To: CPP Faculty
From: Victoria Bhavsar
Subject: Some big news and many resources
Date: Thu, Mar 27, 2025

Dear faculty,

This week's message is a little different. Both April Dawn, CAFE's Lead, Senior Instructional Designer & Faculty Development Consultant, and Victoria Bhavsar, CAFE's director, are retiring from CPP this summer.

Over time, many faculty have sent notes about how CAFE's support has been essential for you. This evidence has powerfully communicated the need for CAFE, in addition to being encouraging to the team. There will be a search for a new Executive Director of CAFE. We're grateful to Provost Gomez and President Coley for prioritizing continuity of CAFE's team and services in very difficult budget times.

Watch for announcements about the new Executive Director, and as you are able, participate in the interview process. Also, plan now to come out to programs and events next year! ***Faculty*** are the reason CAFE is here; ***faculty*** keep CAFE vibrant.

Please keep reading for short personal notes from Victoria and April – and of course, for CAFE's upcoming programs and resources!

Take care,

Victoria & April

From Victoria: Retiring in 2025 has been my personal plan for several years. I've said many times that being in CAFE is the best job on campus: Working with a creative, energetic, collegial team to support faculty who are fiercely committed to their students' joy in learning, freedom to grow, and giving them the benefits of education has been a great privilege.

From April: As this career chapter comes to a close, I reflect with deep gratitude on over 28 years in higher education, where I have had the privilege to specialize in faculty development, instructional design, strengths coaching, graphic design, educational multimedia, and, most passionately, photography. My diverse experiences as a staff member, lecturer, administrator, student, and alum of Cal Poly Pomona have provided me with a unique perspective, allowing me to engage with the university community from multiple angles. This journey has fostered meaningful collaboration, always with a commitment to creativity and innovation. It has been a true honor to contribute to the design of inclusive, forward-thinking educational environments that empower both faculty and students to thrive and succeed.

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In this email:

- Career & Community: Mini-talks on navigating uncertainty
- Teaching Nuts & Bolts: Reminder about Spring Break Canvas support
- Teacher-Scholar: CAFE's Summer Institute; RSCA in Five [Minutes!]
- Generative AI: Understanding gAI through a pedagogical lens
- Friends of CAFE: Service-Learning Faculty Fellows

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Career & Community:

- ***First Year Experience Mini-Talks Lunch & Learn***: **Tuesday April 15, 12:00-1:00pm, in person**, register for location. Hear three short talks from Nina Abramzon (Physics & Astronomy), E'Lisha Fogle (Collins College), and Roney Hume-Dawson (Liberal Studies) on strategies for helping students transition between years, navigate uncertain times, and foster collaboration. For more information, contact Dora Lee.
- ***Leadership Faculty Learning Community (FLC) for 2025-2026***: Applications welcomed by April 22. Hone leadership skills and think deeply about your leadership interests in the company of supportive faculty colleagues. Dr. Lisa Kessler, CAFE faculty associate and former Associate Dean and Interim Dean of the Huntley College of Agriculture, facilitates this robust intellectual development experience.
- **Faculty Day 2025 is Thursday April 17, 11:30am – 1:00pm!** Faculty Day is a long-standing tradition when all CPP faculty -- full-time, part-time, retired, new, and all in between -- are invited to enjoy lunch and time with colleagues. We're thankful to the Pace Setters group for helping to sponsor Faculty Day 2025! Please rsvp by April 11 so we can give Centerpointe the information!
- ***"CISA" Workshop for Supporting Colleagues:*** **Friday April 25, 10:00am – 2:00pm, with lunch. In person.** Bringing new personnel to CPP is a huge investment of both effort and funding. Helping new colleagues to succeed and thrive is an important way to leverage that investment. This interactive workshop is based on the NSF-funded CSU Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate's *Culturally Informed Strengths Approach* (CISA) to faculty success. Learn more and register by April 11; we can accommodate up to 20 participants (10 spots left).

Teaching Nuts & Bolts:

- ***Reminder about Spring Break Support:*** In-person or phone support for Canvas and other learning technologies will be available *by appointment only* during Spring Break (March 31 – April 4, plus weekends). Service requests and emails will be answered as usual; please make a request or send email to make a phone or in-person appointment. CAFE will be closed on March 31 for Cesar Chavez Day.
- ***Let's talk about grading FASTER*:** **Thursday March 27, 12:00 – 12:50pm.** A follow-up to the March 11 informal discussion to share ideas and strategies about grading. It turned out that we all want ideas for making grading faster while still being fair! Please register.

Teacher-Scholar:

- ***CAFE's Summer Institute 2025*:** June 2 – 30. This multi-week, fully remote experience invites us to treat our classrooms as spaces worthy of serious, systematic, publishable

study. We'll plan "micro-SoP (Scholarship of Practice) projects" that can be carried out within one semester, with special emphasis on projects that both engage generative AI and contribute to student success. (Please note that due to the university's financial situation, we cannot offer stipends this year.) Get more information and register.

- ***RSCA in Five [Minutes!] on Environmental Justice*: *Friday April 18, 10:00 – 11:15am, via Zoom*.** Offered by the College of Letters, Arts, & Social Sciences, this remote event will feature faculty from diverse disciplines addressing the broad topic of environmental justice. They will share research, scholarship, & creative activities through 5-minute, 5-slide presentations, fostering idea generation, collaboration, and community. Please register.

Generative AI:

- ***CAFE's Spring gAI Series*: *All on Zoom, 12:00 – 1:15pm*.** CAFE's staff pairs up with faculty to offer practical and challenging sessions. Each workshop will begin with presentation, move to examples, and end with plenty of discussion time. Register separately for topics you're interested in.
  - Thursday April 10: Understanding gAI through a Pedagogical Lens
  - *Tuesday* April 15: Discipline-Specific AI Tools for Enhanced Learning
  - Thursday April 24: Crafting Prompts as Teaching Tools
  - Thursday May 1: Enhancing Course Alignment with gAI
  - Thursday May 8: Designing Assignments and Feedback with gAI
- ***AI and Course Materials:* Tuesday April 8, 12:00 – 12:50pm via Zoom.** Suzanne Donnelly, Bronco Bookstore, will discuss AI tools provided by VitalSource (our electronic textbook distributor) and their CoachMe system. Based on the recent Affordable Learning $olutions conference, she will also discuss general developments on incorporating AI tools with course materials, or even using AI to create new materials. As you consider course materials for Fall 2025, join this meeting.
- ***San Diego State's gAI microcredential for students*:** Do you wish your students could learn more about gAI in general before you spend time helping them use it for your course and your discipline? Students can take 2 – 10 hours to go through the material in SDSU's gAI microcredential for students. The course is freely available and will confer a digital badge.

Friends of CAFE:

- ***2025–2026 Service-Learning/CEL Faculty Fellows Program***: Integrate service-learning into a new course or existing course that does not currently have a service-learning designation. All tenured, tenure-track, and lecturers are eligible to apply; applications due April 25. Join the Center for Community Engagement for an info session via Zoom on Friday, April 11, 10:00–11:00am. Register for the Zoom link.
- ***Office of Academic Innovation 2025 Faculty and Staff Summer Conference*: June 4-5, 8:30am – 4:00pm, in person**. Explore how AI is shaping the future of higher education and work. The event will feature keynotes, panel discussions, and interactive workshops led by experts in education and workforce development. Registration is free for Cal Poly Pomona faculty and staff—click **here** for a promo code and **register today**!