



Dear Colleagues,

As this unseasonable heat breaks, I'm looking forward to all the things that October brings: pumpkins, curriculum approvals (CLASS class, hurrah!), fascinating RTP narratives to read in Interfolio, and meetings with job candidates. It might not be glamorous, but it is so satisfying to see how our college keeps moving things along creating opportunities for each other and our students. There is a predictable rhythm to the academic year and, at the same time, every year is different. I continue to learn new things about our colleagues – in and outside of CLASS – and always look forward to seeing people at the 4Friday. Talking to you and hearing about your struggles and accomplishments is energizing. Thank you for your consistent focus on our students, for bringing ideas to the table, and for your care for your colleagues.

Kind regards,
Cami

OPPORTUNITIES

EVENTS

- **CELEBRATE! Building 5 Poly Pantry Portos [Coffee Break](#): Tuesday October 13, 11-1 in the Dean's Office Conference Room**
Building 5 Faculty and Staff will enjoy Portos as their reward for participation in the Fall Welcome basic needs drive. [Bring a donation and join us!](#)

- **CONGREGATE! [4Friday Event](#)**

Don't miss a chance to play with the data available on student performance, learn from your colleagues, enjoy Jinza teriyaki, and celebrate the end of the heat wave! RSVP by clicking the link.

Date: Friday, October 16, 2026

Time: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Location: Collins College Building 80-100

- **BE IN THE COMMUNITY! CPP Community Innovation Hub Events**
Visit our downtown innovation hub to participate in community events. The full calendar and RSVPs are [on Eventbrite](#).

RECRUITING EVENTS

- **RECRUIT! [Minor Fest](#)**

We know CLASS offers a myriad number of side quests for students – amazing minors that enhance their learning and their career prospects. Join your departments at the Engineering Meadow to talk to students about the benefits of CLASS minors.

Date: October 22, 2026

Time: 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

Location: Engineering Meadow

- **RECRUIT TRANSFERS! [Transfer Night at Pumpkin Fest](#)**

Did you know that students can still apply to start at CPP in January? Come to Transfer Night at the Pumpkin Fest (and bring 2 guests for free) and share your enthusiasm for your programs with students that could be in your classes in January!

Date: October 23, 2026

Time: 4-7 p.m.

- **RECRUIT SOME MORE! [SAVE THE DATE: Explore CPP Day](#)**

Yes, there is a theme here – we need faculty and staff to help show students and their families the great experience they can have at CPP. You are our best ambassadors. Choose a late morning or early afternoon slot, enjoy lunch and your colleagues, and practice your best sales pitch.

Date: October 24, 2026

Time: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

RSCA EVENTS

Weglyn Speaker Series

- [Joann Lo](#) — October 28, 2026
- [Bill Wong](#) — November 18, 2026

VOICE! CSU Generative AI Survey

Deadline: October 19, 2026

Faculty and staff are encouraged to provide feedback on the use of generative AI across the CSU system. Check your email for the participation details.

FIND THINGS! GIS Day

Beyond maps, GIS helps you visualize data. Beyond speakers, GIS Day helps students visualize career futures. Promote to your students (extra credit!) and come by, ourselves, to how the science of where impacts every discipline.

Date: November 18, 2026 in the BSC.

FOR STUDENTS

Faculty and staff are encouraged to share the following opportunities with students interested in career exploration, networking and professional development.

- **CLASS Career Conversations: Nonprofits & Volunteering with the American Red Cross**

Learn how the American Red Cross helps communities prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies. Students can explore flexible volunteer opportunities while gaining leadership experience, expanding their professional networks and making a meaningful impact in their communities.

Snacks provided while supplies last. Please consider offering extra credit, we can track attendance.

Guest Speaker: Amanda Pham, Senior Volunteer Specialist, American Red Cross

Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2026

Time: 12-1 p.m.

Location: Room 5-104

- **CLASS Career Conversations: A Job in This Economy? Be So for Real.**

Guest Speaker: Corey Gaither (B.A. Sociology '11), Recruiter at United Talent Agency and Internal Vice President of the CPP Alumni Association Board of Directors

Date: Thursday, November 5, 2026

Time: 12-1 p.m.

Location: BSC Andromeda

Please consider offering extra credit, we can track attendance.

KUDOS

Students and Alumni Successes

- **Kudos to CLASS students and the Kellogg Honors College**

community! CLASS was featured in the Office of Academic Innovation's CSU Forward in Action series, highlighting the success of 49 CLASS honors students and recognizing the achievements of student leaders such as Kimora Morley and three CLASS Presidential Scholars (Zara Lozano, Orlando Whalen, and Eric Paulson.)

- Communication alumnus **Bobby Toledo ('15)** was featured in [Voyage LA](#), sharing how he rebuilt his life and career after burnout and job loss. He launched Smile Crew Media in 2025, a Southern California-based agency focused on social media content, photography and event coverage centered on authentic storytelling.

- 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 and municipal leadership experience, Price will lead the department during the transition period.

- History alumnus **Louie Ruiz ('11)** credits [Cal Poly Pomona's history program](#) with helping him develop the research and critical-thinking skills that support his successful legal career. A first-generation college graduate who now practices probate and estate planning law, Ruiz also gives back through pro bono service, leadership in the Mexican American Bar Association and the CPP Latin Alumni Association, and a \$2,000 pledge to the Hilda Solis Scholarship Fund.
- Gender, Ethnic, and Multicultural Studies student **Ruby Hsu** showcased her research at the [12th Annual CARS Symposium](#), exploring how activists in Southern California build cross-solidarity movements to resist fascism and domination. Drawing inspiration from bell hooks' concept of a "love ethic," Hsu examined how communication can create and sustain social change with mentorship from faculty members Shayda Kafai and Jennette Ramirez.
- Political Science alumnus **D. Sidney Potter ('88)** published an article in [The Hudson Weekly](#) exploring housing affordability, sustainability and social justice through the lens of tiny homes and real estate development.

Faculty Successes

- Philosophy Professor **Alex Madva's** book, *Somebody Should Do Something: How Anyone Can Help Create Social Change*, was shortlisted for the 2026 [Goddard Riverside Stephan Russo Book Prize](#) for Social Justice.
- **The Economics Department and Economics Club** welcomed visiting professors Emil Papazov and Lyudmila (Lucy) Mihaylova from the University of Ruse in Bulgaria for a discussion on the Bulgarian economy and contemporary business practices.
- Ethnic Studies Professor **Álvaro Huerta** was featured in [CALÓ News](#) for an opinion piece calling for Lineage's permanent departure from Boyle Heights following a warehouse fire and its community impacts.
- Communication Professor **Ivana Cvetkovic** received a [Fulbright Scholar Award](#) to conduct research and teach in Portugal during spring 2027. At Lisbon's Escola Superior de Comunicação Social, she will study journalism coverage of agriculture and farming communities as part of a cross-cultural comparison with California.
- Geography and Anthropology Professor **James J.A. Blair** appeared on [BBC World News](#) to discuss Argentina's renewed claim to the Falkland Islands. Drawing on his fieldwork and expertise, he analyzed the geopolitical implications of the dispute and the role of offshore oil development in the region.
- **The Digital Humanities Consortium** selected **Kelly Huh** (Geography and Anthropology) and **Dana Marshall** (Communication) as 2026-27 Faculty Fellows, while **Sophia Madayag** (English `26) and **Alexis Yrigoyen** (Geography and

Anthropology ` 27) were named Student Fellows. The recognition celebrates their contributions to digital humanities scholarship and interdisciplinary research.

- Psychology Professor **Kevin Autry** co-authored a [study with VitalSource](#) learning scientists that found AI-generated practice questions embedded in course materials may improve student learning outcomes, particularly for lower-performing students.
- Economics Professor **Michael Topper** received an Arnold Ventures grant to support research examining how police shift structures influence officer behavior, including use of force, arrests and investigatory stops. The project utilizes a natural experiment in Louisville, where the police department unexpectedly transitioned from 8-hour to 12-hour shifts.