CLASS KUDOS

November 2026

Dear Colleagues,

After a full-hearted attempt at the Halloween Decorating Contest, the Dean's Office is now taking on a winter wonderland theme. Even if the temperature outside isn't signaling that we are truly halfway through the semester, the tinsel is trying. Please stop by!

Thank you to everyone who came out for CPP Explore Day. It felt like our own little block party and I truly enjoyed chatting with people and watching people from different departments mingle and laugh. We'll be taking ideas from that day to build towards a better Bronco Bound on March 20, 2027.

I know that the semester is speeding up and soon we'll be looking at Thanksgiving week and finals and the end of the term. As the days grow shorter, but feel longer, I encourage everyone to take an extra minute to show appreciation for their colleagues and students. We are truly surrounded by amazing, inspiring, talented students and amazing, inspiring, and talented staff and faculty. A quick word or note is a generous gift that helps people feel seen and appreciated.

On that note, please take a few minutes to read about the opportunities and accomplishments below (and share your good news and events here)!

Kind regards,

Cami

Opportunities

BRONCO LAUNCH PAD
Bronco Launch Pad is now live! Please consider supporting by giving or by sharing with your networks of alums. The beauty of a crowdfunding campaign is the appreciation for contributions of all sizes! Through December 1, the top 10 funds with the most employees

donating $10 or more will receive an additional $1000! Plus, the more you give, the more laps I have to do!

CLASS Excellence (5000 Yards for CLASS)
CLASS Student Experience Enhancement
Center for the Advancement of Racial and Social Justice
College of Letters Arts and Social Sciences Student Success Center
Communication Department Event Planning Class
Ethnic & Women's Studies Scholarships
Model OAS
Model UN
PRSSA Student Chapter
The Poly Post
Themed Entertainment Association (TEA)

CLASS Gives Back
In partnership with the Broncos Care Center, we are hosting an optional toy drive and gift wrap event for parenting students. Drop off a toy (suggested price range $10-25) at the Dean's Office 5-158 anytime this month and join us on November 24 from 11:30AM to 1PM for gift wrap and lunch at the Care Center. To help us best prepare, please RSVP to the calendar invite by November 16.

EVENTS

CLASS Career Conversations
We encourage you to share these upcoming CLASS Career Conversations with students and help them explore career pathways, connect with industry professionals and alumni, and gain valuable career insights! Students are more likely to attend if extra credit is attached - we can help track!

- **Andrew "Andy" Quiñones, Southern California Service Corps**

November 12, 12PM–1PM.
Building 5, Room 104

- **Jose Gonzalez ('24, Geography), Los Angeles County Fire Department**

November 12, 12PM–1PM.
GIS Lab (5-215)

GIS Day

November 18,10AM–2PM
BSC Ursa Major

Music and Theatre Events

The Department of Music has an exciting November lineup of performances, including the Honors and Voice Area Recitals (Nov. 3), Jazz Band (Nov. 5 & 24), Sax & Flute Ensembles (Nov. 9), Mariachi Los Broncos (Nov. 10), Philharmonic Orchestra (Nov. 12), Black Music Showcase (Nov. 17), 26th Songwriter Showcase (Nov. 19–20), Brass Ensemble (Nov. 23), Afternoon of Percussion (Nov. 24), and Piano Ensemble (Nov. 30).
We encourage faculty and staff to support the Department of Theatre and New Dance's upcoming production of *Into the Beautiful North*, running November 13–22 at the University Theatre (Building 25). Written by Karen Zacarías and directed by Bernardo Solano, this heartfelt and humorous production explores immigration, identity, resilience and the journey of finding belonging.

Kudos

Students and Alumni

- Communication alumna **Lizette Carbajal ('01)**, vice president of community relations at NBC4 and Telemundo 52, was honored at Cal Poly Pomona's Distinguished Alumni Awards Gala. Recognized for her professional achievements and community service, Carbajal continues supporting CPP through student mentorship and service on the CLASS Dean's Circle.

- Music alumnus **Peter Gutierrez ('23)**, professionally known as "Trumpet Peter," was featured as a guest soloist at the Ontario Chaffey Community Show Band's *Music Around the World* concert. Gutierrez, who has performed across the United States and Europe, showcased his versatility on trumpet and flugelhorn.

- Psychology student **Miriame Fars** was one of two Cal Poly Pomona students selected for LEAD California's Community Engagement Student Fellowship. The fellowship recognizes students committed to civic and community engagement, with support from CPP's Center for Community Engagement.

- Master of Public Administration alumnus **Jerry Price (’12)** was appointed interim chief of the Sierra Madre Police Department. With more than 30 years of law enforcement experience, including nearly a decade as La Habra police chief, Price will lead the department during its leadership transition.

- CLASS students and alumni are featured in the latest season of the **California Center for Ethics and Policy’s *The Future(s) of Work* podcast**. Contributors include Anthropology students Amelia Bellah, Marissa Martinez and Alexis Yrigoyen; Economics student Sophie Rivasplata; Philosophy student Emily Kurtz and alumna Jamie Luu; Political Science student Eric Paulsen; and Psychology students Brenda Garfias Guzman and Zadie Butkiewicz. Episodes explore workplace issues, including artificial intelligence, education, labor and economic challenges.
    - **Listen to the podcast:** https://ccepsecuringjustice.podbean.com/
    - **Watch on YouTube:** https://www.youtube.com/@cpp_ccep

Faculty

- Geography and Anthropology Professor **James J.A. Blair** was featured in the *Times of San Diego*, discussing the environmental and social impacts of lithium extraction in Imperial Valley communities. He emphasized concerns about water depletion and the potential for clean-energy development to deepen existing inequalities.

- Communication Professor **Ivana Cvetkovic** received a Fulbright Scholar Award to Portugal for spring 2027. While teaching at the Polytechnic Institute of Lisbon, she will research agricultural news coverage and interview journalists to compare reporting practices in Portugal and California.

- Geography and Anthropology Professor **Sahar Derakhshan** contributed to research examining how governments supported businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Analyzing 374 policies across 14 cities in nine countries, the study identified common recovery strategies, including financial assistance and support for small businesses. The findings offer insights to help inform future disaster recovery policies.

- Women and Ethnic Studies Professor **Álvaro Huerta** appeared on the *Plan Dulce Podcast*, reflecting on his upbringing in Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles. He shared how those experiences shaped his career in higher education, urban planning and community organizing.

- Communication Professor **Jason Turcotte** was featured in Capital Public Radio, discussing the growing use of social media influencers in political campaigns. While acknowledging their role in reaching voters, Turcotte cautioned that replacing traditional news interviews with influencer appearances could reduce public scrutiny and accountability.

- Music Professor **Jessie Vallejo** received the 2025 Best Article Award from the International Council for Traditions of Music and Dance. Her research explores the grief and resilience of mariachi musicians during the COVID-19 pandemic and its broader impact on Latino communities.