



September 2023

Message from the Dean

As fall semester 2023 settles in, I'm pleased to be able to share the accomplishments and contributions of our colleagues in CLASS. From award-winning undergraduate research to community-based scholarship to leadership in their fields, these accomplishments highlight how CLASS is pursuing our goal to cultivate intellectual development, ethical reasoning, and aesthetic sensibility to support creative and critical thinking in a diverse world of competing challenges. I look forward to seeing our faculty, staff, and students at CLASS Pumpkin Fest Night on October 12, and continuing to learn about your many pursuits and accomplishments. Please connect with CLASS on [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) so that we can amplify your messages.

- Dean Johnson

Political Science

The **political science department** teamed up with ASI, CHESS, and other Cal State schools to develop a Bronco Advocacy course to help students learn the history of advocacy in shaping public policy and laws while also [preparing students to take a trip to the State Capitol in Sacramento!](#)

Political science graduate **Melane Olmeda** ('23) was [featured in a Polycentric article](#) this past spring after receiving her bachelor's in political science. During her time at CPP, Melane participated in the Poli Sci undergraduate journal editorial board, Kellogg Honors College, Model U.N. and more. In the fall, Olmeda will start a dual program at USC to earn a master's degree in public administration and then her Juris Doctor.

Robert Nyenhuis, associate professor of political science, co-authored an [analysis of Sierra Leone's 2023 presidential election](#) as well as [a study on the Economic Freedom Fighters](#).

Farrah Hassen, adjunct professor of political science penned several articles discussing issues such as water quality, [housing](#), climate change and more in [The Daily News](#) and the [Colorado Times Recorder](#).

Alfred Ortiz, CPP alum '92, recently [testified in front of Congress on cybersecurity](#). Ortiz received his undergrad in political science and now owns his own cybersecurity company.

Laureen Hom, assistant professor of political science, was [mentioned in The Federal Response to Anti-Asian Racism in the United States](#) released by The United States Commission on Civil Rights on September 26, 2023.

Ethnic and Women's Studies

Dr. Jose (Pepe) Aguilar-Hernandez, associate professor of Ethnic and Women's Studies (EWS), shared inspirational words for the new academic year during Cal Poly Pomona's 2023 Fall Conference. Watch [Pepe's faculty statement on YouTube](#) at about 22 minutes.

Sandy Dixon, Ethnic and Women's Studies (EWS) professor, was recently elected as Vice President of the Board of Trustees for California Indian Nations College (CINC). CINC is the only local Native American college and one of three in the state of California. Sandy looks forward to strengthening the bridge between CPP and CINC.

Álvaro Huerta, associate professor of urban and regional planning and Ethnic and Women's Studies (EWS), has written a variety of commentaries for News which include [an Ode to Father Gregory Boyle](#) and a [capsule history of Chicana/o art in 20th century](#). Huerta was also recently elected as the Western Regional Representative to the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) Governing Board and will be installed on the board on October 20, 2023, at ACSP's Annual Conference in Chicago.

Geography and Anthropology

Gabriel Granco, assistant professor of geography, is one of the four CSU faculty who developed [The AI for Social Good \(AI4SG\) project](#). AI4SG is a \$600,000 hands-on, three-year education project funded by the National Science Foundation and engages more than 1,000 students from Cal Poly Pomona, CSU San Bernardino and San Jose State University in AI education.

Assistant Professor of anthropology, **Amy Dao**, investigates how Vietnamese patients make their healthcare decisions among the implementation of new reform in her latest paper published in the Journal of Cultural Economy, "[Calculating care: the valuation of medical routes while health seeking in Vietnam.](#)"

Associate professor of geography and anthropology, **James Blair**, published his book [Salvaging Empire: Sovereignty, Natural Resources, and Environmental Science in the South Atlantic](#) on August 15, 2023 with Cornell University Press. Additionally, Blair just [published a peer reviewed article](#) in *Human Organization*, the journal of the Society for Applied Anthropology.

Dr. Claudia García-Des Lauriers, associate professor of anthropology, participated in [a recent volunteer profile](#) from the Society for American Archaeology Bulletin highlighting the many lessons she has learned at CPP and how her experience can help other larger institutions improve practices too.

Music

Evan Ware, assistant professor of Music, recently landed a record contract with Neuma Records for the release of an album of Ware's Symphony Nos. 1 and 2!

Associate professor of Music, **Isaac Schankler**, was recently featured in a New York Times article, "[What Happens When A.I. Enters the Concert Hall](#)".

Donald Ambrosion, Music emeritus, has been honored as a recipient of the [2023 CODA Legacy Award](#) by his undergraduate alma mater, Morningside University.

English and Modern Languages

Andrew Moss, professor emeritus of English and Nonviolence Studies, published a *CounterPunch* article discussing "[Why the Fight to Unionize Starbucks Matters to Us All](#)".

Psychology

Psychology Lecturer, **Bonnie Thorne**, was interviewed about her experience of 10 years working on behalf of her colleagues to protect and enforce the rights guaranteed in CFA's collective bargaining agreement. She is currently the CFA Pomona Faculty Rights Chair.

Communication

Lauren Furey, assistant professor of Communication, and **Jason Turcotte**, associate professor of Communication, along with CPP communication students: Janean Sorrell, Nadia Urbina, Emily Frisan and Nicolas Corrales [conducted a study](#) comparing news stories about 22-year-old Gabby Petito's disappearance from September 2021 to women of color who went missing around the same time to examine disparities in coverage.

Andrea Smith, assistant professor of Communication, [co-authored a study](#) to investigate how sending bystander education materials to adolescents via their cell phones can improve their likelihood to intervene when they witness bullying and harassment of their peers.

Sociology

Sociology Assistant Professor **Sekani Robinson** along with Plant Science Professor David Still, Food and Nutrition Assistant Professor Fatheema Subhan are investigators on a [\\$9.5 million grant CPP received from USDA's NextGen program](#) for "Building a Boulevard for Career Success in Agriculture and Natural Resources for Underrepresented Students," which will provide mentoring and financial assistance to more than 400 students over a five-year period.

Faye Wachs, professor of Sociology, published a new book titled "[Metamorphosis: Who We Become after Facial Paralysis](#)," which takes readers on a captivating journey, exploring the physical, emotional, and psychological transformations experienced by individuals with facial paralysis.

Anjana Narayan, Sociology Chair and Professor, has been selected to receive an APARRI Working Grant of \$7,000. The APARRI managing board and external reviewers were impressed with "Walking a Fine Line: Being a Hindu American Woman Against the Grain of Hindu Nationalism" and believe that it will contribute significantly to the scholarly and public understanding of Asian Pacific American religions.

Assistant professor of Sociology, **Kathryn Daniels'** recent article, where she serves as the primary author, has been successfully published in the [Journal of Health and Social Behavior](#) (JHSB).

Caló News took a deep dive with Sociology Professor **Anthony Ocampo** in [an interview about his newest book](#): *Brown and Gay in LA: The Lives of Immigrant Sons*. His latest book was inspired by stories that didn't make the final cut in his first book, *The Latinos of Asia: How Filipino Americans Break the Rules of Race*.

Corissa Hernandez-Paredes, Sociology Class of 2004, began teaching evening financial literary courses to adult learners to supplement her day job as a public school teacher which sparked her interest in entrepreneurship. She has since become a financial advisor and owner of three craft beer and cocktail bars in Los Angeles. "[Being a first-gen kid taught me about resilience, resourcefulness, and being solution-oriented](#)," she says.

Sociology student, **Mandi Villanueva**, participated in the 48th Social Science Student Symposium (S4) last Spring and won one of the paper awards for Best Quantitative Paper.

Nicole Martin, Sociology Department Coordinator, was recognized for her 11 months of service in the employee spotlight of CPP EODA/HR's *The Employee Express* newsletter last month. In her role with the Sociology Department, Nicole is the main point of contact for over 1,000 students and over 30 faculty members.

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.

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