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Welcome to AGRInotes. This newsletter updates you as we start the academic year. Included are profiles of our new faculty and staff. Our professional team brings years of experience to our students.

I was attracted to California by the diversity of its agriculture and people. Californians grow more than 450 different crops. At CPP we are preparing the next generation of agriculturists for the challenge of feeding more than 9 billion people by 2050. We provide our students the background they need to stretch the frontiers of science to find solutions, innovate and excel.

Our college is at the interface of dynamic career paths. Jobs in the apparel, nutrition, food and agricultural industries are high tech, often high touch and pay well; offering opportunity for personal growth and career advancement.

This year we’ve increased to more than 1800 students in our 76th year of excellence as a college. Our college represents 8.5% of university enrollment. Our students include 82% women and 43% are from ethnic minorities or under-represented groups. The College offers Agribusiness & Food Industry Management, Agricultural Science (Education), Animal Science, Animal Health Science, Apparel Merchandising & Management, Foods & Nutrition, Food Science & Technology, and Plant Science majors. It is the only dedicated College of Agriculture serving the SoCal region. Our vision is to grow our capacity to serve young people aspiring to the food and fiber sectors.

We’ve got exciting events planned in the coming months. We want to hear from you. Come share with us!

With warm regards,

Mary Holz-Clause

BACKGROUND

Dr. Mary Holz-Clause was appointed dean of the College of Agriculture in July 2014. Prior to this she was vice president for economic development at the University of Connecticut and served as associate vice president for Extension and Outreach at Iowa State University. Mary was raised on a farm in central Iowa, where she and her husband currently own and operate a grain and livestock operation. She has three degrees from Iowa State University, a BS in agricultural business, MS in public administration and PhD in agriculture education.

Dr. Holz-Clause’s career has focused on promoting agricultural products and its people. She helped to launch the development of the ethanol industry in the U.S and worked with colleagues at Iowa State University to create the first national value added agriculture center. Mary likes to work with entrepreneurs and support them through good business practices and planning. “My job as a business consultant and extension specialist is to help entrepreneurs ask the right questions to understand how their business can be more successful.” She has worked extensively in Africa, Asia, and South America to develop human capital and recently in Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Uganda on agricultural development projects.

“I’m excited to get to know the region and particularly glad to be in a climate where I can get my exercise from swimming instead of scooping snow.” Mary and her husband, Reg Clause, have raised three daughters and have eight grandchildren.

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Cal Poly Pomona
College of Agriculture
3801 W. Temple Avenue
Pomona, CA 91768
(909) 869-2200
Cover: Dr. Holz-Clause poses at the AGRIscapes vineyard.

Dr. Mary Holz-Clause, Dean
mholzclause@cpp.edu

Dr. Lisa Kessler, Interim Assoc. Dean
lkessler@cpp.edu

Danielle Townley, Writer
drtownley@cpp.edu

Penne Fode, Contributing Editor
pafode@cpp.edu

Deanna Stewart, Graphic Designer
dstewart@cpp.edu

Tom Zasadzinski, Photographer
tzasadzinski@cpp.edu

New website name + www.cpp.edu/agri

GIVING TO THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

The College of Agriculture invites you to be a part of our exciting future. Your generosity will:

Advance innovation and research in applied agricultural sciences
Create settings that foster students, faculty and industries
Transform student training through cutting-edge instruction

To discuss a gift that will benefit the college and honor your legacy, please contact Kristen Daley, director of major gifts, at kldaley@cpp.edu or (909) 869-5471.

Make Your Gift Today!

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Many exciting accomplishments occurred for the College of Agriculture during the previous academic year.

The Animal and Veterinary Sciences Department received $1.2 million in endowments and almost $1 million in grants awarded from the USDA and the Agricultural Research Institute (ARI).

The Apparel Merchandising and Management Department was ranked 19th nationally for Fashion Merchandising and 12th for Fashion Management by FashionSchools.org, an independent rankings agency. The department supported and served as a co-founder of AM4U Inc., a demonstration manufacturing facility in Rancho Cucamonga. A number of leading retail, sports, and apparel brands have opened negotiations to build plants modeled on this facility. All full and part time faculty participated in, with support of media vision and e-learning, the automation of the introductory session for all AMM courses. This innovation will permit instructors to begin teaching from the start of the first class meeting by offering their introductory lesson on-line.

The Didactic Program in Dietetics and the Dietetic Internship Program in the Human Nutrition and Food Science Department achieved re-accreditation. In addition the Department established a new Food Technology Laboratory with partial support from the Kellogg Company.

Twenty-five Plant Science undergraduate students participated in research projects dealing with the Asian Citrus Psyllid, a serious pest of citrus that carries a deadly disease. These students conducted field and lab research trials, and presented their results at a research symposium in June of 2014. The funding for this project came from an ARI grant and the California Citrus Research Board. The Center for Turf, Irrigation and Landscape Technology (CTILT) upgraded its facilities to include a new set of research field turf plots provided by a donor, and also a student-built golf green at the facilities. The student Turf Team placed 4th nationally out of 71 teams. The Landscape and Horticulture teams placed 8th nationally at the nursery industry sponsored PLANET competition. In addition, the Horticulture team received a 2nd place national ranking at the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) competition.

Agribusiness and Food Industry Management students produced a marketing plan for the Sunshine Floral Company as part of their coursework. Sunshine Floral was so impressed that they used the marketing plan for their spring advertising campaign in floral journals.

The number of Ag Science students has increased from 32 in the fall of 2011 to 110 for fall 2014. Twenty-four Ag Science students facilitated leadership workshops to high school students from throughout the state at the FFA State Leadership Conference.

Dr. Eileen Cullen, an associate professor in the Department of Plant Science, joined Cal Poly Pomona in September 2014. She earned her PhD degree in entomology and MS degree in plant protection and pest management from The University of California, Davis. Dr. Cullen also has an undergraduate degree in agricultural education from the University of Minnesota, where she spent the past 11 years teaching and conducting research at the Madison Department of Entomology.

Dr. Cullen is looking forward to teaching, mentoring student’s research projects, and further developing plant science courses at Cal Poly Pomona. She intends to work on the area where plant science intersects with economic development, urban and regional planning, nutrition, food security, and social movements for sustainable communities. In her spare time Dr. Cullen swims with the U.S. Masters Swimming organization and is also taking Spanish classes in the evenings.
NEW FACULTY

Dr. Angella Kim
Assistant Professor
Apparel Merchandising and Management

Dr. Angella Kim’s background in and knowledge of new technology in the fashion industry, and how it influences consumer behavior, is a welcomed addition to Cal Poly Pomona’s Apparel Merchandising and Management Department. Dr. Kim graduated from the Yonsei University in Korea with her undergraduate degree in clothing and textiles/human environment design, followed by her MS degree in clothing and textiles/fashion marketing. She then went on to complete her PhD degree in design, with a concentration on retail merchandising and consumer studies, from the University of Minnesota.

During her doctoral training she became a graduate instructor and also conducted research in the areas of fashion brand management and consumer behavior. In her free time Dr. Kim heads to the mall. She explains, “For an academic who teaches and researches fashion merchandising, it is very important to be able to experience what’s going on in the current retail environment and then be able to talk about these up-to-date issues with students in the classroom.”

Dr. Jianli Hu
Assistant Professor
Apparel Merchandising and Management

Dr. Jianli Hu began in the Apparel Merchandising and Management Department as an assistant professor in September 2014. Dr. Hu earned her PhD in operations management from Washington State University. She is also a graduate of Beijing’s Institute of Fashion Technology where she completed her MS degree in apparel merchandising and an undergraduate degree in clothing engineering.

Dr. Hu strives to teach her students how to think and solve unstructured problems for themselves. She adds, “I believe in utilizing specific learning techniques such as written case study reports, guest speakers, simulation games, oral presentations, readings on current topics, and instructional videos.”

In her spare time Dr. Hu enjoys cooking and traveling to adventurous places.

Dr. Hu comes to Cal Poly Pomona with a notable background in higher education, having taught undergraduate and graduate courses in fashion marketing, operations management, statistical analysis, quantitative methods, case analysis, supply chain management, fashion product development, textile science, and Auto CAD/CAM systems. Dr. Hu’s additional work experience consists of consulting for several e-commerce companies in China, both in the public and private sector. Her work as a consultant led her to her most recent areas of research on China’s B2C (business-to-consumer) and C2C (consumer-to-consumer) markets.
Dr. Joanne Sohn
Assistant Professor
Animal and Veterinary Sciences

Dr. Joanne Sohn joined the Animal and Veterinary Sciences Department as an assistant professor in September 2014. She brings with her an extensive amount of experience both as a clinical and consulting veterinarian. Dr. Sohn earned her MS degree in public health from the University of California, Davis. In addition she holds a doctorate in veterinary medicine from Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine in Massachusetts and an undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

She is looking forward to adding to the practical experience our students receive during their time at Cal Poly Pomona. In addition, she is interested in studying how much repetition is required to achieve excellence in the workplace. She comments, “For example, how many times does someone have to place a catheter before they become proficient, how many times to become consistent, and how many times to become expert.”

Prior to her appointment, Dr. Sohn spent the past six years at UCLA’s School of Medicine as the director of veterinary surgical services. During this time she assisted in residency training and teaching, and also supported researchers in planning and refining protocols to elevate service quality. Dr. Sohn’s background includes working for many years as a clinical veterinarian in high volume, 24-hour emergency practices.

Dr. Michelle Wien
Assistant Professor
Human Nutrition and Food Science

An alumna of Cal Poly Pomona’s College of Agriculture (BS Foods & Nutrition ’78, MS Nutrition & Food Science ’93), Dr. Michelle Wien returned to her alma mater in September of 2014 as a full-time faculty member in the Human Nutrition and Food Science Department. Dr. Wien is an experienced professional and educator that comes to us with a passion for nutrition. In addition to her degrees from Cal Poly Pomona, Dr. Wien completed a one year dietetic internship at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. It was during her time at Baylor that she became a registered dietitian and later went on to become a certified diabetes educator. Dr. Wien also holds a doctorate in public health in nutrition from Loma Linda University and completed a two year postdoctoral fellowship at City of Hope National Medical Center and Beckman Research Institute in Duarte, California.

She previously worked as a part-time lecturer here at Cal Poly Pomona and was an assistant professor for the Department of Nutrition at Loma Linda University where she taught graduate level nutrition courses. In her spare time Dr. Wien likes to travel but can also appreciate a fun day close to home at Disneyland with her family.

Dr. Wien is eager to share her knowledge and expertise with students. She has more than eight years of experience as an inpatient dietitian in acute care hospitals and 14 years of experience as an outpatient dietitian for the Department of Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolism at City of Hope National Medical Center and Beckman Research Institute.
The College of Agriculture welcomed Jenifer Cazares in April 2014 to assist the Plant Science, Agribusiness, and Agricultural Science Departments. Prior to her appointment at Cal Poly Pomona, Jenifer worked as an assistant director of financial aid for a community college. Jenifer’s background includes over 10 years of administrative work experience along with a passion for helping others, making her an excellent addition to our team. Jenifer’s current duties include: acting as a resource for students with questions, balancing the department’s budget, managing faculty requests, and event planning. In her spare time Jenifer enjoys spending quality family time with her husband and three-and-a-half-year-old daughter. They enjoy hiking, bike riding, camping, and going to the Colorado River.

The Animal and Veterinary Sciences Department welcomed Brad Foyil in summer 2014 as the new Sheep and Swine Unit Manager. Brad is a recent graduate of Cal Poly Pomona, earning his undergraduate degree in animal science. Before his appointment at Cal Poly Pomona, he spent nine years working at, and eventually managing, a local feed store. Today, Brad oversees about 400 animals. His responsibilities include: herd health and maintenance, assisting faculty with the instruction of classes and laboratories, helping students with their research projects, facility maintenance, and supervising student assistants. Brad also supplies animals for the Cal Poly Pomona Livestock Team and Danny’s Farm. In his spare time Brad enjoys camping, fishing, off-roading, raising pigeons, and working on cars.

The College of Agriculture welcomed Danielle Townley in February of 2014 as its new recruitment and retention assistant. Danielle graduated from Cal Poly Pomona in 2009 with her undergraduate degree in public relations. Prior to her appointment, Danielle gained campus knowledge working for the Bronco Bookstore, Orientation Services, and the English Language Institute. Today, Danielle is responsible for managing information requests from prospective students, supervising student assistants, updating social media sites, maintaining the college e-newsletter, and lending a hand with the Ag Ambassador and Peer Advisor programs. She also assists with key recruitment events. Danielle comments, “There is always something interesting going on here. Whether it be with students, faculty and staff, animals, plants, or food; the College of Agriculture is a great and busy place to be.” In her free time Danielle enjoys running, playing tennis, crafting, and spending time with family and friends.
Mark your calendars
It’s gonna be a great year!

**March 7, 2015**

**College of Agriculture Open House**
See displays and demonstrations while learning what makes us tick. The event is open to the public.

**March 21, 2015**

**Farm to Table Dinner Event**
Enjoy food from local chefs using delicious locally produced products and products grown by the students in a sustainable manner.

**April 14, 2015**

**Ag Career Day**
Providing students with valuable networking opportunities in all industry avenues in agriculture.