



October 2026

Message from the Dean

I hope October finds you thriving as we move deeper into the semester! This month's CLASS Kudos highlights the accomplishments of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni. From groundbreaking research and publications to media features and professional recognitions, our community continues to make meaningful contributions to scholarship, public discourse, and social change. Please take a moment to celebrate these achievements with us. I also encourage you to share your own accomplishments and those of your students by using our submission form. Your work deserves recognition and helps inspire our entire campus community.

Kind regards,

Cami

CLASS

Congratulations to CLASS Student Success Center Retention and Graduation Specialist **Maria Anzaldo** on being selected to serve as Staff Representative on the upcoming Presidential Search Committee. We are glad her voice and perspective will be represented on this important committee.

Economics

Economics major **Kristen Gutierrez**, President of the Economics Club, was awarded a fully paid scholarship to participate in the prestigious Summit@Booth program at the University of Chicago, where she learned about doctoral-level research. She was also selected for the highly competitive Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF) at Cal Poly Pomona. Congratulations, Kristen!

English & Modern Languages

Dr. Karen Tellez-Chaires, associate professor of English and modern languages, published a chapter, "[The DJ as the Relational Listener and Creator of an Ethos of Community Listening](#)," in *Community Listening: Stories, Hauntings, Possibilities*. The chapter emphasizes how relational listening cultivates a sense of belonging across temporal and spatial boundaries.

Geography & Anthropology

Dr. James J.A. Blair, who serves on Imperial County's Lithium Valley Academic Taskforce and advises Comité Cívico del Valle (CCV) and Earthworks, warned about lithium extraction threats to local communities, fragile ecosystems, and sacred tribal land in his [Calexico Chronicle op-ed](#) and was featured in [CalMatters](#) and [The Los Angeles Post](#) questioning the proposed Hell's Kitchen project's environmental claims, noting that comparable operations consume significant fresh water that could accelerate the Salton Sea's decline. The *CalMatters* story was republished by *Times of San Diego*, *The Business Journal* (Fresno), *Maven's Notebook*, and PBS SoCal.

History

History Professor **Dr. Zuoyue Wang** [interviewed Wu Dachang](#), a 107-year-old U.S.-educated Chinese professor who returned to China in 1950 to rebuild its education system, exploring his journey from American universities to a lifelong commitment to agricultural modernization and scientific research, published in "A centenarian professor who returned from the US: A lifelong struggle for the motherland, and a painful realization in his later years."

Music

Congratulations to **Dr. Janine Riveire** on the acceptance of her proposal to present at the American String Teachers Association's National Conference at the end of Feb. 2026. She will present "Timing is Everything! Strategies for Rhythm Development" to a diverse group of colleagues who teach bowed strings and orchestra to students of all ages. This interactive lecture will demonstrate the integration of physical and musical developmental goals through movement, illustrate the multilevel instructional application of several foundational activities, and extend participant understanding of music's connections to language and reading acquisition.

Philosophy

Philosophy Professor **Dr. Alex Madva** co-authored [Somebody Should Do Something](#) with Michael Brownstein and Daniel Kelly, published by The MIT Press, which challenges either/or thinking about social change by arguing that individuals and structural systems must work together to address complex issues like racism, climate crisis, and inequality. He and his co-authors were interviewed about the book on "Mornings with Zerlina" on [SiriusXM Progress: Progressive Talk Radio](#), as well as on [KPFA 94.1](#) and [Sociology Group](#). Additionally, Dr. Madva was featured on [Hello Houston](#) podcast and [Fox32 Chicago](#) to discuss his op-ed in *The New York Times*, "[Why the Texas Democrats' Walkout Worked](#)."

Political Science

Assistant professor of political science and CFA Pomona's Political Action and Legislation (PAC-LEG) chair **Dr. Jarred Cuéllar** [outlined the purpose of Prop 50 and why educators must support it in a recent statement](#).

Political science major **Vivian Martinez**, after being a top qualifier in both the 1,500 and 5,000-meter races earlier this year, placed fifth in the women's individual 6k course in 21:23.5, helping CPP's Women's Cross Country team place first overall at the Cougar Challenge Declarations at Cal State San Marcos.

Political science alum **Chris Freeland** ('96, political science), City Manager of Indian Wells, has been appointed as an adjunct professor for the MPA program at CSU San Bernardino, adding an academic role to his public service career. Freeland previously served as City Manager of West Covina and was featured in *Public CEO* discussing "[Trackdown Management's Picking up the Pieces](#)."

Psychology

Dr. Jeffrey Mio, professor of psychology, served as guest-editor of the latest edition of [The Review of General Psychology](#), where he contributed to eight published articles exploring potential "Next Big Ideas" in psychology. Dr. Mio is currently the president of APA Division 1, the Society for General Psychology and Interdisciplinary Inquiry.

Sociology

Professor **Dr. Jack Fong** has published three new works: a [chapter examining democracy deserts during the pandemic](#) in *Getting Lost: Reflections on Psychopolitical Isolation and Withdrawal* (Karnac Books); a [book review on globalization and pandemic management](#) in *Contemporary Sociology*; and a [research article exploring the sociality and liminality of Bangkok's cannabis cafés](#) in *Qualitative Sociology Review*.

Dr. Peter Hanink, associate professor of sociology and criminology, co-authored "[Policing protests: an experimental evaluation of the impact of protester race on support for police reform](#)," in the *Journal of Experimental Sociology*, examining how mass media's portrayal of protests calling for police reform affects public support for police reform policies.

Sociology alumna **Corissa Hernandez** ('04) was featured on [NBCLA](#) discussing her latest venture, the Eastside Heart and Hustle Summit at Plaza De La Raza in Boyle Heights. The event empowers local small-business owners and educates them on available resources to help their businesses thrive.

Submit your news!

CLASS Kudos is a monthly list of shout outs to celebrate the incredible work you are doing! Keep us up to date on what is 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 at class@cpp.edu.

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