

CPP

PHILANTHROPY EDITION

CAL POLY POMONA MAGAZINE | FALL 2023



A RUNNING START

CPP HELPS STUDENTS GET CAREER READY

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ON THE COVER

Track and field All-American **Ayana Fields** is working on her master's degree in kinesiology. She credits Cal Poly Pomona's support and scholarships in helping her balance school and competition.

WHAT'S INSIDE

That's SoCalPoly

Short stories that celebrate our campus' unique location, traditions and inclusive polytechnic identity. **Page 2**

A Running Start

The university, donors, corporate partners and alumni provide resources, mentoring and support to get students career ready. **Page 7**

Photo Essay

On the ground or from 100 feet in the air, Cal Poly Pomona's campus is an oasis in Southern California. **Page 15**

A Global Education

Study abroad programs are a transformative experience for students to explore new paths. **Page 18**

Dreams You Make Possible

More than 5,900 donors gave over \$16 million to support scholarships, research and polytechnic learning experiences. **Page 22**

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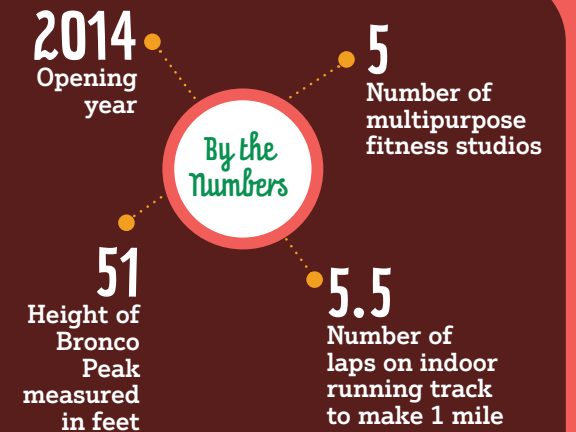
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BY THE NUMBERS

The BRIC

The Bronco Recreation and Intramural Complex (BRIC) is a 165,000-square-foot recreational facility next to the Kellogg Arena. Students can come together for a variety of activities in an inclusive and welcoming environment. The facility offers a wide range of no-cost and low-cost intramural sports leagues, workshops and certification courses, including indoor rock climbing and scuba diving.



A BRIEF HISTORY

Kellogg Honors College

The Kellogg Honors College (KHC) celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2023. KHC is dedicated to cultivating an academically enriching environment that fosters career readiness and civic engagement. Over the past two decades, the community has provided more than 2,300 students with honors courses, community engagement events, as well as research, internship and scholarship opportunities.



2003 – Formation

The honors program is established in the spring with 60 students. Professor Amanda Podany serves as its first director.

2006 – A New Name

The program is renamed to the Keith and Jean Kellogg Honors College in recognition of the generous bequest from the W. Kellogg II Trust.

2007 – Residential Life

The Poly Scholars floor is established at Montecito Residence Hall. By living on the same floor, first-year students can navigate the start of their college journey together and form closer friendships.

2013 – Decade Milestone

After 10 years of providing students with an academically inclusive community, the KHC now has 321 students and 256 alumni.

2022 – New Leadership

Succeeding Professors Amanda Podany, Sara Garver and Suketu Bhavsar, Professor Claudia Garcia-Des Lauriers serves as the fourth KHC director. She was KHC's interim director since 2020.

EXPERT Q&A

AI for Social Good

Geography Assistant Professor **Gabriel Granco** is one of five CSU faculty who developed **Artificial Intelligence for Social Good (AI4SG)**, a \$600,000 project funded by the National Science Foundation. It addresses two critical areas: promoting skills for the STEM workforce and developing AI knowledge and literacy. Granco and his colleagues are tackling the shortcomings of AI education — lack of diversity, shortage of broad multidisciplinary participation and an overemphasis on technical concepts.

AI4SG is active at Cal Poly Pomona, San Jose State, CSU San Bernardino and Cal State Long Beach, along with support from the CSU Chancellor's Office.

How is AI education integrated into your geography courses on climate change and environmental modeling?

These classes are designed for all Broncos who are interested in environmental issues and want to help address climate change, sustainability and other environmental (in)justice. AI is integrated as a new tool that students can use to promote sustainable development in their communities.

My courses are taught at the Center for Geographical Information Science Research in the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences, which offers the infrastructure to develop and apply AI to social good. Even though these classes are in geography, students from any major can benefit from learning AI and applying it for social good.

Students who participated in the AI4SG in spring 2023 created chatbots that guided citizens on how to separate and recycle trash in Pomona, increased awareness of environmental pollutants in Fontana, and helped people access resources for food security in Riverside. Students were motivated to develop their project as they envisioned the real-world impact it will have. Their proposals were presented in May at the first CSU AI for Social Good Undergraduate Innovation Symposium.

How are AI technology and geography compatible for addressing social problems?

Geography is the study of spatial patterns of both the Earth and humans and their relationships to understand society, its challenges and possibilities. The spatial dimension of social problems is crucial



to identifying their causes, their connections to other concerns, and proposing effective solutions that incorporate local knowledge and value the community.

Geographers are trained to see a problem from multiple scales considering the physical and human components, and they are also skilled in geographical information science (GIS), which allows the combination of diverse data set. Geographers can use AI technology to crunch big data, analyze spatial information, identify patterns of people, space and time. Moreover, AI improves geographers' ability to focus on and address the most pressing social, environmental, and economic problems with data-driven insights and solutions.

Learn about AI4SG at www.aiforsocialgood.org and the Center for Geographical Information Science Research at www.cpp.edu/class/cgisr



POLYX HOW TO

Develop a Mobile App for Your Business

In Mobile Marketing (IBM 3292), students learn how to profitably connect and serve people through mobile technology. For one major assignment, students work in groups to review a brand brief from a real-world client and design a mobile app. Building, launching and maintaining a mobile app requires empathy, deliberate planning, nurturing and commitment.



1

Understand Your Business

Determine the context of your operations, especially data privacy, security and relevant regulations. Articulate your value proposition, business model, budget, goals and how you will measure success.

2

Get to Know Your Target Audience

Understand your audience's needs and how those align with your value propositions. Consider the types of devices they use, including shapes, sizes and operating systems.

3

Develop Your Phygital Mix

Phygital (physical and digital) media mix modeling consists of connecting and communicating with individuals through online and mobile-enhanced physical media.

4

Design Your Mobile App

Before you generate one line of code, create your mobile app's look, feel and user experience flows. This includes accessibility considerations and safeguards to protect children and other vulnerable populations.

5

Develop, Launch and Maintain

Decide if you are building a native app (one purpose-built to leverage the capabilities of an operating system), a web app (browser launched within an app) or a hybrid app. After development, build your marketing launch plan. Stay vigilant about changes in the mobile ecosystem and regulations. Most importantly, consider feedback from your users.

BRONCOS AT WORK



Christine Lac

'18, business administration

Human Resources Generalist

Tell us about your journey in the management/HR field.

My journey began when I became part of the Tesla team, where I worked in a variety of roles, including senior human resources coordinator, talent management associate and global onboarding coordinator. It became clear that my strengths aligned with people-oriented tasks, particularly in onboarding. This led me into the HR realm, and I've been dedicated to this career for more than four years now.

How did Cal Poly Pomona prepare you for your career in human resources?

My experience laid the foundation through hands-on projects and a proactive approach. I had opportunities to collaborate with diverse groups and personalities. I initially thought I would remain in marketing, but my time at Tesla revealed that my true strength lay in human resources.

What advice would you give to college students who are seeking a career after graduation?

Find a hands-on internship during your junior or senior year, rather than waiting until after graduation. Many companies value experience as evidence of your determination to become a part of their team.

Who were your mentors and how did they support you?

Throughout my time at CPP, I've been fortunate to have several mentors who remain an active part of my life. Alumni mentor DJ Norman ('93, management and human resources) and Adjunct Professor Lydia Chen Shah ('01, marketing) stand out as exceptional role models. Their guidance illuminated my potential and emphasized the importance of seeking assistance and maintaining a strong network. Their influence has boosted my career confidence.

BRONCOS AT WORK



Ari Friedman

'18, hospitality management

Program Manager, Global Early Career

Tell us about your journey in the management/HR field.

My path to HR was untraditional, and I would not change it for the world. Originally, I aspired to be a general manager at a Disney hotel. I thought to myself, to be a great GM, I should understand human resources. My first HR role was as a senior leave associate. This experience inspired me to make my career in human resources.

How did Cal Poly Pomona prepare you for your career in human resources?

Once I got my start in human resources through full-time jobs at Disney, I pursued a minor in HR at Cal Poly Pomona. While I did not have direct work experience, I leveraged my learnings in class to follow my passion in talent acquisition. I grew in the talent acquisition space and then moved to a HR program manager role.

What is program management and what do you enjoy about this field?

Program management is the ability to curate, execute and impact the business through thoughtful and calculated risk. My favorite part about working in this profession is the ability to try something new; expand diversity, inclusion and belonging; and support the people who make up the organization. I am proud of the impact HR can have on organizations.

What career advice would you give to college students?

Leverage the Cal Poly Pomona network via alumni events and LinkedIn. Your network is your net worth for your career. Most importantly, secure an internship to showcase your learnings in the workplace.

Who were your mentors and how did they support you?

My mentors were my career counselor from The Collins College and an alumnus who worked at Disney at the time, DJ Norman ('93, management and human resources). Their impact was instrumental. Both held me accountable and provided me with feedback that I needed.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Investing in the Long Run

Earning a college degree is much like training for a marathon. It requires dedication, hard work and perseverance in the face of inevitable obstacles — obstacles of competing priorities. Obstacles that might leave oneself feeling alone or like an imposter. Obstacles that make many wonder if the long hours, the energy exerted and the time away from family and friends is worth it. And I am here to say that it is.

The same feelings of triumph and accomplishment that come with crossing the finish line ring true for every student as they cross the graduation stage. Just as a marathoner draws strength from their family and friends along the way, our students thrive off the support they receive from you, our Bronco community.

It is that community of care and support that prompted Money Magazine

to recognize Cal Poly Pomona as one of the “Best Colleges in America 2023” based on quality of education, affordability and student outcomes.

As you will read in this special philanthropy edition of CPP Magazine, there are so many people and programs that empower our students to reach their full potential and get **A Running Start** toward a lifetime of success. It is this support that continues to help them overcome obstacles, stay motivated in the face of challenges and ultimately achieve their goals.

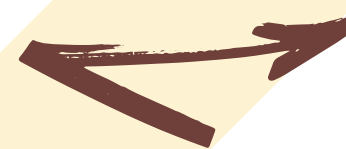
To all our donors and supporters: **Thank You.** Your continued support makes a real difference in the lives of our students, empowering them to thrive in their careers and communities as leaders, innovators and problem solvers.

Together, we can ensure that our graduates not only cross the finish line but continue to run toward success for years to come.

Sincerely,

Soraya M. Coley, Ph.D.
President

A RUNNING START



**CAL POLY POMONA
COMMUNITY AND RESOURCES
HELP STUDENTS GET
CAREER READY**

By **MELANIE JOHNSON**

The best time to find a job after college is when you start college.

Cherrie Peters, lead career coach in the **Career Center**, sees it all the time. Students who put off applying for internships or looking for a job until their final year of college often struggle to find a position. They often play catch-up in researching prospective employers, getting interview-ready, and preparing their cover letters and resumes.

It can take up to eight months to find a position, so it is wise to be proactive, Peters says.

“Students should start the process their first day on campus,” she says. “Career planning really is a process — a process of elimination, getting to know what they value and what is important to them. It’s about making themselves career ready. Students know themselves best, so they have to create career readiness for themselves first.”

For many, the prospect of homing in on a career and figuring out how to find an internship or a mentor in their chosen field can be daunting, but Cal Poly Pomona provides a supportive network and resources to help students find their passions, apply their education and skills, and pursue their dreams.

Scholarships, stipends for experiential learning, micro-internships, alumni mentors, the Career Center — all these programs, resources and more help connect Broncos to new possibilities.



CAREER PREP

Christopher Keung knows the career route he wants to take.

Charting his course is all about research and preparation. The finance, real estate and law senior recently began to focus on life after graduation with a visit to the Career Center, meeting with Peters. It was something the San Dimas resident wished he had done even earlier.

"The whole process of talking to her was very exciting," he says. "I really want to start looking for jobs. I found out about all of the resources that we have for looking for jobs and internships. I had no idea those resources even existed."

Besides counseling, the center offers workshops on career readiness, connects students to alumni in the industry of their interest, hosts career fairs and dozens of networking events, and provides students with online tools to find a job or internship. The center recently launched a Virtual Career Center, putting job searching, appointment scheduling with a career counselor and other resources at students' fingertips.

As a result of his efforts, Keung completed an eight-month internship earlier this year at the accounting firm **Clifton Larson Allen**.

"It's almost a must. It's so important," he says. "Although my internship was in accounting and not in the field I am interested in, just having a background in some kind of professional setting is important. It's also about networking. I met some great people at the company."

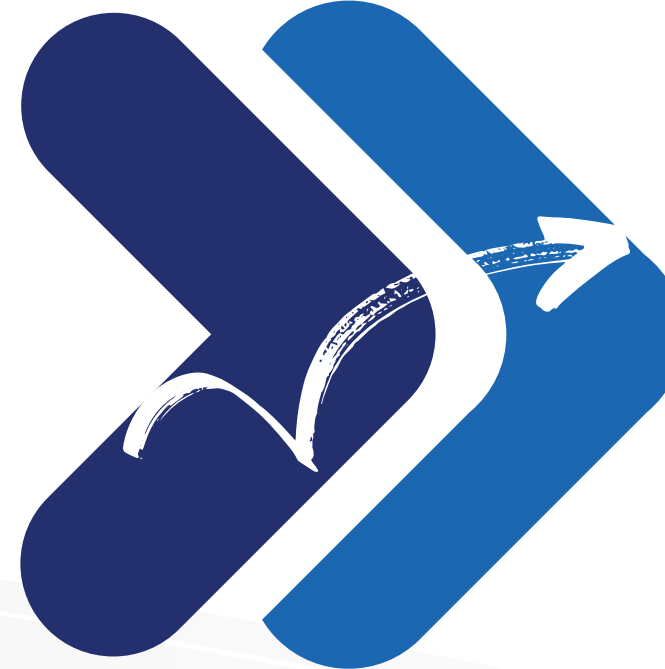
Most students know about the Career Center and the important role it plays in helping them figure out next steps after their diplomas are earned, but many put off utilizing the center's services.

Planning for the future may seem daunting and scary, but Keung says it's worth taking the initiative.

"Sometimes you don't always know exactly what you want to do, and it's a lot of pressure. What's going to help is doing research and understanding your industry."



Cherrie Peters



Alumni mentors meet with students to discuss career pathways and preparing for the job market.

MENTORSHIP

The event is like speed dating. Only instead of students looking for potential mates, they are in search of career advice and job opportunities.

The **Cal Poly Pomona Alumni Association** regularly hosts career events to connect students and alumni. At each table, five or six students talk with one mentor for a round of personal and professional questions. It's an opportunity for career exploration and advice.

Tiffany Smith ('12, finance, real estate and law), a subcontract manager at **NASA JPL** and an Alumni Association board member, participated in a recent speed mentoring event.

"The students were very eager and prepared," says Smith, who has also attended virtual events to coach students in interviewing and resume preparation. "They asked good questions. They wanted to know how I got into my career, how long it took me to get to where I am now and what I do on a daily basis."

Many of the students who participate in the events have internships, so they are already learning to juggle their various responsibilities and find work-life balance, Smith says, adding that she enjoys helping students become successful in a full-time position.

"I just want to do for students what I wish someone had done for me when I was a student," she says. "As they take these big leaps into their careers, they need that guidance. I enjoy being a mentor and giving back."

Renita Bess, a fellow Alumni Association board member, also enjoys working with students to help them discover and tap into their talents.

One tool that Cal Poly Pomona encourages incoming students to use is **CliftonStrengths**, an online assessment that helps individuals identify their innate talents.

All Alumni Association board members have taken the CliftonStrengths assessment, so when they engage with students as mentors, they can have a conversation about it, says Bess ('94, accounting), CEO and president of the **Southland Data Processing** payroll company.

Other universities, including UC San Diego and Kansas State, have implemented CliftonStrengths with students and have had success, she adds.

The assessment reveals an individual's top five natural patterns of thinking, feeling and behaving and how they can be developed into strengths. The 34 CliftonStrengths themes provide insight on how those strengths can be utilized in a professional setting, such as relationship building, strategic thinking, executing or influencing.

"When we mentor our CPP students, they often want an internship, but they say, 'I don't really have experience,'" Bess says. "The assessment brings out what you're naturally good or strong at. By asking the students questions about a class project and their role, we can help them identify how their top five strengths played a part in how they approach the team, their tasks and life."

"It's about how students can communicate with future employers about what makes them good prospective employees. Having conversations around their strengths is a great start to thinking about what makes them great individuals."

Post pandemic, many students are having a hard time using their voice, which makes advocating for themselves more difficult, Bess says, adding that CliftonStrengths can help them show up more self-assured.

"I think our students are amazing," she says. "I wish I could infuse them with energy and confidence. I believe it is within them. It just takes practice."



HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

For financially strapped students already working jobs around their class schedule, a traditional 10-week internship might not be feasible. The **Office of Academic Innovation** recently came up with a solution designed to make internship opportunities more accessible and tenable, securing a \$1.7 million grant to fund its **Community Partnership for Student Success** micro-internship project.

The **Michael & Susan Dell Foundation** and the **California Community Foundation (Los Angeles Scholars Investment Fund)** partnered with Cal Poly Pomona to offer micro-internships. Community nonprofits and public service organizations will work with the campus to provide the micro-internship opportunities, while faculty teaching related courses can make the micro-internship experience a course requirement. Students receive academic credit and are paid for their work. The short-term projects will be the

equivalent of 40 to 60 hours of remote or onsite work assignments.

The plan is to provide 500 students with micro-internships in this first year. Next year, the number doubles to 1,000 and goes to 1,500 in year three. More than 100 students are undertaking micro-internships in fall 2023, with 400 available slots set for spring 2024.

"It is a four- to eight-week project. They're doing something meaningful for a nonprofit organization or school. It's not just busy work," says **Olukemi Sawyerr**, associate vice president for Academic Innovation.

Research shows that students who have at least one internship are more successful academically, and 77 percent of internship hosts hire their interns for permanent jobs, according to Sawyerr.

These community partnerships aren't new to the university. The long-running Ernest Prete Jr. Fellowship program provides opportunities for students to get hands-on learning experience and earn money.

Undergraduates in STEM, liberal studies and education students, as well as STEM graduate students apply for a paid fellowship. They dedicate 10 hours a week, including at least six hours at Kellogg Polytechnic Elementary School in Pomona to teach science and math lessons in an existing urban gardening program. The fellows receive an annual stipend of \$5,000, which also requires them to attend workshops and mentor meetings.

The **Ernest Prete Jr. Foundation** funds the fellowships. **Mohammad Virani**, the foundation president who co-founded the Encino-based nonprofit with the late **Ernest Prete** says that the organization's connection with Cal Poly Pomona goes back to the early 1990s. At that time, the foundation was looking at various universities to fund science and education programs.

Cal Poly Pomona gets things done and keeps the foundation well informed about how its philanthropic gifts are making an impact on students and the community, Virani says. He enjoys visiting the elementary school to see the fellows in action.

"The children have so much connection to these college students. They really look up to them," he says. "For the fellows, they get paid for their time and it is good experience for them. If somebody wants to be a teacher, this is the line for them to get in."

Besides the fellowships, the foundation has given to the university in other ways, says **Bill Burrows**, director of development for the College of Science. The organization recently gifted \$30,000 in scholarships for geology and biology students. Over the years, the foundation also has donated to scholarships, provided completion funding for **Project Blue**, and supported the **Rain Bird BioTrek** and **Mesozoic Garden** outdoor education facilities.

Prete fellows help teach science lessons through an elementary school urban garden.



PAYING IT FORWARD

Mike Beckage ('87, engineering technology) knows what it is like to be a college student working to put himself through school. He was a first-generation college student. His wife, **Bridget**, didn't come from money either and struggled to pay for tuition, fees, books and other expenses.

Those early struggles were motivation for the couple to establish scholarships to help students make it.

"Our parents were great parents, but they didn't have the resources to pay for university," says Beckage, one of the founders of the Seal Beach engineering firm **DTS (Diversified Technical Systems)**. "So, we were really moved by the fact that there are students out there who have a hard row to hoe financially."

In spring 2021, the couple gifted the university \$70,000 to establish an endowment and award four \$5,000 scholarships to engineering students, specifically targeting women and students from underrepresented communities. Of the total given, \$50,000 went to set up the endowment and \$20,000 was used for the scholarships, two for **Women in Science and Engineering** and two for the College of Engineering.

This year, the couple has expanded their philanthropic support to help aspiring teachers.

Beckage came up with the idea while walking through the Phoenix airport on a business trip in 2022. He called **John Huynh**, a director of development for the College of Engineering who had been involved in **Partners in Education (PIE)**. PIE is an organization on campus that awards scholarships to student teachers annually. Beckage's wife is a former elementary school teacher, and Mike wanted to honor her by giving to an area that means a great deal to her.

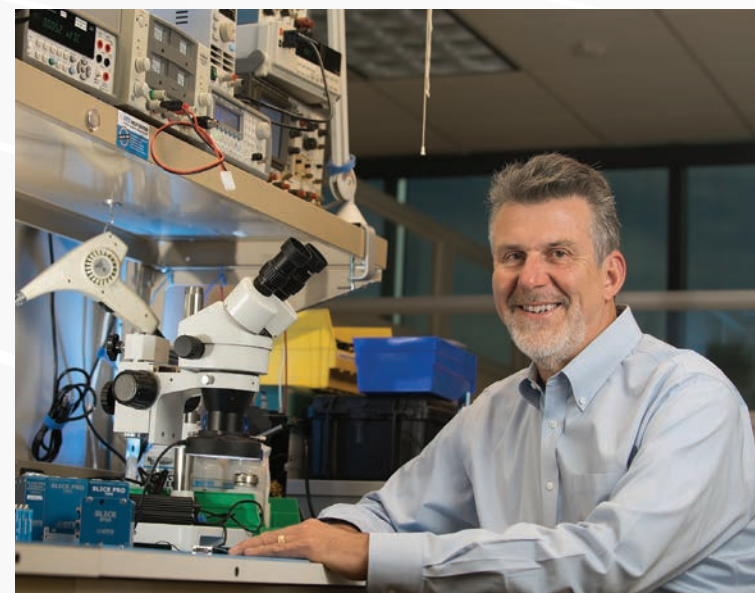
The couple's gift established a \$300,000 endowment and provided an additional \$33,000 to help fund fellowships – 22 total, \$4,000 each – that were awarded in spring 2023.

"The No. 1 thing I encourage people to do is to donate and help students get an education. If you wind up in a place in life where you can afford to help students when they are struggling and on the edge financially, there is nothing more rewarding in life," Beckage says. "CPP is about connecting the people who give and scholars who have so much potential. It is really rewarding to be able to help someone."

The support of corporate and foundation partners also is key to providing the scholarships and other campus resources students need to succeed.

The **U.S. Bank Foundation** provided a \$150,000 multiyear grant to the Cal Poly Pomona Philanthropic Foundation to support the university's most vulnerable students. This year, the campus received the first \$50,000, which will help the **Renaissance Scholars** program for foster youth and the new CARE Center, a starting place for students struggling with basic needs, says **Sam Moore**, director of development for Student Affairs.

"U.S. Bank has been great supporters of the Renaissance Scholars program for several years," Moore says. "U.S. Bank has sent volunteers to come talk to students about financial management, resumes and negotiating skills. They are funding seminars around financial literacy and support peer mentoring programs."



Through scholarships and endowments, alumnus Mike Beckage and his wife support future engineers and teachers, as well as students from underserved communities.



Rossina Gallegos, community affairs manager at U.S. Bank, is proud of the relationship between U.S. Bank and Cal Poly Pomona, which the multiyear grant reinforces.

"The statistics show that only 4 percent of foster youth attain a college degree. We know that the Renaissance Scholars program changes lives and provides students with the tools and resources to be successful," Gallegos says. "We are humbled to play a part in the success of these students."

U.S. Bank currently works with 38 campuses across more than two dozen states to develop financial literacy programs. The bank is exploring ways to bring those activities to CPP as well.

The aim is to make sure that students have all the tools and resources they need to thrive before they graduate, says **Sandy Porter**, who oversees the company's financial literacy programs in California.

"We want to give them all of the information they need in order to make wise financial decisions," Porter says. "They learn to view money differently through financial education. We are equipping students with how does a loan work and how do credit cards work. Financial literacy is an important tool."

Everyone in the Bronco family – from staff to faculty to donors to alumni – wants to see students succeed and thrive. The many resources, mentors, scholarships and other forms of support are in place to help students get a running start in life.

— Anais Hernandez contributed to this story.

Kinesiology student and intern Alexia Montantes works with a child at CPP's Motor Development Clinic.



"THE SCHOLARSHIPS AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT CPP HAVE ALLOWED ME TO AFFORD HOUSING, PAY FOR MY BOOKS AND CONTINUE MY SCHOOLING WITHOUT HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT FINANCIAL NEEDS."

SCHOLARSHIPS HELP STAR ATHLETE BALANCE SCHOOL AND COMPETITION

For alumna and graduate student **Ayana Fields**, 2022-23 CCAA Female Athlete of the Year, coming to Cal Poly Pomona was an easy decision.

After a short tour from the track and field coach, Fields instantly felt a connection to the campus. What proved to be more challenging was figuring out how she would balance her kinesiology coursework while being a premier track and field athlete.

Luckily, Fields' support group came naturally – she credits the kinesiology department, her coaches, and her teammates for giving her a sense of belonging – a feeling that has since become her favorite part of campus. From the fundraisers that back athletic programs to the accommodating professors who understand student-athlete responsibilities, every department has helped Fields flourish.

Fields cites the wide range of scholarships available as a key reason why she can give it her all on the track and in the classroom. As a result, she is a 12-time NCAA Division II All-American, likely the most titles earned by an individual athlete in school history.

"The scholarships and resources available at CPP have allowed me to afford housing, pay for my books and continue my schooling without having to worry about financial needs," says Fields, who earned her bachelor's degree in kinesiology in 2022. "I know some students struggle with that and not having to worry allowed me to focus on my academics while competing at the level I am at today."

Now Fields is a master's student at Cal Poly Pomona, studying physical therapy. She plans to continue training to compete at the Olympic level while completing her master's thesis on athletic identity associated with career transitioning, career retirement and student athletes.

— Dylan Luong



"CAL POLY POMONA IS THE ONLY SCHOOL THAT TOOK THE TIME TO MEET ME. DR. RICKEY BADUA AND DR. DAVE KOPPLIN REACHED OUT AND GAVE ME THE CONTACT INFORMATION OF CURRENT STUDENTS TO HEAR ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES. THERE ARE NOT A LOT OF UNIVERSITIES THAT CARE THAT MUCH."



MUSIC STUDENT FINDS OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORT AT CAL POLY POMONA

Music has been a lifelong love for **Christian Solis**. Growing up in Costa Rica, Solis attended school at the Instituto Nacional de la Música (the National Institute of Music) and began playing the clarinet at age 10.

When it came time for college, a professor recommended he apply to universities in the United States for more professional opportunities.

Cal Poly Pomona stood out to Solis for its culture of care.

"Cal Poly Pomona is the only school that took the time to meet me," he says. "Dr. Rickey Badua and Dr. Dave Kopplin reached out and gave me the contact information of current students to hear about their experiences. There are not a lot of universities that care that much."

At CPP, he's performed as the principal clarinetist in the National Intercollegiate Band with top college musicians from

around the nation, but the highlight of his college experience has been the students, faculty and staff on campus.

"I feel supported everywhere. I have a place here," he says.

Solis serves as a resident advisor, band manager, usher and stage manager to fund his education and support that of his sisters, who are also studying musical performance at different universities.

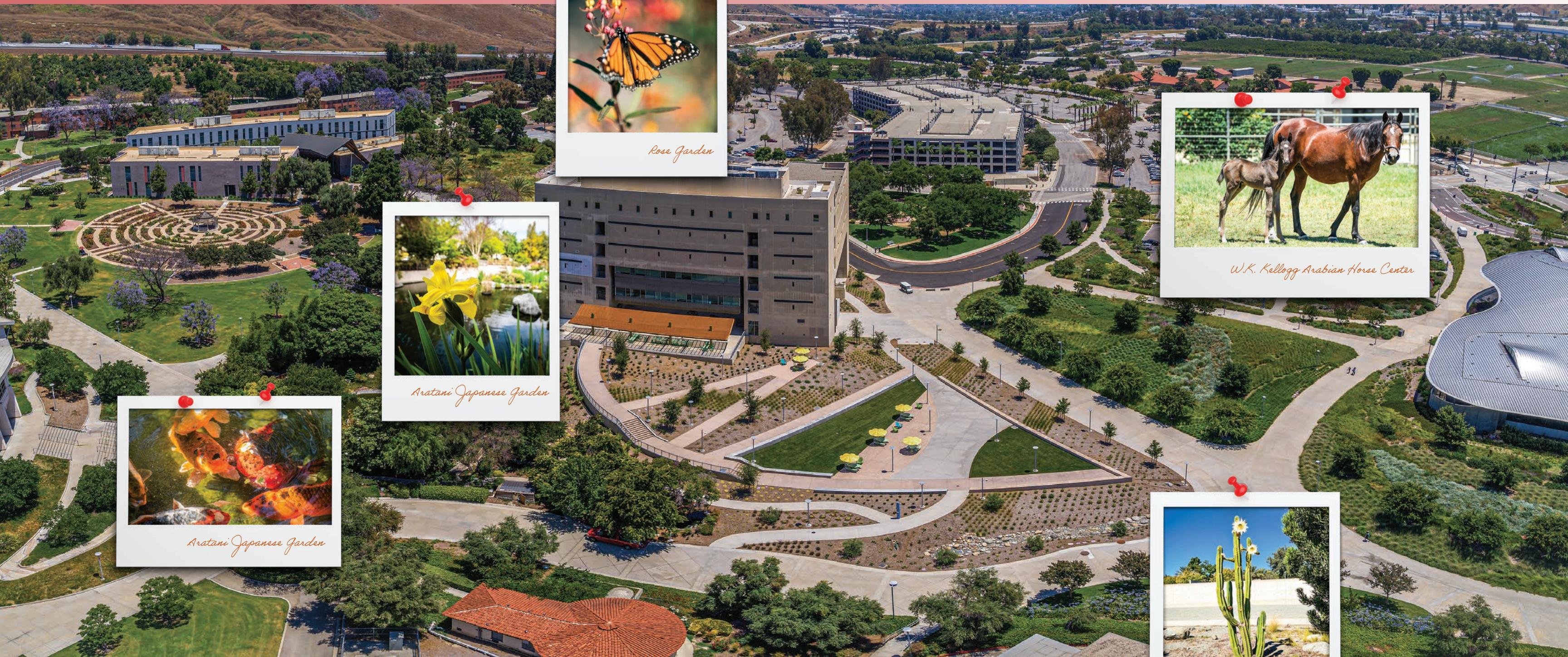
Solis is double majoring in music performance and music composition. He aspires to pursue a master's degree, play clarinet professionally and compose music for film and television.

— Allison Cook

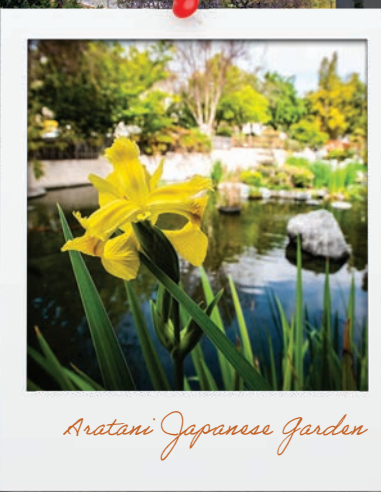
PHOTO ESSAY

A Higher View





Rose Garden



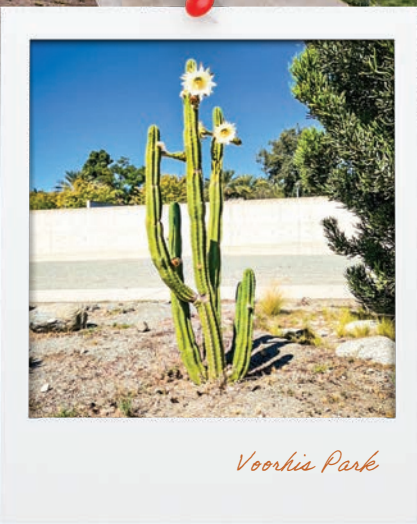
Aratani Japanese Garden



Aratani Japanese Garden



W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center



Voorhis Park

Thirty miles from downtown Los Angeles, Cal Poly Pomona is an oasis. You can find moments of beauty in the many parks, gardens and green spaces on campus. Each season comes alive with different flora and fauna. The leaves change colors in the fall, and fresh snow dusts the nearby mountaintops in the winter. When the weather warms up in the spring, monarch butterflies emerge, roses bloom and new foals are born.

A GLOBAL EDUCATION

Study Abroad Programs Provide Cultural Exchange, Career Opportunities

By MELANIE JOHNSON

For students studying political science and international relations, it's one thing to read about headline-making global entities and organizations such as the **United Nations**, the **World Health Organization** and **Geneva Call** in a textbook or talk about them in class.

It's a whole other experience to visit them in person and see the work they do up close.

A group of 42 Cal Poly Pomona students had the opportunity to do just that as part of the Geneva Study Abroad program, a 10-day trip to the Switzerland capital and Paris.

Political Science Professor **Renford Reese**, who guided students on the trip from March 22 to April 2, says he's proudest of this year's Switzerland trip because of the depth and breadth of the site visits and future opportunities that it provides for his students.

"There are more headquarters of international organizations in Geneva than any other place in the world," says Reese, who has led 18 student groups to 12 countries over the years. "Not only do I want students to be exposed to the strategies these organizations use in grappling with some of the most salient issues of our times, but I also want to provide them with opportunities for internships, connections for jobs and opportunities to go to graduate school in Geneva."

He has two new programs planned for spring semester tied to his non-governmental organizations (NGOs) course. One is a 10-day study away trip in Honolulu where students will teach "Introduction to College" workshops to incarcerated male and female youth for the Hawaii Department of Education. The other is 10-day trip to Great Britain: two days in London visiting NGOs and the British Parliament and eight days in the Edinburgh, Scotland area teaching an "Introduction to Soft Skills" course at the HMP Addiewell prison.

"You have a lot of students at Cal Poly Pomona who have never traveled out of the country and a few who have never been on an airplane. It was transformative, a life-changing experience for all of them."

— Professor Renford Reese



Thanks to the generous support of donors like Sean Yu and Renford Reese, CPP students can travel abroad and see challenges and opportunities on a global scale.

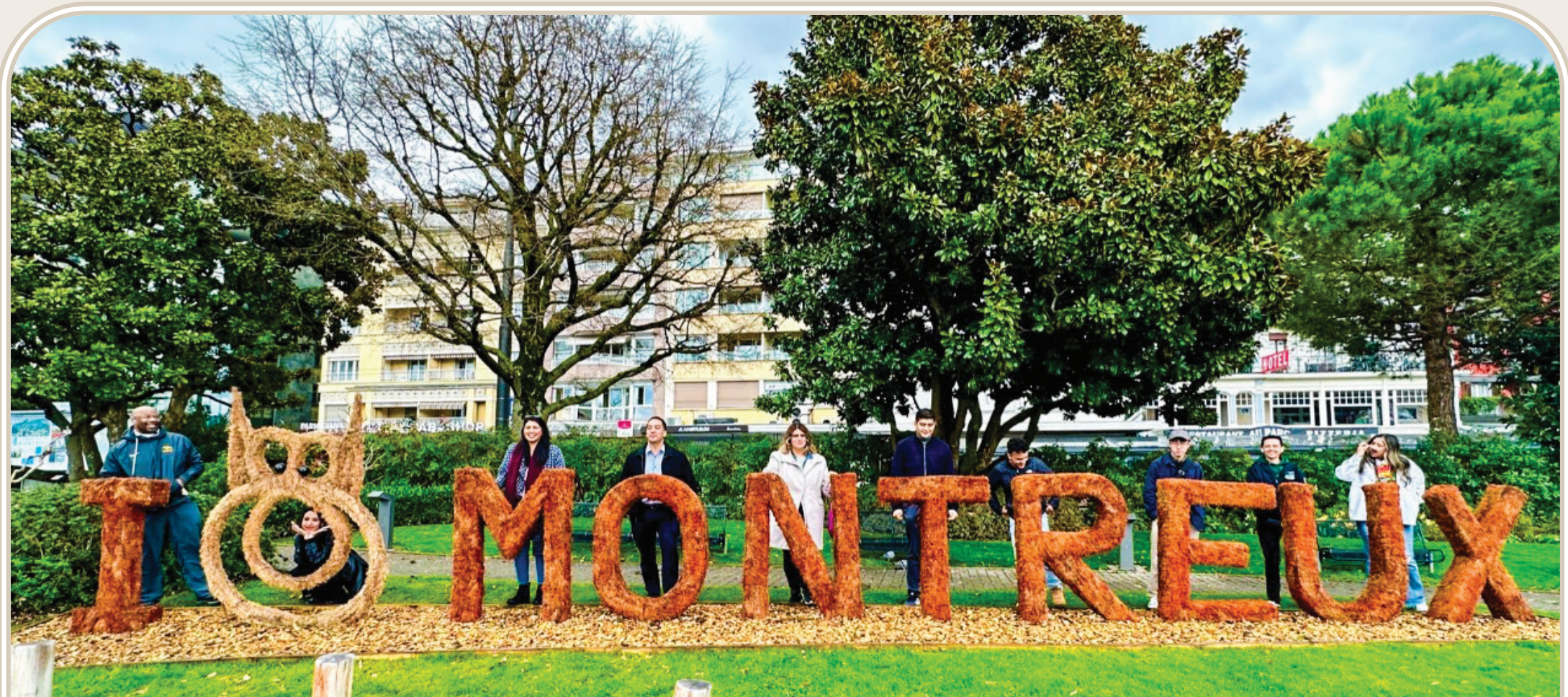
Philanthropic Impact

The Geneva trip marked the first group to benefit from a \$100,000 donation Reese made in 2022 to fund study abroad opportunities, as well as the \$500,000 Sean Yu Travel Fund endowment, established in 2022 by alumnus and finance entrepreneur **Sean Yu** ('99, political science; management and human resources). The cost of the trip, which was open to all majors and did not require students to be enrolled in Reese's study abroad course, totaled \$3,000, but the average student cost was \$1,500 because of the scholarships.

Donors who contribute to study abroad or study away programs are important because they are contributing to the university's experiential learning initiatives, Reese says.

"At Cal Poly Pomona, the lack of funds is the only reason that 90 percent of our students do not participate in study abroad," he says. "My goal as a Study Abroad Dean's Fellow is to make sure that every freshman that is entering this university in fall 2023 has a study abroad or study away experience before they graduate, and it's only through the financial contributions of donors that we can make this goal a reality."

"You have a lot of students at Cal Poly Pomona who have never traveled out of the country and a few who have never been on an airplane," Reese says.



Photos courtesy of Renford Reese

“The world is so large, and we have to give back to where help is needed.”

— Maricela Duran-Wright, political science



Colum de Sales Murphy, president and founder of the Geneva Graduate School of Diplomacy and International Relations, meets with students and signs copies of his book after his lecture.



“It was transformative, a life-changing experience for all of them.”

That was true for **Kenny Butler**, a public administration master’s student who grew up in Watts close to the notorious Jordan Downs housing projects. Until a few months ago, the furthest he had traveled was to Las Vegas.

Butler, a formerly incarcerated student, took his first global trip in late 2022 as the recipient of a U.S. Student Fulbright grant through Pitzer College, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in organizational studies. He was conducting research in Uganda on prison rehabilitation and recidivism but had to cut his trip to Africa short after being severely injured as a passenger in a motorcycle accident.

Months after healing, Butler, who knew Reese through Reese’s Prison Education Project and Reintegration Academy prior to coming to CPP, opted to take the professor’s study abroad course and make the trip to Paris and Geneva.

“Seeing Europe was never in my imagination,” Butler says. “I got off the bus to go walking in Paris and there were some African guys there who came up and greeted me with, ‘My American brother.’ They knew I was American just by looking at me. It was an experience.”

While in Paris, the students visited the Eiffel Tower, Louvre Museum and Palace of Versailles. They took a train to Geneva to visit several international non-governmental organizations and sat in on committee hearings at the United Nations.

Exploring Future Career Paths

The students participated in a student-led symposium with peers from Webster University in Geneva, featuring panel discussions on topics such as the impact of the war in Ukraine on Europe and violence in America.

Butler, who served as one of the panel’s moderators, lauded the benefits of the Geneva study abroad trip for students.

“It lives up to what we have in our mission statement about experiential learning,” says Butler, who plans to pursue a career in education. “It’s seeing things live rather than just reading about them in a book. You actually get a chance to meet the people and see the work they are doing firsthand. For those interested in going into international law or politics, this is good for them.”

Maricela Duran-Wright, who recently graduated in political science, says the trip was a dream come true. She plans to intern at some law firms in the next year, including possibly one in Geneva, before applying to law school.

She had previously participated in Reese’s local study away trip to Palm Desert a couple of times, an experiential learning opportunity to meet and volunteer with nonprofits and non-governmental organizations. But traveling abroad, visiting the



United Nations and participating in the symposium gave her a new perspective on international law.

“The world is so large, and we have to give back to where help is needed,” Duran-Wright says. “Here you have Geneva, in a country that has so much wealth but is focused on humanitarian efforts. I have always been interested in international human rights and I want to give my time to help solve problems in the places where it is needed so much.”

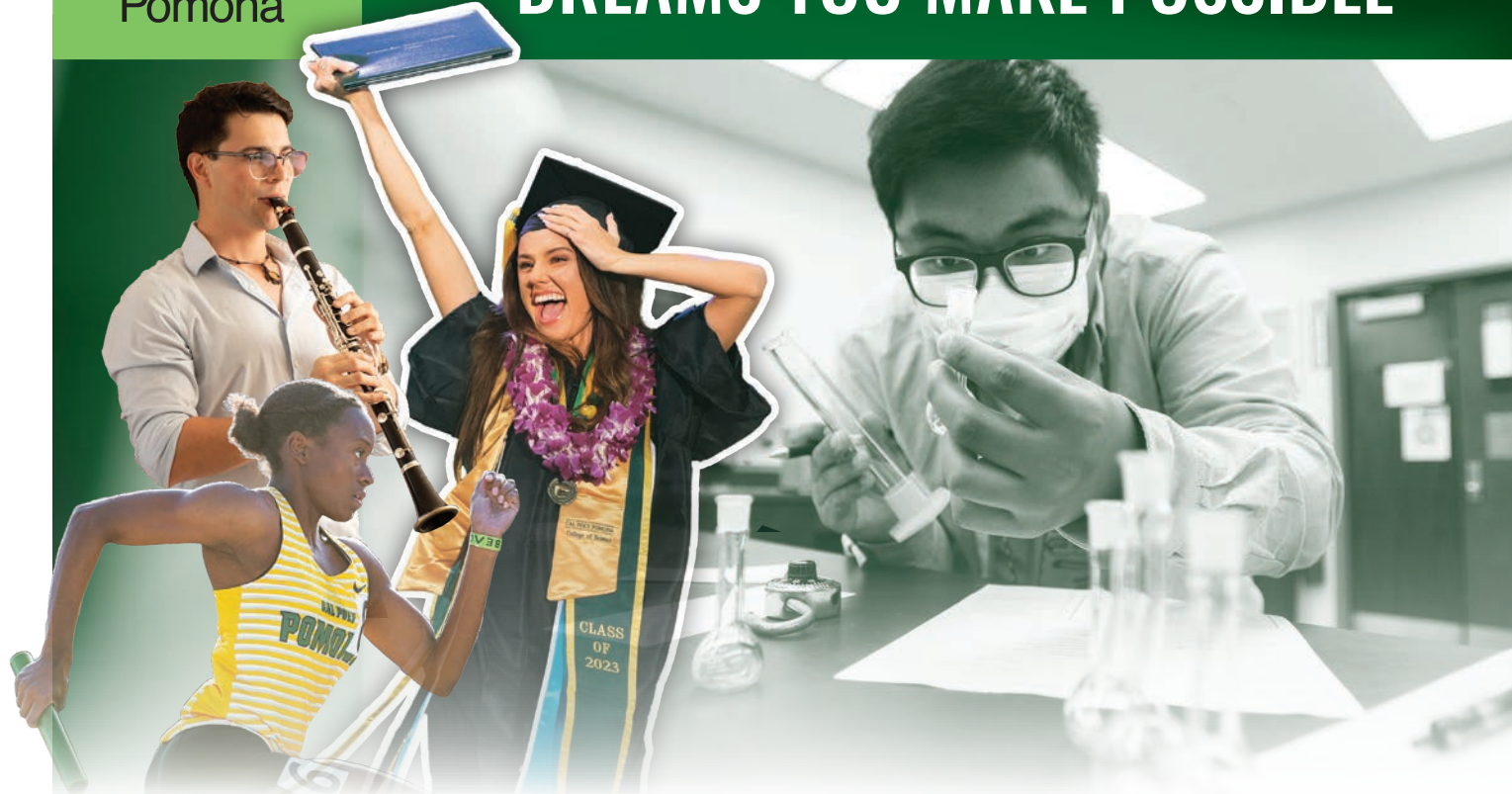
Fellow recent political science graduate **Cindy Campos** says the study abroad trip helped her zero in on her career aspirations. She had considered going to law school soon after

graduation, but after taking the trip to Geneva, she is thinking of first doing some field work abroad with a non-governmental organization.

Campos’ passion is personal. Her father came to America as a refugee from El Salvador more than 30 years ago. Campos, who grew up in Anaheim, recently helped him get residency.

Campos also had joined the local study abroad trip to Palm Desert, but the international trip gave her an opportunity to talk to students and professors from universities in Geneva where so many graduates go on to work for the United Nations or internationally known charitable organizations such as Geneva Call. She also served as a panelist at the symposium with Webster University.

“It was kind of surreal for me to see all of these organizations we had talked about for years – the U.N., the World Health Organization, the Red Cross,” Campos says. “All of the NGOs that are hands on and on point with every issue are there in Geneva. It is truly inspirational.”



Generous people transform the world. Nowhere is that more evident than at Cal Poly Pomona, where your financial contributions are transforming the lives of our students — and the world — each and every day.

By investing in our students, you are enlarging their capacity to dream and helping them to unlock their potential and reach new heights.

Thank you for your support and continued partnership.
Go Broncos!

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UNIVERSITY NEWS

U.S. News Ranks Cal Poly Pomona #2 Top Public School in the West

Cal Poly Pomona is ranked **No. 2 Top Public School in the West** in the U.S. News & World Report's 2024 U.S. Best Colleges ranking. Nearly 1,500 four-year bachelor's degree-granting institutions were evaluated.

The university is also listed as the No. 1 Bang for Your Buck polytechnic university, according to Washington Monthly.

"Cal Poly Pomona helps students achieve their dreams of success," said President **Soraya M. Coley**. "It's wonderful that the faculty, education and opportunities

that we provide, and the success of our graduates, are being recognized."

In addition, U. S. News ranked the campus **No. 2 Best Colleges for Veterans in the West**.

The campus has more than 1,600 military affiliated students, including veterans, active military service members and military dependents. The **Veterans Resource Center (VRC)** is their central resource for information, guidance and community in their educational journey.

"The center provides military affiliated students a place where they can connect and engage as a community," said **Elke Azpeitia** ('07, philosophy; '11, master's in public administration), director of the VRC. "It's an opportunity for them to discover what it means to be a military-affiliated Bronco and how their experiences bring value inside and outside of the classroom environment."



Hot Dog Caper Celebrates 40th Anniversary

This year's **Hot Dog Caper** elevated the humble ballpark snack to superhero status.

The 40th annual event included over 12,000 hot dogs, veggie dogs and halal dogs. Volunteers also handed out 2,000 bags of chips, 1,500 popsicles and over 5,600 beverages.

Superhero impersonators, a live DJ and balloon twisters entertained about 6,000 students, faculty and staff in Bronco Commons. Special guests included Billy Bronco and the horses from the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center.





2023 Distinguished Alumni Awards

Cal Poly Pomona recognized nine outstanding alumni who have attained success through significant achievements in their professional fields, serve their community and give back to the university. The **Distinguished Alumni Awards**, now in its 61st year, celebrated one individual from each college and Lifetime Achievement honoree **Ron Gregoire** ('71, accounting), who has had a highly successful career in the automotive industry.

"Our alumni are extraordinary. They are transforming almost every industry and making a difference in our communities. Their achievements, vision and philanthropy inspire us all," said **Frances Teves**, interim vice president for University Advancement. "Not only are they leaders in their field, but they are also role models for our students and blazing a path for others to follow. We are so proud of their success and honored to call them Broncos."

Watch videos about each Distinguished Alumni Awards recipient at www.cpp.edu/alumni



This year's honorees are:

Ronald Gregoire,
Lifetime Achievement Award
'71, accounting
Retired – Former New Car Dealer, Cerritos Ford, Lincoln, Isuzu, Subaru/Suzuki, Dodge and Infiniti

Mike Beckage
'87, engineering technology
Chief Technology Officer, Diversified Technology Systems, Inc.

Pamela Conrad
'06, master's in landscape architecture
Founder, Climate Positive Design

Mercedes Gutierrez
'15, doctorate in educational leadership
Vice President/Assistant Superintendent
Human Resources

Matthew Kou
'06, hospitality management
Principal, Green Door Hospitality

Michael Mellano
'61, horticulture
Retired, Mellano & Company

Al Tarkington
'64, business administration
Retired – Partner, Grice, Lund, and Tarkington, C.P.A.'s

Karen Vaughn
'80, mathematics;
'82, master's in mathematics
Lecturer Emerita,
Cal Poly Pomona

Sean Yu
'99, political science;
management and human
resources
Managing Director, Morgan Stanley Private Wealth Management

We All Scream for CPP Ice Cream

There's a new CPP treat on the grocery store shelves. Cal Poly Pomona has launched a new ice cream created in partnership with **Cal Poly Pomona Enterprises**, the **Huntley College of Agriculture** and **Coney Island Creamery**.

Made with Cal Poly Pomona fruit, the first three flavors are satsuma mandarin, avocado, and pumpkin caramel swirl. The ice cream is available at the Farm Store and select dining locations on campus.

CPP students have been involved in every step of product development. Students helped harvest the fruit, the student culinary development team worked to develop flavor profiles, and visual communications student **Rachel Hunter** created the artwork for the packaging.

Coney Island Creamery is a family-owned, women-owned, small-batch ice cream manufacturer in San Dimas that specializes in tropical and Southeast Asian flavors.



Manta Rays and Electric Eels Celebrate 75th Rose Float

Giant manta rays sway and electric eels power a rock 'n' roll party on the ocean floor celebrating **Cal Poly Universities' 75th** entry in the **Rose Parade** on Jan. 1, 2024.

Led by a 16-foot purple manta ray gliding over a colorful coral reef, the 55-foot-long float "Shock 'n' Roll: Powering the Musical Current," depicts a rocking swim party. A trio of eels provide their current to electric guitars, a keyboard and turntable, honoring the 2024 parade theme "Celebrating the World of Music."

Designed and built by students, the Cal Poly Universities' Rose Float is a joint effort of student teams at Cal Poly Pomona and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Since their first entry in 1949, the combined team has won 61 awards, most recently the 2023 Extraordinaire Trophy.

This year, students are excited about creating a new animation system to control the movements of creatures and other elements on the float.

"Revamping the system that electronically controls our float mechanisms will improve the ease of programming and give us more opportunities to improve our animations," explained **Brooke Handschin**, a fourth-year mechanical engineering student and the Pomona construction chair. "If we are successful with the new system, we have the possibility of synching our animations to the music on our float."



Students Call for Renaming of Black Resource Center

The hub for Black student life has a new name: The **Black Resource Center**.

Students recently pushed for the new name after months of discussions around inclusivity and Black identity. As a result, many students felt the previous name, African American Student Center, no longer represented all identities.

Students took the lead to make change through community meetings, discussions and attending the Afrikan Black Coalition Conference, an annual event that serves over 800 Black students across California.

The term “Black” was chosen as an expansive term that captures all identities within the diaspora, including Nigerians, Puerto Ricans, Belizeans, Jamaicans and Ghanaians, to name a few. A survey of students showed that 70 percent agreed with the change.

“Since not all Black people are African American, it’d be nice to include all Black people — those who are not African American as well,” said **Kelsey Ehinlaiye**, a student involved in the process.



Juintow Lin



Juintow Lin



Roots House Wins 10 Awards from Sustainability Decathlon

Roots House, a market-ready and energy-efficient family home designed and built by a team of students, won 10 awards including a Top 3 spot in the inaugural **Orange County Sustainability Decathlon**.

The state-funded competition challenged 14 collegiate teams to design and build solar-powered homes — a real-world exercise themed around two of California’s intersecting policy priorities: climate change and affordable housing.

In addition to the No. 3 spot overall, the CPP team won first in the following categories: communications & marketing, health & comfort and energy efficiency.

The 1,008-square-foot house is the culmination of three semesters’ work by more than 100 students from across nine majors — civil, chemical, environmental, mechanical, electrical and computer engineering; architecture; regenerative studies; and business administration.

A large part of the building funds and the sustainable construction materials were received through in-kind donations by nearly 50 sponsors, including Chino-based **AMCO Structures** for construction.

Cal Poly Pomona Welcomes Five New Deans in Fall 2023

College of Business Administration

Sandeep Krishnamurthy is the inaugural Singelyn Family Dean of the College of Business Administration and Singelyn Graduate School of Business. The position marks the university’s first endowed deanship and is part of a recent \$12.5 million transformative gift from alumni couple **David and Ruth Singelyn** that established the new Singelyn Graduate School of Business.

Krishnamurthy will work with campus and business leaders, faculty and staff to reimagine business education with the goal of future-proofing students.

“Technology now fundamentally informs our future at all levels. The ongoing and upcoming digital transformation of all industries creates a crying need for a reimagination of business education,” he said. “We must recognize that future-proofing our diverse students will require a change in our own mindsets, and we must be willing to build flexible and adaptable structures to serve our students.”



College of Education and Integrative Studies

Jenelle S. Pitt-Parker, dean of the College of Education and Integrative Studies, is establishing a new shared purpose and vision among faculty, staff and students.

The college is committed to leading campus and community efforts to address important issues of equity, inclusion and social justice. CEIS is also moving forward with enhancing undergraduate and graduate research opportunities, community engagement, and partnerships with other campus units and off-campus organizations.

“This is CEIS on the horizon,” Pitt-Parker said. “We don’t want to be small and mighty. We just want to be mighty. We are well positioned and well equipped to serve the university and support all students to reach their goals. We are trying to invite folks to show up and show out. That’s the energy that we’re trying to cultivate in CEIS.”



College of Engineering

Andrew Ketsdever joined the College of Engineering with a central vision — prioritize student engagement.

“We need students to feel like they have a sense of belonging here,” he said. “Engineering is hard, so having them believe the simple fact that they can do this is critically important.”

To bring this vision into fruition, the focus of his first 100 days has been listening to students, faculty, staff and industry partners to understand the work, challenges, successes and needs of the college. Next, the listening will transform into action, forming the basis of the college’s action plan.

“Student engagement equals student success,” Ketsdever said. “At the end of the day, we’re here to develop our students so they achieve careers that are meaningful and engaging to them.”



The Collins College of Hospitality Management

Margie Jones is dean and the James A. Collins Distinguished Chair of The Collins College of Hospitality Management. Known as the “Wine Professor,” Jones had served as interim dean since June 2022 and joined the faculty in 1990.

Jones is an accomplished scholar-practitioner with a legacy of inclusive leadership, advocacy and philanthropic development. While she served as interim dean, the college rose to No. 5 in the 2023 “Best Hospitality and Hotel Management Schools” list by CEOWORLD Magazine.

In addition to her expertise as a certified wine educator and a certified sommelier, Jones is a leader in strategic leadership, marketing, special events, food and beverage, and hotel/resort planning and development.

Prior to joining The Collins College faculty, Jones was a food & beverage manager with Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts, and also worked for VMS Realty, Hyatt Hotels, and RCI International.



College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences

For **Camille Johnson**, coming to Cal Poly Pomona feels like a homecoming of sorts.

Johnson grew up in Claremont and recalls visiting the university on occasion. She also has a very special memory of campus — a first date with her husband, Menko Johnson.

“I felt like this was the job I had been waiting for,” she said.

The broad range of majors in CLASS appealed to Johnson, as well as the discussions within the college around social justice.

Johnson’s academic journey includes undergraduate research, teaching 7th grade through Teach for America and graduate degrees in psychology. She knows the importance of the teacher-scholar model in relation to student success.

“As teachers, our goal is to ignite and feed the curiosity of our students. Research, scholarship, and creativity activities are how we maintain our own curiosity — curiosity that is contagious.”



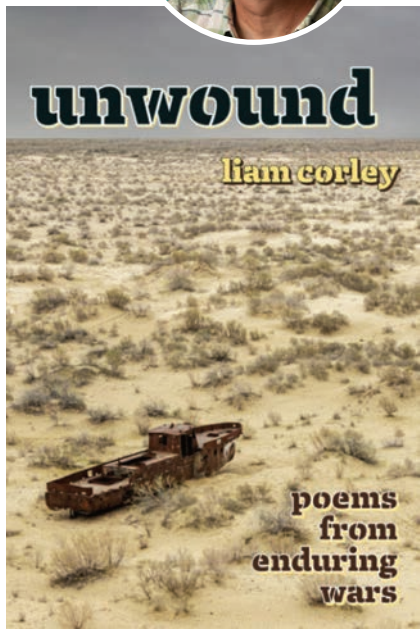
Professor Releases New Book about Military Service

Literature Professor **Liam Corley** has always been a man with many roles — a poet, a professor, a father and a military officer. His diverse background and life stories have shaped the person and professor he is today.

Corley recently published a poetry book, “**Unwound**,” a collection that serves as a reflection of his journey as a writer, but also a way to organize his thoughts and express what he was going through when he was deployed to Afghanistan in 2008.

The poems delved into the intricacies of conscience, commitments and family. His poems are letters to his wife, daughters and son, as a way to bridge the gap between the battlefield and home.

“A lot of these poems take things which may be meaningless or tragic in themselves and make something more of them. And I did that largely to help other people who had similar experiences. To help them see things differently or to find value in the things they’ve been through,” Corley said. “I wanted my family to understand, you know, what they experienced secondhand through me.”



At a summer symposium, civil engineering students showcase their work on structural design, sustainability and energy efficiency for the Roots House.



Mathematics Student Named CSU Trustee Awardee

Philip Nicoll, a second-year student in applied mathematics, has been awarded a **2023 CSU Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement**.

The awards are presented annually to one student from each California State University campus based on academic achievements, financial need, excellence in community service and personal hardship.

Nicoll received a \$7,000 scholarship as the Edison International Scholar. In announcing the scholars, the CSU noted Nicoll’s journey overcoming adversity and financial challenges, while developing resiliency and strong emotional intelligence.

At Cal Poly Pomona, Nicoll is a member of the **Student Innovation Idea Labs**, where he has learned soldering and 3D printing. In his second year with the **Rose Float** team, he will be “welding, machining, shaping, or anything else where I can operate as a valuable part of the team.”

This year, he joined another unique hands-on learning opportunity — the **Bronco Space Club**. He is developing an artificial intelligence model to analyze infrared data for Bronco Ember, a wildfire detection CubeSat.

STEM Programs Receive \$580,000 Grant

In a significant boost for STEM education and research, the **CPP INVESTS** program has been awarded \$581,511 in supplemental funding.

The CPP INVESTS (Innovative Ventures and Emerging Sciences Through Students) program has been making strides in promoting STEM innovation, research and learning. The five-year grant from the **National Science Foundation** will enhance the program’s ability to provide hands-on learning opportunities for students and support faculty to incorporate practical experiences into their curricula.

Additionally, the grant will offer stipends for STEM faculty members to integrate micro-internships and badging into their courses, bridging the gap between academia and industry by ensuring that classroom teachings align with the job market.

College Corps Dedicates 14K Hours to Community Service

Cal Poly Pomona’s **College Corps** program has been instrumental in empowering and supporting students to make a positive impact on campus and in the surrounding community. From October 2022 to June 2023, 25 individuals served the community with a total of 14,389 community hours in three priority areas: food insecurity, K-12 education and climate action.

“My service with College Corps was an excellent way to get valuable experience in an industry related to my field of study while also helping to connect the surrounding community with cleaner and more affordable energy,” said **Jalen Gumayagay**, an electrical engineering senior.

Projects included serving over 6.4 million meals, tutoring and mentoring hundreds of K-12 students, and raising awareness about the environment and climate action.



Through the College Corps program, students get a jump-start on their careers while doing meaningful work in their communities.

\$1.2M in NASA Grants for Space Projects and Research

Cal Poly Pomona has been awarded \$1.2 million in combined grants from **NASA** to support three space-related research projects that will provide students with first-hand experience developing technology that will further national space exploration research and exploration goals.

Aerospace Engineering Associate Professor **Navid Nakhjiri** and Assistant Professor **Marco Maggia** received a Minority University Research and Education (MUREP) Space Technology Artemis Research (M-STAR) grant totaling \$898,872 for the CubeSat Technology Exploration Program (CubeSTEP), a collaboration between the university and the **Jet Propulsion Laboratory**. Its main objective: build a 3U CubeSat bus to accommodate payloads from NASA and other industry partners.

Biological Chemistry Professor **Rakesh Mogul** received \$265,000 from NASA’s Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences (ROSES), a program under the agency’s Planetary Protection Research portfolio.

Research in Mogul’s laboratory focuses on bacteria that are isolated from cleanroom facilities — controlled environments that filter out dust, airborne microbes and aerosol particles — where Mars spacecraft for NASA are assembled.

Architecture Professor **Michael Fox’s** project, “Scenario Based XR Immersive Training Environment,” received \$50,000 through NASA’s Minority University Research and Education Project. The grant will fund virtual reality hardware and software to supplement the Microsoft HoloLens augmented reality kits for students in a Mixed Reality architectural design studio.

The studio’s goal is to design astronaut training environments using extended reality (XR) to improve workflows and muscle memory.

IN MEMORIAM



William Hughes

William Hughes, a professor emeritus who was also director of the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center, died Sept. 24. He was 80.

A longtime horse show judge and owner, breeder and trainer of Arabian horses, Hughes was initially hired in 1967 as a full-time instructor in the agricultural business management department. In 1998, Hughes was hired as the horse center’s director.

Hughes retired in 2010. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann; two sons and two grandchildren.



Marie Maslowski

Marie Maslowski, a longtime staff member in the Department of Theatre and New Dance, died July 17. She worked for 22 years on campus, including 20 in theatre and new dance.

During her career, Maslowski supported students, faculty and staff through major transitions, both personal and professional. Students and colleagues appreciated her warmth and personal generosity.

Maslowski is survived by two children and four grandchildren.

YEAR-END DONOR STRATEGIES TO SAVE TAXES AND PROVIDE INCOME

Here are a few ideas to consider for an end-of-the-year donation to Cal Poly Pomona that supports our students and programs and also can provide you tax savings for 2023.

- **Use appreciated assets** such as stock or real estate instead of cash. You can avoid capital gain tax and earn an income tax deduction.
- **Over the age 70½? Make transfer from an IRA** to Cal Poly Pomona. Your donation will not be taxed and can be used toward your RMD.
- Make a donation from a **Donor Advised Fund**.
- Create a Life Income Gift using cash, appreciated assets or IRA assets. You can save taxes and receive income for life.
- **Ask about Estate Planning ideas** that can increase retirement fund assets planned for heirs.

For more information, contact
Vince Fraumeni,
Director of Planned Giving
[909-869-4825](tel:909-869-4825), vjfraumeni@cpp.edu.

*Remember to include
Cal Poly Pomona in your will
or trust. Ask for sample bequest
language and the Kellogg
Voorhis Legacy Society.*

