

## Monday's Message – November 29, 2010

Hello everyone!

We are coming off a week highlighted by Thanksgiving, so I hope each of you enjoyed some well-deserved time with family and friends. Betty and I have a lot to be thankful for and I trust you do as well. One of those was being able to celebrate my mother's 94<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November.

Of all the academic terms, Fall Quarter seems to pass in the blink of an eye. Wasn't it yesterday that we came together for Fall Conference and Bronco Fusion? Now final exams are just one week away. I would imagine we have a handful of students today who wish we were on the semester system. We clearly have a busy couple of weeks ahead of us before the quarter break.

Over the past couple of years, the state budget crisis has effectively squelched our ability to hire new tenure-track faculty. When many of our senior colleagues chose to retire, we were handcuffed in filling these mission critical positions due to unprecedented cuts. At Fall Conference, I said that the CSU and Cal Poly Pomona are in a better place than we were a year ago at this time.

All of you made incredible sacrifices that enabled the university to enter this year on solid fiscal ground. So under the leadership of Provost denBoer, we are moving forward with 32 faculty searches this year. Preliminary reports from the colleges indicate that the searches are robust, with strong candidate pools and very encouraging prospects for successful searches. I look forward to introducing these new members of our campus family at Convocation 2011.

---

For a number of years, Cal Poly Pomona joined with other civic-minded organizations, including the City of Pomona and the Pomona First Baptist Church, in helping bring the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra to the community for a special concert performance. This year we are doing something different. On Sunday, December 19 at 4 p.m., the [Los Angeles Master Chorale](#) will perform at Pomona First Baptist with a selection of music to celebrate all of the holiday seasons.

The Los Angeles Master Chorale is one of the world's premier choirs, so this is an incredible opportunity to hear them sing in one of our region's most beautiful facilities. Tickets for the concert are \$5 and can be purchased at the Games Room in the Bronco Student Center, Pomona City Hall and the Palomares Senior Center.

---

If you've lost track - no pun intended - the [women's cross-country team](#) qualified for the NCAA Regionals and will be headed to Bellingham, Washington to represent the campus. I want to

wish them well. The men fell short of qualifying by one place but they did have a very good season. Congratulations to them.

---

Last week we received some great news from the Chancellor's Office. Dr. Sep Eskandari from Biological Sciences, has been selected as the recipient of the 2011 Faculty Research Award from CSUPERB.

CSUPERB's mission is to develop a professional biotechnology workforce by mobilizing and supporting collaborative California State University student and faculty research, innovating educational practices, and responding to and anticipating the needs of the life science industry.

This system-wide award recognizes a CSU faculty researcher who has demonstrated outstanding scientific achievement in the life sciences and biotechnology. Dr. Eskandari will present at the 23rd annual CSU Biotechnology Symposium scheduled for January 7th and 8<sup>th</sup> at the Hyatt Regency Orange County. Congratulations Sep!

---

For the third year in a row, Cal Poly Pomona was the leading participant at the [Southern California Conference on Undergraduate Research](#), which was held on November 20, 2010, at Pepperdine University.

This year more than 1200 people attended the conference. Of the 42 institutions that participated, Cal Poly Pomona was the leader with 182. The event included more than 250 oral presentations and 330 poster presentations. Participating students gained experience from presenting their work in a professional setting and having the opportunity to interact with students and faculty from other campuses who are doing research in similar fields.

As for my video, that's all I have for today. Enjoy your week!