



**December 2023**

**Message from the Dean**

Dear Colleagues,

Winter Solstice occurs today at 7:21pm. It marks a change of season and the beginning of winter, when the path the Sun travels has reached its southernmost point. Today is our day of greatest darkness and starting tomorrow we will have one more minute of sun each day.

All over the world, there are [ancient traditions](#) celebrating this cosmic shift as people celebrate, reflect, and plan for the future – viewing the event as both an end and a rebirth. Today is also the end of the fall 2023 semester, and surely you are all celebrating, reflecting, and planning for the future (after some all- important rest). As I round out my six-month anniversary as a Bronco, I feel these mixed emotions. I am exhausted and excited, grateful and striving for more.

In honor of the wisdom offered by our College, derived from social science and the humanities, I urge us all to reflect and leave behind the harms of the last year. I invite everyone to reflect on Solstice Poem by Margaret Atwood:

*This is the solstice, the still point  
of the sun, its cusp and midnight,  
the year's threshold  
and unlocking, where the past  
lets go of and becomes the future;  
the place of caught breath, the door  
of a vanished house left ajar.*

[Psychological science shows us the mental and physical benefits of taking this moment to forgive.](#)

Notably psychologists remind us that “forgiveness is not the same as justice, nor does it require reconciliation.” Rather, “true forgiveness goes a step further....offering something positive—empathy, compassion, understanding—toward the person who hurt you.”

I look forward to all that we build and accomplish together in the new year. I hope that your time away is restorative and restful.

Kind regards,  
Cami

**Save the Date!**

**CLASS Commencement | Saturday, May 18, 2024** - Spring 2024 Commencement is right around the corner, visit the [commencement website](#) for frequently asked questions and details about the day!

**Major Exploration Day | April 11, 2024** - Represent CLASS and your department at Major Exploration Day, open to all CPP students looking to explore other majors. More details to come!

**Bronco Bound (Spring Open House) | Saturday, April 13, 2024** - Welcome future Broncos to CPP at the 2024 Bronco Bound Spring Open House! Keep an eye on the [Bronco Bound website](#) for details, coming soon!

**Tell us what events are happening in your departments through the [“Submit Your News” form on our website!](#)**

### **English and Modern Languages**

**Mona Hassanzadeh** and **Xiaojun Mao**, English Education majors in the EML department, presented their paper “The Importance of Heritage Language Maintenance to Cultural Identity” at the Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research in November. The paper was a product of extensive empirical research based on interviews conducted over the course of 10 months with multilingual residents of Southern California. The paper was extremely well received at SCCUR, promoting active discussion with the participants. Ms. Hassanzadeh and Mr. Mao have been invited to submit their paper further to the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, scheduled to take place in April 2024 in Long Beach, CA.

### **Psychology**

**Jill Nemiro**, professor of psychology, published a book chapter on "Virtual Teams" in *The Handbook of Organizational Creativity: Individual and Group Level Influences* (2nd edition, June 2023), edited by Roni Reiter-Palmon and Sam Hunter. Also, Dr. Nemiro recently signed with Cognella Academic Publishing to write a second edition of her 2004 groundbreaking book, *Creativity in Virtual Teams: Key Components for Success* (Pfeiffer). The book is set to be released to the national and international markets in Fall 2025.

### **Political Science**

Political Science Professor **Renford Reese** wrote a piece in the [Los Angeles Daily News](#) about the legacy of the late Norman Lear, the award-winning screenwriter and producer who integrated political and social themes in classic 1970s sitcoms “All in the Family,” “The Jeffersons” and “Good Times.” What Lear did in the 1970s seems impossible to do in 2023,” Reese writes. “He was able to portray the acute pain, suffering and struggle of minorities in a way that appealed to the masses. He was able to raise the consciousness of race issues without pointing fingers.”

**S. Randal Henry**, CPP alumnus ('90, political science), turns 'Unfinished Obelisks' into captivating books that breathe life into South LA's history. [Read the full story on Polycentric!](#) Henry was also recently honored as a [2023 Health Equity Leadership Awardee](#) by the California Black Health Network.

CPP students have been able to experience the local courthouse system through the [Judicial Internship Program](#) led by political science professor **Elli Menounou**. As one of the university's signature PolyX

programs, students witness real cases, meet with lawyers, talk with judges and even stage a mock trial. [Read more about the program on Polycentric!](#)

**Dr. Cody Trojan's** (Lecturer, Political Science) article "[Sovereignty as Responsibility](#)," coauthored with Dr. Matthew Hamilton, appeared in the edited volume *Rousseau Today: Interdisciplinary Essays*, ed. N. Harris et al.

**Farrah Hassen**, political science adjunct professor wrote an op-ed piece: "[President Biden must ensure Israel follows International Law](#)" for the Long Beach Press-Telegram. Hassen writes that the "mass killing of Palestinians in Gaza's schools, medical facilities, shelters, and residential areas are all evidence of likely genocidal acts. As are the forced relocation of over 1 million Palestinians out of northern Gaza and Israel's frequent bombing of civilian evacuation routes."

## Music

The CPP **Music Department** demonstrated their commitment to supporting students through a highly successful fundraising initiative. The [Music Department's first Holiday Concert](#) in recent memory garnered an impressive sum of over \$3,000 dedicated to student scholarships. The diverse program included several music ensembles directed by esteemed faculty. **Niké St. Clair**, the producer of the event, was acknowledged as the driving force behind the concert's success. Congrats Music!

**Dr. Evan Ware's** album "[The Quietest of Whispers: Symphonies No. 1 and 2](#)" was released by Neuma Records in August. So far, it has received excellent reviews in the United States and Germany and was featured on classical radio in Johannesburg, South Africa. Dr. Evan Ware, assistant professor of music, also co-edited volume *Music in Star Trek: Sound, Utopia, and the Future* was published by Routledge in January 2023. It is the first academic book to deal with music in the famous franchise.

Clarinetist and Music Performance major, **Christian Solis Alvarado**, has been a participant in the CPP Philharmonic Orchestra and is also a guest performer with the Pomona College Orchestra. Under the guidance of his studio clarinet lecturer, **Linda Gall Silva**, he performs regularly on the Cal Poly Pomona campus as a soloist, chamber musician and large ensemble player with both faculty and other students.

**Dr. Evan Ware's** piece "Skillset" where a solo pianist accompanies and attempts to musically imitate soccer footwork drills was taken on tour by GRAMMY Award winning pianist, **Dr. Nadia Shpachenko**, and the CPP Piano Ensemble in October. The work was played at the Philip Clarke Memorial Concert at CPP, Palomar College, and at the Lotte Lehman Concert Hall at UCSB.

## History

**David J. Devore**, associate professor of history, published four academic articles in 2023. Two articles were solo-authored, and one was as first author: "[Ambiguous Christians and Their Useful Texts](#)," in *Zeitschrift für antikes Christentum* 27 (2023); "On the Fourth-Century Reception of Eusebius' Ecclesiastical History," in *Church History* 92 (2023); "[The Famine and Plague of Maximinus \(311 to 312\)](#)," in *Journal of Late Antiquity* 16 (2023); and "[Eusebius' Knowledge of Thucydides](#)," in *Greek, Roman, and Byzantine Studies* 63 (2023).

## Sociology

Assistant professor of sociology, **Bianca Haro** collaborated with [SEEDS of Pomona](#), a youth-led journalism and community reporting project that uses “artivism” to empower youth to change and control the narratives of their community and lives within Gente Organizada. Together they have secured a \$15,000 grant from the California Humanities: California Documentary Project. The funding will support the creation of a docu-series, tentatively titled "*Herstory, Activism, Resistance, and Joy in Pomona, California*." This series will consist of three 5-7-minute short films focusing on the historical and contemporary context of Pomona, education and resistance, and youth activism. Bianca will serve as the "Humanities Advisor" for this project, working alongside Enrique Villa, the Director of Strategic Communications, and the youth of Pomona.

**Faye Wachs**, sociology professor, and four students co-authored "[Recuperative Wokeness: Nike and the Commodification of Potential for Social Change](#)" for *Sociology of Sport Journal*. **Eric L. Chan** (first author) was an undergrad when he did this work with Dr. Wachs and is now in a Sociology PhD program at Boston College. **Rojelio Muñoz** is earning a PhD in Anthropology at UCI. **Beverly Teresa** is earning a PhD in psychology at UCD, and **Christian Garcia** is earning an MA in Cultural Studies at the Claremont Graduate School.

Assistant professor of sociology, **Melissa Barragan's** paper, titled "[Deconstructing the Power Dynamics of Prison Research](#)," has been published in the December 2023 issue of *The Prison Journal* examining methodological dilemmas surrounding entrée, emotion, and epistemology that can arise when conducting qualitative research in carceral settings.

### **Geography and Anthropology**

**James Blair**, associate professor of geography and anthropology, [writes about Argentina's President Javier Milei's claims of "non-negotiable sovereignty" over the Falklands/Malvinas](#) and how the new president “draws on authoritarian tactics reminiscent of Trump and Bolsonaro, but with an ideology that has deeper roots in Thatcherism.” Dr. Blair also served as a panelist in an expert briefing for California state legislators on [geothermal lithium extraction](#), hosted by the California Council on Science and Technology.

Anthropology 3970: Cultural Resource Management (a PolyX course) students: **Francisco Gutierrez, Hunter Gutierrez, Mia Mayer, Jared Maple, Abigail Amaya, Lilliana Montes, Janell Valdez, and Fionn Entus** completed over 20 hours of volunteer work at the Pomona Historical Society this semester! They worked on archiving new collections and curating exhibits in order to diversify representation in the local museum and traveling exhibits. Mia curated historic photographs emphasizing the role of women and children in Pomona's citrus industry at the turn of the century. Fionn cataloged a newly acquired early 1900s record collection. Jared created a research bibliography for a set of thousand-year-old artifacts. Abigail, Lilly, and Janell archived the papers of one of Pomona's prominent community historians. Hunter and Francisco searched CPP, Claremont College, and Huntington Gardens' archives to investigate a 150 year old murder mystery! From these experiences, they have a much deeper understanding of the challenges and joys of managing cultural resources.

**Dr. Gabriel Granco**, assistant professor of anthropology, recently published an article in *BioScience*, titled "[Achieving success with RISE: A widely implementable, iterative, structured process for mastering interdisciplinary team science collaborations](#)". In this article, Dr. Granco and colleagues present an innovative approach called RISE, designed for teams working on complex environmental problems. It's a

structured six-step process that promotes cross-disciplinary learning and collaboration. RISE fills a crucial gap in current academic and professional training, fostering an environment where professionals can learn from each other and formulate integrated questions. The authors emphasize the importance of practicing team skills, iterating the structured process, and customizing RISE for diverse teams. You can learn more about RISE at <https://doi.org/10.1093/biosci/biad097> or with Dr. Granco ([ggranco@cpp.edu](mailto:ggranco@cpp.edu)).

### ***Ethnic and Women's Studies***

**Ayana Jamieson**, assistant professor of ethnic and women's studies and founder of the [Octavia E. Butler Legacy Network](#), is interviewed about co-creating "[Seeding the Future](#)," an exhibit at the New Children's Museum in San Diego debuting in 2024 — the year the story begins in Butler's acclaimed speculative fiction novel "Parable of the Sower." Jamieson also discusses her scholarship and research into Butler's life and legacy.

**Alvaro Huerta**, associate professor of ethnic and women's studies and urban and regional planning, [wrote an article for LAist](#) about LA's current ban on leaf blowers and proposed jail sentence for noncompliance has a disproportionate impact on largely Latino small businesses, workers and immigrants.

### ***Econ***

**Carsten Lange**, professor of economics, is publishing a textbook in Spring 2024 titled "[Practical Machine Learning with R: Tutorials and Case Studies](#)". The textbook is a comprehensive guide to machine learning and artificial intelligence tailored for students in business and economics. It takes a hands-on approach to teaching machine learning, emphasizing practical applications over complex mathematical concepts. Students are not required to have advanced mathematics knowledge such as matrix algebra or calculus. The author introduces machine learning algorithms, utilizing the widely used R language for statistical analysis. Each chapter includes examples, case studies, and interactive tutorials to enhance understanding.

### ***Theatre and New Dance***

**Whitney Agustin** ('23 theatre) was part of the case of "When You Left Me On That Boulevard", which won the Grand Jury Short Film award in January 2023. Out of 10,000 short films, Agustin's film was selected out of sixty-four as winner at the annual Sundance Film Festival, qualifying the film to be nominated for an Academy Award.

**Linda Biseti**, professor emerita of theatre and new dance, is collaborating with community partners to recreate impactful moments from the 1960s to the present in "[Generational Black Pioneers – Featuring Oceanside Firsts](#)". Two shows are scheduled for Feb 17 and 18 at Brooks Theatre in Oceanside.

### ***Happy Holidays & Happy New Year!***

Thank you for joining in on celebrating the incredible work being done across CLASS this semester! We hope you have a restful holiday break and look forward to continuing to highlight the many accomplishments to come in 2024!

### ***Submit your news!***

**CLASS Kudos** is a monthly list of shout outs to brag about the incredible work you're doing! Keep us up to date on what's happening in your departments and tell us about upcoming events, share exciting news, announce student successes, and more by [submitting your news on our website](#)! For questions, contact CLASS Communications Specialist Ashley Bagwell, [adbagwell@cpp.edu](mailto:adbagwell@cpp.edu).

*Deadline for the next CLASS Kudos is **January 26<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.***

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