

# **PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARS**

## *Conferral*

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Saturday, October 20, 2018

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11:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
Kellogg West Conference Center



## Message from the PRESIDENT

The President's Scholars Program represents the finest of Cal Poly Pomona's traditions. Scholarship recipients not only succeed in the classroom, they are committed to make society better. They volunteer as tutors and fund-raisers. They work in their communities volunteering their time at animal shelters, churches, libraries, schools and theaters.

They are driven to assist the next generation of college students, especially those in underserved communities. Since 1983, over 500 scholarships have been awarded. Today's celebration would not be possible without the generosity of our benefactors. Like the students we honor, they are difference-makers. It is with great pleasure that I take part in today's conferral program.



## President's Council CONFERRAL PROGRAM

11:00 a.m.

Registration and Reception



11:30 a.m.

Welcome

President Soraya M. Coley



Recognition of  
President's Scholarship Benefactors



Presentation of  
Scholarship Awards and Conferring of  
President's Scholars Medallions

## President's Scholars

**GENEVA MARGARET CABRERA**  
ALBERT ZORASTER  
Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture



**DEANNA L. VEGA**  
RINEHART FAMILY  
(graduate & at-large)  
Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture



**DAVID HERNANDEZ MONTES**  
MARK ALDRICH  
College of Business Administration



**MILCA RAMOS**  
MICHAEL AND EILEEN CONSIDINE  
College of Business Administration



**CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER YOESLE**  
GREGOIRE FAMILY  
College of Business Administration



**MARYBETH MURRAY**  
GWEN EVANS LA BOUNTY  
College of Education & Integrative Studies

**ASHLEY ANN KEASEY**  
ROBERTS FAMILY  
College of Education & Integrative Studies



**PETER KUETZING**  
CHANG FAMILY  
College of Engineering



**TRUNG M. NGUYEN**  
OSCAR PERLAZA  
College of Engineering



**HO LUN CHAN**  
SHELTON FAMILY  
College of Engineering



**AUDREY WONG**  
IANA WILLIAMS  
College of Engineering



**EDMOND VICTOR BABAYAN**  
FRANK D. WHITEHEAD  
(graduate)  
College of Engineering

## President's Scholars

**ANTOINETTE SHAPIRO**  
JAMES H. JONES  
College of Environmental Design



**ABISOLA H. BAMIMORE**  
AL LEVIE FAMILY  
The Collins College of Hospitality Management



**VICTORIA GONZALEZ**  
ARTHUR M. BERMAN  
College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences



**LIZETTE FERRELL**  
BERNARD AND LUCIE BIDART  
The College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences



**JACKELINE CORTEZ**  
ANNETTE F. AND MORTON J. BLUMNER  
The College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences



**REBEKAH BROOKS**  
NICOLE CHRISTINE COTE  
The College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences



**JESSY NAVARRO**  
HUGH AND JUDY LA BOUNTY  
The College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences

**JULISSA LOZA MENDEZ**  
LOWELL OVERTON  
The College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences



**LAUREN ELIZABETH WHITE**  
BERNARD AND LUCIE BIDART  
(graduate)  
The College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences



**MARY SUE MCNEW**  
NORMAN WILLIAMSON JR. FAMILY  
(graduate)  
The College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences



**BENJAMIN SOTO**  
DR. ANDREW G. CHONG  
(at large)  
College of Science



**AMIR ANDREW SOTOODEH**  
SIU FAMILY  
College of Science



**EDGAR GONZALEZ**  
KIM FAMILY  
(graduate)  
College of Science





## President's Scholars

### BENEFACTORS

#### Drs. Janet & W. Keith Kellogg II



**JANET "JEAN" KELLOGG AND W. KEITH KELLOGG II WERE LONGTIME SUPPORTERS OF THE UNIVERSITY. IN 1999,** the Kelloggs donated \$200,000 to match contributions to the President's Council Scholars program. Their gift inspired numerous individual and family donations, leading to the creation of a significant endowment fund.

W. Keith Kellogg II is the namesake and grandson of cereal magnate W.K. Kellogg, one of the university's founders. He and Janet were champions of the W. Keith and Janet Kellogg University Art Gallery, which was expanded because of their generous support. The Honors College was named the Keith & Jean Kellogg Honors College in 2006 after a generous bequest from the W. Keith Kellogg II Trust.

In 1994, W. Keith Kellogg II received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Cal Poly Pomona and was also recognized as an honorary university alumnus. He passed away in 2005; Janet Kellogg passed away in 2014.

## 2018-19 President's Scholars

### Geneva Margaret Cabrera

#### Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture

**GENEVA IS PURSUING HER LIFELONG PASSION FOR FASHION AS** an apparel merchandising and management student. She completed an associate's degree with honors in fashion merchandising at Fullerton College, where she received two scholarships. Geneva was president of the Apparel Merchandising and Management Association in 2017-18, overseeing the spring banquet and the 2017 Pumpkin Festival booth. She is excited to utilize her scholarship to participate in a study abroad program in London in spring 2019, where she will intern with an apparel company toward her goal of a career in merchandising in a Southern California sports company. She appreciates the faculty and staff who are committed to students, saying "my professors do everything they can to help us and bring us real world executives to teach us about the fashion industry."

**ALBERT ZORASTER** President's Scholar



**CHRISTINE AND ALBERT ZORASTER** joined the President's Council in 1992. Christine endowed this scholarship in the memory of her husband Albert. His life celebrated the ideals of hard work and determination; he was an advocate for his community, industry and children. The Albert Zoraster scholarship is awarded to the student who values hard work and is dedicated to the enrichment of their community.

In Memoriam  
**Albert  
Zoraster**



BENEFACTOR

**Christine & Albert Zoraster**



## DeAnna L. Vega

### Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture

**INFLUENCED BY HER GRANDFATHER'S AND FATHER'S HISTORY IN** farming in both the Philippines and in Belize, DeAnna is devoted to plant science. Her childhood memories of exotic greenery and produce led to her first horticultural job at a nursery and then an associate's degree in ornamental horticulture at Orange Coast Community College. Deanna also learned of the regenerative and renewing qualities of gardens from her grandmother, inspiring her pursuit of a bachelor's degree in plant science at Cal Poly Pomona. As a graduate student, DeAnna says that she has "never felt such collaborative support, other than that of my family than that of our faculty and staff." DeAnna hopes to utilize her education in the field of plant pathology, ultimately collaborating with local regions to protect urban agriculture and native forestry.

**RINEHART FAMILY** President's Scholar Graduate



**LARRY RINEHART** is the former president and chief executive officer of PFF Bank & Trust in Pomona and is a member of the President's Council. As a graduate from Pomona High School and the University of La Verne, Rinehart has been involved in the local community for many years. He has actively participated on various boards such as the Pomona Valley Red Cross, Mt. Baldy United Way, Fairplex, Casa Colina and the Cal Poly Pomona University Educational Trust. The Rinehart Family scholarship was established to recognize an outstanding student who is committed to the university and their local community.



**BENEFACTOR**

Larry Rinehart

## Milca Ramos

### College of Business Administration

**MILCA'S INTEREST IN ACCOUNTING WAS SPARKED THROUGH AN** accounting class and its emphasis on organization, accuracy and time management. She currently works as a tutor in the Reading, Advising & Mentoring Program, where she inspires others students, co-workers and program advisors with her strong work ethic and investment in students' overall progress. She is also involved with Acts2Fellowship. When she's not working or studying, she enjoys being outdoors or spending time with friends. As a self-supporting student, Milca is grateful for scholarship support, which assists in expenses and has allowed her to attend workshops, seminars and student organizations toward her career objective is to become a certified public accountant. After graduation, she plans to work full-time before pursuing her CPA certification and master's degree.

**MICHAEL AND EILEEN CONSIDINE**  
President's Scholar



Alumnus **MICHAEL CONSIDINE** and his wife **EILEEN** have been active supporters of Cal Poly Pomona. From industrial manufacturing to investment management and sod distribution, the Considines have been fortunate in their business endeavors. Students who demonstrate the ability to succeed and enhance the financial or banking industries are awarded the Eileen and Michael Considine scholarship.



**BENEFACTORS**

Michael and Eileen Considine

## David Hernandez Montes

### College of Business Administration

**DAVID'S INTEREST IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS BEGAN AT MORENO** Valley College, and he is currently focused on big data within the business intelligence track at Cal Poly Pomona. Mentors encouraged his involvement in student government, and he currently serves as executive vice president of the Management Information Systems Student Association. For the past three summers, he interned at the Kellogg Company in Michigan. Born and raised in Mexico, David came to the United States at age 15 and says that "he never imagined myself being able to achieve what I have done. I have travelled around the country advocating for students, met with legislators in Washington, D.C., to learn about leadership, worked for a Fortune 500 company, and I am now one year away from graduating." David hopes to obtain a doctorate and return to Cal Poly Pomona.

**MARK ALDRICH** President's Scholar



Long-time philanthropists and Cal Poly Pomona supporters, **JO AND TED DUTTON** generously established this scholarship named after their son, **MARK ALDRICH**. Mark is a Cal Poly Pomona alumnus who earned a bachelor's degree in finance, real estate and law in 1994. To recognize the contributions made by the fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, first consideration is given to its members for the Mark Aldrich scholarship.



**BENEFACTORS**

Jo and Theodore "Ted" Dutton

## Christopher Alexander Yoesle

### College of Business Administration

**IN HIGH SCHOOL, A MENTOR TEACHER HELPED CHRISTOPHER** overcome personal challenges to finish school, offering him a place to live and encouragement to succeed. He worked two jobs so he could move to Southern California for better educational and economic opportunities. Christopher credits faculty members Zeynep Aytug and Trayan Kushev for their dedication to scholarship and students. After graduation, he aspires to devote himself to healthy living and financial expertise. "I want to help the next generation understand the value of community, environmental conservation, healthy diet, and hard work so they can leave a legacy of their own," he says. He is considering career paths in financial advising, education, human resources representative, or even a national park ranger.

**GREGOIRE FAMILY** President's Scholar



**RONALD GREGOIRE** began his impressive career in the auto dealership business by joining an accounting firm after graduating with honors from Cal Poly Pomona in 1971. Following many successful years in the auto industry, Ron sold his business to enjoy time with family and friends. The Gregoire Family scholarship is presented to the student who exhibits strong leadership abilities and a determination to succeed.



**BENEFACTOR**

Gregoire Family



# Marybeth Murray

## College of Education & Integrative Studies

**A NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHER, MARYBETH HAS** worked in education for over 25 years, starting as a classroom aide in special education in Los Angeles County. Her work as a classroom teacher and grant reviewer for the U.S. Department of Education has earned her numerous awards, including the Golden Apple Award from the Teacher's Association of Long Beach and recognition from the U.S. Senate for outstanding contributions to education. Marybeth is the assistant principal for Barton Elementary and Smith Elementary in Long Beach. She is an adjunct faculty within Cal Poly Pomona's early childhood studies program, as well as the CEIS liaison for the Veterans Resource Center. After completing her doctoral degree, she hopes to become a full-time faculty member to help grow the program and to prepare more future teachers.

**GWEN EVANS LA BOUNTY** President's Scholar



The first lady of Cal Poly Pomona from 1977 to 1985, **GWEN EVANS LA BOUNTY** was a devoted wife and mother; she embraced the university community until she passed away in 1985. As an advocate for education, Mrs. La Bounty pursued her teaching credential, served as a PTA president and was involved in a local preschool program. Mrs. La Bounty served as a role model of charity and compassion, and the Gwen Evans La Bounty scholarship is awarded to the student who represents these attributes and is committed to educational excellence.

In Memoriam  
**Gwen Evans La  
Bounty**



**BENEFACTOR**

**Friends and Family of Gwen Evans La Bounty**

# Peter Kuetzing

## College of Engineering

**PETER TAKES PRIDE IN HIS DUAL CITIZENSHIP IN FINLAND AND** the United States, and Cal Poly Pomona's diversity has been a source of inspiration for him. He is involved in the Kellogg Honors College, Sigma Chi Fraternity, Roller Hockey Club and a study abroad experience in Madrid. Peter's research experiences include working with Dr. Kristopher Irizarry at WesternU and with Dr. Stephen Vatner at Rutgers Medical School. One of his mentors, Professor Mehrdad Haghi, helped him obtain an NSF-LSAMP fellowship in his lab. Peter plans on a career in the interdisciplinary fields of engineering and life science, working toward a master's degree in biological sciences and a doctorate in materials science. He is appreciative of the scholarship support that allows him to focus on his research priorities.

**CHANG FAMILY** President's Scholar



**WEN and MEI LIEN CHANG** are outstanding supporters of their community and Cal Poly Pomona. Wen and Mei Lien firmly believe that education is the most effective tool to aid all social classes in the pursuit of their dreams. The Chang Family scholarship was established to assist outstanding engineering students in their pursuit of scholastic excellence.



**BENEFACTORS**

**Mei Lien and Wen Chang**

# Ashley Ann Keasey

## College of Education & Integrative Studies

**ASHLEY DECIDED TO PURSUE A TEACHING PATHWAY FOR THE** empowerment she has found in education. "Growing up in and out of the foster care system I lacked stability in my life: the only constant was the education system that taught me to push myself to be better. I was instilled with a love for school that continues today." She is currently pursuing a degree in liberal studies and a teaching credential. Knowledge was her childhood release, and she wants to inspire others to value diversity, appreciate differences and continually find lessons in life's experiences. Outside of class, Ashley teaches preschool and volunteers with West End Animal Shelter, Feed the Children, Keep Memory Alive Foundation, and the Pomona Hope after school and garden program. Ashley hopes to work as a third grade teacher and is grateful for scholarship support.

**ROBERTS FAMILY** President's Scholar



**DOROTHY AND KENT ROBERTS** have been members of the President's Council since 1985. As owners of an English-as-a-second-language publishing business, the Roberts demonstrate their dedication to the educational process on a daily basis. The Roberts Family scholarship is intended to recognize promising students who are seeking educational careers, have demonstrated superior scholastic performance and want to make a difference in the world.



**BENEFACTORS**

**Dorothy and Kent Roberts**

# Trung M. Nguyen

## College of Engineering

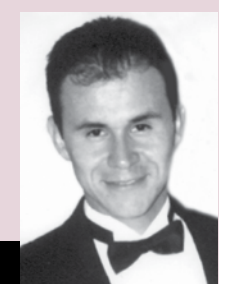
**AS A COMPUTER ENGINEERING STUDENT, TRUNG IS INTERESTED** in speech recognition devised in applied machine learning and artificial intelligence, and he has been inspired by the faculty and programs in the College of Engineering that encourage problem solving and practicing new knowledge. Trung is committed to his education, maintaining a 4.0 GPA while working 30 hours a week. He enjoys mentoring students, especially those from his home country of Vietnam "to encourage them to pursue their educational goals, teach them everything I have learned, share my experiences and to inspire them to try hard for their success." Trung is working toward certifications in Python, Java, NodeJS, Verilog, Machine Learning and Deep Learning. After graduation, he hopes to earn a master's degree and an MBA to pursue his dreams and to help provide for his family.

**OSCAR PERLAZA** President's Scholar



As the former director of the Maximizing Engineering Potential (MEP) program, **CATHARINE HUDSPETH** has helped countless students on their way to successful careers in engineering. The Oscar Perlaza scholarship was created to recognize the outstanding leadership and perseverance of a highly motivated MEP civil engineering alumnus whose life ended too soon. The Oscar Perlaza scholarship is awarded to the student who exemplifies leadership and dedication to the development of others.

In Memoriam  
**Oscar Perlaza**



**BENEFACTOR**

**M. Catharine Hudspeth**



## Ho Lun Chan

### College of Engineering

**HO LUN CHAN'S** CURIOSITY FOR RESEARCH CONNECTED HIM TO Cal Poly Pomona's McNair program and faculty mentor Vilupanur Ravi, who "opened the door to the exciting, challenging, painful and rewarding experiences of undergraduate research. Not only has he taught me the soft and hard skills necessary for research, but he demonstrates daily the wisdom and personality I should maintain to be successful in life, no matter where I go." Ho Lun has received numerous awards, including first place at the 99th AAAS-Pacific Division Meeting, second place and People's Choice winner at the American Society of Metals – LA Chapter Student Night, and a \$50,000 grant for Cal Poly Pomona's I-Corp team. Last summer, he had a research internship at the University of Washington. His goal is to pursue a doctorate to contribute to his community through teaching, service and research.

**SHELTON FAMILY** President's Scholar



**MICHAEL AND TINA SHELTON** have been part of the campus community for more than 30 years. The Sheltons are each the first member of their respective families to achieve a college education. This scholarship was established to honor the memory of Doc's parents, Otto and Lois Shelton, who grew up during the Great Depression and were only able to attend school through the eighth grade. The Shelton Family Scholarship is designed to provide recognition and assistance to an outstanding student who is first in their immediate family to attend college.



**BENEFACTORS**

**Tina and Michael "Doc" Shelton**

## Edmond Victor Babayan

### College of Engineering

**INFLUENCED BY HIS FATHER'S WORK WITH CONSTRUCTION** sites and layout designs, Edmond says he "developed an innate fondness of solving real-world problems through the application of science and mathematics. I love civil engineering due to its ability to improve the lives of all people in a tangible way." Edmond is working on his master's in geotechnical engineering and is a student member of American Society of Civil Engineers, Engineers Without Borders, the California Geotechnical Engineering Association, and volunteers for Habitat for Humanity and the American Red Cross. He has interned as a lab technician at Geotechnologies and has been a teaching assistant for Professor Mehrad Kamalzare. After graduation, he plans to earn his professional engineering license, travel abroad and work with NGOs, and volunteer in developing nations to expand their infrastructural systems.

**FRANK D. WHITEHEAD**  
President's Scholar (graduate)



**HELEN AND FRANK (DON) WHITEHEAD** co-founded LOUD Engineering in 1967 with just three employees, including Helen and Don. By the time they retired, their company was renowned for its skill and efficiency in the design, overhaul, and manufacture of airplane and helicopter landing gears. The Frank D. Whitehead Family scholarship is provided to recognize the achievements of outstanding graduate engineering students.



**BENEFACTORS**

**Helen and Frank D. Whitehead**

## Audrey Wong

### College of Engineering

**AUDREY DECIDED TO MAJOR IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING** AFTER attending an engineering camp where she learned the importance of collaboration. The camp sparked her fascination with how technology and engineering can impact and connect the world. At Cal Poly Pomona, she has served as the ASI Presidential Assistant and Engineering Council Activities Coordinator, and she is an active member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Society of Women Engineers, Kellogg Honors College, and is an academic mentor and tutor for the Center for Gender, Diversity & Student Excellence for Maximizing Engineering Potential. She also works as an Opto-Mechanical Design Intern at Northrop Grumman. After graduation, Audrey wants to pursue a master's in business administration, engineering management or systems engineering, as well as inspire others to continue to develop knowledge.

**IANA WILLIAMS** President's Scholar



As the former director of the Maximizing Engineering Potential (MEP) program, **CATHARINE HUDSPETH** has helped countless students on their way to successful careers in engineering. The Iana Williams scholarship was created to remember the outstanding leadership of a highly motivated MEP electrical engineering alumna whose life was cut short. The Iana Williams scholarship is intended to bring recognition to a student who has continued in Iana's tradition of furthering the development of technical expertise in their community.

**Catharine**  
"Kay"  
Hudspeth



**BENEFACTOR**

**M. Catharine Hudspeth**

## Antoinette Shapiro

### College of Environmental Design

**ANTOINETTE COMMITTED TO STUDYING ARCHITECTURE** AFTER AN internship at Salvatore Caruso Design Corp. in San Jose, where she was introduced to residential and commercial design and construction. At Cal Poly Pomona, she is involved with the AIAS club, Newman Club, and works at the W. Keith & Janet Kellogg Art Gallery, while being recognized on the dean's and presidential academic honor rolls. Within her program, Antoinette appreciates the emphasis that is placed on each student exploring his or her own idea, saying that "the professors push the students to explore new ideas and ways of thinking while still respecting the original intent." After graduation, she would like to establish her own architecture firm, and she is grateful for the President's Scholars award for helping her to fully invest in her educational experience.

**JAMES H. JONES** President's Scholar



The late **LT. COL. JAMES JONES** was a longtime university supporter who established two major art collections for Cal Poly Pomona. After serving in World War II, Jones studied citrus fruit production at the Cal Poly Voorhis campus and finally received his degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1951. The James H. Jones scholarship is presented to an exceptional environmental design student who seeks to improve the community.

**In Memoriam**  
**James H.**  
**Jones**



**BENEFACTOR**

**James H. Jones**



# Abisola H. Bamimore

## The Collins College of Hospitality Management

**SERVING OTHERS AND HOSPITALITY IS “A WAY OF LIFE FOR ME,”** Bisola says. Her earliest memory growing up in the Lagos, Nigeria, was that her home was the first stop for visitors, often relatives. These cherished hosting experiences from her community-celebrating Yoruban heritage guided her decision to study hospitality management. Bisola appreciates the university’s diversity and the Collins College Student Success Center for making her feel at home. She works part time at Marriott International as an operations manager. She also serves as president of homeless outreach of King of Glory Christian Fellowship. After graduation, Bisola will attend graduate school and become a teacher to inspire girls in the United States and Nigeria to pursue their educational dreams.

**AL LEVIE FAMILY** President’s Scholar



In memory of **AL LEVIE**, who passed away in 1999, this President’s Council Scholarship is named after the man who was instrumental in the initial fund-raising efforts of what is now known as The Collins College of Hospitality Management. Levie brought his leadership and expertise along with a vast network of industry executives to the young school in the ‘80s. The Al Levie Family scholarship was established to recognize high-achieving students in the hospitality management program.

In Memoriam  
**Al Levie**



**BENEFACTOR**

**Friends of the Al Levie Family**

# Lizette Ferrell

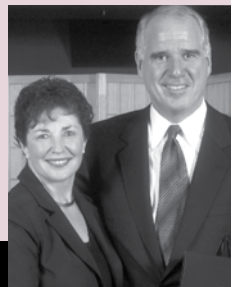
## The College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences

**LIZETTE’S INTRODUCTION TO MULTIPLE LANGUAGES AT AN EARLY** age inspired her studies in Spanish and her passion for education. “My mother exposed us to other languages such as Italian and French through songs and stories, which became a fascinating world for me. I also discovered ballet at the age of 4, and it was through dance that the fulfillment of teaching kids and adults was undeniable and I knew that was my calling.” A mother of four, Lizette combines her interests in language and dance by operating her own daycare in which she fosters language acquisition through play, songs and dance. She credits the McNair program, Transfer Center and her Spanish professors for their knowledge, kindness and support of her goals. She hopes to earn a doctorate and teach in higher education, and she is grateful for scholarship support.

**BERNARD AND LUCIE BIDART**  
President’s Scholar



A partner with the law firm of Shernoff, Bidart & Darras in Claremont, **MICHAEL BIDART** is an alumnus with a degree in economics. It was Bidart’s parents, Bernard and Lucie, who inspired him to be an attorney. His parents encouraged their sons to pursue college degrees, knowing firsthand the hardships of life without a college education. The Bernard and Lucie Bidart scholarship has been established to help others fulfill their own educational dreams.



**BENEFACTORS**

**Jeannette and Michael Bidart**

# Victoria Gonzalez

## College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences

**VICTORIA’S TALENTS AND INTERESTS IN IMPACTFUL** communication and purposeful stories have been nurtured at Cal Poly Pomona. She loves “how willing professors are to help share their skills, knowledge and wit.” She appreciates faculty members Christopher Bates, Michael Brown and Sunny Lie for instilling an awareness of history and multi-disciplinary depth of communication. Victoria is managing editor of the Poly Post, a member of the university horsemanship club and part of the Society of Professional Journalists. Off campus, she volunteers with Hermanas Unidas and at migrant shelters in Tijuana. After graduation, Victoria wants to become a food journalist specializing in immigration’s influence on culture and food. She hopes to pursue a doctorate and write about food as a reflection of migration, collective culture and its power to bring humans together.

**ARTHUR M. BERMAN** President’s Scholar



**MICHAEL BERMAN** was formerly employed at Cal Poly Pomona as the vice president for instructional and information technology. His family and friends established this scholarship in honor of Mike’s late father, Arthur M. Berman. Art Berman worked for the Los Angeles Times for more than 30 years; he served as a mentor for many people in the newspaper industry and strongly believed in encouraging young people to determine their own futures. He saw education, and higher education in particular, as the most important tool for self-development. The Arthur M. Berman scholarship will honor a student who is working toward a career in journalism or public service.

In Memoriam  
**Arthur M. Berman**



**BENEFACTOR**

**Ann Walker and A. Michael Berman**

# Jackeline Cortez

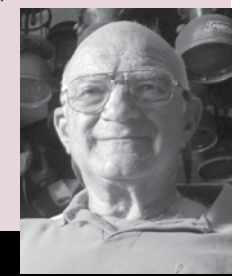
## The College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences

**COMMUNITY IS IMPORTANT TO JACKELINE AS IT CREATES A** supportive environment of individuals committed to students’ futures and improving the lives of others. Her campus involvement include the Kellogg Honors College and volunteering with the Mexican American Student Association, which named her “Rookie of the Year” for her community service. She also works as an AVID tutor at Rowland High School and with Pomona Hope through Brady Collins’ “Politics of Neighborhood Change” class, which reaffirmed her commitment to public service. Jackeline’s parents are her biggest inspiration, encouraging her pursuit of higher education while always lending a helping hand. After graduating, Jackeline’s goals are to attend grad school and work in public administration or for a nonprofit. “Wherever I go, I’ll be happy as long as I’m helping people,” she says.

**ANNETTE F. AND MORTON J. BLUMNER**  
President’s Scholar



**DR. SIDNEY BLUMNER** established the Annette F. and Morton J. Blumner CLASS President’s Council Scholarship in honor of his parents. Professor Blumner and his mother, Annette Blumner, have supported Cal Poly Pomona’s College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences for many years because of their belief in education and youth. “I am a product of public education,” Blumner says. “I support public schools because they need help, and the students need help. People need to give back to society.” This scholarship supports high performing students in the College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences, where he spent 33 years as a tenured faculty member, chair of the Department of Economics, and is now a donor.



**BENEFACTORS**

**Annette F. and Sidney Blumner**



# Rebekah Brooks

## The College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences

**REBEKAH'S DESIRE TO BECOME AN ANTHROPOLOGIST HAS BEEN** informed by her curiosity for history, nature and the discovery of lives that lived before us. At Victor Valley College, she earned occupational certifications in natural resource management, plant science technician, ecological restoration, water resource management, horticulture and landscape, and environmental field studies. As a volunteer with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, she identified plant species suitable for windbreaks for local farmers in the Mojave Desert. Rebekah appreciates the close-knit department, and professors Mark Allen and Claudia Garcia. As a mother to three daughters, Rebekah hopes to "work with communities and cultures on many levels and will live out my goals of impacting humanity as a positive influence."

**NICOLE CHRISTINE COTE** President's Scholar



The **COTÉ FAMILY** endowed this scholarship in honor of Nicole Coté, who passed away during her senior year at Cal Poly Pomona in 1999 at the age of 21. Nicole was the recipient of the 1999-2000 Lowell Overton President's Council Scholarship. Nicole felt strongly that academic scholarships should be awarded based on merit, and it is with that in mind that the Coté family has made this scholarship available to a very qualified student in the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences.

In Memoriam  
**Nicole  
Christine Coté**



**BENEFACTORS**

**Marguerite and Robert Coté**

# Julissa Loza Mendez

## The College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences

**JULISSA'S COMMITMENT TO HELPING OTHERS HAS BEEN NURTURED** at Cal Poly Pomona, where she has embraced opportunities for leadership and advocacy. As a freshman, she worked as a psychology/sociology mentor, an experience that led to becoming a Social Justice Leader (SJL) in the Women's Resource Center. Julissa is a lead vocalist and violinist for Mariachi Los Broncos de Pomona, director of programming for the Multicultural Council, ASI Senator for CLASS, a mentor in the Prison Education Project, and a McNair Scholar. Julissa says her involvement and help from mentors will make a difference in her pursuit of becoming an industrial organizational psychologist. Being a first-generation college student, she says her biggest desire is to improve bilingual programs in the K-12 educational system.

**LOWELL OVERTON** President's Scholar



**LOWELL OVERTON** is a friend of education. He credits his education at Cal Poly Pomona for his success as a nationally recognized real estate broker. As an active alumnus and founding member of the College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences alumni chapter, Lowell is engaged in the campus community and various alumni activities and programs. The Lowell Overton scholarship is intended to recognize exceptional students who are engaged in their communities and value their educational opportunities.

**BENEFACTOR**



**Lowell Overton**

# Jessy Navarro

## The College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences

**JESSY'S INTEREST IN PSYCHOLOGY AND DESIRE HELP OTHERS** LED to a research project with Professor Alejandro Morales. The experience has inspired his pursuit of a doctorate in clinical psychology focused on the different dimensions of language brokering (translating and interpreting) and its impact on Latino college students. A McNair scholar, Jessy presented his research at the CPP Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities Conference and gained acceptance to the Summer Research Opportunities Program at the University of Michigan. He is president of Psi Chi this year and also volunteers for the Tri-City Peer Mentor program and the Peer Mentors Program. In addition to becoming a researcher and professor, he would like to establish a bilingual private practice as a licensed adolescent therapist.

**HUGH AND JUDY LA BOUNTY**  
President's Scholar



**HUGH O. LA BOUNTY** joined the faculty of Cal Poly Pomona in 1953 as an instructor in the English department. He served as the university's third president and was responsible for transforming a regional institution into a major comprehensive university. President La Bounty's legacy includes having established the President's Council in 1980 as well as the President's Council Scholars program in 1983. The Hugh and Judy La Bounty scholarship is awarded to students who have distinguished themselves as excellent scholars in the College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences.

**BENEFACTORS**

**Hugh & Judy La Bounty**



# Lauren Elizabeth White

## The College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences

**THE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT IS HOME TO** Lauren, a place of encouragement and growth, where she says "I have solidified my love of teaching and learning, as my students, my professors, and my peers have opened my eyes to new perspectives of literary works, and in extension, the world." A literature teaching associate, Lauren serves as President of the Graduate Student English Association and is a volunteer tutor for student-parents. She received a university Library Research award for Special Collections, and has presented her research at national conferences. She is appreciative of the Professors Alison Baker, Aaron DeRosa and Lise-Hélène Smith for their continuous support, and hopes to earn a doctorate and continue teaching, paying forward the encouragement she has received to her future students and inspire her son to never give up on his goals.

**BERNARD AND LUCIE BIDART**  
President's Scholar (graduate)



A partner with the law firm of Shernoff, Bidart & Darras in Claremont, **MICHAEL BIDART** is an alumnus with a degree in economics. It was Bidart's parents, Bernard and Lucie, who inspired him to be an attorney. His parents encouraged their sons to pursue college degrees, knowing firsthand the hardships of life without a college education. The Bernard and Lucie Bidart scholarship has been established to help others fulfill their own educational dreams.

**BENEFACTORS**

**Jeannette and Michael Bidart**





## Mary Sue McNew

### The College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences

A GRADUATE STUDENT IN PSYCHOLOGY, MARY APPRECIATES the discipline because “it gives me the skill set to affect change in individuals, so that they can grow to be their best selves and experience rewarding relationships, which in turn, strengthens families and communities.” Mary, who was the first in her family to earn a degree, graduated magna cum laude from Cal State San Marcos after her paralegal career was cut short due to debilitating carpal tunnel syndrome and surgeries. These challenges strengthened her focus to help others who have experienced adversity and trauma. A member of Psi Chi and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, she is working at a community agency that helps homeless veterans, individuals and families. She credits her parents and undergraduate mentor for supporting her dream.

**NORMAN WILLIAMSON JR. FAMILY**  
President's Scholarship (graduate)



**NORMAN WILLIAMSON JR.** was the son of W.K. Kellogg's only daughter, Elizabeth Kellogg Williamson. His ability to retain and document the history of the Kellogg family was one of Williamson's legacies to his family and the university. Because of his active involvement with Cal Poly Pomona, the Norman Williamson, Jr. Family scholarship was established to honor those dedicated students who are committed to making a difference in their communities.

In Memoriam  
Norman  
Williamson Jr.

BENEFACTORS



Helen and Norman Williamson Jr.

## Amir Andrew Sotoodeh

### College of Science

AMIR'S INTEREST IN TECHNOLOGY WAS INFLUENCED BY HIS father, who came to America from Iran as a teenager. Knowing that his father continued onto a successful career in computer engineering and working alongside him for countless hours of problem solving led Amir to pursue computer science applications at Cal Poly Pomona. He is involved with CATE (Cal Poly Autonomous Transportation Experience), where he has developed collision detection algorithms on a robot that utilizes a LiDAR (light detection and ranging) sensor. Amir is also involved with the Forensics and Security Technology club that promotes cybersecurity awareness. Amir's research interests are in machine learning and artificial intelligence applications, and he wants to develop models in biology or health to potentially save lives. Currently a cybersecurity student intern at Southern California Edison, Amir plans to pursue master's degrees in computer science and business administration.

**SIU FAMILY** President's Scholarship



The **SIU FAMILY'S** involvement with education is longstanding, as evidenced by their generous contributions to the university. Both retired, Annie was an orthodontist and Tim, who passed away, was an anesthesiologist. The Siu enjoyed successful careers in their respective professions. The student who aspires to enrich quality of life through science will be awarded the Siu Family scholarship.

BENEFACTORS



Drs. Annie Chin and Tim K. Siu

## Benjamin Soto

### College of Science

A RESEARCH EXPERIENCE THROUGH THE **ACHIEVE SCHOLARS** program and then with Professor Nancy Buckley led Benjamin to a two-year NIH RISE fellowship beginning in fall 2016 to study phytomedicine. The experience included a 10-week summer internship at the Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Benjamin's research earned him an award at the 2017 CPP Student Research, Scholarship & Creative Activity Conference and also led to a presentation at the CSU Student Research Competition. Benjamin has discovered his passion for teaching and the rewarding experience of helping students catch their “aha!” moments. “I have been incredibly fortunate to be able to pursue my dreams, and I want to give the same fortune to others,” Ben says of his goal to obtain a PhD in biochemistry and become a researcher and professor.

**DR. ANDREW G. CHONG**  
President's Scholarship (at large)



**DR. ANDREW CHONG** knows how important it is to see things clearly. As a successful optometrist in the San Gabriel Valley, he owns and operates two businesses. With a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, a master's degree in business administration and a doctorate in optometry, Chong values the educational opportunities provided to him. The Dr. Andrew G. Chong scholarship is awarded to recognize exceptional students from any major.

BENEFACTOR



Dr. Andrew Chong

## Edgar Gonzalez

### College of Science

EDGAR RECEIVED HIS UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN FRENCH and biology at UC Berkeley, and his interests in human biology led to upper-division studies in immunology, cell biology and medical microbiology. He is currently conducting immunology research with Jill Adler-Moore at Cal Poly Pomona and pursuing his master's in biology, with the goal of earning his doctorate. He has maintained a 4.0 GPA in his graduate studies while serving as a teaching assistant in MENTORES and MBRS-Rise. Edgar appreciates the College of Science's commitment to students and applied learning, and he credits Professors Adler-Moore, Nancy Buckley and Douglas Durrant for their commitment to teaching, research and mentorship. He is grateful for the scholarship support so that he can focus on his research and becoming a more competitive doctoral candidate with a strong curriculum vitae.

**KIM FAMILY**  
President's Scholarship (graduate)



Alumnus **KEITH SOON KIM** and his wife, **SUNG**, have long supported Cal Poly Pomona. As a math and electrical engineering double major, Keith valued his educational opportunities and actively participated in campus clubs and programs. The Kim family demonstrates its commitment to education by providing opportunities for other students to succeed at Cal Poly Pomona. Outstanding engineering and science students are recognized by the Kim Family scholarship.

BENEFACTORS



Sung and Keith Soon Kim



