Hundreds of sunflowers were grown this past October for the participants of PumpkinFest, a month-long event at AGRIscapes. About 120,000 people enjoyed the huge pumpkin patch, games, demonstrations, hay rides, a giant corn maze, petting farm, and so much more!
Greetings to you, our supporters, alumni, and friends!

I am excited to invite you to experience the 24th edition of the Huntley College of Agriculture’s AGRIcolumn magazine. We have a lot of news to catch you up on – including my extreme honor to serve another year as interim dean of the college!

In this issue, you’ll read about how our students have excelled this past year in both regional and national competitions that addressed global challenges related to food and agriculture. We invite you to take pride with us in celebrating their accomplishments!

You’ll also see how our students are collaborating with community partners and helping the Huntley College become a knowledge center for urban and community agriculture in Southern California. Additionally, you’ll learn the ways our alumni and donors are providing our students with hands-on learning experiences that will further expose and prepare them for careers in agriculture.

As the campus and college continues its tradition of delivering academic excellence, we ask that you welcome our new faculty and staff who have joined us this Fall across our academic disciplines. We hope you are inspired by our students’ stories and join us in raising the next generations of leaders in the food, farming, and fashion industries.

As always, you have an open invitation to join us on campus to attend events, tour our farms and facilities, or share your expertise with students.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kessler, DrPH, RD
Interim Dean, Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture
FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ROCK STARS

A CLEAN SWEEP at a regional product development competition

VICTORY in a statewide student research symposium

CONQUERORS at national baking and food science and technologist events

Cal Poly Pomona food science and technology students had a banner year in 2019, taking home contest honors from Anaheim and Fullerton to Chicago and New Orleans.

“We’re very proud of our students’ accomplishments,” said Professor Harmit Singh, chair of the Department of Nutrition and Food Science. “It’s a tribute to their passion and hard work, and to the faculty and staff who encouraged them.”

The victory parade began when Eric Kinjo, Breanna Barragan, and Steven Pham took first place in the finals of the American Society of Baking (ASB) annual Product Development Competition, Feb. 24-26, in Chicago.

The trio competed against teams from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, the University of Wisconsin, and Purdue University to create a new flatbread bakery food product.

The flatbread product could take the form of pizza, naan or tortillas, but had to be at least 15 percent of one or more of the “ancient grains” – spelt, Korasan wheat, freekeh, bulgur, farro, einkorn, emmer, millet, barley, teff, oats, sorghum, quinoa, amaranth, buckwheat or chia – based on flour weight.

The product had to have a shelf life of more than three weeks or at least six months for frozen products. Judges evaluated the product proposals on their potential success in today’s market. In addition, they judged the entries based on the problem-solving skills the teams used in product development.

The Cal Poly Pomona entry was a “Grilled Cheese and Tomato Soup Flatbread.” The frozen product was filled with a cheese blend and had tomatoes baked into the bread, giving it the flavor of tomato soup and grilled cheese in every bite.

Each of the students received a $2,000 scholarship, and the team received a trophy for display on campus. In addition, the students earned full tuition to the AIB International Baking Science and Technology course, a 16-week residency program for bakers that includes hands-on lab experience.

Photo provided by American Society of Baking
干净的胜利

文本内容：

一个胜利被三个来自Cal Poly Pomona的学生团队完成，他们在3月6日在Anaheim的南加州食品行业会议的产品开发竞赛中赢得了全胜。

该竞赛要求参赛者创建一种新的食品产品。评委们评估了参赛作品的市场潜力和产品开发中的技术问题解决能力。

马修·乔丹、凯文·阮、乔治·古兹曼的团队以一种名为AquaFabark的三明治产品赢得了第一名，其特点是三层：一层是用糖和aquafaba制成的水；一层是豆子煮熟后产生的黏稠废水中的 reused waste food ingredient；一层是豆制品、椰子奶油和巧克力覆盖的杏仁和腰果。

莎拉·卡巴里洛、埃里克·达索夫、瑞恩·杨的团队在他们的产品Dip-A-Roos赢得了第二名，这是一种针对儿童和他们健康意识强的父母的三部分零食，配有全谷物燕麦和小麦饼干、隐藏的花椰菜和牛奶馅和蓝莓苹果酱。

埃丝特·文，梅丽莎·赫维，玛丽亚·卡瓦兰特斯的团队以他们的产品Proyo Bites赢得了第三名，这是一种即食的酸奶填充的芝士蛋糕小点心，用的是高质量的成分，如乳清蛋白分离物，非脂肪奶油奶酪和非脂肪酸奶。这种post-workout snack的基底是低脂格兰诺拉麦片，草莓酸奶馅和芝士蛋糕馅。

今年，卡巴里洛还因她的个人研究项目而获得荣誉，她在多个层面上获得了荣誉。她的项目是“比较植物和动物起源蛋白质对麦芽糖化影响的纳米乳液形成和稳定性”。

在卡巴里洛的项目中，她为成功而付出的努力得到了回报。作为学院的Class of 2019的牧师，她被命名为Julian A. McPhee优等生，并在5月18日举行的毕业典礼上被学院表彰。

INDIVIDUALITY

While the Cal Poly Pomona student teams were sweeping the Southern California Food Industry Conference, Sarah Caballero, was excelling with an individual research project that would earn her honors on multiple levels.

Caballero’s project was “Comparison of Plant and Animal-Origin Proteins for the Impact of Maillard Conjugation on Nanoemulsion Formation and Stability.”

She started off by giving one of the top oral presentations at Cal Poly Pomona’s 7th Annual Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities Conference in March.

As a result, she was chosen to present at the 33rd California State University Student Research Competition in April at Cal State Fullerton. At the competition, Caballero won the Biological and Agricultural Sciences Undergraduate Award.

A Yorba Linda native, Caballero was named the Julian A. McPhee Outstanding Student Scholar as the valedictorian for the Huntley College of Agriculture’s Class of 2019. The college honored her at Commencement on May 18.

The Cal Poly Pomona team created lobster-flavored Hayaku Noods, which incorporated the byproducts of brewer’s spent grain and a natural lobster concentrate. The product provides a good source of fiber, iron, and protein and is low in fat.

Olive Li, an associate professor on nutrition and food science and the college’s director of research and graduate studies, credited several people for the food science and technology program’s success this year.

They include Davidov-Pardo, lecturer Karoline Harrison and Dianne Trinh, instructional technician Donna Ha, and Biological Sciences Professor Wei-Jen Lin, who helped teach food microbiology, safety and other technical courses over the years.

In addition, the food science and technology faculty received grant support from the university and the college to test a change in student course work.

Instead of the usual requirement of having students do projects in all senior courses, students conducted a capstone project that consolidated and integrated all the food science components.

“The idea was to reduce student course loads and focus on integrated quality learning,” Li said.

The emphasis seems to have reaped large dividends this academic year.

Shukla, a food science and technology student who has served on the Dean’s Advisory Council, credited the Department of Nutrition and Food Science faculty for the university’s success in competitions this year.

“We are quite a close-knit major, and it’s the relationship we have with the faculty that really nurtures this,” he said.

Cal Poly Pomona’s program has long been an underdog competing against larger programs like those at Penn State University and Cornell, Shukla added.

“We are becoming more prominent in the field and are making a name for ourselves,” he said. “I think it’s the drive to be something and putting us on the map.”

Cal Poly Pomona prides itself on the learn-by-doing education offered to students. But some opportunities would not exist without contributions from donors, industry organizations, and businesses.

Huntley College of Agriculture students have benefited from the generosity of supporters to gain invaluable opportunities to learn more about the industries they will work in and lead.

Continued …
Ten science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) students explored possible careers in agriculture during a three-day tour of Northern California farming operations in June.

The students visited seed developer Seminis Inc. in Woodland and then traveled to the Salinas Valley, where they visited Ocean Mist Farms, Taylor Farms, grower Andy Boy (D’Arrigo California), Western Growers, Monterey Mushrooms, Driscoll’s, and harvester manufacturer Ramsay Highlander.

During the tour, they learned about crop science, genetics, soil science, nutrient management, engineering, robotics, technology, automation, entomology, and sensory analytics.

“The most interesting part of the trip was hearing personal stories from working professionals who initially did not intend to have a career in agriculture,” said Linh Haili Nguyen, a food science and technology student from Santa Ana.

“With the global population reaching 9.3 billion within the next 30 years, the agriculture industry will be growing at an even faster pace. We are going to need a skilled, knowledgeable and innovative future workforce to help feed the world,” said Tom Nassif, president and CEO of Western Growers.

The college selected participants after reviewing applications that included an essay describing students’ interest in agriculture careers. Animal science major Gissel Quero wanted to learn more about other career possibilities outside of veterinary medicine. The East Los Angeles native also appreciated hearing workers’ stories about their careers.

“It was truly inspiring and gave me some hope that I, too, would find my niche in the industry,” Quero said.

Western Growers began sponsoring the biannual tour for college students in 2016, alternating between visits to farming operations in Northern California and the Coachella and Imperial Valleys and Arizona. Students from UC Davis and Cal State Los Angeles also participated in the tour.

DONOR-SPONSORED Conference TRIPS

Amanda Borja and Irene Ngo were both able to attend national conferences, thanks to a donor’s generosity.

Borja was one of four Huntley College of Agriculture students who traveled to Chicago in October to attend the 33rd annual Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) conference.

The three-day conference, which had the theme “Championing Hispanic Higher Education Success: Meeting the Challenge of Prosperity and Equality,” drew more than 1,850 people from across the nation, including more than 600 undergraduate students.

A senior in apparel merchandising and management from Montebello, Borja was interested in attending the conference because of HACU’s history of developing student leaders. A memorable experience was a Google panel discussion on “imposter syndrome.”

“The speaker explained his own experience with feeling inadequate and undermining his own successes, but then explained the steps he took to overcome this mindset,” she recalled. “To do so, he had us partake in exercises that allowed us to develop a sense of confidence regarding our professional fields.”

Borja, who hopes to work in apparel product development and possibly develop her own clothing line, credited the conference with helping her develop greater self-confidence.

An animal science major, Ngo attended the Agriculture Future of America Food Institute in January.

Ngo also serves as a college peer advisor wanted to attend the institute to gain more networking experience.

During the conference, the Buena Park native participated in career roundtables and went on industry tours of research and development laboratories and production facilities. She connected with industry professionals, as well as other students. The experience provided her with a wealth of insight into different careers.

“The biggest thing I learned from this trip was just that there are so many opportunities for advancement in the food industry and there are so many sectors that anyone can dive into and learn,” Ngo said. “I will utilize what I have learned to hone in on what my interests are and find my own career path.”

Borja and Ngo’s trips were made possible through a donation from Richard Frencer (’67, agronomy), a retired agricultural sales consultant and independent food production professional who was named the college’s Alumnus of the Year in 2017.

Frencer’s funding also enabled 6 undergraduate agribusiness students to travel to a competition at the National Agri-Marketing Association’s (NAMA) annual conference and trade show in Kansas City in April.

The students, who are part of the Cal Poly Pomona chapter of NAMA, spent several months conducting market research, and developing a plan to market a dietary supplement made with turmeric and dried plantains, and creating a presentation. Six student presenters, a graduate assistant, and faculty advisor traveled to the conference.

Continued...
A PERFECT Fit!

A first-year student from Norco, Thayer came to Cal Poly Pomona to study animal science with the goal of becoming an equine veterinarian.

"Horses are a major aspect of my life, and I have always wanted to have a career that involves horses, especially one that revolves around saving the lives of these majestic animals," she said.

Because of her love of equines, Thayer walked into the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center and asked if a groom position was open. In addition to grooming, she was also interested in training the Arabian horses that perform in the center’s monthly Sunday Horse Shows.

Initially, there wasn’t an opening, but thanks to alumnus John Resich ('69, business, finance, and insurance), an opportunity became available.

Resich, an attorney who owns farming and ranching operations in Wyoming, supports students who live and work on campus ranching and farming operations.

"I was hired as the very first lab tech who kept the individual kitchens clean and organized the supplies for the foods classes," she recalled.

Today, every nutrition and food science student attends classes in them, whether it’s for dietetics or product development.

The kitchen labs were part of Building 7, the $1.8 million facility that opened in 1970 and also housed the offices of the then-Department of Food and Nutrition.

"I thought of Cal Poly Pomona, which had such a big impact on my career," she said. "I thought this would be the perfect place to allocate some money."

The Robinsons’ planned gift is much appreciated, Interim Dean Lisa Kessler said. The Department of Nutrition and Food Science is hoping to raise additional support to make current upgrades to the kitchens, she said.

"When my husband and I started planning our trust and beneficiary list, I thought this would be the perfect place to allocate some money," she said. "We want to give our students hands-on learning opportunities with the best equipment and facilities," Kessler said.
Students across campus have shown great interest in the Department of Plant Science’s minor in urban and community agriculture, which was introduced in Fall 2018.

“We have students in the minor who are not from the college or our major,” said Professor Valerie Mellano, the department chair.

Engineering and landscape architecture students are among those who have signed up for the minor, she said.

**Classes and Community Outreach**

Students in the minor take core courses in urban and community agricultural policy, urban farm business models, and small-scale production, which includes hands-on experience growing herbs and other plants for the culinary garden.

Among the electives offered in the minor are classes on organic agriculture and bee science.

The college is converting a 10-acre section of the Spadra Farm for organic production. (See sidebar). It will provide a working laboratory for students to learn and apply the philosophical and biological foundations of organic agriculture.

Bee science has become a popular topic of study as more communities are allowing urban beekeeping and interest has grown. “There are gardeners who want pollination, and there are well-intentioned folks who want to help save the planet because the plight of bees is very serious,” said animal science lecturer Mark Haag, who teaches the bee science class.

Students in the bee science course gain hands-on experience working with the two dozen hives in the on-campus apiary, learning about pollination, bee biology, and honey production.

In addition to classes, The AGRIscapes Center does a great job reaching out to the community. PumpkinFest, held this past October, had about 100,000 people come out to the farm. There were a number of educational demonstrations such as honey extractions, sheep sheering, and cow milking among others. Students are an integral part of the experience, working throughout the month and assisting in the demonstrations.

The Farm Store sells student-grown produce, and its nursery has opened up its greenhouses for numerous plant sales events throughout the year such as poinsettias, Tomatozania and Pepperzania. AGRIscapes has hydroponic systems for growing berries that customers can pick in the spring.

In addition, the center has created a one-acre Discovery Farm for schoolchildren to visit on field trips to go along with the Children’s Garden and Petting Farm that operate at AGRIscapes.

Students teach the schoolchildren on the field trips about plants, insects, and nutrition using newly developed graphic displays, hands-on activities, and worksheets that they can take home. About 9,500 schoolchildren and parents visited AGRIscapes for field trips last fall, with about 6,000 visiting the Children’s Garden.

**The Organic Way**

To receive organic crop production certification, the Huntley College of Agriculture had to show that it has not used synthetic pesticides or fertilizers on the 10-acre plot at Spadra Farm for at least three years, according to federal standards. In addition, it had to follow organic practices, such as crop rotation, organic seed sources, approved inputs, on-farm nutrient cycling and bio diversity. The college developed an organic record-keeping system plan showing all the practices employed over the past 36 months for review by an accredited certifying agency.

Much to our delight, the college received certification on November 14, 2019.

The Department of Plant Sciences offers a class on organic agriculture that covers the many aspects of organic farming. In addition students go on field trips to organic farms.

**Student organic learning has already begun.**

Assistant Professor Aaron Fox’s students have participated in a CDFA-funded Healthy Soils Demonstration Project which aims to show the benefits and costs of building healthy soils.

Assistant Professor Priti Saxena’s students are working on a project with UC Davis and the Organic Seed Alliance Company to evaluate and identify tomato breeds for hybridization.

In addition, the center has created a one-acre Discovery Farm for schoolchildren to visit on field trips to go along with the Children’s Garden and Petting Farm that operate at AGRIscapes.

Students teach the schoolchildren on the field trips about plants, insects, and nutrition using newly developed graphic displays, hands-on activities, and worksheets that they can take home. About 9,500 schoolchildren and parents visited AGRIscapes for field trips last fall, with about 6,000 visiting the Children’s Garden.

**Continued…**
The college offers classes that educate students about the business, production, logistical and regulatory aspects of farmers’ markets. A number of students volunteered with SEE-LA - Sustainable Economic Enterprises of Los Angeles - a nonprofit organization that runs several farmers’ markets.

Farmers’ market vendors must have documentation certifying the county their produce was grown in. The students worked at the Hollywood Farmers’ Market, checking the more than 80 fruit and vegetable vendors to make sure their certifications were up to date, that the required signage was posted, and that they were only selling certified produce.

“This work requires knowledge about the rules and regulations that govern certified farmers’ markets as well as strong produce identification skills,” said Assistant Professor Aaron Fox, who taught the farmers’ market class.

Agribusiness and food industry management students and faculty are conducting aquaponics research. Aquaponics combines the raising of fish with hydroponic cultivation of crops in a sustainable indoor system that uses less water and no soil.

“The goal is to basically look at the financial feasibility of aquaponics on a commercial scale,” said Steve Archambault, an assistant professor in agribusiness.

Aquaponics uses 90 percent less water than traditional agriculture because the water is recycled through the system. In addition, it can yield produce faster than traditional growing methods, and it has the added benefits of nutrients created by the fish, Archambault said.

Aquaponics systems could fit in well in urban areas, where arable land and healthy soils are limited.

The City of Hope cancer research hospital in Duarte built an organic community garden on its grounds to help raise awareness of healthier, cancer-preventing foods, it looked to the Huntley College of Agriculture for an intern to help maintain it.

Hollywood Farmers’ Market management was so impressed with the Cal Poly Pomona students that they asked for more students to help the market managers on a quarterly basis, he said. Efforts are underway to raise funding to provide these students a stipend to serve in this capacity, Fox said.

Meanwhile, Archambault and a few students are working with Pando Days, a series of events designed to bring together innovative people and help make Los Angeles County a more sustainable region.

The goal is to develop projects that would bring the county’s groundbreaking sustainability plan to life, Archambault said.

With expertise in urban agriculture, Archambault and the students are developing a prototype food commons designed to improve city dwellers’ access to affordable, locally grown, healthy foods. They plan to present their work at future Pando Days events.

Sharing Expertise

Alan Melgaza Calderon (‘18, plant science) was hired to oversee the Garden of Hope, shortly after finishing his bachelor’s degree.

“The position and project also spoke to me in a personal level, having experienced cancer in my family,” he said.

“My grandmother’s green thumb has sparked my curiosity in gardening, but has also helped her cope through cancer. I took the chance and applied for the position for the opportunity to inspire change and dedicate my efforts in her memory.”

Calderon oversees and recruits new volunteers who help maintain the garden and educates them on agricultural and horticultural practices.

The 300-square-foot garden area, which includes benches, shade trees, and space for an aquaponics system, has produced lettuce, kale, spinach, cauliflower, broccoli, and beets. City of Hope also hosts educational events about gardening skills, harvesting, and cooking.

“Many patients have also come forward and used the garden as a recreational and educational space during stressful times,” Calderon said. “We also open our doors to any other prospective or curious gardeners in the community. We hope to continue expanding and reconnect people with their food and the environment while healing any wounds in the community.”

When the City of Hope cancer research hospital in Duarte built an organic community garden on its grounds to help raise awareness of healthier, cancer-preventing foods, it looked to the Huntley College of Agriculture for an intern to help maintain it.

Urban agriculture, however, is far more than learning how to grow crops in the city or about how to manage a farm business and sell produce.

Lecturer Rachel Surls has taught a class on urban agriculture and policy and community development where students have grappled with real-world issues.

During one semester, students worked closely with a local nonprofit, the Institute for Public Strategies, to develop policy recommendations for urban agriculture for the city of Pomona.

They interviewed local residents and city staff members regarding open green space and healthy food access. They developed several recommendations, such as creating an incentive zone giving property owners reduced taxes in exchange for allowing vacant lots to be used as gardens and using rooftops to grow food and cool buildings.

The students presented their recommendations at a community forum, hosted by Mayor Tim Sandoval, which was attended by city officials and more than 40 residents.

More recently, Surls’ students worked with a local nonprofit organization, My Pomona Community Garden, that is starting two new community gardens on K-12 school properties.

“The students are conducting focus groups and are helping to plan a opening celebration at one of the community gardens,” said Surls, a sustainable food systems advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension in Los Angeles County.

“I took the chance and applied for the position for the opportunity to inspire change and dedicate my efforts in her memory.”

Calderon oversees and recruits new volunteers who help maintain the garden and educates them on agricultural and horticultural practices.

The 300-square-foot garden area, which includes benches, shade trees, and space for an aquaponics system, has produced lettuce, kale, spinach, cauliflower, broccoli, and beets. City of Hope also hosts educational events about gardening skills, harvesting, and cooking.

“Many patients have also come forward and used the garden as a recreational and educational space during stressful times,” Calderon said. “We also open our doors to any other prospective or curious gardeners in the community. We hope to continue expanding and reconnect people with their food and the environment while healing any wounds in the community.”

“Many patients have also come forward and used the garden as a recreational and educational space during stressful times,” Calderon said. “We also open our doors to any other prospective or curious gardeners in the community. We hope to continue expanding and reconnect people with their food and the environment while healing any wounds in the community.”
Individuals

John & Donna Adams
Mark & Janiee Adams
Ranen Akiyama
Eric Binder & Lisa Alex
Lisa & Pablo Arias
Adam Armandino
George & Elizabeth Bartlett
Erdin Barretto
Sherry Barr
Dannah & Puptu Basnet
Marcela Bautista &
Gregory Zerovnik
Barbara Dunlap-Wolfe
Kelly F. Duke
Eldon & Sharon Dreyer
Paul & Louise Drew
Susan Dow
Alexandra Dorough
Joseph Dominguez
Donald & Sherri Domenigoni
Steven Daugherty
Chitra Dabas
Michelle Curry
Rafael Cuadras
Sylvia Cortes
Paul Bickner
John Cooke
Karin & William Cohen
John & Marilyn Guidinger
Rob Greenspan
Elfriede & Evan Graves
Benjamin & Bonnie Goodwin
Natalie Goldberg
Tony & Sue Godfrey
Michael & Laurie Fonseca
Shelby & Cameron Filley
John & Irene Ekberg
Daniel & Susanna Kato
Gentry Karr
Mary Kanian
Mollie Jameson
Ken & Kay Inose
Dan & Melinda Hostetler
Dan & Deana Holznecht
Steven & Linda Hollister
Mark Hoffman
Steven & Linda Hollister
Don & Romance HOSPITAL
Karen & William Cohen
John & Carolyn Duggan
Musa & Bana Barbie
Rafael Cuadras
Sylvia Cortes
Paul Bickner
John Cooke
Karin & William Cohen
John & Marilyn Guidinger
Rob Greenspan
Elfriede & Evan Graves
Benjamin & Bonnie Goodwin
Natalie Goldberg
Tony & Sue Godfrey
Michael & Laurie Fonseca
Shelby & Cameron Filley
John & Irene Ekberg
Daniel & Susanna Kato
Gentry Karr
Mary Kanian
Mollie Jameson
Ken & Kay Inose
Dan & Melinda Hostetler
Dan & Deana Holznecht
Steven & Linda Hollister
Mark Hoffman
Steven & Linda Hollister
Don & Romance HOSPITAL
Karen & William Cohen
John & Carolyn Duggan
Musa & Bana Barbie
Rafael Cuadras
Sylvia Cortes
Paul Bickner
John Cooke
Karin & William Cohen
John & Marilyn Guidinger
Rob Greenspan
Elfriede & Evan Graves
Benjamin & Bonnie Goodwin
Natalie Goldberg
Tony & Sue Godfrey
Michael & Laurie Fonseca
Shelby & Cameron Filley
John & Irene Ekberg
Daniel & Susanna Kato
Gentry Karr
Mary Kanian
Mollie Jameson
Ken & Kay Inose
Dan & Melinda Hostetler
Dan & Deana Holznecht
Steven & Linda Hollister
Mark Hoffman
Steven & Linda Hollister
Don & Romance HOSPITAL
Karen & William Cohen
John & Carolyn Duggan
Musa & Bana Barbie
Rafael Cuadras
Sylvia Cortes
Paul Bickner
John Cooke
Karin & William Cohen
John & Marilyn Guidinger
Rob Greenspan
Elfriede & Evan Graves
Benjamin & Bonnie Goodwin
Natalie Goldberg
Tony & Sue Godfrey
Michael & Laurie Fonseca
Shelby & Cameron Filley
John & Irene Ekberg
Daniel & Susanna Kato
Gentry Karr
Mary Kanian
Mollie Jameson
Ken & Kay Inose
Dan & Melinda Hostetler
Dan & Deana Holznecht
Steven & Linda Hollister
Mark Hoffman
Steven & Linda Hollister
Don & Romance HOSPITAL
Karen & William Cohen
John & Carolyn Duggan
Musa & Bana Barbie
Rafael Cuadras
Sylvia Cortes
Paul Bickner
John Cooke
Karin & William Cohen
John & Marilyn Guidinger
Rob Greenspan
Elfriede & Evan Graves
Benjamin & Bonnie Goodwin
Natalie Goldberg
Tony & Sue Godfrey
Michael & Laurie Fonseca
Shelby & Cameron Filley
John & Irene Ekberg
Daniel & Susanna Kato
Gentry Karr
Mary Kanian
Mollie Jameson
Ken & Kay Inose
Dan & Melinda Hostetler
Dan & Deana Holznecht
Steven & Linda Hollister
Mark Hoffman
Steven & Linda Hollis...
**NEWS BRIEFS**

**NATIONAL TREASURE**

A third-year animal science student was elected the treasurer for a national organization of pre-veterinary students.

Jaylen Davis will serve as the national treasurer for the American Pre-Veterinary Medical Association (APVMA). The Rancho Cucamonga native was elected at the APVMA Symposium, which was held March 8-9, at Penn State.

As treasurer, Davis’ duties will include maintaining the organization’s financial accounts and overseeing dues collection from APVMA’s 3,000 members. She also will arrange association’s fall and summer meetings, manage the sale of APVMA’s apparel and other items online, and participating in weekly teleconferences with the e-board and other board members.

The symposium exposes prospective veterinary students to the diverse field of veterinary medicine and provides them with valuable networking and professional development opportunities.

---

**KELLOGG-BELL HONORED AT DINNER CEREMONY**

A descendant of W.K. Kellogg was presented with the Huntley College of Agriculture’s highest award in a springtime celebration that included local cuisine and produce.

The college presented Susan Kellogg-Bell with the Jim Hicks Agricultural Achievement Award at its Farm to Table Spring Harvest Dinner on April 27 at AGRIscapes.

The award recognizes honorees for their accomplishments in agriculture and is named after Jim Hicks, a longtime supporter of agricultural education.

Kellogg-Bell is a longtime fashion industry executive and consultant. She serves on the advisory board of Cal Poly Pomona’s Department of Apparel Merchandising and Management and recently joined the board of directors for the university’s new philanthropic foundation. Like W.K. Kellogg, her great-great-grandfather, she is a horse lover.

The annual dinner is also a showcase of produce grown on campus by students and prepared by area chefs.

---

**STUDENT LEADER AWARDS**

Marana Garcia Rocha was selected as the John E. Andrews Student Undergraduate Leader of the Year Award. The Pasadena resident is majoring in food science and technology with a minor in Culinary. She plans to graduate this fall and work in product or research development.

Garcia has served in several leadership capacities in the Food Science Society as an undergraduate, including peer mentor, Ag Council representative, vice president, and event coordinator. Her experience includes organizing field trips, fundraising activities and community service activities. She also became the student representative of the Southern California Institute of Food Technologists Section’s executive committee.

Heidi Holmquist received the John E. Andrews Graduate Student Leader of the Year Award. A Simi Valley native, Holmquist (’17, plant science) is pursuing her master’s degree in agriculture, plant science option.

She is a leader in the Cal Poly Pomona Nursery’s greenhouses at AGRIscapes. Holmquist also has been part of the Los Rancheros plant science club since her undergraduate days; a member of Zeta Tau Alpha fraternity from fall 2014 to her graduation; a member of the American Phytopathological Society since 2017; and was recently invited to join the Gamma Sigma Delta agricultural honor society.

After finishing her master’s degree, Heidi plans to finish her research on the invasive Polyphagous Shothole Borer and then work for a plant pathology diagnostic lab.

---

**WINNERS AT THE NCLC**

Several Cal Poly Pomona students took first place in individual events in a national landscaping competition.

Plant science students Stephen Espinosa and Phuc “Kathy” Nguyen won in the landscape lighting and turf and weed identification events, respectively, at the National Collegiate Landscape Competition at Colorado State on March 20-23. Botany student Summer Blanco finished first in the woody plant identification event.

Twenty-two Cal Poly Pomona students participated in the competition, which is sponsored by the National Association of Landscape Professionals and featured teams from more than 60 universities across the country.

Landscape architecture student Cesar Delgado finished in third place in the interior landscape design event.

Overall, the Cal Poly Pomona team finished in 13th place in the competition. Bryan Loza was the highest scoring student on the team, finishing 18th overall among the 788 students who competed.

---

**New PLANT-BASED NUTRITION MINOR**

The Huntley College of Agriculture will get a jumpstart on a new plant-based food and nutrition minor, thanks to a donation from Bipin and Rekha Shah.

The minor would complement the college’s studies in nutrition and food science. A plant-based diet typically avoids meat and focuses on minimally processed foods, including vegetables, fruits, whole grains and nuts.

Bipin Shah is the CEO and chairman of Kovair Software in San Ramon, California. He also contributed towards Cal Poly Pomona’s Ahimsa Center, which guides students, educators and others on living through nonviolence.

---

**New AMM MASTER’S DEGREE**

The Department of Apparel Merchandising and Management will begin offering a master’s degree in international apparel management starting in fall 2020.

The program will provide students with a high-definition perspective on the emerging technologies, players, competitive processes and consumer trends reshaping the global apparel sector. It will offer an advanced education in the analytical and management skills needed to evaluate these dynamics and devise effective solutions.

The curriculum will be structured so students can complete a course of study tailored to their professional interests and different aspects of the apparel business, including apparel production, product development, and merchandising and marketing.

Students will have the option of performing thesis research or an industry-sponsored applied research project.
Eman At-Taras
Asst. Professor, AVS

Eman served as assistant professor of physiology at King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences and the College of Medicine at King Faisal Medical City. Eman’s doctorate is in physiology from UC Davis, her master’s degree in animal sciences from the University of Illinois.

Henry Flores
Retention/Grad Specialist

Henry earned his bachelor’s degree in psychology from Cal State Dominguez Hills and his master’s degree in higher education from Cal State Fullerton. Most recently, he acquired an Innovation Grant to enhance the first-year experience of first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented students.

Chelsi Dimm
Lecturer, ABM

Chelsi has a master’s degree in philosophy from Claremont Graduate University and another master’s degree in African Studies from UCLA. She has completed fieldwork on women’s roles in agriculture development in Cameroon.

Claudine Papillon
Lecturer, AMM

Claudine is a business owner and design/marketing professional with more than 25 years of academics, business, design, management, marketing, retailing and teaching practices.

Natalie Rodriguez
Education Coordinator

Natalie is a 2018 Agricultural Science alumnus. She will be involved in educational activities for field trips and events such as the Pumpkin Festival, Holidays on the Farm, and Spring on the Farm.

Helen Trejo
Asst. Professor, AMM

Helen earned her doctorate and master’s degree in fiber science and apparel design from Cornell University and her bachelor’s degree in fashion design from UC Davis. She has worked in the apparel industry, specializing in product development and apparel production strategies.

EFRAIN LOERA
Beef Unit Manager

Efrain is a 2016 animal science alumus. He has worked at Select Sires as an artificial insemination technician, a feed storke stacking plant, and at the Beef Unit.

Seoha Min
Assoc. Professor, AMM

Seoha was previously an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro from 2013 to 2019. She earned her doctorate in plant biology from Rutgers University, and her master’s degree in plant sciences from the Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology in India.

Rosa Lamas Serratos
Student Success Spec.

Rosa has performed research at San Diego Mesa College and at Cornell and also worked as a consultant.

John Lambert
Executive Director, AHC

Since 1997, Lambert has trained, bred, and managed Arabian horse farms and judged numerous competitions. He has a B.S. in animal science from Michigan State University. He owned Lambert Araby Arabs from 1999 through 2015 and is currently a partner at Stachowski Farms, the largest Arabian training and breeding program in the country.

Xu (Victor) Yang
Asst. Professor, NFS

Victor earned his doctorate in food science and technology from Ohio State University in 2017. Yang’s research interests primarily focus on food safety, especially developing antimicrobial approaches to decontaminate food. He is also interested in utilizing food waste.

Andrea Watson
Lecturer, AVS

Andrea is a 2019 M.S. animal science option, alumus. She earned her B.A. in animal science from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and minored in equine science. She worked in the Cal Poly Equity Nutrition Enterprise and the Riptide Husburter Enterprise.

Claudine Papillon
Lecturer, AMM

Claudine is a business owner and design/marketing professional with more than 25 years of academics, business, design, management, marketing, retailing and teaching practices.

Annalyce Brockham
Lecturer, AVS

Annalyce is a 2019 animal health sciences alumus and a registered veterinary technician since 2014. She has worked at Barfield Pet Hospital, the Humane Society of San Bernardino Valley, PatCo, and Loma Linda Animal Hospital.

Chelsi Dimm
Lecturer, ABM

Chelsi has a master’s degree in philosophy from Claremont Graduate University and another master’s degree in African Studies from UCLA. She has completed fieldwork on women’s roles in agriculture development in Cameroon.

Kit Kwok
Lecturer, AMM

Kit is a 2015 AMM alumnus. He was the director of TUKAloach Inc. before he joined Cal Poly Pomona in 2019. He has more than 15 years of experience in the garment industry, specializing in product development and apparel production strategies.

Emily Kiresich
Asst. Professor, NFS

Emily earned her doctorate in health promotion services and her master’s in public health from the Claremont Graduate University. A Californian, Emily also completed a master’s degree in exercise physiology and nutrition and a dietetic internship at Cal State Long Beach. She has worked in hospital settings and as an instructor.

Seoha Min
Assoc. Professor, AMM

Seoha was previously an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro from 2013 to 2019. She earned her doctorate in plant biology from Rutgers University, and her master’s degree in plant sciences from the Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology in India.

Priti Saxena
Asst. Professor, PS

Priti has spent the past four years as a lecturer and adjunct for the Plant Science department and advisor to the Cal Poly Pomona Turf Club and Turfbowl Team. She earned her doctorate in plant biology from Rutgers University, and her master’s degree in agriculture from the Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology in India.

Rosa Lamas Serratos
Student Success Spec.

Rosa has performed research at San Diego Mesa College and at Cornell and also worked as a consultant.

John Lambert
Executive Director, AHC

Since 1997, Lambert has trained, bred, and managed Arabian horse farms and judged numerous competitions. He has a B.S. in animal science from Michigan State University. He owned Lambert Arabians from 1999 through 2015 and is currently a partner at Stachowski Farms, the largest Arabian training and breeding program in the country.

Annalyce Brockham
Lecturer, AVS

Annalyce is a 2019 animal health sciences alumus and a registered veterinary technician since 2014. She has worked at Barfield Pet Hospital, the Humane Society of San Bernardino Valley, PatCo, and Loma Linda Animal Hospital.

Chelsi Dimm
Lecturer, ABM

Chelsi has a master’s degree in philosophy from Claremont Graduate University and another master’s degree in African Studies from UCLA. She has completed fieldwork on women’s roles in agriculture development in Cameroon.

Claudine Papillon
Lecturer, AMM

Claudine is a business owner and design/marketing professional with more than 25 years of academics, business, design, management, marketing, retailing and teaching practices.

Priti Saxena
Asst. Professor, PS

Priti has spent the past four years as a lecturer and adjunct for the Plant Science department and advisor to the Cal Poly Pomona Turf Club and Turfbowl Team. She earned her doctorate in plant biology from Rutgers University, and her master’s degree in agriculture from the Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology in India.

Seoha Min
Assoc. Professor, AMM

Seoha was previously an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro from 2013 to 2019. She earned her doctorate in plant biology from Rutgers University, and her master’s degree in plant sciences from the Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology in India.

Claudine Papillon
Lecturer, AMM

Claudine is a business owner and design/marketing professional with more than 25 years of academics, business, design, management, marketing, retailing and teaching practices.

Annalyce Brockham
Lecturer, AVS

Annalyce is a 2019 animal health sciences alumus and a registered veterinary technician since 2014. She has worked at Barfield Pet Hospital, the Humane Society of San Bernardino Valley, PatCo, and Loma Linda Animal Hospital.

Chelsi Dimm
Lecturer, ABM

Chelsi has a master’s degree in philosophy from Claremont Graduate University and another master’s degree in African Studies from UCLA. She has completed fieldwork on women’s roles in agriculture development in Cameroon.

Claudine Papillon
Lecturer, AMM

Claudine is a business owner and design/marketing professional with more than 25 years of academics, business, design, management, marketing, retailing and teaching practices.

Priti Saxena
Asst. Professor, PS

Priti has spent the past four years as a lecturer and adjunct for the Plant Science department and advisor to the Cal Poly Pomona Turf Club and Turfbowl Team. She earned her doctorate in plant biology from Rutgers University, and her master’s degree in agriculture from the Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology in India.
After 24 years as the college’s first recruitment and retention coordinator, Rhonda retired in August 2019. The position was established in 1995 to develop an outreach plan, coordinate Ag Career Day, and create an ag ambassador program. Ostrowski created aspects of the job from scratch. Initially, her role included making classroom presentations at high schools and community colleges, attending college fairs, and participating in ag-related events, like the World Ag Expo and FFA conferences. She also provided college tours and advising to prospective students, coordinated the annual Ag Open House, created special activities and events, and developed a communications plan for applicants and prospective students. The job expanded to include producing an email newsletter to current students, establishing the Peer Advisor Program, teaching AG 100, participating in new student orientation and providing academic advising. During her tenure, she supervised more than 350 students as Ag Ambassadors and Peer Advisors. Ostrowski was honored with the college’s Staff of the Year Award in 2000 and the Outstanding University Staff Member award in 2010. Prior to joining the college, Ostrowski worked for 11 years in the university’s financial aid office.

Dan Hostetler, professor and chairman emeritus of the Department of Plant Science retired last spring. He began teaching at Cal Poly Pomona and managing the university’s farm operations in 1980. In 1992, he became chair of the Department of Horticulture, Plant and Soil Science, while continuing to manage farm operations. During his 22-year tenure as chairman, Hostetler remodeled the plant science curriculum from five majors to one with different career tracks and options; developed the AGRIscape Center and Farm Store; renovated and moved the Horticulture Unit to AGRIscape; established the 14-acre Huntley Vineyards to provide students with experience growing wine grapes; established a one-acre culinary garden for the Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch; and started the Pumpkin Festival, Car & Tractor Show, Taste of the Farm Store and Strawberry Festival. He is the recipient of the Provost’s Award for Excellence in Service to Cal Poly Pomona; the California State Farmer’s Degree from California Future Farmers of America; and a USDA/HACU Eka De la Garza Fellowship. An alumnus, Hostetler ('75, agronomy; '82, M.S. agricultural science) served as a ranch manager and irrigation foreman in the San Joaquin Valley after graduating. He returned to campus in 1976 to become the Kellogg Ranch farm supervisor.

Ed and Nenita Cabacungan retired nearly 20 years ago, but they are still involved with Cal Poly Pomona. The couple, who met during college in the Philippines, live in Walnut, and they enjoy growing fruits, vegetables, roses, orchids, and papayas. They attend Zumba classes at a local fitness club and monthly senior dinner dances. They have two children and six grandchildren. When they are not gardening, exercising or socializing, they have season tickets for opera at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, musical shows at the Pantages Theater, the California Philharmonic at Disney Concert Hall, and ballet shows at Segerstrom Concert Hall in Costa Mesa. Ed, who was chair of the Department of Agribusiness and Food Industry Management for 14 years and retired in 2001–02, is a member of the Riverside Rotary Club and raises funds for the American Red Cross. Nenita retired after the 2002–03 academic year as a professor emeritus in the Department of Nutrition and Food Science. When they retired, they established an endowment with the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation that generates two annual scholarships for students in agribusiness and nutrition, respectively. The Cabacungans created the scholarships as a way of giving back and recognizing the individuals and organizations who had helped them when they were students.
In Memoriam

A scholarship named in memory of the late Wayne Bidlack, a former dean of the College of Agriculture, will be awarded for the first time this spring.

The Hunstley College of Agriculture established the scholarship in Bidlack’s honor after he died Nov. 2, 2018. He was 74.

Bidlack was a dean from 1995 to 2007, a period of great change for the college. He implemented plans to consolidate or eliminate majors, while facing growing enrollment and increasing financial challenges as state funding for higher education declined. Despite the challenges, he championed the college as a fundraiser and was an advocate for faculty research.

During his tenure, the college established the AGRIscapes Center, which included the Farm Store at Kellogg Ranch, classrooms, educational exhibits, a theater, a recycling education center, and office space. Greenhouses were added in 2007.

In addition, the college added apparel merchandising and management, first as a baccalaureate program and then as its own department in 2006. It also phased out the home economics program as high schools eliminated similar programs.

Other programs developed during Bidlack’s tenure included the food science and technology baccalaureate in 1999, the animal health science baccalaureate in 2004, and the Culinology emphasis in 2006. The college also began leasing 1,000 acres around the California Institution for Men in Chino to farm and support instruction in 2003 and planted vineyards on campus. Before Cal Poly Pomona, Bidlack worked as chair and professor of the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at Iowa State and at the USC School of Medicine.

Among the honors he received was the Wang Family Excellence Award from the California State University System. He also was appointed as the CSU representative to the state Board of Food and Agriculture by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2006.

After stepping down as dean in 2007, Bidlack returned to teaching until his retirement in Winter 2015.

He is survived by his wife, Wei, a lecturer in the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences and campus point person for the Cal Poly Pomona Agricultural Research Institute program.

College Awards

Mack H. Kennington
Advisor of the Year
Dr. Gabriel Davidov-Pardo

Gabriel is an assistant professor in the Department of Nutrition and Food Science. He was cited in particular for his efforts to prepare his students for the conversion from the quarter system to semesters.

Davidov-Pardo also was praised for his enthusiasm and passion for food science and his commitment to students. He was previously named the college’s 2016-17 Teacher of the Year.

Teacher of the Year
Ben Lehan

Ben is a lecturer in the Department of Plant Science. Students said Lehan is very knowledgeable and is always prepared for his classes, incorporating different teaching methods.

In addition, Lehan encourages students to participate in the class discussion and creates an environment where students aren’t afraid to speak up, a student said.

Outstanding Staff

Penne Fode, a longtime administrative coordinator for the dean’s office in the Hunstley College of Agriculture, was one of four university employees chosen this year for the Staff Council’s Outstanding Staff Awards.

The awards are presented to employees who have exhibited expertise, dedication and enthusiasm in their job performance. These employees have also demonstrated active university-wide involvement and a willingness to assist others.

Fode has worked at Cal Poly Pomona for more than 20 years. She is a previous recipient of the 2008 Staff Award for Excellence in Civic Engagement from the university’s Center for Community Service Learning for advocacy on behalf of autistic children and their families. In addition, she was a recipient of the Outstanding Staff Award in 2006 and 2009.

Staff of the Year
Jennifer Cazares

Jennifer is the administrative support coordinator for the Department of Agribusiness and Food Industry Management/Agribusiness Science, was selected for the college’s Staff of the Year Award. Since her 2014 hiring, Cazares has held several positions with numerous responsibilities in the plant science and agribusiness and food industry management departments, and the dean’s office.
Faculty Travel to China

Four Huntley College of Agriculture faculty traveled to China last summer as part of a developing relationship with Nanjing Agricultural University. Valerie Mellano, chair of the Department of Plant Science; Jon Phillips, chair of the Department of Agribusiness and Food Industry Management; Olive Li, an associate professor of nutrition and food science; and Cori Brundage, an assistant professor in animal and veterinary science, flew to Nanjing for a week-long visit there with students, faculty and staff.

The trip was organized by Cal Poly Pomona’s College of the Extended University’s Global Education Institute as a follow up to a Nanjing faculty visit of the Pomona campus. The visits were orchestrated to encourage collaboration in research, pedagogy, and global proficiency between the two universities.

During the meetings, faculty from both universities discussed opportunities for exchange programs and program development. The Nanjing faculty also gave tours, which provided their Cal Poly Pomona counterparts with context on government regulation, national priorities, Chinese agriculture’s infrastructure capabilities. The Cal Poly Pomona faculty led workshops on active learning and best practices in agricultural education.

Murinda Named Department Chair

Professor Shelton Murinda is now the permanent chair of the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences. The move became official in April. Murinda became interim chair after Professor Broc Sandelin, the previous chair, departed last year to become dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at Delaware Valley University in Doylestown, Penn.

Murinda has taught at Cal Poly Pomona since 2005, specializing in teaching biotechnology applications in animal science and meat science and industry classes.

He has served as director of the university’s Center for Antimicrobial Research & Food Safety since 2007. In 2015, he was appointed as the campus coordinator for the California State University Agricultural Research Institute.

Lyu Wins Sustainable Design Award

An assistant professor was presented with a design award at the annual convention for the largest apparel and textiles association in the United States. Saemee Lyu won the Educators for Socially Responsible Apparel Practices Award for Sustainable Design for her athleisure hanbok. The award is given for excellence in design development that is focused on the sustainability of the environment or people’s well-being through the selection of materials, processes, and outcomes.

Lyu created a contemporary (Gaeryang) hanbok design satisfying both aesthetic and utilitarian design attributes for athleisure purposes by using recycled materials to encourage redesign used apparel products.

The hanbok is a type of traditional Korean clothing that is worn for holidays and special occasions these days. It typically consists of a slim, tight-fitting jacket and a wide, tube dress. The hanbok design has evolved along with the passing generations and contemporary hanbok design has been developed to be worn on a daily basis.

Lyu designed her hanbok for athleisure - a popular fashion trend where apparel designed for working out is worn in other places, like the workplace, school, or social occasions. Athleisure garments require light textile materials that provide breathability, temperature and moisture control, and wind and water resistance that enable them to be versatile and fashionable.

Her hanbok design also was developed with sustainability in mind. Lyu used recycled materials in an attempt to reduce post-consumer textile wastes; all pieces of the design were made using recycled garments, except the metal jacket buttons.

Lyu was honored with a certificate at the 2018 annual conference of the International Textiles and Apparel Association in Cleveland.
$1 Million Federal Grant Awarded

The California State University Agricultural Research Institute (ARI) has received a $1 million, four-year federal grant to help 100 underrepresented students develop professional and scientific skills. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture Hispanic Serving Institution program awarded ARI Executive Director David Still for his project, “No More Silos: Multi-Disciplinary and Data Intensive Training for Careers in Agricultural and Natural Resource Industries and Agencies.”

The project will include four, five-day intensive workshops to teach students big-data analytic skills. The students also will receive fellowships in science, agricultural journalism, and public policy, and career mentoring through leadership and scientific communication workshops. The goal is to give students improved critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and improved knowledge of multi-disciplinary team approaches to problem solving.

ARI supports applied research that benefits California agriculture, natural resources and food systems and develops the next generation of agricultural leaders.

Alumni of the Year

A CEO of a dairy cattle feed company was named the Huntley College of Agriculture’s 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.

William Bunnett (’59, animal science) is the CEO of Energy Feeds International LLC, which is a leading provider of rumen inert bypass fats to the dairy industry. Bunnett attended classes as the original Cal Poly Voorhis Unit in San Dimas and then - after a two-year stint in the U.S. Navy - at the Kellogg-Voorhis Unit in Pomona. He managed the sheep center, assisted in teaching sheep husbandry, and helped with lambing, feeding, shearing, and breeding. The Scottsdale, Ariz., resident also participated in the Sunday Horse Shows and was president of the Animal Husbandry Club.

The Cal Poly Pomona Alumni Association honored Bunnett and the other 2019 award recipients at an April 13 ceremony at the Pacific Palms Resort in Industry.

CAPCA Honors Mellano

Professor Valerie J. Mellano was presented with the 2019 Outstanding Contribution to Agriculture award by the California Association of Pest Control Advisers (CAPCA).

The Outstanding Contribution to Agriculture award recognizes individuals or organizations that have made a significant contribution to California agriculture. Mellano will be added to a distinguished list of contributors in the agricultural industry. Mellano currently serves as the chair of the Department of Plant Science in the Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture.

Agriculture’s 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient.

When attorney, Dale Stern (’84, agricultural biology), was talking with USDA investigator Carla Young about a case, he discovered she was also a Cal Poly Pomona alum. He suggested that Young participate in the Alumni Professor for a Day Program.

Started in 1998, the program invites alumni back to campus to teach a class and share with students how their education applies to the real world.

“I was humbled and happy to hear my experience might help current students,” Young said.

A unique story to tell:

A Huntington Park native, Young came to Cal Poly Pomona to study animal science and become a veterinarian. Unfortunately, Young was not accepted into veterinary school after graduating in 1988. Instead, she wound up working in livestock development for the Peace Corps in Guatemala. She tried to become a livestock technician, but the USDA had a veterinary services hiring freeze. However, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service was hiring so she took a job inspecting cargo containers for prohibited plants and animals at the Long Beach/San Pedro Harbor.

Young referred any discoveries to USDA investigator Carla Young about a case, and ultimately going to court for the criminal proceedings,” she said.

Young returned to campus in April to talk with current students about USDA job opportunities. She called it a rewarding experience.

What advice does she have for today’s students?

“Sometimes the path in life is not immediately clear. Take chances, be ready to accept the unexpected, keep an open mind so you can see and consider something you might not have thought of before, and whatever you’re doing in life or work, give it your best effort.”

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Professor for a Day

When attorney, Dale Stern (’84, agricultural biology), was talking with USDA investigator Carla Young about a case, he discovered she was also a Cal Poly Pomona alum. He suggested that Young participate in the Alumni Professor for a Day Program.

Started in 1998, the program invites alumni back to campus to teach a class and share with students how their education applies to the real world.

“I was humbled and happy to hear my experience might help current students,” Young said.

A unique story to tell:

A Huntington Park native, Young came to Cal Poly Pomona to study animal science and become a veterinarian. Unfortunately, Young was not accepted into veterinary school after graduating in 1988. Instead, she wound up working in livestock development for the Peace Corps in Guatemala. She tried to become a livestock technician, but the USDA had a veterinary services hiring freeze. However, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service was hiring so she took a job inspecting cargo containers for prohibited plants and animals at the Long Beach/San Pedro Harbor.

Young referred any discoveries to USDA investigator Carla Young about a case, and ultimately going to court for the criminal proceedings,” she said.

Young returned to campus in April to talk with current students about USDA job opportunities. She called it a rewarding experience.

What advice does she have for today’s students?

“Sometimes the path in life is not immediately clear. Take chances, be ready to accept the unexpected, keep an open mind so you can see and consider something you might not have thought of before, and whatever you’re doing in life or work, give it your best effort.”

Horticulture Alumni Reunited

More than 70 people attended the college’s first luncheon for horticulture alumni.

The alumni – some of whom hadn’t been back to the Cal Poly Pomona campus in more than 20 years – got a tour of the nursery greenhouse at AGRIscapes before the March 26 lunch.

They were then joined at the luncheon by current Huntley College of Agriculture students, faculty, and staff.
SHANNON CARRIGAN

‘16, agribusiness and food industry management
Winemaker, Plum Hill Vineyards, Gaston, Ore.

Shannon Carrigan came to Cal Poly Pomona because she loved agriculture and wanted to study it.

“My mom was a graduate of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and she told me about Cal Poly Pomona and the Arabian Horse Center,” Carrigan said.

Carrigan majored in agribusiness management with an emphasis in the animal industry. But she took a course in wine, beer and spirits – for fun and because she was interested in it. Getting to tour wineries in Temecula sparked her interest in winemaking as a career.

After graduating magna cum laude, Carrigan moved to Oregon where most of her extended family lives and has a farm. She found a job at Plum Hill Vineyards and has been their winemaker since 2018.

Although winemaking was not her major she credits the Huntley College of Agriculture for teaching her basic lab techniques, interview skills, how to work in groups, and how to be a leader.

ROBIN REESE

Robin Reese (‘14, agribusiness and food industry management) was the recipient of multiple scholarships when he was a student. Now an employee at Bemus Landscape, Reese has contributed funds for scholarships in the agribusiness program and Cal Poly Pomona’s landscape competition team.

“Contributing back to the college honors those who came before me and made my education possible,” he said. “If my gift will help even one or two students attain the skills to better themselves, it’s worth it.”

Money isn’t the only thing that alumni could contribute, he added. Alumni in the field can donate career and professional advice, internships and job opportunities, Reese added.

“Any opportunity to help students succeed, I will be there to support,” he said.

It doesn’t take much to give, Reese added.

WHAT’S SHE UP TO NOW

FABIOLA PEREZ

As a plant science and agricultural science student at Cal Poly Pomona, Fabiola Perez had to juggle her studies with working full-time to pay for her education. It was difficult balancing competing obligations, but Perez succeeded, thanks to people who helped her along the way with encouragement, advice, or a scholarship. She graduated in 2017 and went to work for John Deere. Still, Perez hasn’t forgotten what it was like as a student. So she decided to help other students by giving to the Huntley College of Agriculture to support scholarships.

“I knew that I wanted to give back and support the agricultural program at Cal Poly Pomona even when I was a student. I made a goal post-graduation to give back,” Perez said. “I hope to alleviate some of the financial burdens of college expenses so they can focus a little more on their studies.”

Perez is one of a handful of recent Huntley College of Agriculture alums or students who already are giving back to their alma mater. And they are hopeful that other fellow alums will follow their example and support the college.

OSCAR DEL REAL

Oscar Del Real, who finished his master’s degree in the plant science option this past summer, is another alumni donor. Like Perez, he also worked full time – with the Los Angeles Dodgers grounds crew and as teaching assistant in a plant pathology course – while going to school.

“I did not get to where I am today by myself. I was guided in the right direction to where I am today,” he said. “Now I would like to repay the favor by helping our fellow leaders in our industry and the world, whether it be by helping students for their books, school supplies, or outside resources.”

“I don’t make six figures or anything close to that, but giving back is such an honor, and I would like to help Cal Poly Pomona students, peers, and friends to succeed in their goals and dreams,” Del Real said.

“You don’t have to contribute much to make a huge difference, and I’ve never missed any of the time or money given back to Cal Poly Pomona,” he said. “In 20 years, I want to look back proudly at how I’ve helped rather than kick myself for doing less than I could have.”
DEPARTMENTS

Agribusiness & Food Industry Management
Dr. Jon Phillips, Chair
(909) 869-3721
jophillips@cpp.edu

Animal and Veterinary Sciences
Dr. Shelton Murida, Chair
(909) 869-2085
smurida@cpp.edu

Apparel Merchandising and Management
Dr. Muditha Senanayake, Interim Chair
(909) 869-4227
mudithais@cpp.edu

Nutrition and Food Science
Dr. Harmit Singh, Chair
(909) 869-3023
harmitsu@cpp.edu

Plant Science
Dr. Valerie Mellano, Chair
(909) 869-2214
vjmellano@cpp.edu

DEAN’S OFFICE

Dr. Lisa Kessler, Interim Dean
(909) 869-2201
lakessler@cpp.edu

Dr. Peter Kilduff, Interim Associate Dean
(909) 869-2203
pkilduff@cpp.edu

Robbie Myers, Administrative Analyst
(909) 869-2206
rmmyers@cpp.edu

Dan Lee, Communications Specialist
(909) 869-4617
dblee@cpp.edu

Penelope Fode, Dean’s Assistant
(909) 869-2201
pfode@cpp.edu

Marybelle Foster, Associate Dean’s Assistant
(909) 869-2200
marybellef@cpp.edu

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Melissa Watkins, Senior Director of Development
(909) 869-2863
mewatkins@cpp.edu

Deanna Stewart, Graphic Designer
(909) 869-5390
dstewart@cpp.edu

OTHER

Agricultural Research Institute
Dr. Onsikia Gekara, Campus Coordinator
(909) 869-2195
ojgekara@cpp.edu

Agricultural Science (Education)
Dr. Kimberly Miller, Coordinator
(909) 869-2206
kmiller@cpp.edu

Research and Graduate Studies
Dr. Olive Li, Director
(909) 869-2207
oli@cpp.edu

Student Success
Rosa Lamas Serratos, Coordinator
(909) 869-3718
mserratos@cpp.edu

DEPARTMENT CENETERS

AGRIscapes
Craig Walters, Director
(909) 869-2780
chwalters@cpp.edu

Apparel Technology & Research Center
Dr. Peter Kilduff, Director
(909) 869-2203
pkilduff@cpp.edu

Center for Turf Irrigation and Landscape Technology
Dr. Priti Saxena
(909) 869-2213
psaxena@cpp.edu

W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center
John Lambert, Executive Director
(909) 869-4988
jolambert@cpp.edu

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Melissa Watkins, Senior Director of Development
(909) 869-2863
mewatkins@cpp.edu

Deanna Stewart, Graphic Designer
(909) 869-5390
dstewart@cpp.edu

OTHER

Agricultural Research Institute
Dr. Onsikia Gekara, Campus Coordinator
(909) 869-2195
ojgekara@cpp.edu

Agricultural Science (Education)
Dr. Kimberly Miller, Coordinator
(909) 869-2206
kmiller@cpp.edu

Research and Graduate Studies
Dr. Olive Li, Director
(909) 869-2207
oli@cpp.edu

Student Success
Rosa Lamas Serratos, Coordinator
(909) 869-3718
mserratos@cpp.edu

WEB SITES

Huntley College of Agriculture
www.cpp.edu/agri

AGRIscapes
www.cpp.edu/agriscapes

Donate to the College of Agriculture
www.cppcpp.edu/agriscapes

Pumpkin Festival
pumpkinfestival.cpp.edu

Get the details about all these events and more at
www.cpp.edu/agri (click on College Calendar)
Join our email list and get regular news and event updates
Hundreds of sunflowers were grown this past October for the participants of PumpkinFest, a month-long event at AGRIscapes. About 120,000 people enjoyed the huge pumpkin patch, games, demonstrations, hay rides, a giant corn maze, petting farm, and so much more!