

Monday's Message – February 20, 2012

Hello, everyone!

Let's open today with another point of celebration for the comprehensive campaign. Some time ago, engineering technology alumnus Marty Colombatto visited the campus and saw the condition of our electrical and computer engineering labs. A 1982 graduate, he noted that this was, and I quote, "the same equipment I used when I was here." He also asked how much it would cost to upgrade the lab.

Jump ahead to February 10, when I joined Marty and his wife, Stefanie, at the [dedication of the Colombatto Family Laboratory](#). The new space features 70 new pieces of equipment on 14 stations, replacing the instruments used during Marty's college days. This was all made possible thanks to their \$100,000 donation.

Our hands-on model is what separates us from other universities. We also know that our educational model is costly. If we want our graduates to continue to be in demand, they need to have access to state-of-the-art equipment.

The Colombattos' gift will do just that. This is the power of philanthropy; individuals and companies recognizing where gifts can make a difference. Cal Poly Pomona is filled with these kinds of success stories, dating back to 1949 when W.K. Kellogg and the Kellogg Foundation successfully deeded the land we are standing on today to the state so as to advance education.

I want to personally thank Marty and Stefanie for creating another chapter in that legacy.

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February is Black History Month. The Biography Channel is rerunning a series of documentaries on the contributions of the African American community. This is also an opportunity to see our own Renford Reese in action. The professor in political science is among those interviewed on the biographical videos of Jesse Owens and Jackie Robinson.

If you would like to watch the mini bios online, visit the links on your screen.

Jesse Owens: <http://bit.ly/biojowens>

Jackie Robinson: <http://bit.ly/biojrobinson>

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Our talented students and faculty in the theatre department will stage the play "[Dracula](#)."

Set in the late 19th century, the story focuses on four characters who meet Dracula at various points and whose lives are transformed by the encounters. The script was adapted by Scottish playwright Liz Lochhead from Bram Stoker's novel. Director and theatre Professor Bernardo

Solano says the play's strength is in telling the characters' stories and their relationships with one another.

Opening night is Friday, Feb. 24 at 8 p.m. in the University Theatre and will be presented five additional times. For more information about the show or to reserve tickets, call the box office at extension 3800 or visit the website on your screen.

www.class.csupomona.edu/th/reservations.html

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This Thursday, the communication department's special event class is presenting "What's the Scoop?" The program features presentations and panel discussions from four Pulitzer Prize winning journalists, including Don Bartletti, Jeff Gottlieb, Ruben Vives and Julie Cart from the Los Angeles Times. KPCC and NPR education reporter Tami Abdollah will also be on stage.

The event is part of the Intellectual Stimulus Program, sponsored by the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences and the Office of the Provost. It begins at 10:30 a.m. in Ursa Major and runs through 3:30 p.m. All members of the university community are welcome to attend.

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Landscape architecture Professor Kyle Brown and his class of regenerative studies master's students were at Pomona's Westmont Community Center last week, teaching students and families about waste and composting.

For the past three weeks, our graduate students have been teaching and leading hands-on activities about healthy eating, water conservation, and the different types of energy. The lessons and activities have been targeted to elementary students and their families, but the workshops have been open the public and included about 100 people overall.

Another sterling example of comes from the Center for Community Service-Learning, which is sponsoring a Community Service Day in the Angeles National Forest on Saturday, Mar. 3. Volunteers will be trail-building in the Crystal Lake area. This is a great way for us to band together and help preserve one of Southern California's treasures. For more information or to sign up, call ext. 3129.

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And since I am on a sustainability run, let me congratulate the teams involved in the design and construction of Phase 4 at Innovation Village. The building has earned LEED Gold Certification.

This high-performance facility is the second building now being occupied by Southern California Edison. Some of the green building features include effectively managing storm water runoff to reduce water pollution and a carefully selected landscape palate to lessen water consumption.

In addition, a large roof-top photovoltaic system will generate more than 122 thousand kilowatts of clean, renewable onsite energy. Through the purchase of renewable energy credits, 70 percent of the building's energy usage has been offset.

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The [Bronco basketball teams](#) will close out the regular season this week with doubleheaders on Wednesday and Friday nights. We will honor our eight seniors in the Friday night finale against CSU Dominguez Hills. They include Matt Rosser, Dwayne Fells, Tyquan Brown and Bob Brakeville on the men's team. Charlene Popoff, Megan Ford, Sarah Semenero and Rosslyn Beard are on the women's side. Betty and I hope to see you then. That brings this week's message to a close. Enjoy your week!