To: CPP Faculty
From: Victoria Bhavsar
Subject: The (apparently) unnecessary
Date: Tue, Apr 23, 2025

Dear faculty,

Two more weeks plus finals to go! As we conclude a semester amidst stormy world events and the for-better-or-worse disruption of generative AI, I have been considering the "why" of faculty work. Although a non-negotiable goal at Cal Poly Pomona is our students' economic and social benefit, I'm pretty sure that both we and they want more than that. A university is not the *only* place in the world to seek truth, to find and create beauty, to be kooky and quirky, to learn who we all are, to have "OMG, that's so cool!" moments, but a university is a *good* place to do all that and more.

What does that mean for the last couple of weeks of class? Try to make some space and time for the (apparently) unnecessary: Joy. Curiosity. Wonder. Revisit the big questions. Celebrate growth.

Here are a few specific ideas from the Scholarly Teacher blog. And, I still love this pandemic-era mathematics final that focuses on what the writer calls "virtues" but I'd call serious fun.

Take care,

Victoria

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In this email:

- Career & Community: Parenting faculty lunch, Federal government updates
- Generative AI: "Crafting Prompts as Teaching Tools"
- Friends of CAFE: College Corps Fellowships, Bronco Bound

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Career & Community:

- ***Parenting Faculty Lunch*: Tuesday April 29th, 11:30am – 1:00pm** (but come as you can and leave when you need to). Centerpointe Dining Hall, Room 110. If you consider yourself a parent, you are one! Lisa Kessler, Professor Emerita Nutrition and Food Science, will facilitate a discussion on feeding our families. Recipes and tips will be shared. Children are welcome and paid for. Spouses are welcome but must pay at the door. Space is limited to 30. Please register.
- ***Federal government update resources:*** **CSU Federal Updates** provides regular updates on federal actions and their implications for the CSU. In addition, see **Immigration Enforcement Concerns Resources for Faculty and Staff**. Finally, please share **Undocumented Students Resources** with your students.

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.

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 24: Crafting Prompts as Teaching Tools
    - Thursday May 1: Enhancing Course Alignment with gAI
    - Thursday May 8: Designing Assignments and Feedback with gAI
- ***AI Across the CSU: Innovations and Insights Series*:** Wednesdays, 12:00 – 12:45pm, via Zoom. April 23, hear about AI for different course modalities. May 7, hear about fostering AI literacy.

Friends of CAFE:

- ***College Corps Fellowship:*** **Inform your students.** College Corps is a great way to give back to the local community while gaining hands-on experience and reducing student debt. Students who serve for a year in K-12 education, climate action, or food security, can earn up to $10,000. The priority application deadline is **June 1**. Please reach out to College Corps staff for more information.
- ***Thank you from BroncoBound!*** We loved seeing the smiles, stories, and passion at this year's BroncoBound. Your support drew more than 7800 future Broncos and attendees to explore firsthand what makes CPP so special. Thank you for being a part of our work to inspire and empower students!
- ***April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month:*** Survivor Advocacy Services and the Office of Equity & Compliance present a series of in-person events including Take Back the Fight!, Button Making, and Take Back the Night. Please inform your students, and feel free to attend for yourself!
- ***Children's Bilingual Story Time:*** **Wednesdays April 9 – 30, via Zoom**. The University Library and Early Childhood Studies partner in a delightful series presented by ECS students.
- ***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.

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