A KHC Origin Story

BY DR. CLAUDIA GARCIA-DES LAURIERS
DIRECTOR, KHC

Recently, I had the opportunity of speaking at length with Dorothy Fleck and learned a bit more about the origin of the Kellogg Honors College as we reflect on our 20 trips around the sun. Dorothy, Director of the Transfer Center, worked as an advisor to many students at Cal Poly Pomona. While advising students she was inspired by their incredible academic ability. At the time (the late 1990s or early 2000s), there was no honors program to support and challenge these amazing students. Dorothy got to work. She took a team to visit the well-regarded Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University. This became the starting point of our CPP Honors Program. From its very inception, the goal of the honors program was to be inclusive, the talented students came from all different backgrounds and for her, it was important for the program to serve the diverse community of Cal Poly Pomona. She wrote a grant for $100,000 and submitted it to the CSU Chancellor’s Office. It was funded. A planning committee chaired by an Associate Dean from the College of Engineering and composed of a faculty member from each CPP college plus the Director of Financial Aid and Dorothy met weekly for several months. After much work and academic senate approval, the honors program was born. The KHC is unique also in that it has a strong representation of STEM majors including engineering. During the early years of the program, Interim Director, Dr. Sara Garver and Dorothy Fleck worked tirelessly to make the KHC serve our campus making adjustments to support the success of our specific community. What the KHC has become is a product of its intentional design and amazing leadership in the years that followed. We are so lucky and grateful for Dorothy’s vision and example of how incredible advisors can change the course of an institution and student success.

KHC 20th Anniversary Lecture: Save the Date!

BY DR. CLAUDIA GARCIA-DES LAURIERS
DIRECTOR, KHC

I am excited to announce that on October 19, 2023, we will be holding the KHC 20th Anniversary Lecture at CPP. Our invited speaker is Ms. Katye Echazzareta, an electrical engineer and science communicator. She will be speaking to our Cal Poly Pomona community about her journey to space—a journey that began with migration from Mexico to the US. To learn more about our speaker...
Knitting Community with the Poly Purlers

BY KARLA MACEDO
KHC, STUDENT VOLUNTEER

Named after a knitting technique, the Poly Purlers is a club started by KHC student Haily Rubia in 2017-2018. Then the Covid-19 pandemic hit and meetings had to be moved online--attendance quickly declined. During the fall of 2023, the Poly Purlers finally started meeting in person once more. Haily, an animal science major, took up knitting to strengthen her hands for veterinary practice. Current president, KHC Student, Julia Portales notes that crochet has been an excellent way to manage stress. It has also helped her build concentration for lecture classes strengthening her learning in class. Julia is amused and delighted that so many students have started knitting and crocheting in the Honors Commons. While crocheting and knitting is a great hobby, it teaches lessons far beyond purling. The top three lessons that Poly Purlers can take away from this wonderful hobby are:

**Patience:** “not only with myself ,but with other people” said Julia. Patience is essential with crocheting because you need patience for the long-term rewards of this craft; **Teaching:** When it comes to teaching new members, Julia notes “It is a skill to teach just as it is to learn.”; **Leadership:** Taking on the role of president of a club is a huge commitment, and with that comes with a learning process as well.
The Associated Students Incorporated conducted its yearly elections this last spring semester. Honors Students Nouyan Li ran for Vice President, Esperanza Lopez was on the ballot for Agriculture Senator, Megan Shadrick ran for Student Interest Council Senator At-Large, and Ilke Suzer was a candidate for President. We are proud of all of the KHC students who ran for office and appreciate their engagement in student government. Megan Shadrick won her bid for Senator at large, and the new ASI president for the next academic year is none other than KHC student Ilke Suzer! Congratulations!

Megan Shadrick,
ASI Senator at Large 2023-24

Ilke Suzer, ASI President 2023-24

The Kellogg Honors College Club is our student organization in charge of programming and community building. This year the E-board was composed of Madison Sarmiento, Federico Parres, Karla Macedo, Roy Mouad, Sherwin Sathish, Hannah Herrick, and Joshua Salvador. This year's events included a Halloween Spooktacular party, a trip to Laserland, a Bob Ross Paint Night, and our formal, Floral Fantasy. The most well-attended events were the Laserland and Floral Fantasy Formal with each bringing together more than 50 KHC students! We look forward to more amazing KHCC adventures next academic year.

Click icon to read Ilke Suzer's welcome message to incoming Broncos on p. 4 of 2023-24 Bronco Guide Magazine

Click icon for information on running for student government office
KHCC Halloween Spooktacular

KHCC Bob Ross Paint Night
KHCC Floral Fantasy Formal

KHC Trivia Winners of the Prestigious Choi Trophy

Best Dressed Honors Students

KHC NEWSLETTER
Celebrating the KHC Class of 2023!

Honors Symposium & Convocation 2023

CLAUDIA GARCIA-DES LAURIERS
DIRECTOR, KHC

The celebration of the KHC Class of 2023 began on March 5, 2023 with the Kellogg Honors Symposium at the Research, Scholarly & Creative Activities Conference (RSCA) held yearly at Cal Poly Pomona. The conference is organized by the Office of Undergraduate Research. Graduating honors students presented their research projects after working all year long with dedicated faculty mentors, creating projects, and gathering and analyzing data, culminating with their research posters or presentations. It is always one of our favorite times of the year at KHC, getting a chance to see all of our honors students’ hard work come to fruition. The spring semester ends for our seniors with Convocation, a chance to honor our students, celebrate with their families, and award graduation sashes to students that completed the KHC program. Click the icons below to see the Convocation Program and the research posters.

Convocation Program

KHC Research Posters

Photos of KHC Research Symposium

Convocation 2023, Kellogg House, Cal Poly Pomona
Celebrating the KHC Class of 2023!

KHC Class of 2023 by the Numbers

CLAUDIA GARCIA-DES LAURIERS
DIRECTOR, KHC

The overall GPA average of our graduating class was a 3.71. Average years to graduation: FTF 4.2 Transfer 2.1

48% had jobs or were attending graduate school, and an additional 16% would be attending grad school in the next 2 years.

32% will be attending mostly graduate programs in CA, but also other states, and Anna Jurado will study engineering in the United Kingdom.

16% had jobs lined up with top companies. Some of these jobs were secured after participating in a summer internship with the company, like Briana Rittle who interned and now works at Intel.

Graduate Programs Recruiting
KHC Class of 2023

University of California, Riverside
California State University Fullerton
Loughborough University, UK
University of Southern California
Cal Poly Pomona
University of California Los Angeles
Oklahoma State
Keck Graduate Institute
University of California, Davis
Western University of Medical Sciences
University of California Santa Barbara
Cal Baptist University

Companies Hiring
KHC Class of 2023

Terran Orbital
Paramount/Pluto TV
Accenture
Dick Sporting Goods
Disney
Intel
Mercer
Bain Consulting
Congratulations KHC Class of 2023!

Commencement Highlights
Photos by Won Choi and Tom Zasadzinski
KHC Undergraduate Research Highlights

BY DR. CLAUDIA GARCIA-DES LAURIERS
KHC DIRECTOR

Undergraduate research is one of the most impactful activities that enhances the student experience and supports graduation rates, retention, and workforce readiness. Research teaches students critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving, analytical skills, teamwork, oral and written communication, leadership, and so many other skills that prepare them for the future of work and prepares them for graduate school. Our program works very hard to provide opportunities for our students to engage in research and creative activities that will build their skills and enhance their resumes. KHC students across all majors have participated in and successfully presented their research at local and regional conferences.

In April of this year, KHC students traveled to Missoula, Montana to present at the Western Regional Honors Conference where honors students from the western region connect and share their research and creative activities. This provides an excellent networking opportunity. In addition, several honors students presented at the Annual College of Science Symposium held at the end of the Spring 2023 semester and other symposia, some even bringing home awards for their amazing work.

College of Science Research Symposium

Students Pictured: Yaman Sebai, Nairi Azazian, Raphael Napuinas, Michelle Milan, Isaiah Hessler, Jonathan Pena

KHC @ the Western Regional Honors Conference, University of Montana, Missoula, MT

Left to Right: Won Choi (KHC Academic Coordinator), Dinah Ramirez, Nolan Edwards, Priscilla Montieta, Zhong Ooi, Khan Doan, Dr. Marcus Ekun (KHC Faculty Fellow), Jose Ortiz, Yaman Sebai, Maranda Hernandez, Maya Santos, Jazlyn Jiang, Cesar Valdivinos

KHC Student, Dinah Ramirez
Winner of the Lowell B. Overton Undergraduate Research Symposium: Best Poster Award
Kyle Chao & Melane Olmedo Study Abroad in Geneva, Switzerland

Study Abroad March 22nd to April 2nd Paris, France and Geneva, Switzerland

Reflection by Melane Olmedo

The first two days in Paris were amazing. The food was amazing and the architecture was breathtaking. Day Two was packed with anything you would want to see in Paris. We were able to see all the amazing monuments in a single day. First, we visited the Palace of Versailles. Then we stopped off at the Eiffel Tower and saw the Arc De Triumph. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience to see the Mona Lisa and all the other works of art in the Louvre Museum. The train ride from Paris to Geneva was just as gorgeous as Paris. The first day in Geneva was spent at the student symposium with Webster University. We were able to learn and have healthy discussions with students from all over the world. The rest of the time in Geneva was spent at site visits with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO’s). Each organization was different and offered much to learn. The final full day in Switzerland was spent in the countryside. This is my first time traveling overseas, and it is an experience I will have with me forever. Thanks to the Kellogg Honors College for the financial support provided through an enrichment grant, and to Dr. Renford Reese for organizing this trip.

Photos courtesy of Kyle Chao & Melane Olmedo
Current KHC Students Shine!
By Won Choi
KHC Academic Coordinator

Honors students work throughout the year applying for various opportunities to lead clubs, start clubs, and conduct research among other high-impact practices. In our CPU2990H course, we teach students to search for opportunities for scholarships and internships on and off campus. These experiences help our students grow and become career ready. These are a few of the students who are shining bright this year. Click the icons to learn more about the programs or organizations involved.

Political Science Major, Aakriti Adhikari is interning with the Forum for Women, Law and Development

English Major, Nolan Edwards was selected to participate in the McNair Scholars Program.

Chemistry major, Angela Gotinco was admitted to the NASA-JPL Summer Internship 2023, Earth, Science and Technology Division, was the recipient of the Chemistry and biochemistry Scholarship and the AAB Memorial Science for All Scholarship, and was accepted to the CPP Liquid rocket Laboratory-Bronco Launch Vehicle 1 Testing and Recovery Team.

Animal Science Major, Karen Hung attended the Animal Pre-Veterinary Medical Association national symposium and was elected to the national board.

Food Science Major, ShuTing Chen is conducting genomics research this summer at Washington University in St. Louis. She was also selected as part of the McNair Scholars program and received the Norman Williamson Jr. Scholarship.

Civil Engineering Major, Khan Doan was selected Co-Design captain of the Student Steel Bridge Competition team for 2022-23 Academic Year. The team placed second in regionals and 7th in nationals!

Kinesiology Major, Kaitlin Gomez will be interning at Pomona Valley Hospital in their Physical Therapy Department.

Architecture major, Diego Herrera earned internships with the Southern California chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects and with architectural firm ZGF.

Kinesiology Major, Lauren Lamoreaux is interning with Vistendo and exercise science company.

Did we miss you? Current students and alumni click the icon to share your success and look out for us highlighting your achievements in upcoming issues of the KHC newsletter.
Current KHC Students Shine! cont.
By Won Choi
KHC Academic Coordinator

Click the icons to learn more about the programs or organizations involved.

Civil Engineering Major, Justin Mills received several scholarships including one through the Native American Tribal Services and secured a position at the Native American Student Center.

Mechanical Engineering Major, Stephanie Strain received the Mickey Leland Energy Fellowship from the National Energy Technology Laboratory.

Psychology major, Lauryn Vaughn will serve as a research assistant in Dr. Vivian Seyranian’s Transformational Research Lab.

History major, Madison Vaughn received the Teach for America Ignite Fellowship.

Civil Engineering Major, Kennedy Williams will serve on the Executive Board of the California Land Surveyors Association Student Chapter.

Electrical Engineering Major, Raymond Wong will intern at NASA-JPL in Pasadena, CA.

Kinesiology Major, Gabriela Rios was hired as an Emergency Medicine Scribe at Victor Valley Global Medical Center.

Chemistry Major, Jenna Surdzial will be traveling to Jülich, Germany to conduct research as part of the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst German Academic Exchange Service Research (DAAD) Internships in Science and Engineering (RISE).

Physics major, Olivia Walsh received an Summer Research fellowship in the Department of Physics at Stanford University.

Hospitality Major, Katie Wilson will intern at The Welk a Marriott Vacations Worldwide property in Escondido, CA.

Computer Science major Cleo Yau has a Cyber risk and financial analyst internship at Deloitte.

Computer Science major, Krista Zagarian has been interning with Northrop Grumman.

Astronomy major, Dylan Hope will be doing a summer REU at University of Wyoming and remotely at the Apache Point Telescope in New Mexico.
Click on the icons on the left to read about some of the newsworthy activities that KHC students and staff participated in.

**CPP Computer Science Develops New Programs for Robot Spot**
*Poly Post, April 25, 2023*—KHC Student Mark Haddad among those participating in this work

**Political Science Graduate Embraces Opportunities to Learn and Do**
*PolyCentric*—KHC Student Melane Olmeda featured in this story

**CPP Graduate Jose Ortiz Reflects on Academic Journey**
*PolyCentric*—KHC Student Jose Ortiz featured

**Study Abroad to Geneva Provides CPP Students with Cultural Exchange, Career Opportunities**
*PolyCentric*—KHC Students Kyle Chao and Melane Olmeda participated in this program with KHC support

**Broncos Earn 13 All-America Awards at 2023 Nationals**
Track and Field Athlete and KHC Student Jaelyn Thomas part of this award-winning team

*KHC student & Apparel Management Major, Andrea Avalos, campus fashionista*

---

**Connect with Us**

- [Instagram](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Email](#)
- [Website](#)