

# CPPO

CAL POLY POMONA MAGAZINE | SPRING 2022



## HIDDEN GEMS



#### UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

**Soraya M. Coley**, University President  
**Jennifer Brown**, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
**Christina Gonzales**, Vice President for Student Affairs  
**John W. McGuthry**, Vice President/CIO for Information Technology & Institutional Planning  
**Daniel Montplaisir**, Vice President for University Advancement  
**Ysabel Trinidad**, Vice President/CFO for Administration and Finance  
**Amon Rappaport**, Chief Communications Officer  
**Nicole A. Hawkes**, Chief of Staff

#### MAGAZINE STAFF

**Esther Chou Tanaka**, Editor  
**Ani Markarian**, Lead Creative  
**Tom Zasadzinski**, University Photographer  
**Melanie Johnson**, Assistant Editor  
**Melissa McCoy**, Story Editor  
**Mercedes Quiroz**, University Web Editor  
**Michelle Magcalas**, Web Coordinator  
**Tambra Williams**, Executive Assistant

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Stephanie Abraham, Micayla Anderson, Gary Fong, Clay Fowler, Diana Garcia, Samantha Gonzaga, Martha Groves, Michelle Hiskey, Lana Hy, Karen Lindell, Chris Park, Cynthia Peters, Monica Pignotti, John Replogle, Janean Sorrell, Nancy Yeang



As part of our commitment to green printing, CPP Magazine is printed on FSC®-certified paper. The Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC) promotes environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

#### That's SoCalPoly

Short stories that celebrate our campus' unique location, traditions and inclusive polytechnic identity. [Page 2](#)

#### Hidden Gems

Our campus is rich with dynamic programs and unique places that make us a one-of-a-kind gem. [Page 7](#)

#### Ready for Launch

The student-led Bronco Space Club will send a miniature satellite into space this summer. [Page 18](#)

#### Q&A with Provost

New Provost Jennifer Brown talks about how universities today can support students. [Page 21](#)

#### Dream Maker

As president of Walt Disney Imagineering, alumna Barbara Bouza's job is to make dreams come true. [Page 24](#)

#### University News

[Page 33](#)

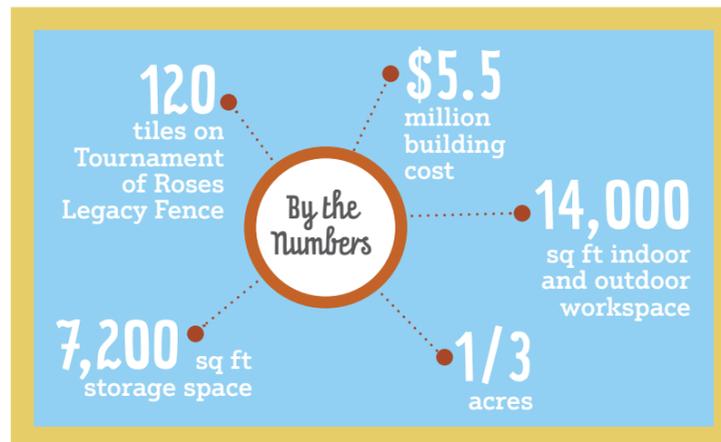


Rylian M. Braley

## BY THE NUMBERS

### Rose Float Lab and Design Complex

The new Rose Float Lab named in honor of alumni **Don Miller** and **Ron Simons** had its grand opening on May 7. The new lab gives Rose Float students a space to build beautiful, creative and innovative floats. It includes a fully enclosed float construction bay, design workspace, storage facilities and a massive courtyard to host large numbers of volunteers.



## A BRIEF HISTORY

### The Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch



The food and beverage operations course at **The Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch** epitomizes the learn-by-doing experience at The Collins College of Hospitality Management. Students learn how to provide excellent guest service, execute strategic restaurant management plans and prepare quality food. RKR's menu is always evolving, but their hamburgers and famous "Apple Crisp with Dr. Bob's Tahitian Vanilla Ice Cream" were the all-time favorite dishes.

Lecturer Emeritus **Barbara Jean Bruin**, who taught the course from 1992 to 2016, delightfully recalls students training to serve by carrying trays of tennis balls. Witnessing her students develop into Michelin star chefs and go on to successful careers in the hospitality industry warms her heart, she says.



### 1989

The RKR opens its doors. Philanthropist and the college's namesake **James A. Collins** proposed and donated \$10 million to build a student-operated restaurant to provide the hands-on experience needed in the industry.

### 2007

The RKR becomes the first restaurant at a university to use OpenTable.com.

### 2015

A \$500,000 major renovation includes new flooring, tables and chairs, and also new industry standard culinary kitchen equipment, new and upgraded audio-visual technology, and mechanical, electrical and plumbing upgrades. Renovations were funded primarily by **The Gettys Group** and **R.D. Olson Development**.

### 2021

The restaurant reopens for to-go orders after closing in March 2020 due to COVID-19.

### 2022

The RKR reopens for indoor dining in early March.

## EXPERT Q & A

### Valuation of the Ephemeral: NFTs and the Art Marketplace

Bought and sold online, non-fungible tokens (NFTs) are a crypto asset that represents digital and real-world objects. Think physical and digital art, music and media, and internet and pop-culture artifacts.

The NFT market is valued around \$41 billion, nipping at the heels of the \$50 billion fine-art market. Because the value of cryptocurrency is fungible (mutually interchangeable with other digital currency) valuation of NFTs is beyond economic. With NFTs — crypto art, in particular — value is in the eye of the owner.

Art historian, professor and cultural critic **Alison Pearlman** says NFTs offer some new and not-so-new ways to buy, own and sell artworks.

### In the digital age, what does it mean to own or claim a piece of art?

Ownership of art in digital forms is not so different from ownership of some emergent art forms since the 1960s. As more works became ephemeral or open-series — not unique or limited-edition objects traditionally commoditized — art dealers developed contracts that, like NFTs, turned the seemingly unpossessable into unique commodities. They defined ownership in new ways, such as having the right to reconstruct or iterate a work. Owning the 1975 work by Sol LeWitt titled "Wall Drawing #260: On black walls, all two-part combinations of white arcs from corners and sides, and white straight, not-straight, and broken lines" means not having a physical drawing but rather the instructions and the right to generate their permutations — another unique asset.

The crypto-culture that spawned NFT artworks has offered new terms of sale that may be more favorable to artists. Some NFT marketplaces provide royalties to artists on re-sold work automatically.

Built-in royalties and "smart contracts" allow NFT creators to sidestep lawyers, dealers and auctioneers.

### Are NFTs a new way of purchasing and appreciating art?

NFTs have introduced new channels for socializing and marketing that align more with the rituals of digital culture than the established art world. NFT ownership may provide "membership" in a "club" that makes one part of a virtual social network and gives special access to events, information, discounts, or other NFTs, as well as marketing opportunities. These forms of ownership are modeled on social media and digital marketing.

Yet we should question whether this model is new fundamentally. In the traditional art world, ownership of a Sol LeWitt wall drawing similarly makes one a member of a club in the metaphoric sense. It also allows one to socialize with other members in ways just as real and global in reach.



What's substantively new is how some NFT assets are structured. Take the PFP NFT, a type of NFT that can be used as a profile picture (PFP) on social media. These NFTs normally release in series. One can purchase one or more unique artworks in a series of up to 10,000.

While some artists create handmade works, the capacity to offer 10,000 in a PFP NFT series encourages artworks designed by algorithm. CryptoPunks, 10,000 8-bit-style pixelated heads of misanthropic figures designed by Matt Hall and John Watkinson in 2017, is a famous example. The auction house Christie's sold three of the works from CryptoPunks in 2021 as one NFT for \$16,962,500.

Read Professor Pearlman's full Q&A at [cpp.edu/cppmag](http://cpp.edu/cppmag)



## POLYX HOW TO

### Publish a Literary Magazine

In the Journaling Publishing Activity class, students become editors of Cal Poly Pomona's student-run literary magazine, **Harvest International**. The theme for the spring 2022 edition focuses on the Year of the Tiger: "A Year of Great Hunger and Fervor."

The magazine has articles and stories in English and Spanish, as well as in other languages to represent the diversity of the Department of English and Modern Languages. Student editors also lead the advertising, production and publishing aspects of the magazine.

1

#### Enroll in ENG 4401

Students immerse themselves in the literary and cultural life of the campus as they create a forum for artists, poets and designers.

2

#### Collaborate on Content

Harvest International editors brainstorm the magazine's theme, article topics and visuals.

3

#### Engage via Social Media

Editors use Instagram (@harvestcpp) to request poetry, art and short story submissions that represent the magazine's theme.

4

#### Craft the Magazine

In addition to a digital publication, students create two hard copy magazines. They use various machines in the Maker Studio, such as a photocopier and production printer.

5

#### Publish Harvest International

After editing and design, students publish a PDF in week 14 of the semester and promote the magazine via social media during week 15.

## BRONCOS AT WORK



### Pete de Best

'96, finance, real estate and law

President, US Lending Network Inc.; Founder & Operating Manager, Next Level Property Investments LLC; Founder & Managing Member, Tarek Buys Houses LLC

#### How would you describe your career?

I'm an entrepreneur and an investor. I started my career as a mortgage broker, arranging financing for home buyers. Early in my career, I learned the importance of investing money versus wasting money, the difference between assets and liabilities, and the importance of liquidity and cash flow. Sure, I could make money as a mortgage broker, but to acquire wealth, I would have to invest in real estate. I purchased my first house 22 years ago and since then I've purchased over 600 houses. I own a mortgage company, and I continue to invest in residential and commercial real estate. I also invest in stocks, crypto currency and private equity.

#### How did your Cal Poly Pomona experience inspire you to be a mentor?

The fact that I didn't have a mentor at Cal Poly Pomona is my main inspiration to be a mentor.

#### What do you think you missed by not having a mentor?

I feel I missed out on learning how other people found success and possibly a better path to get there without making so many mistakes. Mistakes don't mean failure, but they are often very expensive. Yet, I still believe that lack of action is the biggest mistake someone can make.

#### How do you support and mentor students?

I've participated in Professor for a Day. I've presented to the Real Estate Club. I've participated in two mock interview programs. I am a member of the College of Business Administration's Dean's Advisory Council.

#### What motivates you to show up?

I have a simple goal: I strive to inspire people to take a life action that they wouldn't have otherwise taken but for meeting with me. That's powerful. That's why I show up.

#### What's your favorite memory at CPP?

The day I met my wife!

## BRONCOS AT WORK



### Ruby Rose Yopez

'09, architecture

Senior Advisor, Southern California Edison

#### How would you describe your career?

I would describe my career as continuously evolving. I started with architecture, jumped to the jobsite working for a general contractor and then became an energy consultant, which led me to my current role working with builders and developers promoting energy efficiency.

#### What motivated you to be a mentor?

I have always had the calling to give back, especially to students who are eagerly seeking support. Being a first-generation college student, my parents could only provide limited advice in navigating the college system. I want to help students work through hurdles or gain access to resources that would best support them.

#### How do you support and mentor students?

When I was a student, the Latina sorority I joined offered a mentorship program called FUTURO with students from Garey High School. Later, I also mentored high school students through the San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corp Youth Build Program. As an alumna and with the Latino Professional Alumni Chapter, I have hosted students at a casual dinner to discuss their career interests with fellow board members. I have also supported peers who were emerging professionals, helping them navigate next steps.

#### What motivates you to show up?

Students are our future, and if we can guide them in the right direction to be the best version of themselves, then we are serving ourselves in creating a promising future.

#### What's your favorite memory at CPP?

As architecture students, we spent most of our time in the Interim Design Center studio. My favorite memories are the late nights we spent together working on models and drawings, letting our creative juices flow and growing friendships with our peers.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### Polytechnic Treasure

When Cal Poly Pomona first opened its doors in 1938, we were known as the “Voorhis Unit” of the California State Polytechnic College. At the time, our campus offered a grand total of three courses of study: Citrus Production, Ornamental Horticulture and Agricultural Inspection.

How things have changed!

Over the course of 84 years, we’ve transformed into a comprehensive global university, drawing students from across California and from around the world. Harking back to our early days, we remain a leader in agricultural education – indeed, we’re still the only university in Southern California offering four-year degrees in agriculture – but the Cal Poly Pomona of today boasts the full breadth of educational opportunities. With leading programs in engineering, the arts, education, business, the sciences and more, Cal Poly Pomona serves as an engine of opportunity regardless of what our students hope to pursue.

This didn’t happen by accident. We grew and expanded based on our deliberate and focused mission to broaden the work of our world-class faculty and foster a wealth of opportunities for our students. While our “learn by doing” ethos has been a constant, just what our students are able to do is always expanding.

The cover story for this edition of CPP Magazine salutes just how far we’ve come. From art galleries to rainforests and from recording studios to the deliberations of our state legislature, you will read about the host of educational opportunities and co-curricular activities that – each in their own way – epitomize the work of this university. This “treasure trove” of programs and places is everywhere you look and serves as a symbol of what the Cal Poly Pomona experience means and how it transforms lives.

Thank you for being a part of the Cal Poly Pomona community and ensuring that the legacy of this university lives on for generations to come.

Sincerely,

**Soraya M. Coley, Ph.D.**  
President



# HIDDEN GEMS

**Cal Poly Pomona  
is Rich with  
Programs and  
Places  
Focused on  
Student Growth**

**By MELANIE JOHNSON**

Arabian horses grazing in the pasture at the entrance to the university. Aspiring architects and engineers designing models of future projects they will build. Agriculture and hospitality management students tapping into their talents to grow food for communities and create dining and travel experiences for patrons. Those are some of the things people associate with Cal Poly Pomona.

But beyond what most people know about campus lies many jewels that don’t get as much shine as they should, the hidden gems in the form of academic programs, co-curricular activities and places that contribute greatly to student development and success.

Over the next few pages are some of the less-talked-about programs and places that make our university a one-of-a-kind gem.



## PROJECT BLUE

The university is home to several natural resources of water that help keep animals, plants and other organisms alive. Among those sources is **Project Blue**, the site of a group of springs fed by Kellogg Creek that is located just north of Building 1. In 2018, Cal Poly Pomona established Project Blue to highlight water and its importance, not only on campus, but also throughout California.

Before the restoration project, Kellogg Creek was hard to find because it was covered by overgrown foliage. After non-native plants were removed, the campus destination spot was refreshed with native riparian plants, seating in the form of a learning circle, umbrellas with solar-powered charging stations and a sidewalk for greater access to the site. The living laboratory also provides some great eats and shelter to a variety of birds and insects, and a place for alga, diatoms and other microorganisms to feed. Bees, dragonflies, birds, coyotes and deer are among the creatures that bask in the waters of Project Blue.

## RAINFOREST LEARNING CENTER

Ever wonder what it's like to visit a tropical rainforest? Cal Poly Pomona gives the campus community a taste of the tropics with its **Rainforest Learning Center**. The center is part of **Rain Bird BioTrek**, a facility that includes a greenhouse, gardens and stations that provide interactive, educational opportunities for visitors to learn more about tropical rainforests and their role in supplying the world with oxygen, retaining carbon and influencing worldwide climate patterns.

The 20-year-old Rainforest Learning Center includes more than 200 plant species representing the tropics in the Americas, Africa, southeast Asia, Australia and the Pacific Islands. Some of the plants have economic importance, such as coffee, chocolate and peppers. Others are common houseplants. Thousands of visitors tour BioTrek every year, including K-12 students from local schools.



## MOTOR DEVELOPMENT CLINIC

For many children, riding a bicycle or playing sports is a rite of passage. Children with disabilities wanting to experience those same pleasures may need some extra guidance and support. The **Motor Development Clinic** has been providing that assistance to members of the community since 1979. The clinic, located in **Kellogg Arena**, works with children ages 5 to 17, providing them with an individual plan to help them reach their mobility goals.

Kinesiology students, under the supervision of the clinic director and Assistant Professor **Mai Narasaki-Jara**, develop lesson plans for the participants and families to work with their children at home. The clinic is filled with hula-hoops, balls of various colors and other equipment that foster learning and engagement. During the semester, kinesiology students work with two children at a time. The summer sessions are run more like a sports camp and rely heavily on volunteers.

"You all have given my child not only the ability to kick, to dribble, to tie, to bike, to hit. You have given my child his self-confidence," says a mother in a testimonial. "You have given him the ability to be included: to belong."



## RESEARCH THROUGH INCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITIES

The influence of media on consumers, the potential extension of the shelf life of avocados and the benefit of self-powered solar drones are among the projects in the **Research through Inclusive Opportunities (RIO)** program. The Office of Undergraduate Research created RIO more than two years ago to provide opportunities for sophomores and incoming transfer students to participate in a research, scholarly or creative project.

RIO is an effort to make sure that first-generation, low-income or underrepresented minority students (whose participation in research is not reflective of their numbers on campus) have the same access as their peers. The program pairs faculty with students, who receive a \$2,000 stipend. After working on a year-long project, students present at the annual **Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities Conference** in the spring.

"The program gave me a space to be able to put my ideas, aspirations, and drive into a project that I am genuinely passionate about," says **Agatha Brenda Yaghoobi**, a 2020-21 RIO scholar studying mechanical engineering. "I have built professional faculty relationships outside of the traditional classroom setting and found my research faculty member to be someone from whom I can truly learn."



## MARIACHI LOS BRONCOS DE POMONA

Mariachi officially returned to Cal Poly Pomona in 2016. Close to two decades after the university's original mariachi group disbanded, **Mariachi Los Broncos de Pomona** was formed under the direction of ethnomusicologist and Music Professor **Jessie Vallejo**. The program started with 15 students and was so in demand that a second group for beginning to intermediate students, **Mariachi Los Caballeros de Cal Poly Pomona**, was created. Both ensembles draw students from diverse majors across campus with a mission to "promote tolerance, respect and solidarity through musical expression and artistry." The ensembles have performed at campus and community events, and students have participated in masterclasses and workshops led by some of the most renowned mariachi musicians in the world, including Grammy Award winners **Jesus "Chuy" Guzman**, **Juan Jimenez** and **Ricardo Ramos**.

Many of the students who played with Mariachi Los Broncos are still at it. Alumnus **Christopher Rubalcava** ('17, music industry studies), is a trumpet player and vocalist for the Los Angeles Rams' **Mariachi Rams** band.

"Mariachi music has been a part of Cal Poly Pomona for more than 40 years," Vallejo says, "and ensembles like it offer unique safe spaces for students to be creative and learn about their heritage and the heritage of Southern California."



## ART GALLERIES

Just north of the Bronco Student Center, sculptures titled "The Gates" and "Black Marble Columns with Lintel" by the late Italian architect and designer, **Ettore Sottsass**, beckon passersby to the **W. Keith & Janet Kellogg University Art Gallery**. The 4,000-square-foot facility not only provides a space for art students to share their work but has featured exhibits from artists outside of the campus community, including international artists. The space also annually hosts "Ink & Clay," a national juried exhibition celebrating its fifth decade in existence.

Cal Poly Pomona also is home to **The Don B. Huntley Gallery**, located on the fourth floor of the University Library. The gallery, named for agriculture alumnus and philanthropist **Don B. Huntley**, often highlights emerging and mid-career artists, the university's art collections – including Mr. Huntley's "Art of the West" – art department triennial shows and departmental projects for the College of Environmental Design.



## TURF MANAGEMENT

The grass really is greener for plant science students studying turf management. From **Dodger Stadium** to the **Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum** to a **Super Bowl**, students have applied their knowledge to some of the most important fields in sports. In 1986, the College of Agriculture created the Institute of Irrigation Research and Evaluation to provide a formal method for faculty to work with the irrigation industry. The institute later expanded to include expertise in turf and landscaping, and the name was changed to the **Center for Turf, Irrigation, and Landscape Technology**.

The center's research and community outreach efforts are focused on turfgrass, ornamental plant materials, landscape irrigation technology, landscape operations, sport turf and golf course management, and the preservation of natural resources. Ag alumni host field trips for students and connect them to jobs and internships. In 2020, Cal Poly Pomona students won the national **Collegiate Turf Bowl Competition**, making history by becoming the first West Coast university to win and the first winning team to have female students.

Assistant Professor **Priti Saxena**, who serves as the team's head advisor, says securing grants to increase research and graduate degree opportunities for students and networking with turf industry professionals have bolstered the program.

"We are creating a workforce and giving students experience, knowledge and skills they can use," she says. "We're trying to create students who will be successful in the industry."



## JUDICIAL INTERNSHIP COURSE

The next great generation of legal scholars, arbiters of justice or candidates for the judicial bench could be attending Cal Poly Pomona right now. For two decades, students interested in law careers have seen the inner workings of the criminal justice system up close thanks to the judicial internship course.

"The internship provides students with an opportunity to see the courts in action," says **Elli Menounou**, an assistant professor of political science who recently completed her first year supervising the course. "Students watch criminal cases, drug-related cases, juvenile court, jury selection, and much more, and they meet judges, district attorneys, public defenders, and other actors of our judicial system."

The course is available every spring semester, and 19 students participated this past term. The interns typically spend every Monday and Wednesday morning at the Pomona Courthouse observing cases and hearings. The class then meets every other Friday to share their observations and experiences.



## APPAREL MERCHANDISING AND MANAGEMENT

For more than two decades, the apparel merchandising and management program has been shaping fashion industry leaders. Professors Emeriti **Jean Gipe** and **Betty Tracy** teamed up to launch the baccalaureate program in 1995 as home economics programs phased out. Years later, the department added a master's degree in international apparel management, in which students study global marketing, supply chain management and technological innovation. The program has more than 430 students – the largest in the Huntley College of Agriculture – and is nationally recognized as one of only 13 in the country to earn affiliate status with the prestigious **American Apparel & Footwear Association**.

**Teresa Becker** ('07, apparel merchandising and management) had been in the fashion industry since 1978 and was teaching design already when she enrolled at Cal Poly Pomona to earn her bachelor's degree. She started the clothing company, **Heart of Haute**, with her daughter, Amanda, while at Cal Poly Pomona.

"I had a lot of industry experience and had run a small business prior to coming to Cal Poly Pomona, but through the program, I was given enough business information to make me a stronger businessperson," she says. "I also learned early, sustainable ways of manufacturing, ethics and took a human resources class that taught about how to hire, benefits and the way to treat your employees."

## STEEL BRIDGE TEAM

You know that saying about crossing the bridge when you come to it? Well, for the undergraduate civil engineering students on the **Steel Bridge Team**, they come to their project daily. For a full academic year, the team plans, designs, fabricates and constructs a one-tenth model steel bridge. At the culmination of the year, they take their talents to a regional competition and compete against other universities. Teams must fabricate their bridge and assemble it while being timed. The bridge must span about 20 feet, carry 2,500 pounds and meet other competition requirements. The judges also factor in aesthetics in the final results.

Cal Poly Pomona teams have excelled in competition. The university placed first overall at the 2021 regionals and fourth overall in the **National Student Steel Bridge Competition**. This year, the team finished second at regionals, qualifying them for the nationals in May.

**Emelisa Vasquez**, a senior civil engineering student and the project manager for the Steel Bridge Team, says she enjoys the learn-by-doing aspect and working with like-minded colleagues.

"The thing I love most is the people and how very motivated they are to get the project done," she says. "Learning in that type of environment sits well with me and makes me want to get things done too."



## INDUSTRIAL AND MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING

With a stellar reputation and consistently high national rankings, Cal Poly Pomona's College of Engineering is renowned. But less talked about is the **Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering (IME)**, which is consistently recognized in national rankings, wins major competitions and produces professionals on the fast track to management. Industrial and manufacturing engineers are tasked with using technology to create and improve systems, processes, and product development methods that are faster, greener and more cost effective.

Manufacturing engineers design, operate and maintain integrated systems and specialized machinery used to produce consumer goods for the masses. Industrial engineers develop approaches and analyze processes to help organizations determine the technology, machinery and personnel needed to improve productivity. They are two sides of the same coin.

"In a manufacturing set up, you cannot find industrial and manufacturing engineers that work independently of each other," says Chair and Associate Professor **Shokoufeh Mirzaei**. Both industrial and manufacturing engineers are in high demand, with industries as diverse as hospitals, universities, call centers and plants all requiring their services.



## OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS

Youth often hear the adage, “The world is your oyster”? For Cal Poly Pomona students, the entire campus is their classroom. Outdoor classrooms abound around campus, from the rows of crops at **Spadra Farm** to the wine grapes of **Horsehill Vineyards** to the cows, sheep and pigs in **Ag Valley**. At the **W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center**, students witness new life coming into the world as part of the Foal Watch Program. In the **Engineering Meadow**, students conduct surveys of the area and operate autonomous robots. The **Mesozoic Learning Center** offers lessons in ecological and biological sustainability.

At the **Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies**, an outdoor classroom completed in 2021 provides creative learning opportunities related to food production. The classroom features a shallow amphitheater-style space located next to the center’s kitchen. The aim is to tap into regenerative agriculture to support food production and nutrition programming at the Lyle Center, provide fresh produce for the campus’ food pantry, and establish a space for student innovators and entrepreneurs to test their ideas.



Micayla Anderson

## MUSIC INDUSTRY STUDIES

The music bug isn’t just for those who play in a band or aspire to be a solo artist. It’s also for those who love the technical aspects of making music: sound engineering, music production and music direction, to name a few. The bachelor’s degree in **music industry studies (MIS)** prepares students interested in music and entertainment careers, including teaching, performing, business and production. In 2019, the Department of Music added the gold standard AMS Neve Genesys G32 audio recording console, providing students with an opportunity to record on the kind of equipment they will encounter in their careers.

“Neve is the Rolls Royce of the audio world,” says Music Professor **Anthony Winer**. “After the microphone, the console is the vehicle by which audio signal interfaces with both the acoustic and recorded realms.”

Alumni of the program include **Catherine Pastrana**, a music supervisor at ESPN, **Esteban Munoz**, a show producer at The Forum, music therapist **Kristie Gallacher**, recording artist **Lacey Johnson** and film composer **Will Hunt**.



## WINE LIBRARY

For more than four decades, Cal Poly Pomona students have been learning the finer points of selecting and serving wine and earning a grade while doing so. Classes on wine education and appreciation date back to the 1970s when the hospitality management program was a part of the College of Business. It continued in the 1980s with the creation of the college’s Center for Hospitality Management, and interest steadily grew in the 1990s after The Collins Center of Hospitality Management moved into a new building atop a hill overlooking campus. In 2001, with the leadership of philanthropists, **Jim and Carol Collins**, two privately-funded buildings were added, one of which featured a 75-seat Wine Auditorium Classroom and a Wine Library.

“Wine was a big thing when this building was built,” says Professor **Margie Ferree Jones**, who joined the college’s faculty in 1990 and currently teaches the Wines, Beers, and Spirits course. “It’s an important part of the California economy.”

The library, which is temperature and humidity controlled to best preserve the products, holds close to 8,000 bottles. It houses products for **The Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch** and special events; wine, beer and spirits for Jones’ courses as well as the Beer and Culture courses; and a special collection of wines donated to the university by previous faculty and board members that even includes bottles gifted from television mogul **Norman Lear**.



## FOOD AND SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY

For students literally interested in how the sausage gets made, and also how the flavors are tested, the packaging designed, and the product kept safe for consumers to buy on store shelves, the food science and technology program provides all of that and more.

The program was created in 1999 in response to the Southern California food industry’s growing need for food scientists and technologists. Food scientists study how processing affects food products, the safest and most efficient ways to manufacture food, product development and improvement, and quality assurance at processing facilities.

The program’s stellar reputation prompted the **Institute of Food Technologists** to name it one of its approved undergraduate programs in 2020, making Cal Poly Pomona the third university in California to earn the prestigious designation. The program also is the only one in Southern California approved by the **Research Chefs Association**.

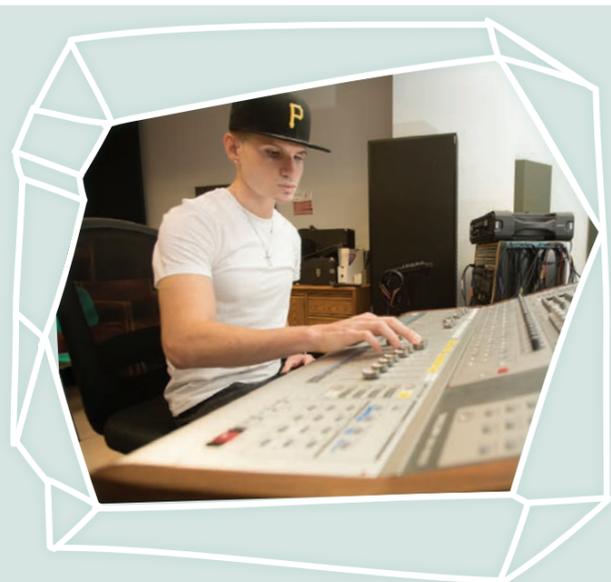
Students also have put their food science skills to the test, earning prizes in national competitions.

## CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR ETHICS AND POLICY

Since its launch in 2018, the **California Center for Ethics and Policy** has given students an opportunity to take a deeper look at diverse issues including healthcare access and justice, war and military culture, and the climate crisis. Each year, the program accepts about 10 student fellows for an advanced seminar. Student fellows work with faculty fellows on a semester-long research project, and they also meet ethics and policy experts and present at a student research conference.

Many universities have similar centers, but Cal Poly Pomona’s has a unique focus. “Part of what sets our Center apart is that we are focusing on national and global challenges but specifically through a Californian lens,” says Philosophy Associate Professor **Alex Madva**, the center’s director. “How do these issues impact Californians, and on the flip side, what are the opportunities for California to take a leadership role in addressing these problems?”

The program has expanded, hosting grant-funded panels with academic experts, activists, artists, business leaders and writers, launching a podcast and creating **Project Mailbox**, an effort to enable housing insecure students to have their mail delivered to campus.



## VOORHIS ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE

The San Jose Hills are alive with wildlife. The 76-acre **Voorhis Ecological Preserve**, which includes the canyon lands that connect the hills between the Santa Ana and San Gabriel mountains, is home to several species of amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds including salamanders, rabbits, coyotes and bats. It also contains more than 160 types of plants and an unnumbered species of insects.

The preserve is named after the late **H. Jerry Voorhis**, a former Congressman who also was the headmaster of the Voorhis School for Boys in San Dimas, which became the site of the university’s original campus before relocating to Pomona. The area remains a natural resource and a living laboratory to study wildlife and plant life.



**TOM**

Two words the American public has learned in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic: supply chain, or the system of getting goods to the consumer.

Cal Poly Pomona's acclaimed digital supply chain management program features two career tracks. One emphasizes the supply chain network design and analysis, while the e-business track focuses on information technology. The supply chain field is growing, and many new graduates receive offers of more than \$80,000 with no full-time experience.

The College of Business Administration plans to offer a new master's degree in the fall to concentrate on data-driven decision-making using software and automation-related technologies. It will feature an accelerated option and offer evening and weekend classes to accommodate full-time professionals.

"COVID-19 demonstrated the world's collective reliance on supply chains, but also its vulnerabilities," says Yuanjie "Ed" He, chair of TOM and EBZ, and the master's program co-director. "TOM faculty, after consulting with industry leaders long before the pandemic, designed the MS digital supply chain management program, and it is exciting that it is set to launch while the industry has the world's attention."



**GEM COLLECTION**

There are metaphorical gems, and then there are literal gems. The geology collection of precious stones, gems and minerals donated by alumnus **Roark Moudy** ('62, accounting) qualifies as both. The collection, housed in the College of Science's Department of Geological Sciences, has around 300 specimens, many on display for campus viewing.

Moudy was inspired by a professor friend to take up rock collecting. Over time, he collected specimens from 28 countries and 20 states; went to gem and mineral shows where armed guards stood watch over silver platters of rubies, diamonds and emeralds; started a business venture that imported geodes from Mexico; and joined the Glendora Gems rock-collecting club.

While downsizing at home, Moudy wanted to find a worthy home for his collection. Cal Poly Pomona was the solid choice, of course.

"I felt like I had an obligation," he says after donating his collection in 2014. "I felt that Cal Poly (Pomona) had given me a wonderful education. I attribute my success to the education I received."



## Cue the Lights ... It's Showtime!

After going dark in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, audiences returned to the University Theatre this spring for the production of "Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play."

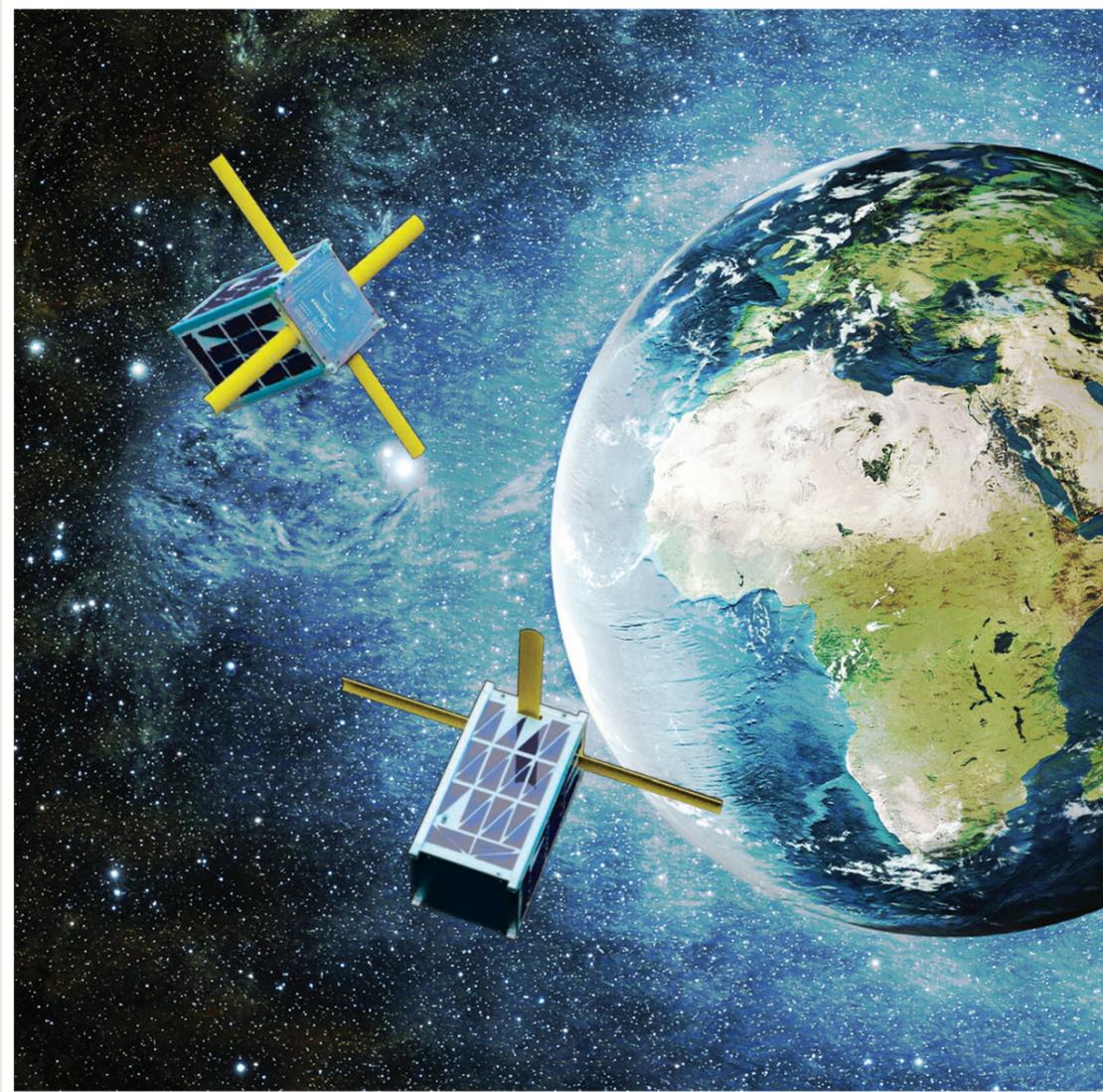
Written by Ann Washburn and directed by Theatre Professor Bernardo Solano, the play is an apocalyptic tale that explores the boundaries between pop and high culture and how stories keep us human and connected.

The show features beloved characters in pop culture: Bart Simpson, Homer Simpson and, of course, the evil Mr. Burns. The play literally transports audiences to new locations: It starts outside the University Art Gallery, moves to the Studio Theatre and concludes on the University Theatre Main Stage.

— Tom Zasadzinski



# SPACE Forward



## How a Night Near Cape Canaveral Launched the Bronco Space Club

By MELANIE JOHNSON

An 8-year-old Michael Pham fell in love with space on a clear night near Cape Canaveral, Florida. His father, a software engineer, had taken the family with him to a conference, and it just so happened to take place during a space shuttle launch.

"If you have never seen a rocket launch, it is a real spectacle," Pham says. "Seeing the rocket during a night launch especially is amazing. The sky is pitch black and then lights up like a rising sun. The rocket is rising in silence for a little bit, and then you hear sounds and feel the vibration. It's really incredible."

That experience stayed with the Cal Poly Pomona senior studying aerospace engineering. And now, more than a dozen years after witnessing the shuttle roaring into the night sky, he and members of the club he helped establish, **Bronco Space**, are gearing up for their own mission: sending a CubeSat into space this summer.

**Momentum**, a San Jose-based space infrastructure company that offers flights to space and in-orbit services, had extra room on a planned mission and put out a competitive call in summer 2020 to universities looking to launch satellites, Pham says. The Cal Poly Pomona club answered, building the **BroncoSat-1** to send into orbit.

### On a Mission

The club spent 10 months building the CubeSat, a miniature satellite, which at 1.5 units is about half the size of a loaf of bread. Each unit is approximately 10 cm x 10 cm x 10 cm in volume. The club's endeavor goes beyond just the experience, Pham says.

"BroncoSat wasn't just for us to build a satellite for the sake of it," the San Jose native says. "The mission for BroncoSat is that it is going to prove the capability of a CubeSat to run artificial intelligence and machine-learning algorithms in orbit."

In layman's terms, the students are setting out to prove that a miniature satellite equipped with a cheap off-the-shelf computer can do much more complicated data analysis than previously thought possible. This type of research is known as "edge-computing." As an example, an artificial intelligence-equipped satellite could take a set of photos of a location on the Earth from space. Then it can autonomously identify and analyze any changes that may have happened since the last time a photo was taken of that same location. Important events like fire, flood or other disasters can be quickly recognized and the authorities can be notified without needing a human to conduct a manual analysis of the data.

Perhaps more important though, BroncoSat-1 will be Cal Poly Pomona's first space mission. For the students involved, and the community at large, the launch of BroncoSat-1 will be proof that students from Cal Poly Pomona have what it takes to play an important role in the future of exploring the final frontier.

The team's methodology will be incorporated in another student project called **Bronco Ember**, which uses small-satellite observation technology to detect, track and report on wildfires before they get out of control. Bronco Ember won the \$200,000 **NASA Tech Leap Challenge** competition last October, one of three groups nationally and the only undergraduate group to receive the funding.

"The decision-making that satellites can do is not as good as a human, but the premise is being able to alert humans to the fact that something is going on and they should take a closer look at it," Pham says of the observation technology.

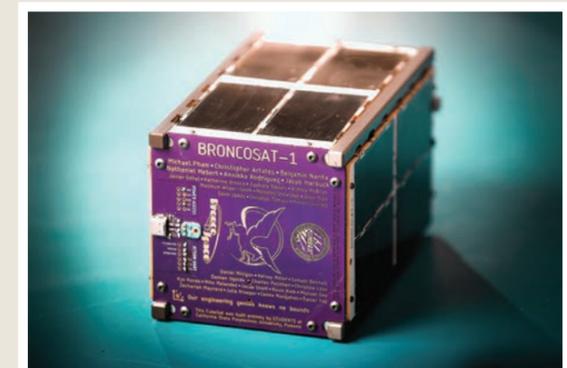
### Launching Bronco Space

When Pham came to Cal Poly Pomona as a freshman, he thought his future would be in rockets. But then, a friend asked him if he had ever heard of CubeSats.

"At the time, CPP had no real program to do them," he says. "I asked around and no one was talking about them."

Pham discovered that CubeSats are a good way for universities to get involved in space opportunities and don't face as many funding and budget issues as rocketry projects do.

"CubeSats are small enough where they can ride along on other satellite missions," he says. "You don't need to own the entire rocket to go up into space. That brings the cost down for universities to be able to do their own space mission."



Though it's not rocket science, CubeSat engineering isn't easy.

The lifespan of a CubeSat is two or three years, according to Pham. "Then it will fall to earth and the atmosphere will disintegrate it."

In the past 20 years, about 200 universities around the world have launched a CubeSat into space, he says. Approximately 40 percent of them will fail. If something does go wrong, there is little or nothing students can do to fix it. But, each failure is an opportunity for learning.

Bronco Space became an official student organization in fall 2019 so students could collaborate and learn by doing. The first year was primarily pathfinding and writing project proposals. Then, the pandemic hit, and classes and activities moved online. The BroncoSat-1 team set up shop in a garage and worked at their kitchen tables.

"It was pretty difficult to virtually build a satellite," Pham says.

Eventually, the College of Engineering secured a lab in Building

13, restricting in-person work to two or three people at a time.

Pham served as Bronco Space's president for the first two years.

Now, **Annikka Priya Rodriguez** serves as president. The Philippines-born, Lancaster-raised senior majoring in aerospace engineering says there were just a few students involved when she joined the organization.

She and Pham went from lab team members in class to friends to collaborators on Bronco Space.

"You become Michael Pham's friend, and he draws you in," Rodriguez says.

Bronco Space now has more than 100 members working on three major projects. Pham manages the club's largest, BroncoSat-1, which has a team of 35 students. Aside from the Bronco Ember project, the organization also has Blade, a balloon launch program for freshmen students.

"One of our goals is for Cal Poly Pomona to become a space-forward university," Rodriguez says. "Before us, there were other aerospace projects,

but no one was really going into space."

The Blade project includes students making mock CubeSats to create early interest for first-year engineers.

"It definitely introduces them to CubeSats, and those who have quality work and are interested in space exploration will be able to go on to the other programs where they make real CubeSats," Rodriguez says. "Space is becoming a new frontier for sure among universities."

Pham says the space industry is a cornucopia of fields that students should find appealing.

"One of the things we like to emphasize is that we try to make Bronco Space as diverse and interdisciplinary as possible," he says. "Space is thought of as an aerospace engineering playground, but we are engaging other engineering majors, computer science students and also trying to reach out to science majors. Everyone is welcome in the space industry."

**Samuel Bennett, Michael Pham and Katherine Orozco** are part of the Bronco Space Club, which plans to send a CubeSat into space this summer.



# NOT GIVING UP

## Our New Provost Talks About Her Unexpected Journey and How Universities Today Can Support Students

BY ESTHER CHOU TANAKA

When she was a student, **Jennifer Brown** faced many challenges and unknowns in earning her degree and finding her place in the world. But she was able to keep forging ahead, thanks to supportive mentors who opened doors for her.

Brown joined Cal Poly Pomona this spring as vice president for academic affairs and provost and brings her personal journey of triumph and a breadth of experience in leading student success initiatives, interdisciplinary research and scholarship, and innovations in digital teaching and learning.

Prior to joining the campus, Brown held leadership positions at UC Riverside and Oregon State and was a professor at Purdue University.



“

**The campus can't be its best self if we don't pay attention to our faculty, to our staff, as well as our students. We must have a common understanding that everyone is important and plays a great role in the institution's success."**



Provost Brown talks with a student at the Maker Studio in the library.

She completed her undergraduate education in ornamental horticulture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and also earned her master's degree there. She holds a doctorate in horticulture with an emphasis in marketing and consumer behavior from Michigan State University.

A few weeks before her official start as provost, Brown shared her journey from student to university leader, and also her commitment to student success, closing equity gaps and breaking barriers.

**TELL US ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND AND HOW YOU CAME TO STUDY HORTICULTURE.**

I'm originally from the inner city of Chicago. I started out as a civil engineering major, but a couple of obstacles led to me leaving the university. When I was in community college, a family friend introduced me to landscape architecture. When I transferred back into the University of Illinois, I discovered that my interests were suited more toward horticulture. So, although I wasn't aware of this major and career choice originally, it was one of the best decisions that I have made. I wouldn't be sitting here before you today if I had not made this decision to try something new. I think that's how I have become an advocate for helping students learn and explore

different possibilities and paths, thinking about my own experience and learning over time that so many students worry about picking the right major and sticking with it.

**HOW DID YOU BECOME A PROFESSOR AND UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATOR?**

I didn't go to college thinking that I could be a professor. I didn't know anyone that was a professor. During my senior year of college, I started an independent study and fell in love with asking questions, and that's how I discovered research. My advisor shared with me the prospect of graduate school. Still, I didn't think that someone like me would be accepted into graduate school. My independent study professor, Dr. Tony Endress, saw my drive and consistency with our independent study project and advocated for my acceptance into graduate school and I was accepted provisionally.

After my first term, I sailed. I earned a 4.0 GPA every semester, and that was the first time that I realized I belonged in academia.

The art of asking questions stuck with me. I loved applied research. I loved being able to solve an issue that had an immediate application to an industry or business. Before I finished my doctoral studies at Michigan State University, I saw that Purdue had an opening for

an assistant professor position. The role was an assistant professor with a joint appointment in horticulture and agriculture economics. I applied and I got the job. I didn't plan it. I just figured it out as I went along. Once I became a professor, I became more intentional about my path and knew I wanted to help others do the same.

After I was tenured, I began a dean's fellow position to investigate whether distance education was the right path for the College of Agriculture. I led a 12-person taskforce that developed an 86-page white paper and five-page action plan. I was asked by the dean to become the inaugural director of distance education after we finished the action plan. That was my leap into administration.

One thing to note is that as an assistant professor, I developed a goal to become a provost. At the time, I didn't know what the provost did, and the only reason I said provost was because I was too afraid to admit that I could possibly be somebody's president. I knew that I wanted to use my talents to help people. I am honored to be the provost of Cal Poly Pomona and to use our collective talents to move student, staff and faculty success forward.

**HAVE YOU SAID OUT LOUD THAT YOU'RE GOING TO BE PRESIDENT ONE DAY?**

I want to enjoy this role and contribute as provost and that will take some time... But down the road – it is a possibility.

**WHAT ARE THE NEW CHALLENGES THAT STUDENTS FACE? WHAT ARE THE OLD CHALLENGES THAT WE HAVEN'T QUITE SOLVED?**

What's unfortunate is that there are still so many barriers for students. However, I am excited that more institutions, including Cal Poly Pomona, want to focus on removing institutional barriers and embrace the whole student. As I was going through undergrad, people said, "Look to your left, look to your right, one of you won't be here." It was proudful. Folks boasted, "We're tough and not everyone's going to make it." Students didn't talk about the challenges or say out loud that they needed help.

Now, institutions are being reflective. Are we part of the challenges as well?

That's one of the many things that attracted me to Cal Poly Pomona – we want to knock down barriers. What I see is a very open dialogue and sense of awareness. And how brave are our

students who say they're experiencing challenges, whether it's food insecurity, housing insecurity, tutoring, basic needs. I'm not saying that they broadcast that to the world. But they recognize there may be resources to help them through.

**WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR BIG-PICTURE GOALS AS PROVOST?**

I am still learning the points of pride and challenges of Cal Poly Pomona, so my views will change as I learn more about the campus. However, I do know that student success and reducing the equity gaps are a key goal as provost. Supporting the university and the Graduation Initiative 2025 will be key to making sure that all students have equal chances to succeed and graduate. Closing the equity gaps is a top priority.

Understanding the effects of the pandemic and how students need support is pivotal. We must also understand how staff and faculty are working in this new fluid environment. The campus can't be its best self if we don't pay attention to our faculty, to our staff, as well as our students. We must have a common understanding that everyone is important and plays a great role in the institution's success.

Therefore, supporting the campus' backbone of faculty and staff is key. Faculty development and staff professional development are very important.

Also, we have to think about how the pandemic has changed the way we work, finances are different, responsibilities are different. People are tired. There's this fluidity that's going on. I hope we can acknowledge that the world will be fluid for a little while longer. How do we preserve ourselves but also show up as our best selves at work?

Re-engaging with the university's strategic plan will require the campus to talk about the realities of the pandemic, too, so that we can reset and figure out this new world. It's going to take ingenuity and creativity, and I want to approach this from a place of compassion, empathy and care. I think when you invest in folks, they show up as their best selves. It's not investing to get something, it's more of just being a decent human being and leading with integrity.

**WHERE DO YOU FIND JOY AND INSPIRATION? WHAT KEEPS YOU GOING?**

My faith. My daughter. Helping others. California beaches and sunshine.



## Dream Maker



## Alumna Barbara Bouza Brings Optimism, Diverse Storytelling to Walt Disney Imagineering

By MELANIE JOHNSON

The concept of Imagineering was born in 1952 out of studio mogul Walt Disney's desire to create a theme park where parents and children could have fun together.

A combination of imagination and engineering, Disney's Imagineers are still at it nearly 70 years later, working to create adventures and attractions at Disney parks and resorts worldwide that wow visitors, making everyone believe that anything is possible.

As president of **Walt Disney Imagineering**, Cal Poly Pomona alumna and architect **Barbara Bouza** leads the team of artists, designers, engineers and others tasked with bringing Disney stories to life. Bouza is the first woman and person of color to lead Imagineering in its history.

"I hope to be a source of inspiration to others," she says. "I want people to look at me and say that if I can do it, anyone else can do it."

Bouza ('85, architecture), joined Imagineering in 2020 as its president of business operations, design and delivery. In late 2021, she was named president, taking the helm from another Cal Poly Pomona alumnus, **Bob Weis** ('80, architecture), who is now a global ambassador for the division.

"I grew up with Disney in Southern California and visiting with my two kids," Bouza says. "It has always been near and dear to my heart. I think of the rich storytelling across countless mediums. It is really enmeshed."

The Santa Maria native previously was the co-managing director and principal at the Los Angeles office of Gensler, the largest architecture and design firm in the world. Some of her notable clients at Gensler included Netflix, City of Hope and the Debbie Allen Dance Academy.

Bouza knew Weis and visited Imagineering's Glendale campus at his invitation in 2019. She and Weis discussed the broad range of projects the company was working on and how Imagineering wanted to position itself for the future. Intrigued by the work and opportunities, Bouza continued talking with the company over several months, initially joining the team leading Imagineering's business operations, design and delivery.

In her current role as president, she oversees a wide variety of marquee projects across Disney's theme parks, cruise line, resorts and more. Her job description might read: Makes dreams come true.

Weis points to Bouza's experience in leading diverse teams and managing large projects on a global scale, while exploring creative design solutions, and her leadership skills as some of the reasons why she was a good fit for Imagineering.

"It's really rewarding to see Barbara shape and guide the future of Imagineering as our president and for me to do all I can to support her and our teams around the world in my new role as global Imagineering ambassador," Weis says. "This partnership has been wonderful to explore, and it all comes down to making sure our Imagineers have the support that they need at every step of the way, connecting with each other and sharing lessons learned and best practices from around the world. Working with Barbara in this way is fantastic, and I'm excited to see where we go from here."



## Projects on the Horizon

Bouza says the company is taking on many exciting projects around the world, including two major park transformations underway at **Epcot** at **Walt Disney World** in Florida and **Walt Disney Studio Park** in Paris. Crews in Florida are busy constructing the **Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind** roller coaster, one of the largest in the world, and an **Avengers Campus** is being built in Paris. Major projects are underway at parks in Asia also. A **Zootopia**-themed land is under construction at **Shanghai Disney Resort**, as well as a **Frozen**-themed land at **Hong Kong Disneyland**, among many other projects worldwide.

In addition, three more cruise ships are planned to join the four already in operation, including the **Disney Wish** coming this year. Locally, the addition of **Mickey and Minnie's Runaway Railway** is on track at **Disneyland**.

The focus of the new experiences, Bouza says, will be on creating physically and digitally immersive worlds that bring to life inclusive stories with diverse characters, adding that it's rewarding to see the deep impact the stories have on guests and audiences worldwide, where even the smallest of details matter.

"I love going to one of the parks completely as a guest just to really experience it firsthand," Bouza says. "I love seeing how the cast who work in the park really love what they do. The approach is holistic – how you're treated, how you're helped, how they convey the stories. Every detail is important."

While there are many iconic characters to choose from, Mickey Mouse, the Disney family's senior member and a childhood staple for many, is still her favorite, she says, adding that it's good to see Mickey and Minnie getting an attraction of their own.

"The reason I always say Mickey is because there is something very timeless, classic and just clever about Mickey Mouse," she says. "It is a mouse, and he is so loved, iconic and recognizable."

The progress on projects comes at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered amusement parks, emptied resorts and sidelined cruise ships globally. Disneyland was closed for more than a year, and for Imagineers designing and creating the newest attractions, collaboration became more challenging due to restrictions on travel.

"We faced it head on," Bouza says of the challenges. "When we look at the level of work and the level of creativity that has still been moving forward over just the past year and a half, it is just remarkable. I'm really proud of Imagineers around the world."

Imagineers did what they are known for – making the impossible possible, despite the obstacles, she adds.

"Imagineers are built for anything complex," she says. "A lot of engineers are creating things that have never been done before – like the floating mountains in Pandora – the World of Avatar in Florida or Spider-Man flying 85 feet in the air in Avengers Campus in California."

## 'Everything Has a Story'

Storytelling is at the core of everything Imagineers do, Bouza says, and the story always comes first.

Whether it is Spider-Man capturing Spider-Bots run amok or Mickey and Minnie going on a fantastical adventure, "everything has a story," she says, with an eye to creating lasting memories and immersive experiences that reach guests on multiple levels.

"It's all about making the best storytelling experience, and I emphasize experience, possible," she says. "How can we innovate? How do we push forward? How do we enchant? How do we design to bring those stories to life?"

At Imagineering, storytelling is a cross-disciplinary and highly collaborative endeavor where

musicians, storytellers, ride engineers, landscape architects and construction managers come together. Bouza's own passion for storytelling began with architecture, in creating spaces that help to illustrate her clients' mission and serve their purpose.

The roots of that go back to her time at Cal Poly Pomona, which Bouza says helped prepare her for her role leading Imagineering. Her husband, **Manuel Bouza** ('85, architecture), is also an architect and they came through the program together.

## Building Together

Cal Poly Pomona's emphasis on a cross-disciplinary, collaborative and learn-by-doing approach is what makes the university so special, Bouza says.

Imagineering also relies heavily on bringing diverse disciplines together to tackle multi-layered and complex projects that demand innovation and creativity. Construction, art, music, materials, technology and engineering all play a role in delivering extraordinary experiences for Disney patrons. That requires a reliance on not only Imagineers but also on partnering with engineering, architectural, construction companies and consultants to get projects done.

"You learn that in school," Bouza says. "You don't have to do everything yourself. It's about how do you find key collaborators, how do you grow your expertise, but also recognizing that there is expertise outside that can complement what we do as well."

Bouza's early foundation at Cal Poly Pomona, with its emphasis on experiential learning and teamwork, is something Weis says will serve her well at Imagineering.

"Imagineers are relentless creators and innovators and bringing together diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise comes naturally," he says. "We live the ethos 'learn by doing,' and having a leader like Barbara who knows just how important hands-on experience and collaboration is really adds to her being a strong leader for our global teams."

Imagineering's spirit of collaboration and partnership extends to Cal Poly Pomona. Each year, Imagineers volunteer to work with architecture and landscape architecture students through the university's **Bobby Brooks Memorial Interdisciplinary Design Studio**, a program Weis created to honor alumnus and fellow Imagineer **Bobby Brooks**, who died in 2008.

Students are given a design challenge to solve, and Disney representatives meet with students to provide feedback.

"I had an opportunity to sit on project review and meet with students," Bouza says. "Their work is impressive. It is phenomenal the things students can do – and their creativity."

For architecture, design, engineering, art and

business students who see Bouza's success and want to know how they can emulate it, she says the key is to understand that success is never created alone, and that if someone asks you to take on a role, it means they believe in you. Work must also be human-centered, she adds.

"Whether someone is studying business or architecture, invest time in relationships and building relationships," she says. "You can have all of the technical expertise and talent, but it really doesn't exist without other people."

Imagineers also believe in what is called "the blue-sky approach," she says, meaning that there are no limits when it comes to creation, and a diverse group of dreamers and doers must be at the table.

## The Importance of Giving Back

Another principle Bouza holds firm to is the importance of helping those in need and opening doors for others to walk through.

She serves on the board of **ImagineLA**, a nonprofit organization aimed at stopping the cycle of family poverty and homelessness through an innovative peer-to-peer mentorship program that serves both parents and their children.

Bouza also is very involved with the **American Institute of Architects**, working with the group to create the nonprofit **Architecture for Communities Los Angeles**, whose mission is to bring an appreciation for architecture to communities, neighborhoods and schools.

She volunteers for programs focused on advocacy for women and girls, including **Dress for Success** and **Girls, Inc.**

Bouza also has long been active in the Southern California chapter of the **National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA)**, a group that works for justice and equity in communities of color. SoCal NOMA has a summer camp for youth ages 10 to 17 designed to introduce architecture and design as a possible career, as they aren't obvious choices for many.

Cal Poly Pomona architecture students started their own chapter of **CPP NOMAS (National Organization of Minority Architecture Students)**, on campus in 2020, a move Bouza applauds.

## Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

She says Walt Disney Imagineering is focused on creating a culture that is welcoming and inclusive to everyone, for the families they serve and for the staff they employ.

"In recent years, we have put a great emphasis on recruiting and retaining the next generation of Imagineers," she said. "It is really important that since we are a global organization, that we make sure Imagineers reflect the diversity around the world."

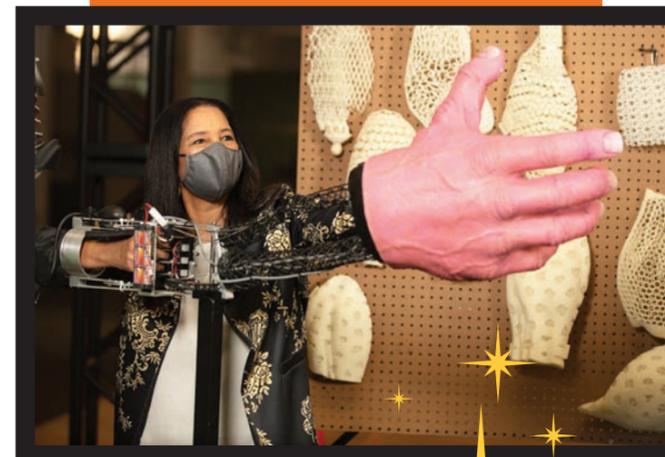
Bouza knows how rare she is in her field. African American women make up just 0.4 percent of architects in the United States.

"If you look at that stat, it would be easy to say, 'Why bother? The odds aren't so great.' But I see it as an opportunity, and it is really a reminder to me and a reminder as I talk to students and others that we should not set any self-limitations on ourselves," she says.

"I believe anything is possible. As Imagineers say, we take the impossible and make it possible. And it's important that I am representing everyone. They don't have to look like me. For people of all different backgrounds, it's an opportunity to really build an incredible career. I'm an optimist, and I'm not going to let a statistic or being part of certain demographic be my roadblock."



“It is really important that since we are a global organization, that we make sure Imagineers reflect the diversity around the world.”





## ALUMNI

### Alumnus Takes Unlikely Career Path to Become Reagan Library Archivist

## A FULFILLING JOURNEY

By NANCY YEANG

Ira Pemstein found a fulfilling career by following his father's advice. His father, Walter, would say: "If you love what you do, you will find a way to be successful at it."

That was a message that resonated with Pemstein and fueled his return to Cal Poly Pomona, first as a student and later a volunteer.

"A lot of the passion I have in everything I do comes from my father," says Pemstein ('01 anthropology, history). "No matter where I go, what I've done or who I've met, I've always found myself coming back to Cal Poly Pomona. If that doesn't meet the definition of special, I don't know what does."

Pemstein, 53, is a supervisory archivist at the **Ronald Reagan Presidential Library** in Simi Valley, where his team helps preserve and maintain more than 60 million documents, 1.6 million photographs, half a million feet of motion picture film, tens of thousands of audio- and videotapes, and 40,000 artifacts that cover Reagan's life.

His career path was not linear; Pemstein first enrolled as a business major in the late 1980s, leaving college early to focus on a career in IT, and returning to Cal Poly Pomona nearly a decade later to pursue his passion for history. He credits Cal Poly Pomona's support for making it possible for him to persevere when he was unsure of his path.

"I had moments when I felt maybe this wasn't the best idea," Pemstein says. "But when I felt like stopping, there was no way I could with the support and encouragement I got at Cal Poly Pomona."

Pemstein was intent on completing his bachelor's degree and contacted

two of his former professors, **Dorothy Wills** and **David Lord**, who helped him return to Cal Poly Pomona. Pemstein remembers walking out of his European history class in Building 5 and sitting for hours reading his textbook.

"I didn't have the same feeling that I had 10 years before [as a business major]. I found history amazing and fascinating," Pemstein says. "Nothing ever clicked like that for me before where I just felt engrossed in the stories."

Pemstein credits his late father for his interest in history. Growing up, he traveled with his family to Washington, D.C., Israel and Europe, and was fascinated by the history of each country and city. He merged his interest in history with library technologies, a field he had read about while working in IT, and later pursued a master's degree from CSUN in archival studies.

"I tried to find connections to what I had been doing and how I could roll that over into another career," says Pemstein, who has been working in his field for 20 years.

After earning his master's degree, he took an entry level position as an archives technician at the Reagan Library, going from a \$90,000 information technology job to a \$26,000 entry-level job.

"That was an interesting conversation with my wife," he says.

This decision would open the door to a career that was an ideal combination of what he was truly passionate about – history and library science. As he rose through the ranks and gained more responsibilities at the Reagan Library, Pemstein wanted to pass on his father's legacy and wise words to future students.

Pemstein serves on the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences' (CLASS) Advisory Board and created a scholarship in his father's memory, the **Walter Pemstein Award**, which provides a \$1,000 scholarship annually to three students each.

"He was a very generous man and loved helping people and the community," Pemstein says. "He said, 'If you get to a position in life to give to others, it's always important to give back. What makes a man a man is not about being a tough guy – it's someone who takes care of his friends, family and community.'"

"If I could help one student, that means everything. It's the least I can do, I wish I could do more."

He already is doing more: Pemstein recently made a legacy gift pledge to the Dean's Discretionary Fund in CLASS to fund the college's most immediate needs, such as emergency funds for students.

"I figured after I'm gone, the best way to help would be to give directly, and the Dean's Discretionary Fund has the biggest impact for the students' and college's needs," Pemstein says. "I've been incredibly fortunate, and to my last breath, I will be grateful to Cal Poly Pomona. My foundation of knowledge and philosophy came from Temple Avenue."



For information on planned giving opportunities, contact Director of Planned Giving **Vince Fraumeni** at 909-869-4825 or [vfraumeni@cpp.edu](mailto:vfraumeni@cpp.edu). Visit the Planned Giving webpage at <https://cpp.giftlegacy.com> for free resources and to sign up for an e-newsletter.



## ALUMNI

### Alumni Mentoring Inspires a New Generation of Broncos

By **MARTHA GROVES**

Christina Olivarria ('18, communication), a busy mother of three, has managed to flourish in her career, and she credits her success in no small measure to the strong mentors who coached her along the way.

"My ability to navigate my career so gracefully is thanks to other women who have cheered me on," says Olivarria, the director of business strategy and communications for a healthcare consulting firm.

Despite her hectic schedule, she didn't hesitate when the **Womxn's Resource Center** at Cal Poly Pomona emailed her in March 2021 about its Pass the Torch mentorship program. Olivarria readily signed on to advise **Ashley Morales Diaz**, a senior studying architecture, about internships, scholarships, career paths and life in general.

Olivarria and Morales, exemplify the power of having an experienced veteran guide a younger person in need of advice to grow personally and professionally.

At Cal Poly Pomona, such relationships exist in abundance. For half a century, the **Cal Poly Pomona Alumni Association** has worked to connect alumni willing to share their experience and expertise. The aim is to help students, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college, reach for the stars.

The association, which has paired hundreds of mentors and mentees, is "deeply committed to educational experiences and supportive services that engage our students, enhance personal well-being and growth, provide career opportunities and foster ethical citizenship," says **Andrea DeCoudres**, assistant director of the Office of Alumni and External Relations.

Through its **Bronco Mentoring Network** and a dedicated online portal, the office enlists alumni volunteers for the Womxn's Resource Center, academic departments and other entities on campus that seek to promote mentoring.

The benefits clearly move both ways. Mentors derive satisfaction from helping eager protégés. Mentees feel bolstered as they navigate the often-baffling options and obstacles on their path to a career.

**Eric Schmidt** ('92, aerospace engineering) began his formal connection with Cal Poly Pomona's mentorship program in 2019 when he joined the **Dean's Leadership Board** in the College of Engineering. But Schmidt, president of **Exquadrum Inc.**, an engineering research and development company specializing in rocket technologies in Victorville, says his mentoring work started years earlier — when as a college student he took it upon himself to advise young people in high schools. Since then, he has mentored dozens of students and employees.

Schmidt says many aspiring engineers have posed this question to him: Should I start a master's program immediately or should I work for a few years first?

His advice: Given the spectrum of career possibilities in engineering, it's best to work for a while to learn which technical aspect of your career most appeals to you. Then find a master's program that best fits the chosen "occupational subcategory."

"Almost without exception," he says, "the questions and concerns come from younger people whose parents did not go to college or even finish high school." The parents lack knowledge of college and its opportunities and often do not have the ability to help their children choose a profession or a course of study.

That was the case for **Natalie Brizuela-MacLean** ('15, business administration), who had to figure things out for herself after growing up in Azusa in an atmosphere of low expectations. After attending community colleges while working full time in the food and beverage industry, she found her groove at Cal Poly Pomona in the field of contract management. She went on to get a master's degree at George Washington University School of Business and now works for **Leach International Corp.**, based in Buena Park, which makes electrical switches and relays for aerospace and rail companies.

Her aim now that she's a mentor, says Brizuela-MacLean, is "to help 'me,' the student who was in my position and needed guidance."

"I want to be the shoulders that they can stand on," she says of the younger women she has coached.

One fortunate recipient of her guidance has been **Minerva Lopez** ('21, business administration), who shares her mentor's love for the field of contract management. Lopez, who was born in Mexico City and grew up in Pomona, struggled financially and socially with her initial college experience at UC Santa Barbara. After several years at community colleges, she landed at Cal Poly Pomona and discovered that she loved her contract management classes.

Brizuela-MacLean, who was a guest speaker in one class, told Lopez about the mentorship program and offered to conduct a mock job interview. They hit it off immediately.

**"I'm really thankful for the alumni network at Cal Poly Pomona. Without them, it would have been very difficult to navigate my job search. It probably would have taken me longer to find a job."**

— **MINERVA LOPEZ, '21, business administration**



Alumni Elias Wilson, left, and Eric Schmidt talk with student Maggie Hoang about her career goals. Schmidt is the president of Exquadrum, and Wilson is director of engineering at the firm, as well as an adjunct faculty member in the College of Engineering.

"Natalie worked for NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory for a number of years, and she gave me a lot of great advice," Lopez says. Among her tips: Reach out to your network. Tap available resources. Cultivate relationships.

"Natalie is the shining example of someone who can work full-time and still be involved with committees and Cal Poly Pomona mentoring," Lopez adds. "She started the ball rolling for me."

Thanks to Brizuela-MacLean and a couple of other mentors, Lopez says, she was able to land a great job within three months of graduation as a senior analyst, contract management, for **Acclarent**, a medical devices company that is a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson.

"I'm really thankful for the alumni network at Cal Poly Pomona," Lopez says. "Without them, it would have been very difficult to navigate my job search. It

probably would have taken me longer to find a job."

Olivarria, who works with architects in her job, can barely contain her enthusiasm when she speaks about Morales, her mentee, who works part time at an architecture firm and hopes to attend graduate school in architecture.

"I completely brag about her," Olivarria says.

"She's incredibly academically gifted, and she has a podcast called 'Disrupting Place' about architectural design and social justice."

Although most of their mentoring was conducted remotely, the two women met in person twice and have stayed in touch. Morales revels in the benefits.

"Christina has been very supportive of me," she says. "Just having her on my team has been motivating and reassuring. She goes out and gets what she wants. That's what I love about her."

#### BRONCO MENTORING NETWORK

Alumni mentors give students confidence and practical advice to tap into their potential and reach their goals. Sign up to be a mentor at [bit.ly/CPPMentor](http://bit.ly/CPPMentor).



## UNIVERSITY NEWS

### Political Science Professor Gifts \$100,000 to Uplift Study Abroad Programs

Political Science Professor **Renford Reese** was first bitten by the travel bug as a college senior at Vanderbilt University.

He had a good friend at the time who attended Spelman College and was in France as part of a student exchange program, and his mentor, attorney **Jesse Spikes**, convinced him to do two things Reese hadn't done up to that point – get a passport and take that international flight to Europe. Spikes, a Rhodes scholar and Harvard Law graduate, was from Reese's hometown of McDonough, Georgia.

"He spoke of going to Paris like it was flying from one state to the next," Reese said of Spikes. "He was the first global citizen that I met."

Decades later, Reese leads annual, short-term study abroad trips to places like Ghana, Mumbai, Brussels and Hong Kong for Cal Poly Pomona students. He has taken 330 students on study abroad trips to Europe, Asia, Africa and Canada.

However, with costs ranging from \$2,500 for a two-week trip to Europe and \$4,500 for Africa, the experience is out of reach for many students who don't have the funds.

Reese hopes to bridge that experience gap with the help of a \$100,000 donation he recently made to fund study abroad opportunities for students.

Proceeds from the sale of vacant land he owned in Pomona will be used to fund \$500

scholarships for 20 students annually over 10 years. Reese plans to solicit donations from past participants of study abroad, faculty and other supporters of the program to double the fund to \$200,000, enough to provide 40 scholarships annually.

"The university, the students, the staff and my colleagues — they have given me everything," said the 54-year-old, who has been at Cal Poly Pomona for 26 years. "And I want to give back to the university what the university has given me."

While the trips squeeze in a little sightseeing, the students spend the bulk

of their time volunteering for non-governmental organizations and nonprofits.

"We have taken the classroom away from campus and are immersing the students in experiential learning, which is the cornerstone of the pedagogical philosophy at Cal Poly Pomona," Reese said. "In order to be a compelling person, you have to put yourself in a compelling situation. I tell students that before we go on every trip."



### Grand Opening of Liquid Rocket Lab

CPP's College of Engineering hosted a grand opening of the new **Liquid Rocket Lab**, which will support students' mission of launching a liquid-fueled rocket into space.

"Taking on different challenges allows us to explore our full potential and forces us to think big, bigger than we have ever thought before. Great tests bring out the best in us and with a doubt, the Liquid Rocket Lab brings out the best in Cal Poly Pomona," said University President **Soraya M. Coley**.



At the lab's grand opening, U.S. Rep. Norma Torres and President Coley talk with students about their rocketry project.

## Engineering Student Helps Launch James Webb Telescope

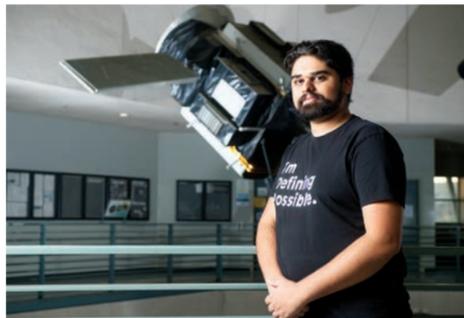
Aerospace engineering senior **Jainav “Jai” Gohel** participated in the most ambitious science project in NASA history — the **James Webb Space Telescope** — which launched in December 2021.

At 22, Gohel reached a milestone that some industry veterans spend entire careers only hoping to experience. NASA began developing Webb before Gohel’s birth in 1999.

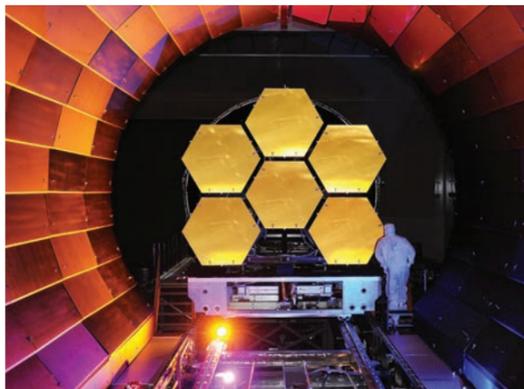
“In general, Webb is a massive object, but when you understand the science it is going to pursue, it becomes truly a technological marvel,” he said. “And then you learn how it’s going to do that, and you get infatuated by that as well.”

As an intern at **Northrop Grumman**, Gohel’s work included performing and analyzing critical telemetry tests. (Telemetry is the collection and storage of data that is being produced far away.)

“Webb will look back at the beginning of the universe and change textbooks that we are studying today,” his Northrop Grumman supervisors **Robby A. Swoish** and **Brandon M. Friedlander** said in a joint statement. Cal Poly Pomona “should be proud that a member of their community has been able to contribute to this international endeavor benefiting all of humanity.”



Ball Aerospace



## Alumnus Makes Sweet Music as Part of Mariachi Rams

At this year’s Super Bowl, the Los Angeles Rams’ **Mariachi Rams** band performed during the tailgate festivities. One of the band members was alumnus **Christopher Rubalcava** (’17, music industry studies), a trumpet player and vocalist.

Rubalcava has been a part of Mariachi Rams since it formed three seasons ago, performing all genres of music, from mariachi classics to rap and R&B.

“The team brought us in to meet the demographic,” Rubalcava said. “There are a lot of Latinos that are football fans, but we are appreciated by everyone. When we are playing songs that are universally known, like ‘Cielito Lindo,’ we get the whole stadium singing along.”

The band performed on the field at every Rams home game, typically at the end of the first and third quarters, to crowds as large as 70,000. They were added to pre-game festivities in the stadium.

When it comes to Mariachi Rams’ diverse musical style, Rubalcava feels right at home. He credits his ability to incorporate mariachi with a variety of styles, in part, from his time at Cal Poly Pomona. The university’s **Mariachi Los Broncos**, under the direction of Music Professor **Jessie Vallejo**, formed in 2016 with Rubalcava as one of the original 15 members.

“He was just a phenomenal singer,” Vallejo said. “He was an incredible trumpet player and he brought friends who could play. He was just a team player from the start.”



## Structural Flaws and Fault Line Hazard Force Demolition of CLA Tower

The iconic but structurally flawed CLA Tower and adjoining Registration section is being demolished this summer to pave way for a multi-use green space for the campus community, putting to best use land sitting atop an earthquake fault that makes future construction on the site unfeasible.

The removal of the tower is anticipated to be completed by mid-August before the start of the fall semester. The site will then undergo a transformation into a green space, outdoor seating and studying areas.

The university considered numerous options for the building before concluding that its removal would be in the best interests of the campus. In addition to being situated on an earthquake fault, the building has construction flaws, mechanical system problems and is not energy efficient. Also, maintaining an empty building is a financial burden that requires utilities, an operating fire suppression system, security, custodial services and other campus resources.

## Professor Receives Presidential Award for STEM Mentoring

**Winnie Dong**, a chemical and materials engineering professor and the faculty director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, is a recipient of the **Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring**.

Dong is one of 12 individual awardees that President **Joe Biden** named to receive the nation’s highest honor for STEM mentoring.

In her 21 years on campus, Dong has mentored over 150 undergraduates and founded multiple programs that have served over 3,000 students.

“The Presidential Award is a reflection of the care and dedication that my mentors have bestowed on me, and of the hard work and perseverance of the students with whom I have worked,” she said. “I am tremendously grateful for this recognition. This award motivates me to continue creating opportunities where all students can thrive and to create and grow mentoring programs both within and outside of my home institution.”



## Engineering Professor Wins Wang Family Excellence Award

Aerospace Engineering Professor **Don Edberg**, an educator for 30 years with a lifelong love for all things flight and space, earned the **2022 Wang Family Excellence Award for Outstanding Teaching Faculty**.

Edberg is one of five recipients selected from across the **California State University** system.

“It’s hard to comprehend winning this award over the entire CSU system, which has thousands of great instructors,” he said. “I am very honored to be recognized and humbled at the same time.”

Edberg has advised over 500 students across 120 design teams in aircraft, spacecraft and launch vehicles. In 2020, he co-authored a textbook with **Willie Costa** (’13, aerospace engineering) titled “Design of Rockets and Space Launch Vehicles.” The book earned the 2022 American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Summerfield Book Award.



## In Memoriam: Lea R. Dopson

Lea R. Dopson, dean and James A. Collins Distinguished Chair of The Collins College of Hospitality Management at Cal Poly Pomona, died in April.

Dopson was an integral part of The Collins College for 16 years, first as a faculty member from 1993 to 2001, then returning for the dean appointment in 2014.

Her commitment to student success and energetic leadership were instrumental in advancing the profile and impact of the college, which was recently ranked No. 10 in the world by CEO World magazine.

“Lea was a beloved friend and colleague,” said President Soraya M. Coley. “She had an irrepressible passion for her work as an educator and scholar, and she expertly fostered lifechanging opportunities for students of The Collins College. We will miss her so much.”

Dopson worked to connect the college with the hospitality industry, resulting in a 90 percent career placement for graduates. Through the popular Hospitality Uncorked event, she brought together industry leaders to celebrate the hospitality industry while raising the college’s profile and increasing support for students.

Dopson championed community, inclusion and opportunity, enthusiastically supporting the annual Welcome Back BBQ, the Pineapple Club for first-year students and honor society Eta Sigma Delta. Over \$1 million in scholarships was awarded to students during her tenure. The college strengthened its hiring process to better reflect the diverse student body. During the pandemic, she led the effort to award over \$150,000 in emergency funds to students.

“Dean Dopson touched the lives of all who worked with her,” said Associate Dean Michael Godfrey. “Whether it was a future student, a student in her classroom, alum, staff or faculty member, or a fellow administrator, we all benefited from her leadership, curricular and co-curricular ideas, goals to grow our scholarship endowments, and her tireless dedication to securing the financial wellbeing of the college.”

Join us in honoring Dean Dopson’s legacy at Cal Poly Pomona. Share your memories on the **virtual memorial wall** at [bit.ly/DopsonWall](https://bit.ly/DopsonWall) and support the **Dr. Lea R. Dopson Memorial Endowment Scholarship** at [bit.ly/DopsonScholarship](https://bit.ly/DopsonScholarship).



### RKR Reopens for In-Person Dining

The Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch at Cal Poly Pomona officially reopened in March after a season of renovations and closure due to the pandemic.

“We are excited to welcome our students back into the kitchen,” said Lecturer **Jason Zhang** (’10, hospitality management). “It gives us the opportunity to bring back CPP’s hands-on learning experiences that The Collins College of Hospitality Management is known for.”

Overlooking the rolling hills of Pomona, the restaurant is a central part of the hospitality management curriculum and showcases the university’s inclusive polytechnic advantage. Students gain real-world experience creating and executing management plans. They also rotate through various positions in both the front of the house and back of the house to learn all aspects of a hospitality operation.

### Students to Influence Regional Issues, Earn Stipends Through New Fellowship Program

Students will be able to play a large role in tackling major issues in eastern Los Angeles County such as food insecurity, education equity and climate change. The university joined Cal State LA, Rio Hondo Community College and East LA Community College to form a regional consortium as part of the new statewide **Californians for All College Corps** program.

Each student enrolled will receive \$10,000 — a \$7,000 stipend/living allowance and a \$3,000 education award — for participating in the College Corps, which has three goals: engaging college students in meaningful service opportunities to build leadership skills and civic responsibility; helping students from diverse backgrounds graduate college on time with less debt; and supporting the work of community-based organizations focused on local priorities.

“We are thrilled to support our students with meaningful opportunities to amplify the work of local community partners in areas of climate, food insecurity, and educational equity and to offset the cost of attendance,” said **Bryant Fairley**, director of the **Center for Community Engagement**. “We are excited by the outpouring of support, encouragement, and overall interest in the College Corps we have received thus far. We look forward to working with the state to serve our students, partners, and fulfill the promise of the College Corps program to enrich the quality of life in Pomona and the San Gabriel Valley.”

### \$1M for Community Innovation Hub

It’s full steam ahead for the **Bronco STEA2M Innovation Hub**, after a \$1 million federal funding request by U.S. Rep. **Norma Torres** was approved in a 2022 appropriations bill.

The project — an entrepreneurial and small-business hub that will provide workforce training and a full complement of workspaces and fabrication equipment — was folded into a \$14.3 million request to invest in 10 Inland Empire community programs. The hub is slated to open in downtown Pomona, with a location announced at a later date.

“Cal Poly Pomona is a premier educational institution because of the unparalleled, hands-on learning opportunities it provides,” Torres said. “Not only will CPP students gain real-world skills and experience, but our community businesses and entrepreneurs will benefit from these resources and a growing, highly trained workforce.”

The Innovation Hub will leverage the university’s polytechnic advantage by offering programming in the STEA2M disciplines (science, technology, engineering, education, arts, agriculture and math) that will prepare entrepreneurs, start-ups, small- and family-owned businesses, and a reskilled/upskilled local workforce to reinject economic and social vitality into the region.

The university will sponsor an innovation hub in downtown Pomona, thanks to \$1 million in federal funding.



### Alumni Larry Gates and Violet Palmer Receive Honorary Doctorates

This year, two of Cal Poly Pomona’s illustrious alumni — **Larry Gates** (’87, civil engineering), an entrepreneur whose development firm has left its imprint across Southern California and **Violet Palmer** (’88, recreation administration), a barrier-breaking former official in the NBA — received honorary doctorate degrees. Both individuals were recognized at Commencement.

Gates received an honorary Doctor of Science degree. As founder and president of the consulting, engineering and land-surveying firm DRC Engineering, Inc., he transformed the former March Air Force Base in Riverside into distribution facilities for Amazon and UPS, and worked on redevelopment projects across Southern California.

Gates cherishes his connection to the university and believes in giving back. He and his wife, Amy, have financially supported programs and scholarships, including one in honor of his late father. “My dad was



the first in his family to go to college,” Gates said. “My mom worked as a secretary and put him through school. My No. 1 philanthropic push is helping those who are the first in their families — particularly Latino, Black and other students who haven’t had as many opportunities to get into college.”

Palmer received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. As a student-athlete, Palmer played a leading role on the women’s basketball teams that won back-to-back NCAA Division II championships in 1985 and 1986.

“Being on the CPP team gave me confidence as a student-athlete,” Palmer said when she was honored as a Distinguished Alumni in 2016, “while having the opportunity to learn discipline, work ethic and sportsmanship.”

After graduating, she officiated the WNBA’s inaugural season in 1997 before going on to the NBA, where she officiated 930 regular season games, nine playoff games and the 2014 All-Star game.

# HOW BRONCO ARE YOU? QUIZ!

Do you know when **CAL POLY POMONA** was founded? The name of the university’s mascot? Which building appeared in the HBO series “Westworld”? Take the quiz below to discover how Bronco you really are.

- Cal Poly Pomona will celebrate which birthday in September 2022?
  - 77
  - 95
  - 84
  - 82
- Who is the university’s mascot?
  - Bobby
  - Billy
  - Barry
  - Benny
- Which year did women first enroll at Cal Poly Pomona?
  - 1962
  - 1958
  - 1969
  - 1961
- The university has a guard llama. What is this four-legged enforcer’s name?
  - Oreo
  - Lulu
  - Pancho
  - Patches
- Construction on the CLA Building started in what year?
  - 1988
  - 1990
  - 1992
  - 1995
- Which breed of horse has a home at Cal Poly Pomona?
  - Mustangs
  - Arabians
  - Appaloosas
  - Clydesdales
- The HBO series “Westworld” was filmed in which building on campus?
  - The Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies
  - College of Engineering
  - College of Environmental Design
  - The Collins College of Hospitality Management

#### RESULTS:

- 6-7: You’re at full gallop.
- 4-5: You can canter with the best of them.
- 2-3: You should stick to a trot for now.
- 0-1: We must all walk before we can run.

ANSWERS: 1) c; 2) b; 3) d; 4) c; 5) b; 6) b; 7) c

# *Your Support Makes a Difference*

## **IT'S NEVER TOO SOON TO PLAN TO SAVE TAXES FOR 2022**

If you're over age 70 ½, you can make cash gifts from an IRA, with no tax on the transfer and meet your annual RMD.

Or, you can make a gift, receive income for life, and save income taxes through a Charitable Gift Annuity.

## **REMEMBER CAL POLY POMONA IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN.**

**TELL US ABOUT YOUR BEQUEST AND LET US RECOGNIZE YOU AS A MEMBER OF THE KELLOGG VOORHIS LEGACY SOCIETY.**

## **NEED HELP WITH YOUR ESTATE PLAN?**

Contact us and request a free Estate Planning Guide

### **VINCENT J. FRAUMENI**

Director of Planned Giving  
[vjfraumeni@cpp.edu](mailto:vjfraumeni@cpp.edu)  
909.869.4825

