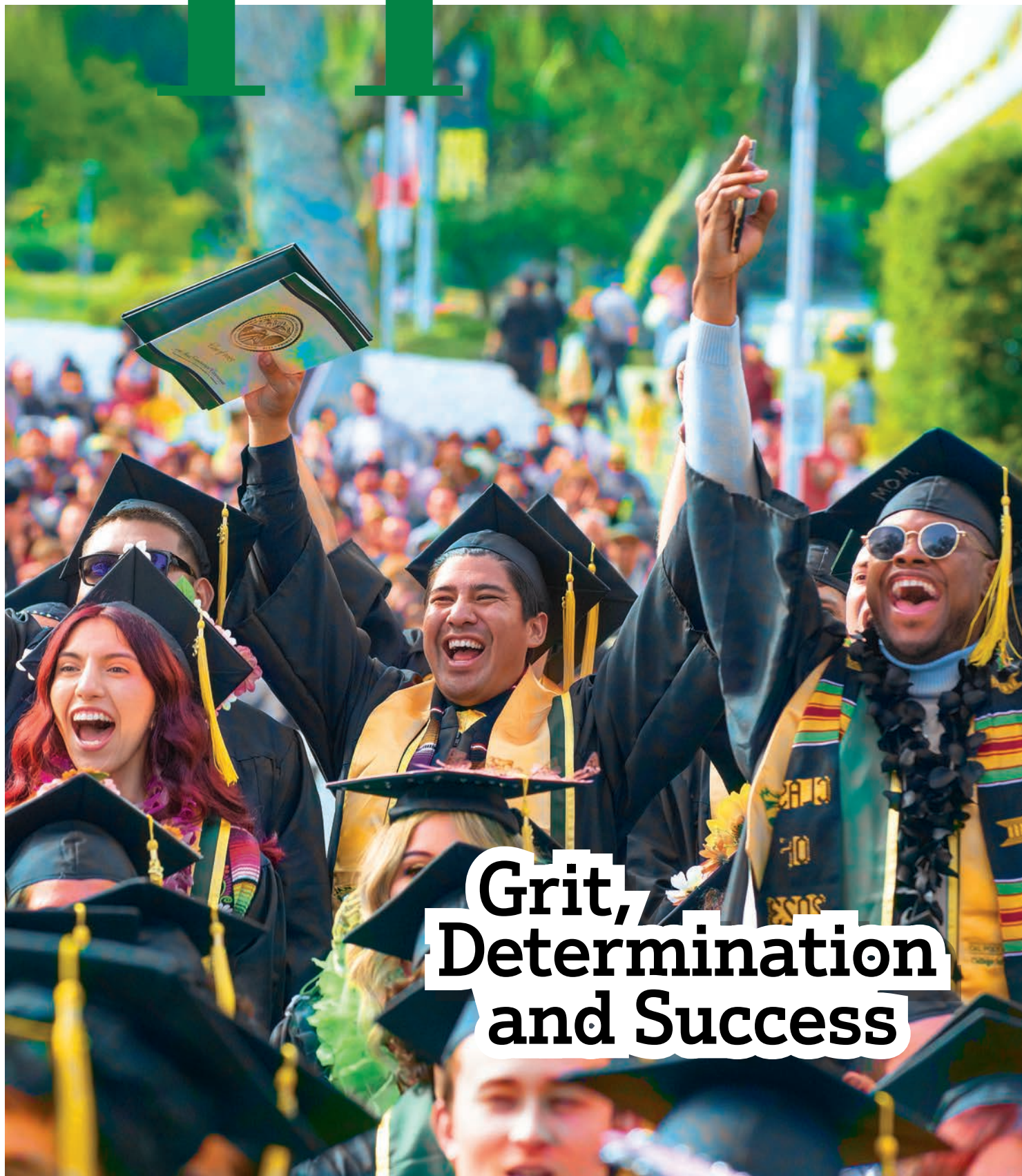


# CPPO

CAL POLY POMONA MAGAZINE | SUMMER 2023



**Grit,  
Determination  
and Success**

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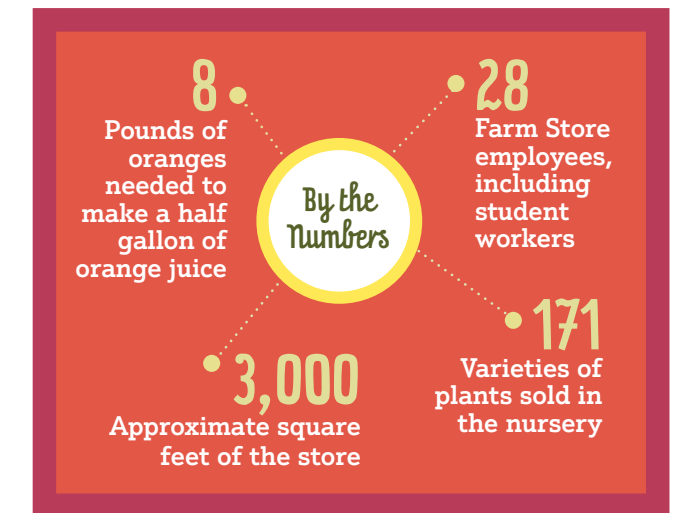
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## BY THE NUMBERS

### Farm Store

Utilizing Cal Poly Pomona fields, facilities and greenhouses, students in the Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture learn how to grow and care for a variety of produce items, which are sold at The Farm Store at Kellogg Ranch. The store sells fruits and vegetables, dairy products, honey, fresh-squeezed orange juice, wine, beer and more.



## A BRIEF HISTORY

### University Library

The University Library, considered the heart of Cal Poly Pomona, started with one room, one librarian and a few hundred books in 1938 on the Voorhis campus in San Dimas. In 1959, the first library on the Pomona campus opened in Building 5 before moving into its own building.



1968



2022

#### 1968 – A New Building

The current University Library starts as a four-story structure, with floors numbered ground to third. About 1,000 students, faculty and staff move over 150,000 books, furnishings and equipment from Building 5.

#### 1988 – Additional Floors

Construction for the new fourth and fifth floors of the library commences in January. The project cost \$7.4 million, and the library is now 205,000 square feet.

#### 2006 – Major Extension

The library adds a new wing, including classrooms, additional library space, offices and a 24-hour computer lab. The extension adds 101,853 square feet.

#### 2019 – Maker Studio

The Maker Studio opens in August in collaboration with the Office of Academic Innovation. Located on the second floor, the studio gives students free access to technology such as 3D printers and a vinyl cutter.

#### 2020 – COVID-19 Pandemic

In the pivot to virtual instruction, the library offers services such as online research guides to help students start on researching a subject and a 24/7 library chat to answer research questions. The Special Collections and Archives begins collecting items, stories, photographs, books and journals related to COVID-19 for the Pomona Valley area.

## EXPERT Q & A

### What Lies Beneath

#### Artificial Reefs Support California's Marine Biodiversity

Associate Professor **Jeremy Claisse** studies the ecology of marine organisms in natural rocky reef kelp forests in California and coral reefs in Hawaii. He also studies human-built structures in the ocean that function as artificial reefs, like the submerged structures of oil platforms or harbor breakwaters.

Claisse is the recipient of a \$345,225 research grant from the **California State University Council on Ocean Affairs, Science & Technology** to help the California Department of Fish and Wildlife update its artificial reef management plans.

#### What are artificial reefs and what is their role in marine wildlife conservation and resource management?

Artificial reefs are human-built structures in the ocean, typically made of quarry rock or concrete. Although in some parts of the world they've sunk ships or train cars to build reefs. Natural rocky reefs in California have relatively high socioeconomic value because they support a substantial proportion of the recreational and commercial fishing industries. Therefore, people are interested in the possibility of either creating new artificial rocky habitat in soft-bottom areas where there isn't much



To study marine habitats, Claisse dives at Begg Rock State Marine Reserve 80 miles off the Los Angeles coast. Photo courtesy of Jonathan Williams.



natural reef or using them to restore degraded natural reefs by creating more complex, higher relief artificial reef habitat that can support more diverse and productive biological communities.

#### What do you and your team hope to discover in your study?

Dozens of artificial reefs off the southern California coast were built decades ago to enhance fishing opportunities, but they haven't been surveyed since they were built. We are going to go out to survey them with sonar to create high quality maps of the physical

habitat, and then also scuba dive to survey the fish, invertebrates and algae there. We are then going to analyze how differences in the artificial reef habitat characteristics (shapes, sizes, heights) and locations of the reefs relate to the biological communities occupying each of them. As we discover what makes a more biodiverse and productive reef, we can develop best practices for the design and construction of future projects that add artificial reef habitat along the California coast for habitat restoration, compensatory mitigation or potentially to protect coastlines from sea level rise.



## How to Design and Build an Airplane

When American aviation pioneers Orville and Wilbur Wright designed their airplane 120 years ago, they studied how birds used their wings in flight. When aerospace engineering students design an aircraft for the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics' annual Design/Build/Fly college competition, their process starts with computers and design software.

1

### Define Performance Requirements

The 2023 competition calls for teams to design, build and test an aircraft to execute electronic warfare. The airplane must be fast and carry a heavy load. Students use software to analyze data, develop algorithms and create models.

2

### Design the Aircraft

Armed with the aircraft's specs, like wing area and maximum takeoff weight, it's time to design the plane's structure with computer-aided design (CAD) applications. Students use an analytics tool to predict the plane's stability in flight.

3

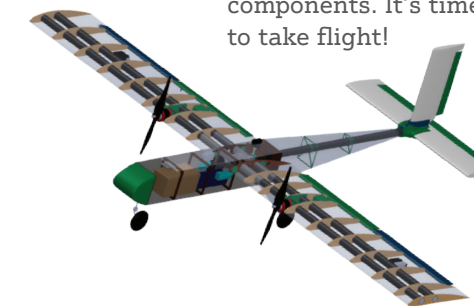
### Make a Prototype

The team builds a model using inexpensive materials such as foam board and balsa wood and then tests to see whether the aircraft performs to satisfaction.

4

### Create the Final Product

In April, the team travels to the competition in Tuscon, Arizona, with the final aircraft, which is made with fiberglass, resin and 3D-printed components. It's time to take flight!



## BRONCOS AT WORK



### Kirstie Gallacher-Ang '14, music

Music Therapist, Owner of Rubato Music Therapy

#### How would you describe your career?

I visit clients/students in their homes for 1:1 music therapy sessions and teach music lessons. Previously, I worked with adults with intellectual disabilities and led group music therapy sessions, directed ensembles, and taught music, writing and other classes. I'm working on my master's in special education.

#### What musical instruments do you play?

For music therapy, I use guitar, keyboard and lots of percussion! My primary instrument was the flute, and I'm learning the harp.

#### What is your favorite part about running your own music therapy business?

I love seeing people grow at their own pace, whether it's as momentous as a client speaking their first words or as gratifying as a student mastering a new note. The best part about owning a business is the freedom to make decisions and the ability to communicate directly with clients/students and their families.

#### How did Cal Poly Pomona prepare you for your career?

My classes prepared me to wear many hats. Arranging, conducting, and Concert Choir gave me a foundation to direct ensembles and adapt music depending on instrumentation and students' skill levels. Songwriting and recording polished my ability to help clients to express themselves. Musicianship made me a better musician. Professor [Arthur] Winer allowed me to complete my music industry studies internship with music therapists, which led to volunteer work and eventually a job!

#### What advice would you offer students?

I was not diagnosed with clinical anxiety until I was in my mid-20s. As a college student, I was constantly stressed out and cried in a professor's office more than once. If that sounds familiar, please know that it does not have to be your normal. There are resources on campus such as Student Health and Wellness Services that can support you.

## BRONCOS AT WORK



### Kateri Lirio '10, music

Music Educator and Multidisciplinary Artist

#### How would you describe your career?

My career has not been linear, but it has been steady. I grew up with both my parents listening to a lot of music in the home, and I remember feeling connected to songs that they listened to. I started playing professionally at the age of 13 as a piano accompanist for musical theaters and churches and grew up attending several concerts and shows. I wanted to learn how to make these productions happen, so I got to freelance as a production assistant at some of my favorite concerts. That led to opportunities to support video productions and other projects with non-profit organizations and corporations.

#### What musical instruments do you play?

Piano, ukulele, and I sing.

#### What is your favorite part about teaching music?

The best part of teaching music isn't the music. It's helping students find their authentic voices. I'm not a band or orchestra teacher. I'm not a choir director. My practice involves songwriting, composition and artistic expression.

#### How did Cal Poly Pomona prepare you for your career?

Cal Poly Pomona offered me a Kellogg Scholarship so that I could attend college. I felt like my professors saw me as a peer as opposed to fostering a hierarchical teacher-student relationship. This type of co-learning relationship set the stage for my master's program and changed my teaching style completely. Now, my students co-lead the curriculum I'm teaching at Angeles Workshop School.

#### What advice would you offer students?

Go for what you want and don't go at it alone. In order to do this, you have to dig deep and do a lot of inner work. It's hard work, but once you're there, you'll have a direction to keep you focused for the rest of your life.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### New Beginnings

Cal Poly Pomona is a launchpad to career success and a home to students who dream of a bright future full of possibilities. Every spring, we celebrate the Broncos who worked tirelessly to earn their degree from our university, a celebration years in the making, and yet, as soon as one class graduates, the next is right around the corner.

Before we completely turn the page on the 2022-23 academic year and focus our attention on what lies ahead, I want to take one more opportunity to celebrate our most recent graduates. This May, about 7,000 Broncos crossed the stage during Commencement ceremonies – each carrying their own unique stories of triumph and perseverance, struggle and achievement, fortitude and unwavering commitment to their dreams.

Congratulations to all our recent graduates, and congratulations to their families, friends and loved ones who supported them along the way. To our alumni and friends of CPP – I invite you to reflect upon your graduation day, who you were before you crossed the graduation stage and who you have become.

Whether you graduated one year ago or 50 years ago, your talents and gifts are still in bloom. I urge you to continue to pursue your dreams, big and small, and allow them to unfold and evolve.

Be open to new experiences and make choices that further your curiosity and passion. Never stop learning.

I hope you stay connected to CPP and find ways to give back, whether that's through events and activities, volunteer programs and philanthropy, or simply celebrating one another's successes. We value your experiences, stories, perspectives and gifts. You have the power to make a difference in our students' lives, by helping them grow and feel affirmed in who they will become.

Thank you for your commitment and support.

Sincerely,

Soraya M. Coley, Ph.D.  
President

# The Road to Success



## Class of 2023 Forged with Grit and Determination

They arrived on campus uncertain and inexperienced, but with a hope that they would discover their purpose and passion.

A few years later, the graduates in the Class of 2023 crossed the University Quad stage to receive their degrees, confident in their capability to define and achieve the success they seek.

Cal Poly Pomona celebrated the trials, triumphs and resiliency of the university's newest alumni at the Commencement ceremonies in May. About 7,500 graduates from spring 2023, fall 2022 and summer 2023 received their undergraduate and graduate degrees to the roar of thousands more family members, friends and supporters.

Commencement featured several student and guest speakers, including honorary doctorate recipients:

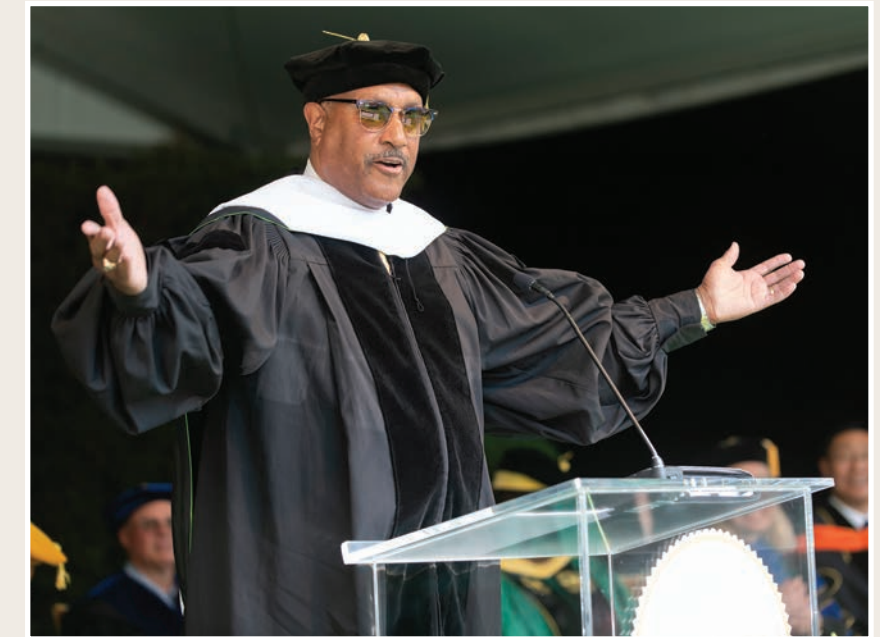
**Sean Yu** ('99, political science, management and human resources), a successful finance entrepreneur, and **Clark Rucker** ('83, engineering technology), who retired after a 43-year career in aerospace engineering.

However, the stars of the stage were the students who crossed it with diplomas in hand, smiling, dancing and waving to the crowd of beaming loved ones. That final moment on stage, as well as the thousands more throughout their journey at Cal Poly Pomona, will stay with them for a lifetime.

"To see my brain and heart open up here has been so surreal," said **Emily Quinton** ('23, marketing management). "Getting the opportunities I've gotten through being at Cal Poly Pomona have been the most amazing things I've ever experienced in my whole life."

— Melanie Johnson

"Getting the opportunities I've gotten through being at Cal Poly Pomona have been the most amazing things I've ever experienced in my whole life."



**"You are not who you were when you began your Cal Poly Pomona journey, nor are you an empty vessel waiting to be filled. Rather, you brought hopes and aspirations, and that you are preparing to cross the Commencement stage is a testament to your self-determination, your resiliency in facing your fears and meeting and overcoming challenges."**

**- PRESIDENT SORAYA M. COLEY**

**"No matter what anybody says, no matter how many people try to categorize you, put you in a place, tell you what your limits are – you can be whatever you want to be. All you have to do is push yourself and put your mind to it."**

**— CLARK RUCKER**  
(’83, engineering technology), honorary doctorate recipient

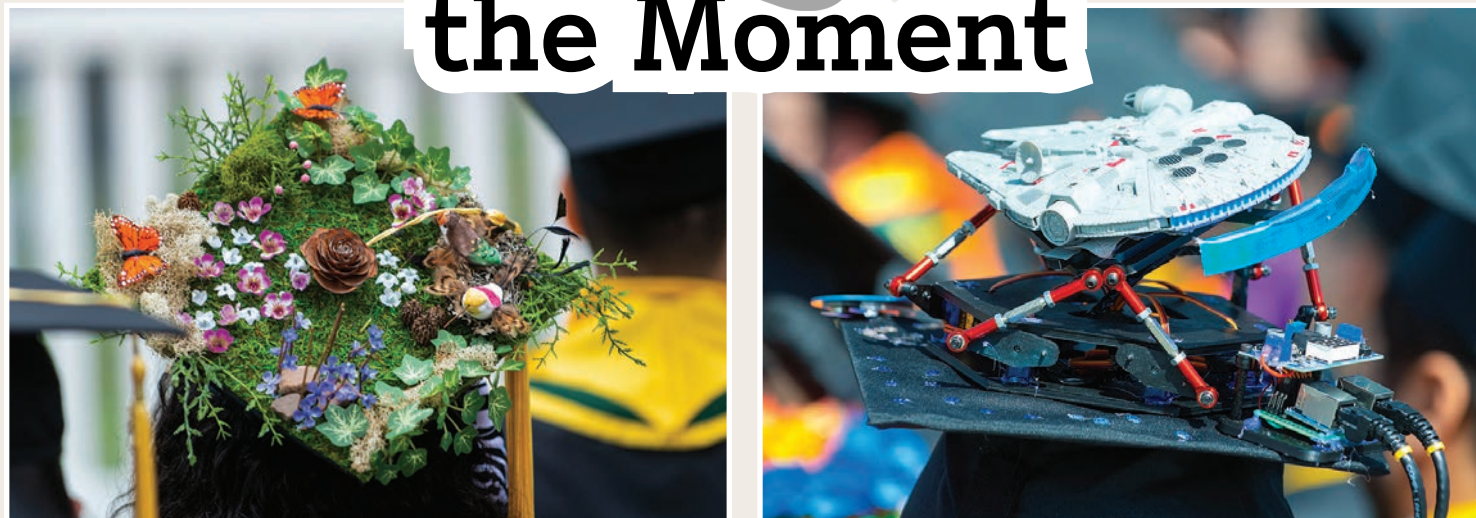


**“Remember to honor those who came before you and those who will come after you. Use your education for good and never forget where you came from, your roots. We have a professional, ethical and moral responsibility to serve our people.”**

**— DIANA AGUILAR-CRUZ**  
(’23, biology), CSU student trustee



# CAP-turing the Moment



## THE PUBLIC SERVANT

### Aspiring Police Officer Finds Purpose on Campus Beat

By MELANIE JOHNSON

Growing up, Kyle So believed in keeping his career options open.

When he was little, he wanted to play Legos for a living. When he got to sixth grade, he wanted to be a musician, later an athlete and an engineer.

"Throughout my life, I have jumped from interest to interest," says the criminology senior. "I didn't really stick to anything. I asked myself, 'Why is that?'"

When he was 15, a burgeoning interest in police work developed into a solid career plan. He joined the local Police Explorers, a program to introduce youth to careers in law enforcement. He convinced his parents, who were concerned about the dangers of the job and wanted him to pick a career in STEM, to support him in realizing his dream.

"On my 16th birthday, they said that was their present for me was, 'We will let you become a police officer,'" So says.

Cal Poly Pomona's criminology program, which is heavily enmeshed with the sociology major, has helped So home in on a future career in law enforcement.

"The more I got into the program, the more I realized this major was what I was interested in," he says.

He particularly connected with Paul Vernon, a Cal Poly Pomona alumnus and part-time lecturer who teaches criminological theory, exploring both the historical and contemporary reasons for crime. Vernon ('84, history), a retired police captain with a 30-year career with the LAPD, has stayed in touch with So, checking in periodically to see how his courses are going and his plans after graduation.

"He was a great professor and really helped to connect what we learned theory-wise with what we would learn with practical experience," So says. "For many, it was a review course, but he beefed up our knowledge in each section. He really helped us understand a lot."

In his sophomore year at Cal Poly Pomona, So applied for a community service officer (CSO) job at the University Police Department. For the past two years, he's responded requests for an escort and helped new CSOs learn the ropes. His desire for a career in law enforcement is tied to the core of who he is as a person.

**"With the leadership system here, there are opportunities to move up, opportunities to learn more."**

"Being a CSO at this campus, you get to interact with students. Every time I get a chance to talk to students, I do," he says. "I love interacting with people. I am honest, value integrity and think rules are important for us to uphold. It also fits with my passion to serve the public."

So will continue working at UPD in the fall while he completes the final courses needed to earn his degree. The job also gives So an opportunity to connect with police officers who have worked for city departments, something he aspires to do, and to grow.

"With the leadership system here, there are opportunities to move up, opportunities to learn more," he says.





# THE EQUESTRIAN

## Lifelong Love of Horses Spurs Grad's Career Pursuits

By MELANIE JOHNSON

At 4, when most children are transitioning from a tricycle to a bicycle with training wheels, **Hannah Esqueda** was atop a horse.

Riding horses was something Esqueda and her grandfather bonded over. Their family has leased or owned horses her entire life.

"Me and my grandpa would ride together," she says. "He would take me riding and I really enjoyed it."

Those early rides sparked a lifelong love of horses for Esqueda, who graduated in May with a degree in animal and veterinary science.

When she arrived at Cal Poly Pomona as a transfer student from Fullerton College in late 2020, she found out about the live-in positions at the **W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center**, and she knew she had to apply.

Live-ins are just that – students who live at the horse center around the clock. They help with breeding and foaling, muck stalls, feed the horses, give them their meds, and keep the grounds clean and tidy. During the pandemic, she continued to live and work at the horse center, which augmented her experiential learning opportunities.

It was a unique opportunity for Esqueda to gain hands-on experiences that will be vital when she becomes an equine veterinarian.

In the classroom, the veterinary science program provided Esqueda with a firm foundation for her future in the field, but the COVID-19 pandemic did alter the way classes were typically conducted for a time.

"I enjoyed the program and feel that I learned a lot," Esqueda says. "I got the program from a different perspective because a lot of the classes were online. Even so, the professors were good and were understanding of our circumstances."



**"The most rewarding aspect of being a live-in is being able to take care of the little foals."**

As a live-in, a typical weekday involves rising early for the 6 a.m. chores. The horses get their meds at 8 a.m., followed by lunch at 11 a.m., time out in the pasture, and a 4 p.m. dinner of grain, alfalfa and Bermuda grass.

"The most rewarding aspect of being a live-in is being able to take care of the little foals," she says. "We stay up all night watching over the mares. The most rewarding thing is new life."

Esqueda has seen more than 20 foals born at the center, and she also does some breeding off campus.

She feels fortunate to have a job working with the animals she connects with the most.

"Their personalities can be loving at times, but they can also be spunky," she says. "They are like big dogs."

Post graduation, Esqueda is working in Pasadena with equine veterinarians and plans to apply to veterinary schools in the fall.



# BRONCOS IN TRANSIT

## ALUMNI DRIVE COMMUNITY IMPACT THROUGH CAREERS AT FOOTHILL TRANSIT

By NANCY YEANG

**Mathew Nakano** grew up in the San Gabriel Valley with a love of the planet and aspired to have a career that also helped his community – family, friends and neighbors.

As a third-generation Japanese American and first-generation Mexican American, Nakano was the first in his family to attend college and felt the pressures of wanting to make his parents proud while also finding a career that would fulfill his dream of making the world a better place.

At Cal Poly Pomona, Nakano found the best of both worlds – polytechnic experiences that allowed him to advocate for his community and the environment. As a business student, he took a class creating marketing content promoting the **Poly Pantry** to reach students who needed food resources the most. He also joined campus clubs and collaborated with other students on how to be conscious consumers. For one project, they researched organizations that were grounded in ethical community or environmental practices and created marketing content to support their products.

“My Bronco experience helped me to be a well-rounded student, and I was finding companies and careers that would advance me professionally and support my values and what I believed in,” says Nakano (’22, marketing). “I worked with professors who inspired me to push forward by knowing that it’s not just an assignment that needs to be done, but that there needs to be a purpose behind everything it is that I do.”

Nakano’s passion for serving his community and the world led him to a career at **Foothill Transit**, which provides public transit options to more than 48,000 riders every day in the San Gabriel Valley, from Los Angeles to Montclair. He first started as a marketing intern his junior year and was hired as a government relations coordinator after graduating in 2022. In his work at Foothill Transit, he is an advocate for public transit, which reduces local emissions and traffic congestion, and he sees that as a small step to making the world a better place.

“CPP prepared me for all the work that I was doing at Foothill Transit. I’m in the right place because our culture and mission are reflected in the things I was learning as a student and what I am personally passionate about,” Nakano says. “I directly help the community around me get to their essential travel, including my neighbors and friends who rely on Foothill Transit to get to their jobs and appointments, and as we advocate for zero emissions, it’s also good for the planet.”

### SERVICE STARTS IN POMONA

Nakano is one of many Bronco alumni who work at the transit agency, a group committed to improving the daily lives of their community in a sustainable way. They all have something else in common – their Cal Poly Pomona education which gave them a strong professional foundation.

**Linda Apodaca** (’89, communication), a manager of community engagement, credits the university for helping her discover her strengths and passion for civic engagement. As a student reporter and photographer at **The Poly Post**, she learned how to write and present messages quickly, concisely and clearly.

Today, Apodaca connects Foothill Transit with local organizations such as school districts and community groups, educating them on how to use the bus and becoming more comfortable with the transit system.

“Going to CPP was such an eye opener. It was a tremendous opportunity to get to know people, explore things I was interested in and believe





*"I worked with professors who inspired me to push forward by knowing that it's not just an assignment that needs to be done, but that there needs to be a purpose behind everything it is that I do."*

**MATTHEW NAKANO**

'22, marketing and business administration  
Government Relations Coordinator



*"I felt prepared for my very first job out of college. At CPP, working with a diverse group of people helped me build a foundation of communication and organizational management skills."*

**LAUREN CUCCHISSI**

'19, business management  
Administrative Support, Procurement Department

that I could make my dreams happen," Apodaca says. "I really enjoyed the hands-on portion of my education. It gave me a realistic picture of what I was going to be doing, to the point where I really understood where I was headed and could envision my future career."

**SERVING STUDENTS LIKE THEM**

Recently, Foothill Transit increased their services for Cal Poly Pomona students, and alumni have a front row opportunity to support their alma mater.

The new Class Pass program, which provides free rides for Bronco students, is close to the heart of HENDY SATYA ('10, business administration), a marketing and communications manager at Foothill Transit. His parents immigrated from Indonesia, and taking public transportation was an inexpensive and necessary resource to go where they needed to go. It's the same resource that current students also need access to.

"I grew up in Montebello and West Covina taking the bus and also rode the bus to class at Cal Poly Pomona," Satya says. "Because I worked to put myself through college, I know how important it is to have cheap, reliable transportation. It's one less thing for me to worry about. With the Class Pass program, Foothill Transit is an additional life raft for many students."

Since its pilot launch in fall 2021, the program has been a success. After the first full year, more than 26,000 students signed up for a Class Pass TAP card and took over 75,000 trips. In January, Foothill Transit and the university teamed up again to add the Silver Streak bus stop at the center of campus. With their free Class Pass TAP card, students can get to downtown LA within an hour free of charge.

"I wanted to give back to CPP and the greater community," says Satya, who has been with Foothill Transit for 15 years. "Coming from being an alum and using public transit almost my whole life, I wanted to provide this same benefit to current students."

**BRONCO ALUMNI:**

**LET US KNOW WHAT YOU ARE UP TO!**

*Fill out a Class Note and tell us how CPP helped launch your career.*



*"One of my favorite classes was international business taught by Dr. William Relf. He had real-world business experiences and connected with the students. Overall, my experiences at Cal Poly Pomona set a great foundation for my career in public service."*

**JOHN CURLEY**

'92, management and human resources  
Chief of Safety and Security



*"There are now three Cal Poly Pomona alumni in my department. We all graduated different years and we have talked about how different our experiences were coming from different majors. At the end of the day, we have that centralized feeling that CPP was home and was good to us. We're so proud to be Broncos."*

**DENISE MARTINEZ**

'17, graphic design  
Creative Content Designer

# BLACK THRIVING

A March Toward a More EQUITABLE CAMPUS COMMUNITY



*"We must challenge ourselves daily to promote equity, justice, and inclusion in our classrooms, programs, units, meetings, budgets, promotions, interactions, policies and procedures. I believe with all of us working together that a brighter day is on the horizon."*

**JONATHAN GRADY**

Senior associate vice president and dean of students

**BY DAVID SEDILLO**

Students, staff and faculty who identify as being of African descent were led through a 90-minute forum in May 2022 by psychologist Jacquelyn Johnson, who had been invited to Cal Poly Pomona to conduct an assessment. The goal: to gain insight into the well-being of Black individuals on campus in 11 distinct categories.

The results were troubling. The report found that intervention for faculty and staff was needed in all 11 categories, including areas such as cultural representation, upward mobility and authenticity. Eight of 11 categories were flagged for students.

The message was clear: Black students, staff and faculty felt minimized, underrepresented and frustrated. Data points revealed overwhelmingly that Black individuals felt they could not show up

as their authentic selves without fear of repercussions. The evidence served as an immediate call to action that culminated in the **Black Thriving Initiative (BTI)**, a campuswide and multi-year strategy that responds to anti-Blackness as an existential threat to the mission of Cal Poly Pomona. The initiative is the first of its kind in the California State University system.

BTI is built on four distinct phases: building capacity and consciousness, leveraging the mission, engaging (and re-engaging) Black communities,

and transforming the culture. Within each is a list of strategies comprised of various action items.

"We must challenge ourselves daily to promote equity, justice, and inclusion in our classrooms, programs, units, meetings, budgets, promotions, interactions, policies and procedures. I believe with all of us working together that a brighter day is on the horizon," says **Jonathan Grady**, senior associate vice president and dean of students, who leads the initiative.

**Teshia Roby**, associate vice president for learning and research, and **Cynthia Pickett**, presidential

associate for inclusion and chief diversity officer, serve as co-chairs.

To kick off the initiative, about 140 students, staff and faculty attended a launch symposium in December in the Bronco Student Center, and more participated via livestream. There was a collective excitement to begin the work, with an acknowledgement of the challenges ahead.

To transform the campus culture, specific and measurable action is necessary. This includes continuous education for all members of the campus community, as well as the development of action plans and recommendations at the divisional level across campus, all built into the multi-year strategy.

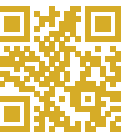
"My biggest hope for the future is twofold. I hope for an environment where our Black faculty, staff and

students are truly thriving at Cal Poly Pomona, and through that thriving, we are an example of how a community can come together to push through the tipping point of a movement that has long waited for this intentionality," says **Kaitlyn Sedzma**, chief of staff in the Division of Student Affairs and a member of the BTI working group.

To remain successful, the initiative will continue to invite involvement and collaboration from across the university, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, and CPP supporters and partners. This includes learning opportunity events, such as a movie screening and discussion during Black History Month, general feedback listening sessions and campuswide symposiums with guest speakers throughout the year.

**Across the board, students, staff, faculty and alumni look to the new initiative as a necessary step to make lasting and important change at Cal Poly Pomona.**

To learn more about the Black Thriving Initiative and join the mailing list, visit the website at [www.cpp.edu/bti/](http://www.cpp.edu/bti/)



"I'm excited and encouraged by the launch and comprehensive objectives of the Black Thriving Initiative! The enhancements that it brings our university can bless all. However, this initiative must be embraced as a long-term and permanent pursuit. It cannot be viewed or treated as a one-time project. We must be our brothers' and sisters' keeper or we deny the reality and teachings of our Creator."

**H. CARL CRAWFORD**

79, marketing management  
Member, Alumni Association Board of Directors  
Founding member, Black Alumni and Friends Chapter



"I hope that the Cal Poly Pomona campus will be known by Black students and faculty as a great place to learn where the unique contributions of all are valued and where a culture of mutual respect prevails. From the campus survey results, the data supported that not all Black students and faculty feel supported on campus. Through the Black Thriving Initiative, we hope to strengthen the organizational culture to fully reflect our core values and achieve a positive learning environment for all."

**BETTY T. ALFORD**

Professor, department chair and doctoral program director,  
Educational Leadership



"My hope for the future is that we will embody the full nature of equity, diversity and inclusion, especially for our Black students, faculty and staff. I hope for the elevation of voices in our community and for allyship to bridge gaps of knowledge, strength and love. Lastly, I hope for the continuation of awareness, action and accountability for all future Broncos to come."

**ASHLEY MASCARENHAS**

Student, business management  
ASI Officer of Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion



"The Black Thriving Initiative kickoff event brought into sharp focus the fact that our campus has a lot of work to do if we want to be a truly inclusive environment. My greatest hope is that it provides a framework to own our past mistakes while forging a new path forward that makes all students, staff and faculty feel valued and welcomed at Cal Poly Pomona."

**MATT WALSH**

Associate director, volunteer engagement,  
Alumni and External Relations





Alumnus Randal Henry published his fourth book in June, "Go South LA: An Afrocentric City Guide to South Los Angeles."

# Celebrating HOME

## Alumnus RANDAL HENRY Captures History, South LA Love in His Books

BY MELANIE JOHNSON

An ancient unfinished obelisk a half a world away inspired Randal Henry to finish what he started.

Four years ago, the alumnus visited the site of the Unfinished Obelisk in Aswan, Egypt, left by ancient Egyptians thousands of years ago.

"They shared how they learned to build obelisks and the issues that came up that made them unable to finish some and able to complete others, and I was very inspired by that," says Henry ('90, political science). "I thought, 'I have unfinished obelisks.' I thought about how the Egyptians found value in an 'unfinished' project and I thought, 'What can I learn from projects that I've started but have not finished?'"

Henry's obelisks were in the form of unfinished book manuscripts and ideas, partially completed stories and lists capturing the history and vibrancy of his native **South Los Angeles** and LA's **Crenshaw District**, where the husband and father of two sons has lived for 20 years.

"I was really motivated by that trip and upon my return to the states, I reflected upon how the Egyptians presented themselves, their history and their culture. I decided to dust off a few of my 'unfinished' ideas."

Henry has published four books since 2021. "**Born in South LA**" highlights more than 100 people with ties to that area of the city – a historical who's who of sorts. The book features notables like Famous Amos cookie founder Wally Amos, Lewis G. Green, who challenged voting restrictions in LA in 1870 to become the city's first Black voter, and pioneering TV show host, pianist, vocalist and composer Hadda Brooks, dubbed the "Queen of the Boogie."

In 2022, he published "**Go Crenshaw: An Afrocentric Guide to the Crenshaw District**" and "**C is for Capoeira: The Basics of Capoeira from A to Z**," a book about the Brazilian martial art. His latest publication, "**Go South LA: An Afrocentric City Guide to South Los Angeles**," published in June.

Henry, trained in community health sciences, epidemiology, health services research and implementation science, founded his own consulting firm called **Community Intelligence**. Henry's work is focused on increasing the capacity of vulnerable communities – and the organizations that serve them – to identify conditions that impact public health, mental health, safety, and/or community well-being; respond to those conditions in innovative ways; and evaluate the collective impact of their efforts.

While his career has focused on researching and authoring scientific reports on everything from racial disparities in diseases to firearm-related injuries, his books provide a different outlet.

"The books are a part of me expressing my more academic, historian and artistic side and less of my public health, scientific side," he says.

Henry's wife of 20 years, **Manal Aboelata**, also works in public health, serving as the deputy executive director of the **Prevention Institute**, a nonprofit focused on promoting disease prevention and health equity. She credits Henry's books with helping people to see South LA in a different light.

“People are always approaching South LA from a negative. It’s always about what it needs, what it doesn’t have,” she says. “These works are providing a counternarrative. Randy has centered Black lives and Black leaders right here in South LA. He talks about the genius here, of polishing the apple we already have.”

Henry, the second youngest of six, was born and spent his early years in the **Watts/Willowbrook area** of South LA. His parents divorced when he was young, and the family moved around a lot, ultimately landing in the San Gabriel Valley. He graduated from Nogales High School in La Puente and has an older brother, **Ralph Henry** (’76, behavioral health), who also is a CPP graduate.

When it was his turn to go to college, Randal Henry attended Cal State Long Beach for one semester but dropped out for financial reasons.

While working as a security guard on the night shift at Queen of the Valley Hospital in West Covina, Henry found out the hospital had a tuition reimbursement program. He applied to Cal Poly Pomona and was accepted provisionally, given two quarters to pass his classes before he was fully admitted.

He struggled with full-time work and school and found himself on academic probation after the first quarter, but a couple of professors and a counselor challenged him to do better.

“Despite what my grades were, they separately told me, “Randal, you’re a really smart guy, but something is going on in your life and you need to decide if you’re going to focus on school or focus on other things,” Henry says.

With renewed energy, he learned how to secure student loans, took jobs as a cook in the dining hall and a resident advisor in the residence halls, and got involved in student government and various clubs.

Another faculty member, the late **Bert Dorsey Hammond**, offered him an eye-opening opportunity. Hammond, a counselor and professor at the university, served as a special envoy for the French-speaking delegation at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles and offered Henry a job to drive the delegates – an opportunity to meet people

from around the world.

“Once I embraced Cal Poly Pomona, I fell in love with it,” Henry says. “I enjoyed being there and taking advantage of everything it had to offer.”

Although he came to college with a confidence deficit, it soon dissipated with the support and encouragement of mentors.

He recalls one professor telling the class that there was no difference between a student from his class at Cal Poly Pomona and one from Harvard, since both were using the same curriculum, books and grading criteria. Henry remembers the students laughing, but after the laughter subsided, the professor continued.

“He said, ‘If you can do well in this class, you can do well wherever you go,’” Henry says. “To my mind, the challenge was on. That led me to really focus on my grades. By doing well at Cal Poly Pomona, especially in my last two years where I aced out, I was prepared to go to any school in any program.”

After graduating, Henry went on to work as a program coordinator in health care facilities for developmentally disabled children and earned a master’s degree (1997) and a doctorate in public health (2006) at UCLA. He was as a senior research scientist for the **Department**

**of Defense and the Veterans Affairs Administration, UCLA, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and the LA County Department of Public Health.**

Besides his consulting business and his books, he is active in his community. He founded **Crenshaw WALKS**, an organization that aims to increase walking, biking, active transportation and multiculturalism in the Baldwin Hills/Crenshaw community and along the corridor.

**Marina Scott**, a marketer, web designer and photographer who recently relocated to Las Vegas from her native LA, has collaborated with Henry on several projects, including book, web and product design, as well as marketing and social media content creation.

She says that working with Henry is inspirational, and that his dedication to the Crenshaw district and South LA really shines through in every project he does.

“Dr. Henry knows South LA in a way that few do,” Scott says. “He sees it for what it was, what it is, and what it could be.”

She also worked with him on a series of reports about health disparities in the Black community called the **“Black Lives Matter Series,”** the Go Crenshaw website and the **Go Crenshaw Wayfinding Project**, which involved the reimagining and designing of 20 wayfinding signs posted along Crenshaw Boulevard that fit the neighborhood’s cultural and social environment.

In 2022, Henry created a photo installation highlighting South Los Angeles notables called **The Crenshaw Walk of Fame** for a two-day summer festival in the community.

Fellow South Los Angeles native **Frederick McNeill, Jr.** worked with Henry on the festival project, lending his expertise in marketing, development and program direction. They didn’t know each other before the project, but they connected.

“He is so knowledgeable and so on point in terms of being very direct, transparent and just easy to work with,” McNeill says. “It’s great to have



**“Dr. Henry knows South LA in a way that few do. He sees it for what it was, what it is, and what it could be.”**

**— MARINA SCOTT**

someone who I can call on who is an elder in the community and has the knowledge base he has.”

For Henry, it is all about tapping his talents, interests and passions to shine a light on the rich history and multiculturalism of South LA, the love the residents, particularly African Americans, have for the community, as well as the worldwide cultural impact South LA has had on civil rights advocacy, fashion, art and more.

“I have always loved Los Angeles, California. It’s the greatest city in the world in the best state in the union,” Henry says. “In LA, I can travel the world without ever leaving home. I can see, do, hear, taste and experience cultures from around the world and enjoy great weather while doing it.”



### An Extraordinary New Year's Debut

This year's forest-themed Rose Float enchanted crowds and took home the Extraordinaire Trophy in the **2023 Rose Parade**. Measuring 52 feet long and 25 feet tall, "**Road to Reclamation**" depicted the regenerative power of nature through gigantic snails and colorful fungi. With this year's award, the students from Cal Poly Pomona and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo have won 61 parade awards since 1949.

Floral, natural and edible materials covering the float included bromeliads, green mums, magnolia leaves, purple cabbages, broccoli, red

onions, coffee, citrus fruit, daikon radish, quinoa, dill, chickpeas, sunflower seeds, seaweed, almonds and oats. A special carnation, Florigene Moonshade, known for its distinctly vibrant royal purple, was used on the float's top snail.

For the 2024 Rose Parade, the Pomona and San Luis Obispo teams will celebrate their 75th anniversary. The parade theme is "Celebrating a World of Music."



### Tackling Real-World Challenges with Big Data

At the **Singelyn Center for Innovative Analytics**, students learn how to mine data to solve real-world problems and share their knowledge with industry leaders.

Graduate and undergraduate students participate in faculty-led projects that help businesses gain insight into challenges and develop actionable steps to address those problems. The center, which is part of the College of Business Administration, takes on about four to five projects each year.

"It's probably one of the best experiences I've had at Cal Poly Pomona," said alumnus **Sean Ta** ('22, computer information systems).

In a project for aircraft industry giant **Boeing**, Ta and three other students created a processing model to better analyze the company's maintenance data, gaining insights on their planes' most common defects and the areas on which they should focus. The team shared their progress on a biweekly basis with CPP faculty and Boeing representatives.

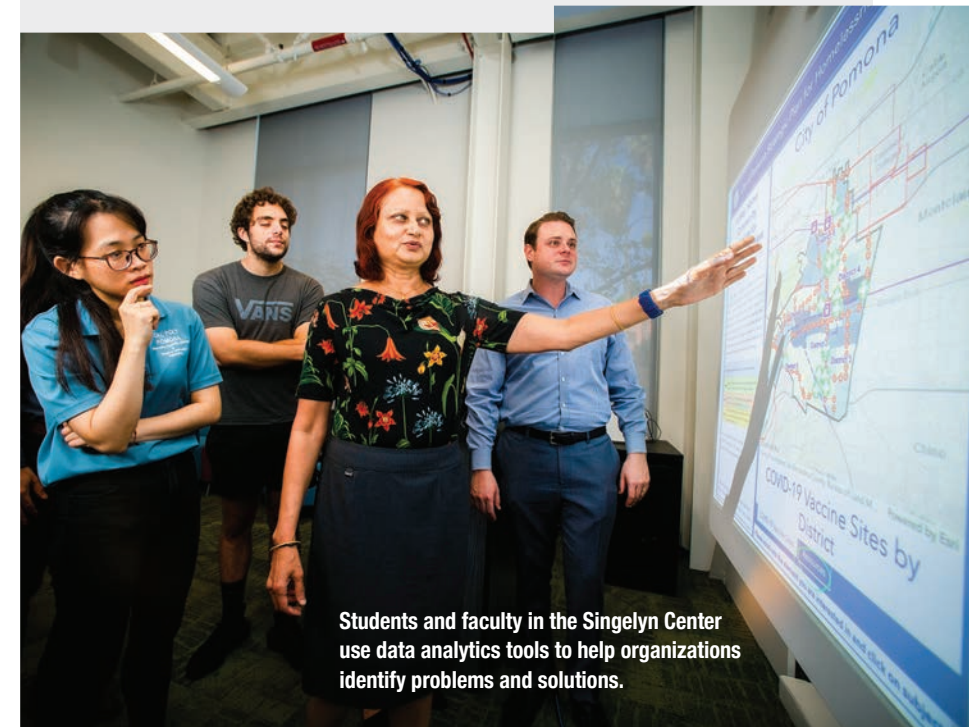
Ta now is a data associate analyst at **City National Bank** in Los Angeles, where he works in the company's Insights, Data Engineering & Analytics department. The main skill that he transferred to his career is Python coding.

"I was an amateur coder in Python before working on the projects," Ta said. "Because I worked with real, messy data at the center, which is very representative of how real company data is like, I gained experience I needed for my current job."

The center draws students from throughout the College of Business Administration, but students in other colleges are encouraged to participate too. Current projects include partnerships with **American Homes 4 Rent**, **Boeing**, **City of Pomona** and **Meta Reality Labs**.

Professor **Rita Kumar**, the center's director, enjoys supporting students as they grow and thrive in their work.

"The Singelyn Center is preparing students with the skills to succeed in their post-CPP life and careers," she said. "Analytics skills continue to be in high demand, and the center focuses on developing both the technical skills as well as skills in teamwork, communication and presentation that will prepare them to succeed and contribute to the community."



Students and faculty in the Singelyn Center use data analytics tools to help organizations identify problems and solutions.





## Two Alumni Receive Honorary Doctorates at Commencement

**CLARK RUCKER**  
'83, engineering technology

Clark Rucker loved to tinker from an early age. Between the ages of 5 and 10, he was obsessed with technology and had an insatiable desire to know how things worked.

"When I was little, my fascination led me to take things apart: radios, lamps, etc. ... just to see how they worked," Rucker said. "Sometimes, I couldn't put them back together, and Mom was not too happy about that."

The early fascination combined with an aptitude for math and science and a supportive high school physics teacher turned into a 43-year career in engineering. Throughout his career, Rucker has been a tireless advocate and mentor in helping students find their path through college and into their career.

After graduating from CPP, Rucker ('83, engineering technology) joined Northrop Grumman to work on the B-2 aircraft program. Five years later, he went to McDonnell Douglas/Boeing. He served as the director of **Phantom Works Quality, Boeing Defense, Space and Security** and retired after 33 years with the company.

"When it comes to supporting CPP students and trying to help make things better not just for students, but faculty and staff as well, I am very passionate about it," Rucker said. "Much of it came from my father who began his career as a military police officer in the Air Force, became a police detective for San Diego PD and was an artist his entire life. My dad touched a lot of people during his life and left a legacy when he passed 20 years ago. All that I am doing now is following in his footsteps."

**SEAN YU**  
'99, political science; management and human resources

Sean Yu has made it his philanthropic mission to better the life of college students.

While he found success as managing director and leader of **The Sean Yu Group at Morgan Stanley Private Wealth Management** in Pasadena, he remembers what it was like to be a college student struggling financially — taking out student loans and working part time. As an alumnus, he re-engaged with Cal Poly Pomona through his relationship with Political Science Professor Emeritus David Speak, who was one of his mentors.

"He knew about my expertise in the area of finance and thought I could help with the university's investments," said Yu ('99, political science; management and human resources). "School investment is very important. If we can help the university have a more stable return, then we can help so many students."

Yu, who repeatedly has been named a top financial advisor by **On Wall Street** and **Barron's**, has tapped his talents to serve the university community. He has served on the board of directors' investment committee for the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation and then transitioned to a similar role on the Cal Poly Pomona Philanthropic Foundation board. He also has participated in Professor for a Day on several occasions.

Yu has made \$1 million in charitable contributions, mainly to the Department of Political Science, supporting student travel, internships in human rights and justice organizations, creative activities, and scholarships for underprivileged students.

## History Professor Named to Foothill Transit Board

John Lloyd, co-chair of the **Alternative Transportation Committee** and history professor at Cal Poly Pomona, has been appointed to the **Foothill Transit Governing Board**, responsible for bringing the benefits of public transportation to the community.

When he was a student at Cal Poly Pomona in the 1980s, Lloyd had an unreliable car and made use of bus routes because he had few other options. Starting about 12 years ago, and as a faculty member, he began taking the bus once a week for environmental reasons, and so his relationship with Foothill Transit began in earnest. His passion for sustainability, environmental impact and accessibility has grown ever since.

"Public transportation helps students save money, reduces traffic congestion, keeps parking manageable, and it's vitally important for our commitment to sustainability," Lloyd said. "Statistically it's safer than driving and less stressful, too."



## Family Fun at the Fair

Huntley College of Agriculture students and farm animals had starring roles at this year's **LA County Fair**.

During the fair's month-long run in May, students presented on the college's livestock animals in the Big Red Barn, sharing everything about their characteristics, what they eat, and how Cal Poly Pomona students, faculty and staff work with them.

The petting zoo in the Big Red Barn is the most popular attraction at the fair, according to surveys, and featured more than 200 animals from Cal Poly Pomona, making it one of the largest petting zoos in the county. About 50 animals — including sheep, goats and pigs — gave birth during the fair.

The Big Red Barn also featured the "Storybook Farm" exhibit that shows the origins of famous nursery rhymes, when animals were a larger part of people's daily lives.

Other college exhibits at Fairplex included one on bugs and bees, the "Discovery Farm" outreach activities at **AGRIsCapes**, and the annual **Pumpkin Fest**.

Learn more about the AGRIsCapes Discovery Farm at [www.cpp.edu/agriscapes](http://www.cpp.edu/agriscapes).



## Brew Works Raises a Glass to Eight Years

**Innovation Brew Works (IBW)** celebrated its eighth anniversary with a party, featuring exclusive food items and a limited-edition beer menu made with Cal Poly Pomona-grown ingredients. Live music from student bands played throughout the night, guests toured the brewery and more than 100 people celebrated the occasion in April.

Business Professor **Lydia Chen Shah's** brand management class designed an exclusive anniversary drinking glass that guests could purchase as a memento. Shah's class has been partnering with IBW on various marketing projects since 2018.

Students bring a unique vantage point to projects that is key, Shah said.

"The students ask questions and see perspectives often missed by others," she said. "They offer a unique view coupled with the desire to learn by doing! That combination brings together valuable collaboration and remarkable results."

**Melody Young**, IBW manager, praised the students for their professionalism and responsiveness.

"It is always a pleasure working with Professor Shah's classes," Young said. "It was obvious the students took into account what we said we were looking for and came up with great designs. It resulted in the best response we have seen in the release of any merch."

Business student **Christy Medina**, whose group created the chosen logo on the glass, emphasized the value of the polytechnic learning experience.

"This class gave me the opportunity to work on a real, hands-on project," she said. "In the end, seeing our hard work pay off and being able to see the design in person on the glass felt surreal."







The Silver Streak stop gives the campus community direct access to downtown Los Angeles.

### CPP Team Wins Global Cybersecurity Competition

It's back-to-back wins for the Broncos' cybersecurity team, which took first place at the 2022-23 **Collegiate Penetration Testing Competition**, the largest offense-based cybersecurity competition for college students. During the final, 15 teams from around the world used their white hat hacking skills to break into the computer networks of a mock hotel and tourist destination. The challenge was to start from public hotel lobby kiosks and see if they could access other hotel systems, including those that control reservations and access the rooms. A new social engineering component had students call the hotel front desk to try to get personal information about hotel guests. "The skills needed in the competition are not merely cyber-related technical skills but also analysis of cyber risk with respect to the client's industry, report writing, presentations, interpersonal interactions etc.," said **Ron Pike**, team advisor and associate professor of computer information systems. Cal Poly Pomona's eight-person team included students from computer information systems, computer science and computer engineering. Stanford University took second, and the University of Central Florida placed third at this year's event, held at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

### CPP to DTLA: Silver Streak Arrives on Campus

Need a ride to downtown Los Angeles? The new **Silver Streak** bus stop at Cal Poly Pomona will get students there in less than an hour and free of charge. **Foothill Transit** and the university unveiled the new bus stop for the popular Silver Streak rapid bus line in front of the Student Services Building in January. With the **Class Pass**, all Cal Poly Pomona students can ride the bus for free — as well as any other local bus line operated by Foothill Transit. "Silver Streak service enhances quality of life on campus by providing fast, efficient transit service to campus without adding to traffic and parking congestion," said History Professor **John Lloyd**, who co-chairs the **Alternative Transportation Committee** at CPP. "In fact, the more people use it, the more it reduces traffic around campus and eases parking headaches." Lloyd envisions greater opportunities for student projects, internships and even guest speakers to come to campus. "If students have internships and other opportunities in downtown Los Angeles, the Silver Streak provides a convenient connection to those opportunities that is faster than driving and saves them money, too," he said. "If faculty want to bring guest speakers from Los Angeles to campus, the Silver Streak will get them here faster than driving, and with less stress."



Students from Mountain View High School in El Monte participate in the CEIS teacher academy.

### Teacher Academy Bolstered by \$100K Gift

The College of Education and Integrative Studies has received a \$25,000 gift and an endowment valued at about \$82,000 to support its teacher academy, which aims to ease California's teacher shortage by preparing high school students to become teachers. **Ivan Misner**, founder and chief visionary officer of **Business Network International**, provided the funds, which will expand opportunities for training and supporting aspiring teachers. "Young people represent 20 percent of our population but they are 100 percent of our future," Misner said. "Teachers influence the future by influencing their students. There is no worthier cause." Since 2019, CEIS has partnered with school districts in Los Angeles County so that high school students can learn more about the profession and required coursework to become a teacher. In addition, students tour Cal Poly Pomona and engage with faculty, staff and students.

### New Documentary on Systemic Racism and Alienation

Noted scholar, sociologist and activist **W.E.B. Du Bois** posed the question to Black Americans: "How does it feel to be a problem?" In his writings, Du Bois was exploring the alienation that African Americans often feel in being part of America yet feeling apart from it in the face of racism. More than a century later, Philosophy and Ethnic and Women's Studies Adjunct Professor **Thomas Keith** is searching for answers to that question and more in a new documentary film aptly titled, "**How Does It Feel to Be a Problem?**" Keith co-produced the film with **J.W. Wiley**, a scholar, author and founder of the consulting firm Xamining Diversity. The film, available on streaming services, explores the impact of systemic racism on Black Americans and Native Americans, anti-Asian hate, discrimination against immigrants from Mexico and Central America, and the way ideals around masculinity are related to white supremacy. "When we started interviewing people, they were posing questions I never thought about," Keith said. "I was surprised a couple of times, and I said we need to go in deep." The filmmakers interviewed authors, activists, scholars and individuals involved in social justice work. Actors **Danny Glover** and **Ed Asner** and musician **Henry Rollins** appear. Musician Jackson Browne wrote and performed the trailer's song. The film won Best Documentary Film at the Soho International Film Festival and Best Director at the Queens World Film Festival in 2022. Cal Poly Pomona Philosophy Associate Professor **Alex Madva**, an expert on implicit bias, also provides commentary in the film. "Questions about America's racial history and racial trajectory are front and center right now," he said. "There is an incredible fight happening in how we are teaching racial history and what that means to young and old people alike."



Philosophy faculty member Thomas Keith co-produced a film on systematic racism.

### Ayana Fields Named Female Athlete Of the Year

For the first time in 23 years, Cal Poly Pomona is home to the Female Athlete of the Year from the **California Collegiate Athletic Association**.

Broncos track athlete **Ayana Fields** earned the prestigious honor after a banner 2022-23 junior season, including nine gold medals at the CCAA track meet and All-America honors in four events.

Twelve sports information staffs across the CCAA voted to award Fields this honor (women from all sports at all CCAA schools

were eligible), making her just the seventh woman to win this award in school history.

Over the last two seasons, Fields has not lost a race at the CCAA Championships. She has earned nine gold medals and been named the Track Athlete of the Meet on both occasions. This year, she registered 25 points with wins in the 200m, 400m, 4x100 and the 4x400. Her time of 22.92 in the 200m was the second-fastest in all of Division II this spring. Her efforts helped Cal Poly Pomona repeat as the CCAA Champions, a title the program had not won since 1998.



### IN MEMORIAM



#### Toni-Mokjaetji Humber

Professor Emerita Toni-Mokjaetji Humber, a longtime educator and pioneering researcher, died May 11 after a battle with lymphoma. Humber joined the Department of Ethnic and Women's Studies in 1995 and taught courses on African American studies, Africa and Black culture. She retired in 2010 but continued to teach on campus until 2016.



#### Sadiq Shah

Sadiq Shah, a former administrator with extensive expertise in research in academia, died March 21 after a brief illness. Shah, associate vice president emeritus for research, innovation and economic development, worked at the university from 2016 until his retirement in 2021. In his role, he was tasked with growing the university's reputation for research and helping to secure external funding.



#### Peggy J. Snyder

Professor Emerita Peggy J. Snyder, who chaired the College of Business Administration's management and human resources department, died Feb. 21. She was 89. After retiring in 1999, she created the endowed Peggy J. Snyder Scholarship Fund to support students who demonstrated academic achievement and leadership. Snyder was active in Pace Setters, an organization for retired faculty and staff.



#### Richard W. Willson

Richard Willson, a leading transportation planning expert and educator who inspired generations of students, died unexpectedly on Dec. 6, 2022, after a cardiac arrest while jogging. He was 66. Willson joined the Department of Urban and Regional Planning in 1986 and served three terms as chair. He created the department's first endowment and organized the Dale Prize for Excellence in Urban and Regional Planning, recognizing scholars and practitioners in emerging trends.



#### Earl Gales, Jr.

Alumnus Earl Gales Jr., a founding member of the Cal Poly Pomona Philanthropic Foundation Board, died Nov. 20. He was 73. Gales was the founder and chairman of Jenkins/Gales & Martinez, Inc., one of the nation's largest minority-owned architecture, engineering and construction management firms. His firm helped build the Metro Green and Blue lines and the Hollywood-Highland Station. Other significant projects under his leadership include the Hollywood Park Development, Banc of California Stadium, Los Angeles Convention Center, and the LAX Landside Access Modernization Project.



President Coley speaks at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Pomona on Super Sunday.

### Super Sunday: 'A College Education Is More Important Now Than Ever'

For 18 years, Cal Poly Pomona has partnered with predominantly African American faith-based organizations to share the power of a college education.

In February, President **Soraya M. Coley** and Provost **Jennifer Brown** joined a host of campus representatives at two Pomona churches to share their personal stories and important college-related information to inspire families, and to advance access, opportunity and success for African American students. Their visits are part of the **CSU Super Sunday** initiative.

In light of the pandemic, each leader sought to confront doubts about the value of higher education and Cal Poly Pomona's polytechnic experience.

"Lately — across the country — we've heard disheartening myths that a college degree isn't really worth it," Coley said at **Antioch Missionary Baptist Church**. "However, I can assure you that it is the best pathway to careers that are secure, rewarding, well compensated and in demand."

Of the jobs created in the United States in the past few years, nine out of 10 went to individuals with a college degree. By 2030, it's projected that 40 percent of all California job openings will require a degree.

While national college costs continue to soar, CSU degrees remain some of the most affordable. About 80 percent of CSU students receive financial aid, and more than 50 percent graduate debt-free.

"Whether you are a young student with college still years away, an incoming freshman, a community college transfer or even someone who started college and never finished, the CSU is ready to help," Coley said.

# **GIFT AND TAX PLANNING**

## **GOOD NEWS FOR 2023!**

**Now that tax season is behind us, you may be looking for ways to save income taxes for 2023 and make a gift to Cal Poly Pomona.**

### **HERE ARE SOME CONSIDERATIONS:**

#### **New IRA Rule**

You do not have to make a Required Minimum distribution before age 73. However, if you are 70 ½ years old, you can make a gift directly to CPP from your IRA and avoid paying income taxes on the distribution.

#### **IRA to CGA Opportunity**

\*New\* If over 70 ½, you can make a one-time distribution from an IRA directly to a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA). No income to you means no taxes paid on the transfer. CGAs provide a fixed income for life at substantial payment rates.

#### **Appreciated Assets**

Make an outright gift to Cal Poly Pomona using appreciated assets instead of cash. You can save on income tax and capital gain tax using stock or real estate.

#### **CONTACT**

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