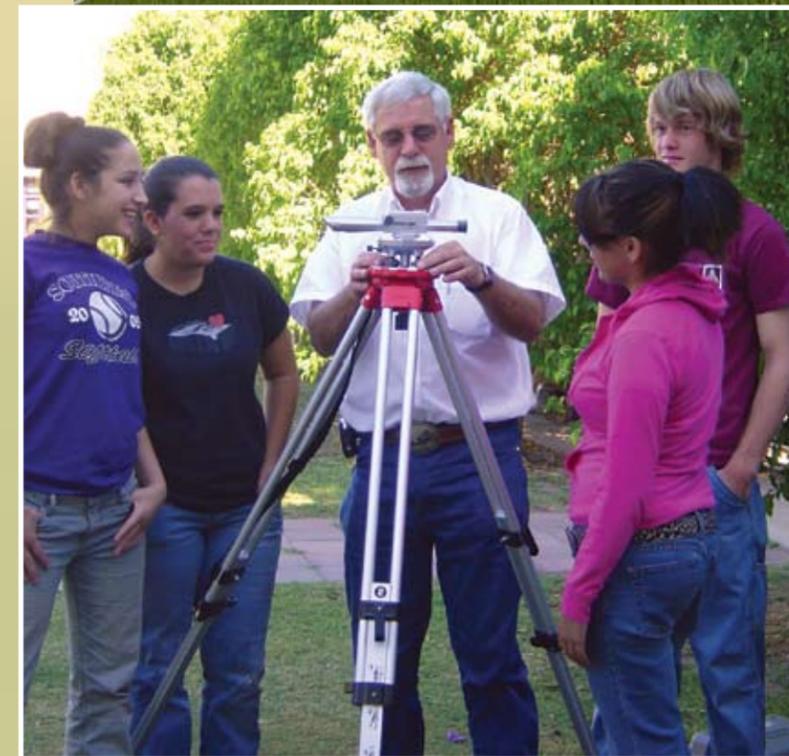
For more information, check out our redesigned web site at:

www.csupomona.edu/agri



Plant Science – Go green!

Are you concerned about the environment? Do you want to help solve food, fuel, and pharmaceutical problems for our planet? How do you fight pests without using harmful chemicals? Do you want to learn how to turn a desert into paradise? If these topics excite you, check out our program in Plant Science that includes hands-on experience in our farms, gardens, Farm Store, AGRIsclapes, science labs and golf greens.



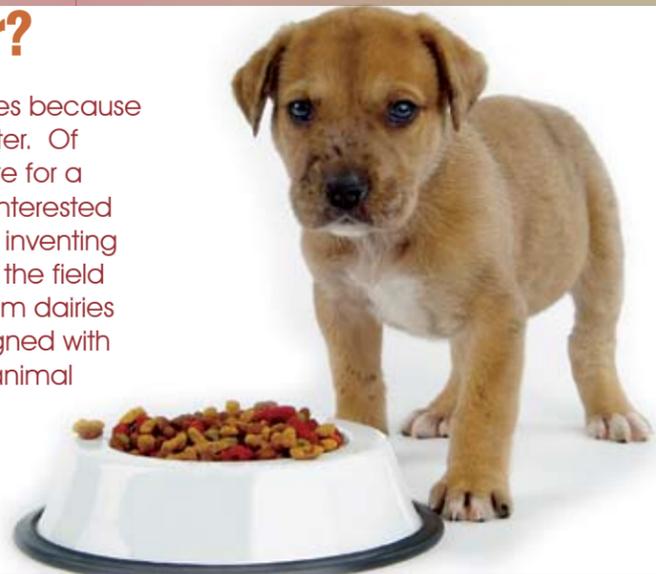
Wanted: Ag Teachers

Over 1/3 of California high schools have agricultural education programs and they are experiencing a shortage of agriculture teachers. Last year, there were 13 offers for each of our credentialed students. You might want to consider a career educating the community or teaching the next generation how to take

care of our planet. Our agricultural science program also provides leadership development for the agriculture industry and its allied professions and creates knowledgeable citizens who understand California's complex food and fiber systems.

Are you an animal lover?

If so, you have an abundance of career choices because the animal industry is growing bigger and smarter. Of course, Cal Poly Pomona is the place to prepare for a career as a veterinarian. But perhaps you are interested in making pet food more nutritious and safe, or inventing new vaccines. Learn medicine and science in the field by working with animals on campus and off, from dairies to wildlife refuges. If your interests are more aligned with business management, we have an option in animal industry and business management. Whatever your passion, we can help you prepare for your dream job with a combination of classroom and learn-by-doing instruction.



Apparel from A to Z

Would you like to see the new collections in Paris and Milan? Learn offshore outsourcing? Make and market your own line? Then the Apparel Merchandising & Management (AMM) program is for you. See the new collections in Paris and Milan by participating in a Study Tour class. Become involved in sponsored research programs using the latest high-tech equipment. Interact with industry leaders via field trips, off-campus projects and internships. AMM graduates are in high demand and can apply for positions in sales, marketing, buying, merchandising, business management, and market research.



High Involvement – Animal Health Science

If you want to work with animals, but not as a veterinarian, you still have an almost endless list of options. There is currently a shortage of veterinary technicians and Cal Poly Pomona has the only 4-year program in California—and its nationally accredited which means graduates are immediately eligible to sit for state and national board exams. This program takes hands-on learning to the limit as students will be able to take x-rays, perform dentals, administer vaccines, and assist in surgeries. A degree in Animal Health Science will open doors to careers in private practice, office/hospital management, biomedical research, diagnostic laboratories, colleges/universities, veterinary supply sales, zoos and wildlife facilities, and much more!



Business in Your Favorite Field

Take one or more of your passions and turn them into a business career. You can go into food marketing or product development, run a farm or agriculture-related business, or sell a myriad of ag products. Environmental organizations also need people who know business and can work within the system. Hands-on experiences include not only our 1,500 acre farm but participation in the Western Collegiate Food Marketing Competition. Prepare for your ideal career in a supportive environment with one-on-one interaction with faculty.



Healthy Diets = Healthy Paychecks

Perhaps nutrition is what turns you on. Do you want to learn what foods prevent disease and make the world a healthier place? We can help you unlock the secrets of DNA, cellular biology and nutrients. Do you like working with people? Then you may prefer a career working with doctors and patients on nutritional and wellness programs. Your expertise will be in demand—and that equals a healthy paycheck.

Creative Food Science

Do you want to know how to develop healthy foods that taste good, process better, ship well, and last longer? Career opportunities abound for both the creative types and those who are more analytical. Food scientists are in high demand and are needed to keep our foods safe, to work in the area of biotechnology, to analyze new food sources, and the list goes on.





A College Pays Tribute to Its Former Dean

"In 1992, the College of Agriculture embarked on the difficult task of strategically planning a new future for the College," recalled Prof. Jean Gipe, Interim Associate Dean and former Chair of the Apparel Merchandising and Management Department.

"By 1993, a plan was developed, but the College needed a leader with vision to implement it. The search for a new dean required careful choosing of someone with very unique abilities. Luckily, the College found a perfect match in Dr. Wayne Bidlack."

Photos by Tom Zasadzinsky

During his first year in the College, Dean Bidlack guided faculty and staff through an evaluation of their positions, our programs, and operations. In response to his request that everyone give a little more in time and effort, enrollments at the undergraduate and graduate level increased and FTES (Full-Time Equivalent Students) actually exceeded our assigned target. A proposal for a new major in Food Science and Technology was submitted and AGRIsclapes began to take shape. An Interim Director of Development was hired and The Center for Turf, Irrigation and Landscape Technology (CTILT) was in the planning stages.

Twelve years later, enrollments in the College of Agriculture have increased 40%, Food Science & Technology has become a successful program; both the Apparel Merchandising & Management and Animal Health Science majors are growing by leaps and bounds; and Animal & Veterinary Sciences continues to attract an ever-increasing number of students. As a result of Dr. Bidlack's on-going emphasis on research and scholarly activity coupled with the addition of the Agricultural Research Initiative Program, research grants are up nearly 42% from 12 years ago. AGRIsclapes is becoming a popular conference/banquet facility; the Farm Store is attracting a steady stream of customers; and the \$1.9 million greenhouse project (40,000 sq. ft.), begun last spring, was completed in time for this fall quarter. "Wayne has always been a 'sure, let's give a try' kind of supervisor," said Michelle Moyer, Director of Development. He "always had in the back of his mind what was in the best interest of the students and how we were going to accomplish these things through and with our community partners."

After the commencement ceremony in June, Dean Bidlack officially made the transition from administrator to faculty member. Faculty, staff, and friends of the College roasted and celebrated "Dr. B." at a dinner held in his honor on June 5. Mixed in with the jokes and good-natured ribbing, were heartfelt expressions of appreciation for his leadership, support and guidance. Many expressed gratitude for the opportunities to explore new ideas and the enthusiasm and support along the way. Former Associate Professor of Food Science, Dr. David Trei, summed it up: "I think I speak for all faculty, past and present, when I say we are so thankful for your leadership of the College the last 12 years. Without your vision and persistence in repositioning the College, I don't know where it would be. You were the 'white knight' who saved and rescued us all!"

Dean Bidlack will make his place among the faculty in the Human Nutrition and Food Science Department during the 2007/08 academic year, teaching courses in the area of nutrition. Although he is expected to enjoy a few more games of golf during the summer months following his departure from the College, he kept busy preparing for and participating in the annual meeting of the Institute of Food Technologists held in Chicago. He also hosted a meeting of the State Board of Food and Agriculture on the Cal Poly Campus at the end of June and will continue to represent the CSU on the 15-member board for the next 3 years.



With Dean Bidlack's guidance and support, AGRIsclapes (top photo) became a reality and the new greenhouse teaching, research and production facility was completed in summer '07.

(Below) President Bob Suzuki presented Dr. Bidlack with the prestigious '02 Wang Family Excellence Award for Administrators stating, "His vision and direction have not only revitalized the college, but also raised its productivity, stature and visibility throughout the state."

(Bottom) Last year, dean Bidlack and a panel of on-and off-campus experts participated in a radio program which focused on California agriculture hosted by L. A. Times columnist, Patt Morrison and broadcast live from AGRIsclapes.



Faculty-Staff Achievements

Anna Marie Barlet – “A gift to be treasured...”

When Anna Marie Barlet stepped up to the stage during this year’s commencement ceremony to accept the College’s Staff of the Year Award, it was to rousing applause, especially from the faculty and students in the Plant Science Department. Hired in January 2000 to provide administrative support to Prof. Dan Hostetler, Chair of the Plant Science Department, Anna Marie is one of those people who not only “. . . manage numerous tasks” but can “. . . perform multiple tasks at once in order to keep everything running smoothly,” according to graduate student Armen Malazian.

Besides the typical duties of her position—assisting students with a variety of issues, class scheduling, scheduling meetings, screening/directing calls and visitors—she processes transactions and monitors an impressive number of budgets for both the academic department and those related to the farm laboratory and plans a variety of department events. This has not gone unnoticed by faculty and students in the department who are “amazed at her ability to accomplish so much” and yet still find the time to help others in and outside of the department.

Department faculty member, Dr. Sowmya Mitra, says that “Anna Marie goes beyond her responsibilities to help students, faculty and staff,” and has, therefore, earned their respect and admiration. Adds Armen, “Anna Marie works among us with intelligence, patience, diligence, and warmth. She is a gift to be treasured.”



Photo by Tom Zasadzinsky

Dr. Martin Sancho-Madriz: “06/07 Advisor of the Year Captures Teaching Award

How do you follow up one award—with another of course! After being recognized as an Outstanding Advisor in the College last year, Dr. Martin Sancho-Madriz (left in picture) was selected to receive the ‘06/07 Teacher of the Year Award. In describing his relationship with students, his colleague, Dr. Marie Caudill, had this to say, “Martin cares about his students both as academics and as people. He takes time to listen to the students and makes them feel at ease.” He enhances traditional instruction with available technology to communicate more effectively. “He spends a tremendous amount of time preparing for his courses and working with the students,” who “rate him high in the area of knowledge and expertise,” explained Dr. Caudill.

Martin has also labored behind the scenes to improve course offerings. “Over the past 4 years, Martin has worked very hard to improve the FST curriculum” which led to the “development of 4 tracks or emphases that allow the students to go deeper in either science and technology, business, culinology or to prepare for professional grad school (pre-professional), said Dr. Caudill. “He also developed a culinology minor” that is available to students in and outside of the department.



Photo by Tom Zasadzinsky

Dr. Greg Partida – Advisor of the Year

Students nominating Dr. Greg Partida (left) for the Advisor of the Year Award, were unanimous in describing him as a caring and conscientious instructor whose advice regarding curriculum and career choices made a tremendous difference in their lives. At Dr. Partida’s urging, for example, Nancy E. Withrow accepted an internship with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. “I was not convinced that the position was something I wanted to do. Luckily, I listened to Dr. Partida’s advice and took the job. I so enjoyed the experience that I changed my major to agronomy and decided to work for the agency as a Soils Conservationist when I graduate.”

Countless students have made primary contact with future employers and many have obtained scholarships due to Greg’s support. He has provided patient and thoughtful academic advising to students struggling to plot a strategy of selecting classes for general education, major objectives, minors, and for professional licensing. “Greg has helped me so much that I was able, as a transfer student, to complete my courses in two years,” said Ashley Adams. A careful review of Nancy Withrows transcripts indicated that she was one course away from qualifying for dual degrees in agronomy and agricultural biology. “I had no idea this was possible and was thrilled. Having dual degrees will be a valuable career asset and I owe it to Dr. Partida’s keen eye and interest in my education,” stated Nancy.

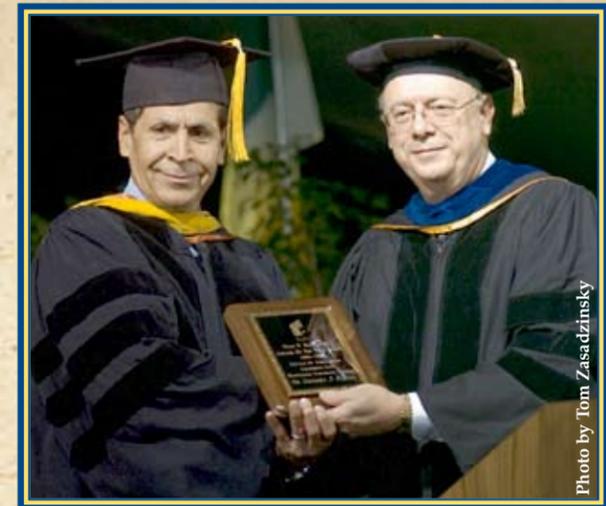


Photo by Tom Zasadzinsky

Dr. Greg Partida (left) Advisor of the Year

Dan Hostetler Selected as USDA Fellow

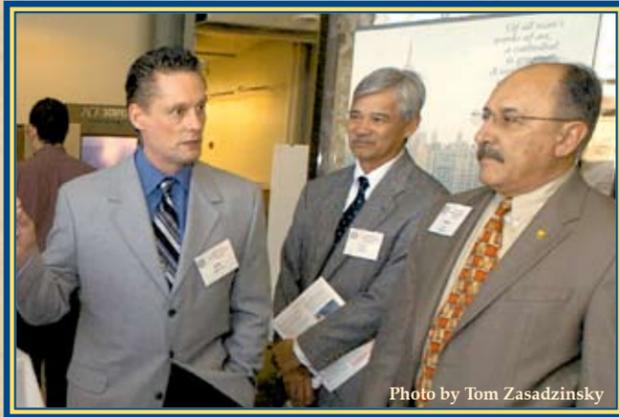
Prof. Daniel Hostetler, Chair of the Plant Science Department, spent four weeks in Washington, D.C. last summer participating in the USDA’s E. (Kika) de la Garza Fellowship Program, named for the Texas Congressman who chaired the House Agriculture Committee from 1981-1994. Established in 1998, it offers opportunities for professional growth while fostering workforce diversity and strengthening the nation’s capacity to provide high quality education and increased opportunities for Hispanic-Americans. Prof. Hostetler was one of 20 faculty selected for this program.

While in Washington, Dan worked extensively with Maria Goldberg, Executive Director, Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HIS) National Program, Agricultural Research service, and with Ramiro Porras, the Southern California USDA-HIS Liaison while preparing a preliminary grant proposal for recruiting students to fill positions in several agencies which will be finalized and submitted in April.

“The fellowship was a valuable learning experience,” said Dan. “I learned that their (USDA’s) goals are very similar to ours - they need more people for agricultural leadership in the future. With an increased recruiting effort, we can help them in achieving their goals while achieving increased enrollment for our programs.”



Prof. Dan Hostetler (left) - USDA Fellow



Dr. James Alderson (left) with Assoc. Dean Les Young (ctr) and President J. Michael Ortiz

Dr. James Alderson Selected for National Teaching Award

A former practicing veterinarian, surgeon, and businessman, Dr. James Alderson “. . . has become an exceptional academic,” stated Dr. Wayne Bidlack, former Dean of the College of Agriculture. The Special Projects Committee of AASCARR (American Association of Schools and Colleges of Agriculture and Renewable Resources) agreed, selecting him as their 2007 Outstanding Teacher Award recipient. Dr. Alderson, an Associate Professor, Animal & Veterinary Sciences Department, received his award at the 2007 AASCARR Conference in Hays, Kansas.

Hired in the fall of 2003 to assume responsibility for the Animal Health Science program, Dr. Alderson quickly raised the bar and provided more challenging opportunities for students through participation in actual surgeries, externships at area clinics, and the introduction of more business courses into the curriculum. The position also challenges its coordinator, requiring him to “supervise the academic and career advising of more than 200 students enrolled in the program,” according to Dr. Edward Fonda, Interim Chair of the Animal & Veterinary Sciences Department. Students rate him high in the classroom as well, and, rewarded his efforts by selecting him for the College’s 2005 Teacher of the Year Award. “This was only a year and a half into his academic experience, which is an unheard of acknowledgement. Between his teaching and his mentoring, the students gained the confidence to do more than they believed they could,” stated Dr. Bidlack. As Dr. Fonda further explains, “In the classroom, he has mastered the hybrid combination of online high tech multimedia presentations. . . with the more ‘chalk and talk’ classroom presentations to teach his students. His years of work experience as a very successful practicing veterinarian and businessman in the community and his ability to integrate his work experiences into his instruction captivate his students’ attention and stimulate their imagination to achieve academic excellence in the classroom.”

CDA's Highest Honor Bestowed On Dr. Kara Caldwell-Freeman

The Dolores Nyhus Memorial Award is the highest award that a member of the California Dietetics Association can receive. It recognizes an individual who has had significant impact in the field of nutrition and dietetics, has made a significant contribution that improved the standards of dietetic practice and/or the goals of the professions, and has given outstanding service to the professional association. On April 19, 2007, during CDA’s annual meeting, the award was presented to Dr. Kara Caldwell-Freeman, professor in the Human Nutrition & Food Science Department.

Kara, who began her term as President Elect of the CDA in June, has held CDA/ADA appointed or elected positions since 1970. She has contributed her expertise to both organizations particularly in the areas of training/mentoring, accreditation and articulation. In addition, she has been a member of the CDA Foundation board the past five years and is currently its President.

According to her department chair, Dr. Douglas Lewis, “Kara has been a driving force in establishing the dietetic education and internship programs in the Department since 1973. Through her persistent and tireless efforts, I believe Kara has significantly contributed to the training of high caliber dietitians as the internship program has placed over 200 interns in hospitals and health care facilities throughout Southern California.” Because of the high standards she sets for her students, “Cal Poly Pomona graduates and interns experience much higher success rates than the national average on attaining RD status,” added Dr. Lewis. In Kara’s words, “Seeing my students grow and achieve success in the field. . . has been an exciting experience for me. I so believe that the students are the future of the profession. We need to encourage and nurture them to succeed.”

Not content to rest on her laurels, Kara was among the national leaders of the American Dietetic Association who were selected to attend ADA’s fourth Leadership Institute in June. Participation in the Institute, an intensive certificate training program in the theory and practice of leadership in dietetics, is limited to fewer than 300 of ADA’s nearly 67,000 members throughout the country. ADA serves the public by promoting optimal nutrition, health and well-being.

Shelton Murinda Named to National Advisory Committee on Meat & Poultry Inspection

Last May, Dr. Shelton Murinda was among those named to the USDA’s National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection. The Committee, established in 1971, “provides the U.S. Department of Agriculture with advice and recommendations on current and new policies that affect state and federal inspection programs for meat, poultry and egg products,” explained Dr. Murinda. “The committee’s work assists the USDA’s Food Inspection Service in protecting the safety and wholesomeness of the US food supply.” Members serve a two-year term and are “. . . drawn from a broad range of groups interested in food safety including consumers, producers, processors, exporters and importers of meat and poultry products, as well as those in academia, public health, and federal and state government.” (WebWire press release, 5/4/2007)

At their first session in August, the Committee met at George Mason University, Arlington, VA to discuss a pilot project to explore mechanisms for sharing data with the USDA’s Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS); linking FSIS activities to its public health goals; and data collection and analysis at FSIS. Recommendations will be posted on the FSIS website.

Dr. Murinda, Asst. Professor in the Animal & Veterinary Sciences Department, joined the College in 2005 and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the areas of food safety, microbiology and muscle foods. He earned his M.S. in Dairy & Food Chemistry at Cork University in Ireland and his Ph.D. in Food Science at Pennsylvania State University. Beginning with the Fall Quarter, he assumed responsibility of the College’s Meats Laboratory following the retirement of Dr. Cedric Matsushima.

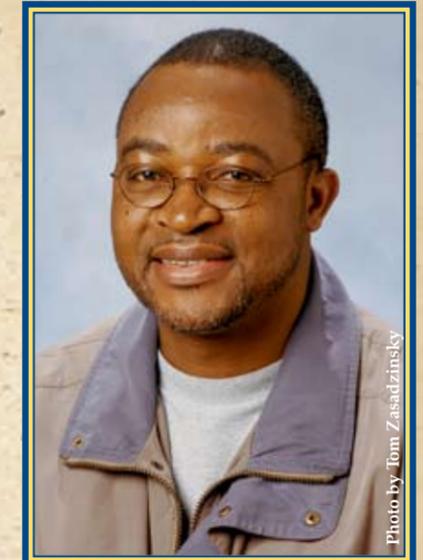


Photo by Tom Zasadzinsky

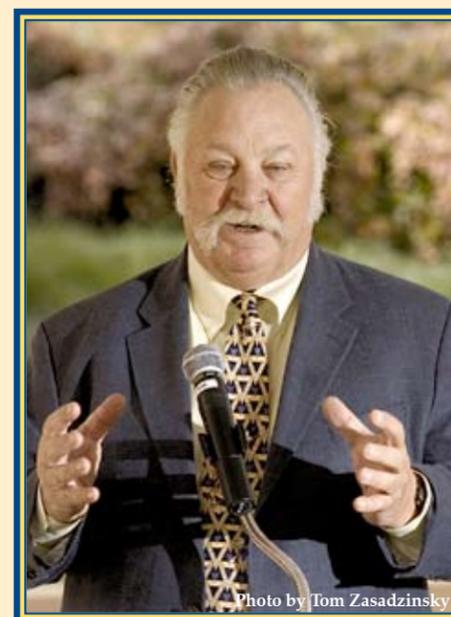


Photo by Tom Zasadzinsky

Bill Hughes Elected VP of National Equestrian Organization

Prof. William C. Hughes was elected Vice President of the National Affiliate Working Group, a member of the United States Equestrian Federation during the Federation’s annual meeting in Louisville, KY this past year. One of four USEF working groups, the National Affiliates Working Group represents a variety of horse breed disciplines including Arabian, Morgan, Saddlebred, Andalusian, Friesian.

In addition to this position, Bill serves on USEF’s Executive Committee and Board of Directors. He has been a judge, breeder, trainer, and owner of Arabian horses for over 40 years as well as past president of the International Arabian Horse Association. In his current role as Director of the W. K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center, Bill is the University’s liaison to the Arabian Horse Advisory Committee whose members include representatives from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and respected members of the Arabian horse industry.

The USEF has approximately 85,000 members and is the governing body for equestrian sports for the United States and the Olympics. USEF will host the World Equestrian Games in Lexington, KY in 2010.

Student Achievements

Undergrads Nurre & Dosier Capture Student Leader Awards

Individually, both Paul Nurre and Patrick Dosier have impressive credentials and either could have been selected as the College's Student Leader of the Year. Together they packed an even more powerful punch, however, giving the Selection Committee no choice but to honor both with awards at last June's commencement ceremony.

This past year, Paul and Patrick formed a team of over 20 students from the Colleges of Agriculture and Environmental Design to implement "Pomona Organics," the first certified organic fruit and vegetable production project at Cal Poly Pomona. Using a 3-acre plot on campus, "Pomona Organics" supplies campus food services, Cal Poly's Farm Store, and three farmer's markets with certified organic produce including bell peppers, sweet corn, cucumbers, cantaloupe, watermelon and 20 varieties of heirloom tomatoes.

Paul and Patrick continue to represent the Plant Science Department at a number of farmers' markets. They live



Patrick Dosier

in apartments on campus and are responsible for handling emergencies on the farm 24 hours/day. Both have competed as members of the Department's Crops Judging Team and have coordinated all sales of pumpkins for the past two years as a result of their leadership roles in the Los Rancheros Club.

"Combined they have received over \$10,000 in scholarship support and both have completed successful internships," according to Anna Marie Barlet, Administrative Support Coordinator for the department. Paul spent his internship at Madrona Vineyards in Northern California and, as Anna Marie proudly explained, "... has single handedly brought our 2.5 acre vineyard to the point where we will have wine grapes produced next year." Patrick completed his internship with the California Department of Forestry monitoring sudden oak death syndrome and also worked as a field scout for Western Farm Service. And the list goes on...

Anna Marie believes that both Paul and Patrick define what student leaders should be. "I have no doubt that both will be leaders in the agronomy industry in the years to come."

Graduate Student Armen Malazian Recognized for Leadership

"I would rank Armen in the upper 5% of all the graduate students that I have known at Cal Poly Pomona," stated Dr. Sowmya Mitra, graduate advisor, Plant Science Department. Armen first exhibited leadership as an undergraduate when he served as President and Vice President of the student chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and as Vice President of the Ag Council. While a graduate student, Armen has been involved with various turfgrass research projects on campus including industry sponsored projects with O. M. Scotts Co., Syngenta, Bayer Crop Protection, Dow AgroSciences, and Monsanto Co., as well as national trials for the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) studying bermudagrass, St. Augustine and bentgrass for fairways. As a result of one such project, "Armen became very interested in water conservation and water management issues," explained Dr. Mitra, "and decided he would pursue a doctoral degree in water management."

So impressed with his knowledge, skills, hard work and dedication, Dr. Mitra asked Armen to serve as a Teaching Associate this past year. He proved to be a very patient and well-liked instructor.

This fall Armen will move to northern California and pursue his doctorate at U.C. Davis. Dr. Mitra has no doubts about his future success. "Armen has the intellectual capacity and enthusiasm to continue his work as an outstanding agricultural scholar. I am very confident that he will make significant contributions. . ."



Armen Malazian toasts faculty and staff during the Plant Science Department's graduate luncheon.



Photos by Tom Zasadzinsky

Paul Nurre



Research Helps McNair Scholars Realize Their Dreams

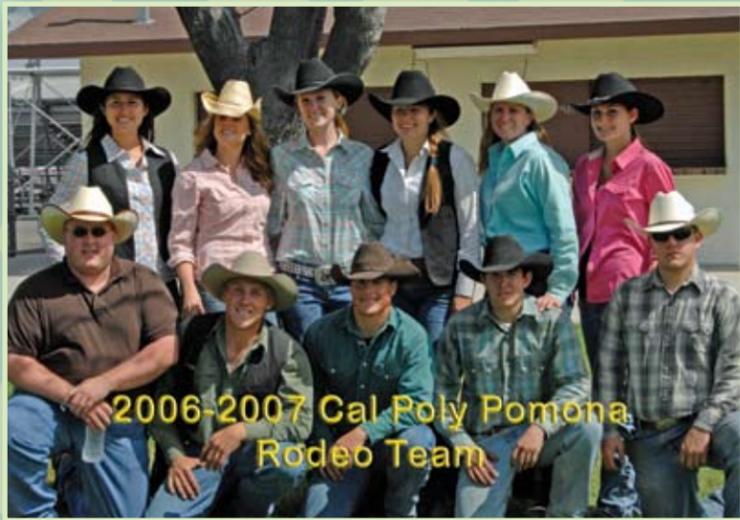
The McNair Scholars Program is a federally funded program named for Ronald E. McNair who was one of the astronauts aboard the 1986 Challenger shuttle. The purpose of the program is to encourage first-generation, underrepresented, and low-income students to earn doctoral degrees through involvement with research, mentors, seminars and financial aid.

Animal science majors Edith Avendano, Vilma Deras (below), and Rainy Grandpre (above) are among the current crop of McNair

Scholars who presented their research projects at the McNairs Scholars Program Summer Symposium at Cal Poly Pomona in July and at the 15th Annual California McNair Scholars Symposium held at U. C. Berkeley in August. Edith's project of localizing leptin-receptors, (involved in the transportation of leptin, a fat-cell derived hormone which influences food intake, energy, metabolism, body weight and reproduction) is related to the control of obesity in horses. Rainy worked with ostriches for her project, "Measuring Moment Arms in the Digital Flexor Muscles of the Ostrich." The localization of a transporter responsible

Continued on next page





team

Rodeo Team Receives NIRA Award

The College of Agriculture's Rodeo Team received the "Most Improved Rodeo Award" from the NIRA (The National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association) for the second year in a row. Club President, Rob Oakleaf, was also a finalist for the Outstanding Student Leader Award which is voted on by all the coaches in the Western Region. The students worked hard for the honor, improving on the efficiency and presentation of their own rodeo event and raising about \$20,000 in donations for equipment/supplies and support for the team. Many of the team members are also full-time students and work part-time jobs in addition to caring for their horses and finding time to practice and compete. All must have a 2.2 minimum GPA, but most have above a 3.0.

Advisor Dr. Broc Sandelin, who joined the University in the Fall of 2005, "feels like a proud parent" and is looking forward to the coming year. "I have thoroughly enjoyed working with these kids over the past couple of years. About seven new team members came on board this fall, many of whom have competed and placed in High School Rodeo Association events during the last few years. The sport of rodeo and our CPP Rodeo Club teaches many important life skills such as leadership, time management and even fiscal responsibilities. I look forward to working with this group of kids and many more in the years to come."

Eleven universities and colleges compete in NIRA events in our region. The top competitors are Cal Poly SLO and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association was established in 1949. The NIRA sanctions more than 100 college rodeos every year in the U.S. and represents over 3,500 student athletes attending more than 135 member colleges and universities. Check out their web site at: Collegierodeo.com.

Participation in Cal Poly Pomona's Rodeo Club and on the Team is open to students in all majors. Not all members compete; many of the Club members prefer to support the team by providing assistance with rodeo events and fundraisers. For more information, check out their web site at: <http://www.csupomona.edu/~agri/students/clubs/rodeoclub.shtml>.

Third Time's a Charm for the Western Collegiate Food Marketing Competition

The 3rd annual Western Collegiate Food Marketing Competition showed continued growth as student teams from Arizona and Oregon joined past participants from California, Colorado and Nevada for this year's event. Held, once again, in conjunction with the Southern California Institute of Food Technologists' (SCIFTS) Suppliers' Night in Anaheim, teams presented comprehensive business/marketing plans for an array of new food products before a corporate/industry panel of judges.

At the end of the day, California State University, Chico succeeded in winning both the 4-Year Western and 4-Year International Divisions. For the latter contest, the students promoted a "Sprinx cookie toolkit" (containing cookies, frosting and sprinkles) as a creative alternative to lunchtime and on-the-go snacks for Canadian children. Their Western Division team wowed the judges with their product "Bliss - Purely for Pleasure" which consisted of three U.S. grown strawberries with 2 oz. of gourmet whipped decadent specialty dark chocolate displayed in a luxurious package.

Newcomer, Chaffey College, captured 1st place in the 2-Year Division with "The Chocolate Garden" which "provides chocolate lovers with a sustainable, fresh organic and natural, vitamin-filled chocolate."

Next year's competition will take place on April 18 & 19 on the Cal Poly Pomona campus. For a tentative schedule, go to the WCFMC web site at: <http://www.westerncfmc.com/>.

A special thank you to the sponsors of this event: Illuminators, WAFC, Hidden Villa Ranch, Minute Maid, Crossmark, NuCal Foods, and Kroger.



ALCA Team in the Top Ten at National Competition

Once again, the College of Agriculture's ALCA (Association of Landscape Contractors of America) team scored in the top ten at the national PLANET (Professional Landcare Network) Student Career Day held on April 1. The team took 7th overall in a field of more than 50 universities and colleges. Individually, Kevin White, Matt Redding, Nick Young, and Garry Collins placed first in Compact Utility Loader/Trencher, Interior Landscape Design, Interior Plant I.D., and Irrigation Design. Tim Norris and Garry Collins also placed third in Irrigation Assembly. Dr. Fred Roth, was pleased with the 7th place finish: "The team of advisors—Eudell Vis, Paul Navlan (Long beach Community College) and I are all very pleased with the results, especially considering the complexity of the contests and the intensity of the competition."



Cal Poly's Horse Show Teams Do it Again!

Cal Poly Pomona's Hunt Seat and Western Horse Show teams had another successful year, capturing the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association's (IHSA) 2007 Regional Championship in early March. In addition to preparing for this event, the students and their advisor and coach, Jen Earles, hosted and competed in the Western Semi-Finals which took place March 24-25 and the Zone 8 Hunt Seat Championships at the Fairplex April 7

(continued on page 31)

In Memoriam

Dr. Steven J. Wickler

On June 19, members of the campus community joined family and close friends of Steven J. Wickler to pay tribute to the former Professor of Animal and Veterinary Sciences who passed away on May 26 from a brain tumor.

A member of the University community for 21 years, his colleagues remember him as a compassionate, benevolent teacher who inspired his students to engage in research and seek advanced degrees. Once described as a "Pied Piper" because students would follow him around when he administered to the university's animal population, Steve would always take advantage of such opportunities outside the classroom to teach his students.

Steve's passion for teaching, his wit and great sense of humor made him a favorite among the students and led to a College Advisor of the Year and two Teacher of the Year awards. He was also a recipient of the California State University's Wang Family Award in Teaching Excellence as well as the USDA Western Region Award for Excellence in Higher Education Programs. In addition, he served as University Veterinarian, Director of the Equine Research Center (ERC), and the Director of the Laboratory Animal Facilities.



A prolific researcher, Dr. Wickler generated \$3.5 million in external funding which provided numerous research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. He mentored nearly 70 graduate students working on their master's degrees and a large number of students working toward their doctorates in veterinary medicine.

According to Holly Greene, ERC technician who worked with Steve for 14 years, "His teaching style and influence on each student that studied under him at the Equine Research Center will forever have a ripple effect in the academic and/or veterinary industry."

The Steven J. Wickler Memorial Scholarship has been established by his family, friends and colleagues to provide \$500 scholarships for graduate students in biology, animal and veterinary sciences, and kinesiology who are working in human or animal physiology. Checks payable to the Cal Poly Foundation/Wickler Scholarship should be mailed to:

College of Science
Attention: Mary Jo Gruca
California State Polytechnic University
3801 W. Temple Ave.
Pomona, CA 91768

Donations can be made on line by using a secure website (<https://e-advancement.csupomona.edu/donate/>). All information sent online is encrypted to protect each donor's information and privacy. If your employer has a matching gift program or if you have questions, contact Mary Jo Gruca at (909) 869-5070.

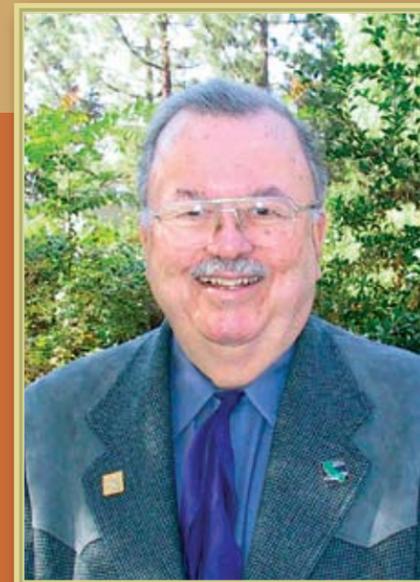
Dr. James M. Weidman

Dr. James Weidman, professor in the Food Marketing & Agribusiness Mgmt./Ag. Education Department since 1981, lost his battle with cancer on Friday, March 16. Prior to his employment, he served as an agricultural extension agent for the Peace Corps and was stationed in Thailand for 2 ½ years where he assisted farmers with the production and marketing of swine and poultry. No stranger to international travel, Jim had been to Asia, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Central America, and the Caribbean and had consulted in Jiangsu Province of the People's Republic of China and Mali in West Africa. This experience proved valuable in the classroom where he taught in the area of international agriculture and agricultural economics. He earned his B.A. in Economics and Business Administration at the University of Redlands; his M.A. in Economics at U.C.L.A., and his Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Hawaii.



Jim assisted his Department in a variety of ways including Coordinator of the International Agriculture program, IA club advisor, and service on a number of Department, College and University committees. He and Dr. Anahid Crecelius, Professor, Foods & Nutrition, developed the Agriculture, Nutrition and International Development option under the M.S. in Agriculture Science. He also assisted the International Center on a number of occasions with short-term training courses. He served as an Adjunct Professor at Loma Linda University and served on their advisory board for International Health. He was active in several professional organizations, often presenting papers or serving as a panelist on topics usually involving international trade and development.

Dr. Art Parker, former Department Chair, worked with Weidman for 25 years. When asked about his colleague he stated, "He always had high academic standards for the students in his classes and refused to accept less." When the International Development program was discontinued, "... he continued to be involved in activities both on and off campus related to ending world hunger, including World Food Day programs held on campus."



Mr. Bob Stein

The College of Agriculture lost a Voorhis alum and a friend with the passing of Bob Stein this past year. Concerning his contributions to the College as its first full-time Director of Development, former Dean Wayne Bidlack said, "He truly loved this place and worked hard to make it better for our students, staff and faculty. I can assure you that Bob moved the College mindset from little things we could accomplish to bigger ideas." Bob played a key role in the creation of the University's Voorhis Park and "... set in motion processes that, with hard work by others, have brought us millions in support and several new facilities. His family and his colleagues can take pride in this outcome for it has changed the College of Agriculture."

The University & College of Ag Honor Stuart Sperber

Longtime supporter of the university, Stuart Sperber passed away September 7, 2007, after a courageous battle with throat cancer. A 1956 alumnus of the Voorhis campus, Stuart Sperber was twice honored during the June commencement ceremony as the College of Agriculture's Distinguished Alumnus and as the recipient of an honorary Doctor of Science degree granted by the California State University.

After leaving Cal Poly Pomona, Stuart started a small nursery in North Hollywood with his family. With hard work, dedication and an insistence on quality, the company has grown to 8,500 employees, many of which are Cal Poly Pomona graduates.

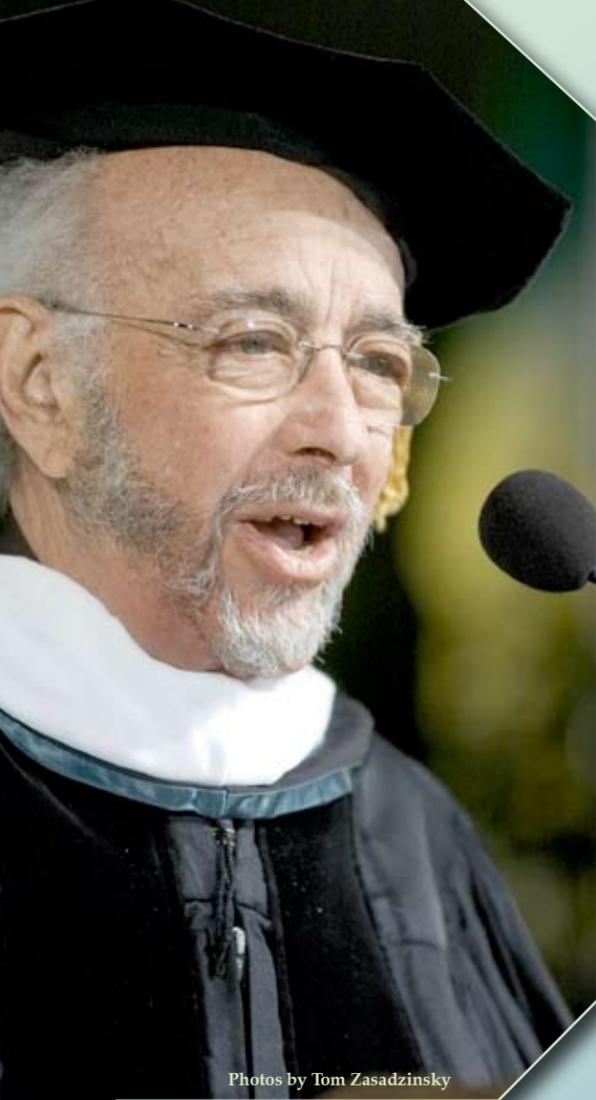
As President and Co-founder of Valley Crest Tree Company, he developed the largest containerized specimen tree growing business in the U.S. In fact, Stuart and his team developed the concept of growing trees in custom-built boxes. They also developed a method to safely and successfully move large, mature specimen and heritage trees, a process so refined and sophisticated that it can be considered a science. In addition, as Vice President of Environmental Industries, Inc., he and his brother created the largest landscape nursery maintenance and site development contracting firm in the U.S.

A past recipient of the College's "Award of Distinction," Stuart was respected and revered by the industry as well. The California Association of Nursery and Garden Centers honored him in 2005 with the Pacific Coast Nurserymen Award for his pioneering efforts on behalf of the nursery/landscape industry for over 50 years. This coveted award is given solely to those who have demonstrated a lifetime of horticultural excellence and professional achievement. His contributions clearly advanced the California horticultural industry.

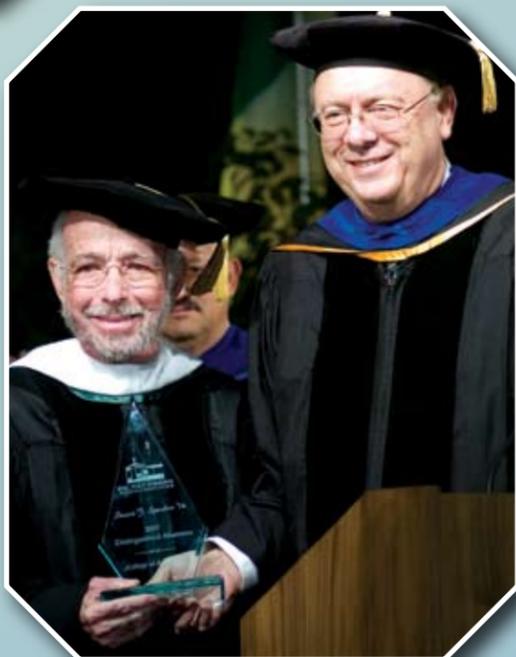
Mr. Sperber made invaluable contributions at all levels of the University and at the Chancellor's Office. He was a major supporter of the Plant Science Department's competitive teams entered in the national Student Career Day, providing up to \$1,500 per year since 1991. He was the first alumnus to respond to a call for assistance, as the Department prepared for the grand opening of AGRIsapes. He not only donated three semi-loads of trees but provided hole diggers and a crew to set them. The Voorhis Park was transformed by his efforts into a beautiful setting dedicated to the early founders of the campus. He came to the rescue once again in connection with the Japanese Garden when rising costs threatened the completion of the project.

His passion and love for Cal Poly Pomona were evident as well in his service as a member of the CSU Agriculture Advisory Committee, the President's Council and the University Educational Trust Board.

Services were held September 10 at Mount Sinai in the Hollywood Hills. Mr. Sperber is survived by his wife of 44 years, Leslie; children: Rochelle and Tadd, Adam, Julie and Rob; seven grandchildren; twin sister Deanna; and brother Burton.



Photos by Tom Zasadzinsky

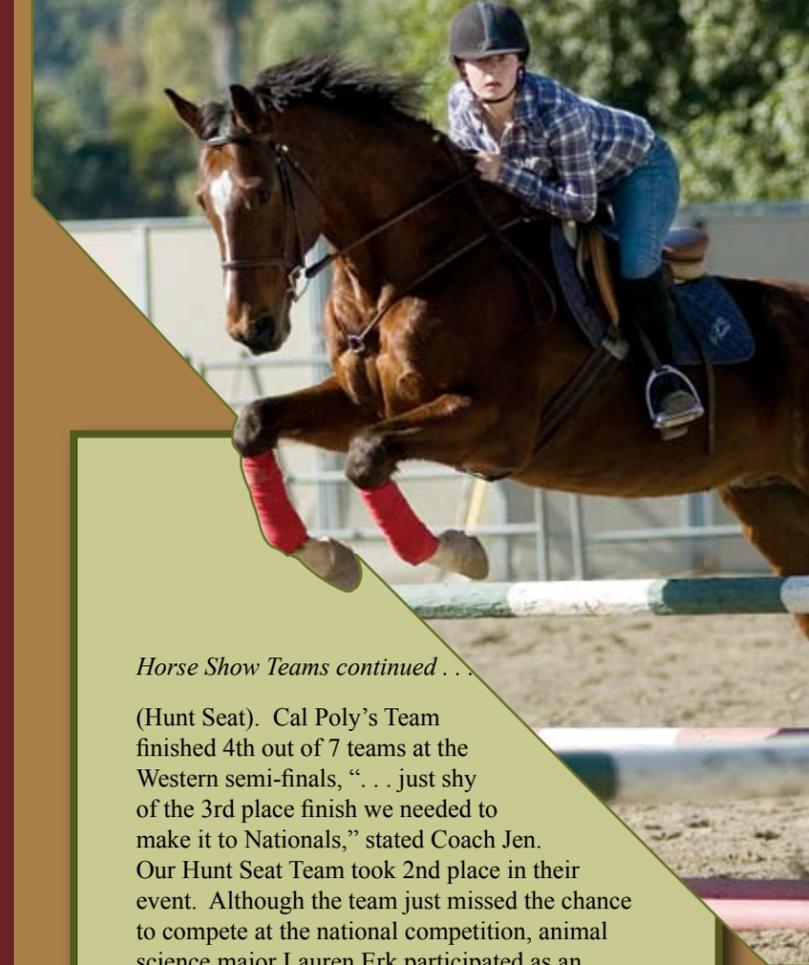


Where are they now?

Dale Stern (*Ag Biology, 1984*) is a partner in the law firm of Stern, Van Vleck & Ruehmann, LLP. He specializes in corporate and transactional law primarily for clients engaged in food production, processing and retail. He says "... his background and undergraduate education in Ag Biology from Cal Poly Pomona gave me a distinct advantage in retaining and representing clients in agribusiness."

Moses Kwapata (*Fruit Industries, 1979*) is Dean of Environmental Sciences at Bunda Agricultural College, a part of the University of Malawi in Bunda, Malawi.

Dr. Lyle McNeal ('64 *Animal Husbandry*), was recently recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as Utah's Professor of the Year for 2007. Previous awards include the 2005 Outstanding Advising Award from the National Academic Advising Association and in 2003 the National Excellence in Teaching Award from the USDA and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC). A former Cal Poly Pomona Distinguished Alumnus, he was also recognized by the National Geographic Society for his many decades of educational outreach work with the Navajo People and the saving from extinction of the Navajo-Churro sheep, the first domestic sheep in North America. Dr. McNeal is a professor in the Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences Department at Utah State University, Logan.



Horse Show Teams continued . . .

(Hunt Seat). Cal Poly's Team finished 4th out of 7 teams at the Western semi-finals, "... just shy of the 3rd place finish we needed to make it to Nationals," stated Coach Jen. Our Hunt Seat Team took 2nd place in their event. Although the team just missed the chance to compete at the national competition, animal science major Lauren Erk participated as an individual in the AQHA High Point Rider contest at the Nationals and placed 9th.

"Hosting both of those big competitions was great practice for the team," said Coach Jen. "We received a lot of compliments from the other teams who traveled to our area-we even had the Army's equestrian team from New York at the Western show and riders from Tennessee, Ohio, Oregon, Montana. . . all over the country!"

The team is responsible for rounding up nearly all of the horses for the shows held in the region and will do so for the 2008 IHSA Nationals which will be held at the L.A. Equestrian Center in Burbank. Jen has no doubts about the ability of her team to handle this enormous responsibility. "It's going to be a lot of work, but the team did such a great job of getting horses together and the shows (in '06/07) ran really smoothly, so I think we'll be ready for it."

Students do not need to own a horse or have previous horse experience to join the horse show teams. The opportunity to participate is open to all majors-a perfect example of Cal Poly's "Learn by Doing" philosophy. For more information visit the Team's web site at: <http://www.csupomona.edu/~horseshowteam>.

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Farm Store at Kellogg Ranch
www.csupomona.edu/farmstore

AGRIsCAPES
www.csupomona.edu/agriscapess

Agricultural Research Initiative
www.csupomona.edu/ari

Meat Lab
www.csupomona.edu/meatlab

Ag Ambassadors Learn By Doing

One of the many unique opportunities that the College of Agriculture offers students is that of being an Ag Ambassador. Ag Ambassadors represent the College at many events throughout California and beyond, promoting higher education and careers in agriculture. Being an Ag Ambassador is more than belonging to a student club or organization. It is about learning new things, taking risks, and giving back. Here in their own words, is what being an Ag Ambassador has meant to three exceptional young women.

"Attending Cal Poly Pomona has been extremely enriching, educationally and socially. Being an Ag Ambassador has enhanced my overall college experience tremendously, not only in giving me more confidence in my public speaking skills and, as a result, in myself, but also in creating long-lasting friendships among my colleagues." **Danielle Duran**

"Being an Ag Ambassador is important to me because I take pride in our school. I have a huge passion for Agriculture so being able to represent the College of Ag is an honor. Being involved in college is really important to me because I want to have more memories than just going to class." **Heather Morois**



2006-07 Ag Ambassadors: Maria Batrez, Danielle Duran, Krista Page, Heather Morois, Brittany Yates, and Alesha Solis. Not pictured: Kaitlyn Pickett.

"I think being an Ag Ambassador is important because we provide students with very useful information on the college experience in general, and on Cal Poly Pomona Agriculture in particular. Being an Ag Ambassador has helped me see that I can do anything I put my mind to." **Krista Page**

Pumpkin Festival 2007



Photo by Penne Fode

**We want to
keep in touch!**

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

**CALL
(909) 869-2201**



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