



Cal Poly Pomona

KELLOGG HONORS COLLEGE

KHC NEWSLETTER

VOL. 4, ISSUE 1 • FEBRUARY 2025

Official Newsletter of the Kellogg Honors College



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NEW YEAR, NEW LOOK

DR. CLAUDIA GARCÍA-DES LAURIERS, KHC DIRECTOR

As part of our new campus-wide rebranding strategy, we have a new look. However, you can still expect a strong commitment to inclusive academic excellence here at the KHC. I am celebrating five years here as director, and I am excited to share with you some incredible changes that are coming as we begin the new calendar year. If you drop by our office you will see some new faces. Won Choi left KHC for a new position as Associate at the Office of Undergraduate Research, CPP. Won was our academic coordinator for 14 years! He has left very big shoes to fill, and a lasting and important impact. However, a new face will be joining us as the academic coordinator, Christian J. Murillo. Christian brings incredible experience and is a KHC alum. I am so excited to welcome him to the team!



KHC SAYS FAREWELL TO WON CHOI

Since 2010, Won Choi has been part of the Kellogg Honors College as our Academic Coordinator. In his 14 years of service, Won has left an indelible mark on our students as a mentor and advisor. We will miss his expertise in honors education, empathy, and incredible work ethic. KHC is so grateful for his service, but we are also so proud of his promotion to Associate in the Office of Undergraduate Research at Cal Poly Pomona. In his new position, he will continue to bring the same level of exceptional support to student success. Congratulations Won and thank you from all of us at KHC!



TWO KHC STUDENTS AWARDED MEP-WISE SCHOLARSHIP

Maximizing Engineering Potential (MEP) and Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) are two programs at CPP to support the success of underrepresented students in the field of engineering. This year two KHC students, Anton Van Oppen (top) and Seth Folles (bottom) were recipients of these scholarships. They are pictured here with the Dean of the College of Engineering, Andrew Ketsdever.

Photos by Tom Sasadsinski



[Click icon to learn more about MEP](#)



[Click icon to learn more about WiSE](#)

KELLOGG HONORS COLLEGE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR RECIPIENTS



LANA HY

JAI SUTARIA

JUSTIN MILLS

ILKE SUZER



JUCINDA
LOPEZ

FIONN
ENTUS

HASTI ABBASI
KENARSARI

OLIVIA
WALSH

EIGHT KHC STUDENTS DESIGNATED PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARS FOR 2024-25

The President's Scholars program is one of the most prestigious recognitions of academic achievement Cal Poly Pomona awards. This year, eight of the twenty-five students chosen for these prestigious awards are Kellogg Honors College students.

[Click the icon to learn more about the Presidential Scholars Program](#)



AADI MEHTA CHAMPIONS FREE SPEECH WITH NEW CLUB

This academic year, I started the Bronco Free Speech Forum, a club designed to promote free speech and expression among Cal Poly Pomona students, faculty, and staff. As president, I established this organization to bridge the political divide that is pushing students further away from one another and create a safe space for all students and faculty to voice their opinions on critical issues facing them. Our club's goal is to motivate Broncos to be more politically engaged in community affairs and feel compelled to share their thoughts and experiences with other individuals, even those they may disagree with. While Americans on different sides of the political spectrum are not talking to each other, here they do. Some of the events our club holds are Socratic seminars and discussions, one-on-one and team debates, insightful presentations from e-board members, and hosting guest speakers from on and off campus. Upcoming activities for the Spring 2025 semester include our Introduction Meeting on January 28, our Abortion Panel with different Pro-Life and Pro-Choice organizations throughout Southern California on February 25, our Great Debate on Artificial Intelligence on March 11, and our Socratic Seminar on Censorship on April 8. We meet every Tuesday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm in BSC Orion and Andromeda. Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please contact me at aamehta@cpp.edu.



KHC ADVISORY COUNCIL ADDS STUDENT AND ALUMNI REPRESENTATION

For the 2024-2025 academic year we have expanded representation on the KHC Advisory Council. Along with faculty representatives from each college, we also added student and alumni representatives. This year's advisory board are:

- Dr. Renny Tang, College of Environmental Design
- Dr. Ghada Gad, College of Engineering
- Dr. Marcus Elam, Huntley College of Agriculture
- Dr. Denisse Vasquez Guevara, College of Letters Arts and Social Sciences
- Dr. Preeti Wadwha, College of Business Administration
- Dr. Neha Singh, Collins College of Hospitality
- Dr. Dennis Quinn, College of Education and Integrative Studies
- Dr. Janel Ortiz, College of Science
- Karla Macedo, KHCC President, Student Representative
- Ashish Hingle, Alumni Member
- Christian J. Murillo, Alumni Member

This year we will work on alumni engagement, assessment, and honors faculty development.



KHC Recruiting new students at Fall Preview

THE KELLOGG HONORS COLLEGE & ASICPP SCUBA PROGRAM PRESENT
Dr. Justin Dunnavant
 Assistant Professor of Archaeology, UCLA
 Maritime Archaeology and the African Diaspora:
 From Slave Ships to the Black Star Line

Traditional African diaspora archaeology has predominantly focused on terrestrial sites, exploring plantations, maroonage, post-emanicipation communities, and urban landscapes. However, recent advancements in maritime archaeology coupled with the emergence of a new generation of researchers and groundbreaking discoveries, have significantly expanded the field's scope. This presentation provides a comprehensive overview of the history and current state of African diaspora maritime archaeology, while also outlining future research directions. Drawing on my personal experiences excavating the Clotilde and ongoing efforts to locate the Black Star Line, I will highlight the significance of underwater archaeology in reconstructing the complex narratives of the African diaspora.

Event Details
 November 12, 2024 Bronco Student Center 5:00-7:00 pm
 Orion Suite

DR. JUSTIN DUNNAVANT SHARES HIS RESEARCH WITH THE CPP COMMUNITY

On November 12, 2024 over 60 students and CPP community members joined us for a lecture by Archaeologist, Dr. Justin Dunnavant from UCLA. KHC partnered with CPP's SCUBA program to invite Dr. Dunnavant to our campus. This program hosts lectures throughout the year that highlight the work of scientific divers and other diving professionals.

Dr. Dunnavant's research is centered on underwater archaeology of various shipwreck sites including vessels involved in the Atlantic slave trade such as the Clotilde, a project funded by the National Geographic Society. Archaeological methods can be an incredible tool for elevating stories and voices not visible in the "official" historical record. Dr. Dunnavant partnered with *Diving with a Purpose* a community organization of divers involved in historical and environmental preservation to learn scuba diving. His new project focuses on locating shipwrecks associated with the **Black Star Line** the first Black-owned shipping line started by Marcus Garvey.

Click the icons to learn more



CPP SCUBA Program



The Clotilda



The Black Star Line



Dr. Justin Dunnavant's Research



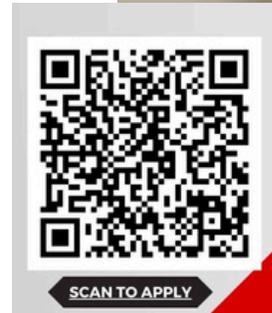
Left to Right: Dr. Olukemi Sawyerr, AVP of Academic Innovation, CPP President Soraya Coley, Dr. Justin Dunnavant, Dr. Claudia Garcia-Des Lauriers, KHC Director

KHC STUDENT CHOSEN FOR CSU PREDOCTORAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

KHC Student Nuoyan “Promise” Li was selected as a CSU Pre-Doctoral Scholar for the 2024-2025 academic year. The program is designed to provide mentorship, a scholarship, and research opportunities for aspiring doctoral students. Students work with a faculty mentor and conduct research, get support through the graduate school application process, and connect with possible doctoral mentors.

The scholarship students receive is to help pay for GRE prep, professional development, application fees, and other costs involved with preparing for doctoral programs. Nuoyan is in the Department of English and Modern Languages and is currently working on applying to doctoral programs.

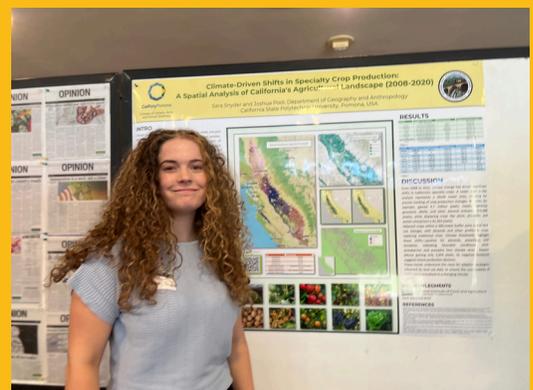
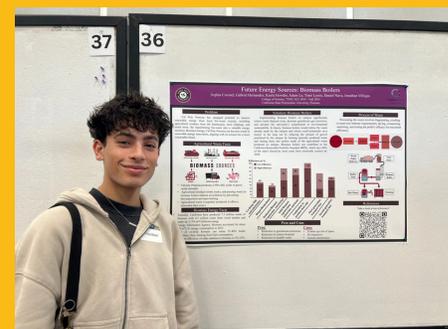
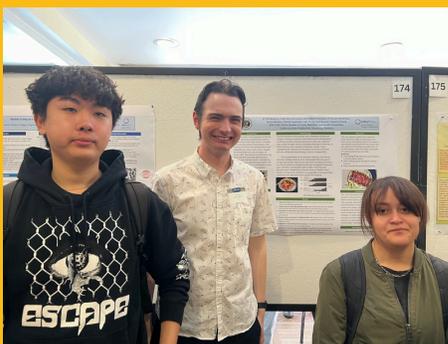
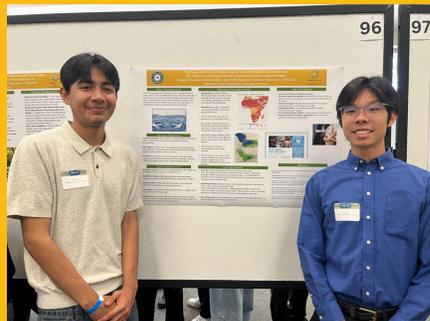
We encourage students planning to graduate Fall 2025 or Spring 2026 and that are committed to applying to doctoral programs to apply. Recently, a similar program for students interested in becoming health professionals. The HTP scholars program, for health professionals, is accessed through the Pre-Doc web page.



KHC STUDENTS PRESENT THEIR RESEARCH AT THE POLYX SHOWCASE

The fall PolyX showcase was the largest in CPP history so far. Over 500 student research projects were presented, among these were honors college students. In addition, the Kellogg Honors College has recently received PolyX designation. PolyX is a designation that highlights CPPs signature polytechnic experiences. The KHC is certainly aligned with the CPP mission of bringing a signature polytechnic experience to all of our students through honors courses, community service, and engaged learning experiences.

KHC Students: Luke Chiang, Cyril Russel, Tomi Lessis, Julian Date, and Sara Snyder



KHC WELCOMES NEW ACADEMIC COORDINATOR

BY WON CHOI

We are very excited to welcome Christian J. Murrillo as the new Academic Coordinator to the Kellogg Honors College (KHC). I first met Christian at CPP in Fall 2009, when I was an academic advisor at CPP's [Educational Opportunity Program](#) (EOP). In 2010 I became the KHC Academic Coordinator and Christian joined the KHC as a sophomore. I got to know Christian through KHC advising, activities, and CE events. In 2012, Christian was among KHC students who attended the CSU Honors Council conference at CSU Fresno. At the time, Christian had just started academic research with CPP faculty and wanted to observe student research presentations. After the conference, we continued on to the very first KHC Yosemite retreat. In 2014, Christian was among KHC students who attended the Western Regional Honors Council (WRHC) conference at Metropolitan State University of Denver-- where this conference will be held again this year. Cont. P. 8



KHC SPONSORS CONFERENCE ON INDIGENOUS SCIENCE IN MESOAMERICA

KHC and CPP hosted Southern California scholars and students for a symposium that highlighted Indigenous Science in ancient Mexico and Central America. Speakers from the University of Texas, Austin, The Getty, San Jose State, UC, Riverside, UCLA, CSU, San Bernardino, & CSU, Fullerton presented research on various themes that highlighted indigenous scientific and technology that predates European contact.



The conference was inspired by the book *Zapotec Science* written by Dr. Roberto Gonzalez an Anthropologist from San Jose State. His work, and this conference, highlighted the importance of knowledge systems based on experimentation, empiricism, among other characteristics understood to be fundamental to scientific inquiry. Indigenous communities of ancient Mexico and Central America, conducted sophisticated research on the physical and natural world leading to advanced astronomical observations, ethnobotany, ethnocartography among other areas that predate European conquest of the Americas and can contribute to contemporary scientific inquiry.

KHCC UPDATES INTO THE SCHOOL YEAR!

BY KARLA MACEDO

This event, held early in the Fall semester, has become a cherished tradition and a fantastic way to kick off the school year. Hosted on the Friday right after the KHC freshmen CPU class, it serves as a warm welcome for new KHC students. The event provides an opportunity for them to explore the Kellogg Honors College commons and a way to connect with one another, fostering a sense of community right from the start.



NIGHTMARE ON KHC STREET

BY KARLA MACEDO

KHCC's Halloween event was a festive and fun-filled experience, offering a variety of activities and snacks for students to enjoy. It was the perfect opportunity to unwind and de-stress after midterms. Highlights of the event included pumpkin painting, ping pong, and a lively game of giant beach volleyball. It was a spook-tacular way to celebrate the season.



KHC STUDENTS TAKE A STUDY BREAK AT INNOVATION BREW WORKS

As finals approached, KHC and the KHCC teamed up to host a fantastic event to help students unwind and relax with friends before the busy final stretch. Held at Innovation Brew Works, the evening featured pizza, an acoustic set, and a performance by The Antiks, an up-and-coming alternative band from Los Angeles fronted by KHC student Kaitlyn Gomez. It was the perfect way to relax and close out the semester on a high note!



Let's Rock Our Hearts Out!

TAKE A STUDY BREAK!

Join us for food and a study break!
Sponsored by the KHCC and KHC!
December 3, 2024
Innovation Brewworks Patio
5:00-7:00 pm

LIVE MUSIC BY
THE ANTIKS

DEC. 3, 2024
5-7 PM



BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: SSRA AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE IN ACTION

BY CADEN BRIGSTOCKE

Students For Sustainable and Regenerative Action, or SSRA, is a sustainability and regenerative studies focused club that supports the on-campus Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies — which is part of the College of Environmental Design (ENV). Our goal is to inform students how to incorporate more sustainable practices in their respective disciplines and personal lives, while creating a sense of community within the club. We aim to improve and maintain the Lyle Center, in conjunction with ENV administration. Previously, the club has held volunteer workshops including mulching, composting, large shrub pruning, and spreading of California native seeds. We will be holding more similar events in the future, hopefully including a planting day. Off campus events in the past have included hikes, beach cleanups, and garden tours/volunteer activities.



To find out when SSRA will be meeting, or for other general information, please refer to [@ssra.cpp](#) on Instagram, or by the club's full name on MyBar — which is also where one can officially join.

Personally, SSRA's core values of ways to lessen or even reverse human damage to the environment align with my design goals as a Landscape Architecture student (BSLA '26). I plan to pursue a career in ecological design — which is essentially using nature-based solutions to protect, restore, or attempt to recreate a natural environment using area-specific trees and plants in order to support local wildlife. SSRA gives me a chance to explore regeneration and sustainability within, and beyond the lens of Landscape Architecture.

KHC IN THE NEWS

Click the Icons to Access the Story



Fall Fast Pitch 2024: May the Best Idea Win

Jacinda Lopez, KHC Student, Collins College of Hospitality Major, takes first place



Fueling the Rose Float Team

Rana Soussan, KHC Student, Kinesiology Major, College of Science Newsletter



KHC Students Take in a performance of "We are Pussy Riot", CPP Theater Production



2025 Dia de los Muertos Community Altar
ANT3600H class project



Christian Murillo (far right) at Western Regional Honors Conference, 2014

Cont. from P. 6

There Christian presented his KHC Engaged Learning Experience project on masculinity. I hope KHC students present at the conference, just as Christian did. Christian graduated from CPP in 2015 with a double major in ethnic studies and psychology. I kept in touch with Christian as he moved to New York City and earned a master's in social work from Rutgers University. In 2022, I was happy to see Christian return to CPP as an academic advisor for the Reading, Advising, and Mentoring Program (RAMP). Christian brings a unique combination of personal and professional experiences that will positively impact the KHC community. Welcome back Christian and we look forward to your contributions to KHC as Academic Coordinator.



Christian Murillo (crouching far right) at attending CSU Honors Conference 2012



Click the icon to find C.J. Murillo's ELE poster, 2015 Psychology



Christian Murillo (center) with fellow KHC students at first Yosemite Retreat, 2012