

2020-21



# PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARS



**Conferral**



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

### MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT **Soraya M. Coley**

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, more than 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.





## 2020-21 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.





## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Kiannah Shalise Barclay

JASEN STRAND President's Scholar

**Major:** Animal Science

**Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture**

**University Programs:** Arabian Horse Center's Equestrian Team, Foal Watch Program

**KIANNAH SHALISE BARCLAY CREDITS BEING ABLE TO APPLY WHAT SHE** learned in the classroom to experiences in multiple university programs, which strengthened her desire to pursue equine therapy. Her passionate pursuits extend off campus: she serves in the Faith Warriors Ministry at Calvary Chapel Chino Hills; volunteers with her church's young adult outreach events; and volunteers with the Equine Red Bucket Rescue, a local horse rescue rehabilitation organization. Kiannah's faith keeps her motivated: "All of my success and achievement is owed to God. My educational journey is a constant reminder of God's faithfulness to carry me through impossible tribulations. The knowledge that donors decided to invest in my future has humbled me greatly." Her goal is to create an equine therapy ministry to serve veterans and wounded warriors. As the inaugural Jasen Strand President's Scholar, Kiannah's dedication to helping others and advocating for equal student access pays a fitting tribute to Jasen Strand, the son of Peter and Tina Strand who created this scholarship in 2010 and provided additional funding in 2020.



**TINA and PETER STRAND** created the scholarship in memory of their son, Cal Poly Pomona mechanical engineering student Jasen Strand who was diagnosed with Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy at age six and who passed away in 2010. Committed to enjoying life to its fullest, Jasen was passionate about learning, overcame challenges and became a bright, energetic scholar, excelling in his academic endeavors. Tina and Peter Strand are honoring Jasen's support from the Disability Resource Center by providing educational resources for more students with disabilities and who share Jasen's enthusiasm for learning.

In Memoriam  
**Jasen Strand**

**BENEFACTOR**



**Tina and Peter Strand**



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Amanda Penicks

ALBERT ZORASTER President's Scholar

**Major:** Agricultural Science

**Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture**

**University Programs:** Secretary for both the Los Robles Horticulture Club and the Agriculture Council, Agriculture Biology Club member

**AMANDA PENICKS' INTERESTS IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE INCLUDES** teaching photography, entomology, and animal care in 4-H, a youth development and mentoring organization she has been involved with since childhood. "Being a part of this organization aided me in finding my passion in science and I want to provide that same opportunity to others. Learning doesn't stop as a youth, and I am always learning different teaching methods and strategies to help with providing that spark and building comprehension." Inspired by her major's value in career readiness, she worked as a laboratory field intern at a medical entomology facility and as a horticultural exterminator at Disneyland, which gives her the experiences needed to become a vector ecologist, her dream career. Amanda says that her mom is a major supporter whose encouragement helps her to overcome any obstacle and to view them as learning experiences that can be used for life. Amanda says gratefully that "the scholarship will bring me closer to my goal of acquiring a career in the science field to better serve the community as well as the environment."



**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**



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Aried Sanchez

MARK ALDRICH President's Scholar

**Major:** Business Administration

**College of Business Administration**

**University Programs:** Tau Alpha Chi director of fundraising, Beta Alpha Psi member

**ARIED SANCHEZ IS MOTIVATED DAILY BY HAVING DEDICATED PEERS** and being involved in clubs that further her accounting knowledge. Her achievements led to an internship with RSM, a top ten public accounting firm, where she learned new skills to navigate remote work. Outside of the classroom, she served with a nonprofit Help us Help, which provides food and clothing to underprivileged children in Mexico. She says, "Cal Poly Pomona has opened doors that I believe I wouldn't have been able to open without them, through the constant encouragement from faculty or the support of many of the on-campus clubs. Receiving this scholarship represents how anything can be achieved with dedication and perseverance over any obstacles that may come your way." Aried's goal is to work at a large public accounting firm and open her own CPA firm. She is excited to be the first in her family to earn a higher education degree.



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



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Zachary Smith

EILEEN AND MICHAEL CONSIDINE President's Scholar

**Major:** Business Administration

**College of Business Administration**

**University Programs:** Participating in workshops led by the Bronco Recreational Intramural Complex, including Olympic weightlifting, indoor rock climbing, and CPR certification

**BEFORE CAL POLY POMONA, ZACHARY SMITH WAS ENLISTED IN THE** United States Marine Corp and was stationed in Japan, where his volunteer work was recognized by the Marine Corps Community Services. He says, "My ideal job would be helping everyday people with their finances. I take great pride in my goal to help educate others to improve their lives." He currently works as a special education teacher's aide in the Fontana Unified School District, and has volunteered for campus career fairs and the Poly Pantry. The first in his family to pursue a degree, Zach is grateful for the support of family and friends, and the Cal Poly Pomona faculty and staff who he says "helped me learn everything from scratch along the way." Receiving the President's Scholar recognition for Zach is "an incredible opportunity to do my part in making society a better place."



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.



BENEFACTOR

Michael and Eileen Considine



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Cristian Osvaldo Saldana

GREGOIRE FAMILY President's Scholar

**Major:** Business Administration

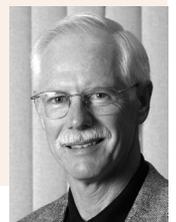
**College of Business Administration**

**University Programs:** Finance Society treasurer, Student Managed Investment Club member, Economics Club member, San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership Developer's Summit university representative, City of Pomona Beautification Day participant

**SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION FUELS CRISTIAN OSVALDO SALDANA'S** motivation to advance in his studies in business administration with an emphasis in finance and quantitative economics and a minor in accounting. "What keeps me going is the fact that I will be the first in my family to graduate, and most importantly to prove to myself that I can do it," Cristian says. He is committed to building a career in financial planning that will allow him to help people be secure, motivated by the challenges of the Great Recession and a desire to help those who were impacted financially. He is inspired by his professors and their commitments of time, mutual respect, and understanding they provide to students, qualities that Cristian sees that "translate from inside the classroom to the outside world, which creates an environment that allows us to garner our skills and grow as individuals."



**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



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Cynthia Magin

GWEN EVANS LA BOUNTY President's Scholar

**Major:** Early Childhood Studies

**College of Education and Integrative Studies**

**University Programs:** Children's Center

**CYNTHIA MAGIN IS INSPIRED BY HER PARENTS WHO INSTILLED THE** importance of an education that makes a difference in people's lives. She is committed to providing a foundation for children's development that includes cognitive, socio-emotional, literacy, and physical growth. She is motivated to assist households to provide early educational support, which she says will enrich families and "ripple in patterns that allow growth altogether for the community." Cynthia gives time back to her community; she works as a college intern at the Pomona Unified School District, volunteered with City of Pomona Mayor Tim Sandoval's political campaign, works in a Washington Elementary School preschool class, and participates in the Bright Prospect program, which empowers low-income students to attend and graduate from four-year universities. Her experiences strengthen her focus on advocating for children's educational journeys. At Cal Poly Pomona's Children's Center, Cynthia's early childhood practicum has been a valued resource, which deepened her experiences in early intervention programs, occupational therapy, and children's mental health. Cynthia plans to be a childcare center director and is grateful that the President's Scholars recognition allows her to pursue service-learning and research opportunities.



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**



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Damiane Riggs

ROBERTS FAMILY President's Scholar

**Major:** Education Specialist Credential Program  
**College of Education and Integrative Studies**  
**University Programs:** Career Center

**CEIS PROFESSORS MOTIVATE DAMIANE RIGGS IN HER PURSUIT OF** a secondary teaching credential, exemplifying the kind of teacher she is inspired to become. "Every professor that I have had has taken their time to get to know me, listen to challenges, and stop at nothing to help solve them. These are the types of educators that truly make an impact on a student's life" she says. As a substitute teacher for the Glendora and Bonita Unified School Districts, she appreciates learning effective classroom management. She credits mentor teachers for their "100% dedication" to her success, which gives her the confidence to have her own classroom. Damiane's commitment to service includes volunteer work at a homeless shelter and fabric donations to help make face masks for essential workers. Her interests outside the classroom are experiencing theatre, attending music festivals with friends, spending the day at the beach, and making memories with her family. The President's Scholars recognition to Damiane "is such an honor. The scholarship allows me to complete fieldwork observation hours without the worry of finances and greatly helps with the resources necessary to my success as a student as well as a teacher."



**DOROTHY and KENT ROBERTS** have been members of the President's Council since 1985. As past owners of an English language development publishing business for 26 years and active participants in several educational nonprofits in their community, 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



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# William J. McKinney

CHANG FAMILY President's Scholar

**Major:** Mechanical Engineering

**College of Engineering**

**University Programs:** Salsa Club, Kellogg Honors College volunteer for Diamond Point Elementary School Garden Cleanup, Bronco Space recruiter, Rose Float Club, Pomona Habitat for Humanity

**WILLIAM J. MCKINNEY CHOSE CAL POLY POMONA OVER OTHER** schools because of the hands-on opportunities it provides. "Mechanical engineering allows learning about materials, programming, electronics and how they all fit together to make something useful, and giving the current uncertainties, I do not know any other area that would allow me to make an economic impact while providing the flexibility to the changes that are sure to come," he says. As a project leader in the CubeSat program Bronco Space, William designed a docking station to hold experimental devices that would be sent into space. He helped to draft an NSF grant, GEOPath, for the recruitment of underrepresented students in the geosciences, and support of Bronco Space's expansion of its low earth orbit program. He also worked as Mechanical Lead for the Rose Float Club, where he designed a mechanism that was used on one of the university's award-winning floats. William's goal is to pursue his dream job of hands-on learning and experimentation as a product engineer.



**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



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Jonathan Nguyen

OSCAR PERLAZA President's Scholar

**Major:** Aerospace Engineering

**College of Engineering**

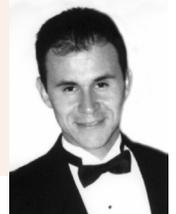
**University Programs:** Liquid Rocket Lab, Engineering Student Ambassador Program, Maximizing Engineering Potential Program new student mentor, aerospace structural mechanics course supplemental instruction student facilitator

**FOR JONATHAN NGUYEN, HIS AEROSPACE ENGINEERING SENIOR** project has been one of his favorite educational experiences. "I never thought that I would have an opportunity to lead such an awesome project. There is something so rewarding about designing, building, and testing a thing that had only been an idea. Seeing this concept mature is like nothing else and I can't wait to see how far it will go," he says. His passion for rocketry was inspired by his father, who worked on the Space Shuttle and supported launches at Cape Canaveral. Jonathan has been involved with rocket competitions since his freshman year, now serving as a systems engineer for the College of Engineering's Liquid Rocket Lab where he has worked on the university's first functional liquid rocket for competition in the FAR-MARS competition. Off campus, he had internships with Northrop Grumman in 2019 and 2020. Watching the Space X Falcon Heavy launches continuously re-energizes his efforts as he aims to be a propulsion engineer and pursue advanced degrees to teach at a university.



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**



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Daniel Victor Romero

SHELTON FAMILY President's Scholar

**Major:** Civil Engineering

**College of Engineering**

**University Programs:** Steel Bridge Club, Bronco Pep Band, Symphonic Winds, and the Kappa Kappa Psi Honorary Band Fraternity, Kellogg Honors College

**DANIEL VICTOR ROMERO'S PARTICIPATION IN STEEL BRIDGE CLUB** has been his most meaningful extracurricular activity because of its emphasis on teamwork. The countless hours of work, preparation, and practice to bring the steel bridge to its final form helped him understand the importance of collaboration, and he values the lifelong friendships he has formed. He is interested in civil engineering because of its direct effects on the public, saying "to help my community, I realized that all people use infrastructure that a civil engineer has made. I am motivated to work in the field and to inspire the younger members of my family to pursue a college education." His work with the Kellogg Honors College includes volunteering at City of Pomona events and local food pantries. He currently works as a student intern at the Riverside County Transportation Department. Daniel's ideal job is working as an environmental engineer where he can apply concepts of water and its treatment, and plans to pursue a master's degree and work in the public sector.



**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



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Yahia Haggag

IANA WILLIAMS President's Scholar

**Major:** Aerospace Engineering

**College of Engineering**

**University Programs:** Supplemental instruction facilitator for both Maximizing Engineering Potential and Learning Resource Center programs, Sigma Gamma Tau National Aerospace Engineering Honors Society treasurer, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

**YAHIA HAGGAG CHOSE HIS AEROSPACE ENGINEERING MAJOR BECAUSE** of his lifelong curiosity about the science behind flying. "Knowing the details of the aviation world unfolds its mysteries and encourages me to learn more. I would love to use this knowledge in the future by applying it in the aviation field to work on making flying safer," he says. Yahia feels fortunate to collaborate with his professors and with industry professionals in projects like the Northrop Grumman Collaboration Project where he serves as chief engineer. The first STEM major graduate in his family, Yahia's motivation to graduate is his parent's dedication to hard work, which drives him to set an example for his younger siblings. He plans to pursue graduate degrees to support his goals to work in aeronautical safety and to inspire others through teaching. "This scholarship will allow me to take a step closer to focusing more on my studies."



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.



BENEFACTOR

**M. Catharine Hudspeth**



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Vilma E. Gonzalez

FRANK D. WHITEHEAD FAMILY President's Scholar (Graduate)

**Master of Science** in Engineering with an  
Emphasis in Materials Engineering

### College of Engineering

**University Programs:** American Institute of  
Chemical Engineering, National Association of  
Corrosion Engineers, CPP Womens Soccer Club

**BECOMING AN ENGINEER HAS BEEN ONE OF VILMA E. GONZALEZ'S** biggest life goals – to do work that improves society and solve challenges. Currently employed as a materials engineering intern at The Lab Materials Testing in Rancho Cucamonga, Vilma received her bachelor's in chemical engineering with a minor in materials engineering, and she is currently pursuing her master's degree to work as a material researcher. She also plans to obtain her Ph.D. in the same field. "Any position that would put me in a laboratory to improve teamwork and hands-on skills would be the perfect job. My ideal career is to research new materials for medical products, possibly prosthetics or implant devices," she says. She credits Dr. Vilupanur Ravi as a great supporter, helping to grow her overall love for learning. "With this generous award, I will have more time to focus on my studies without having to worry about finances. I am beyond thankful for this support and plan to represent my university proudly as a President's Scholar," she says.



### 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



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Melanis Stepanian

JAMES H. JONES President's Scholar

**Major:** Urban and Regional Planning

**College of Environmental Design**

**University Programs:** University Student Housing events lead, American Planning Student's Association class representative, Armenian Club

**CREATING CONNECTIONS IS A PASSION FOR MELANIS STEPANIAN. HER** activities at Cal Poly Pomona allow her to lead and encourage her peers to expand their educational experiences through networking and professional development. Faculty members, like Adjunct Professor Steve Preston, inspire Melanis to learn the value of versatility in planning and the potential to develop spaces that build relationships. "Planning has elements ranging from social justice to urban design to informing issues seen and unseen. By having the knowledge and some control over these elements within a specific area, I want to create a greater sense of community in the city I will be working in through the construction of urban areas as well as creating social programs" she says. Melanis is also a soccer player, which led her to coach and referee AYSO soccer in her community, and has been active with the Southern California Association of Governments Illuminate Riverside. Crediting her parents' dedication to her studies as motivation to graduate, Melanis is grateful to be recognized with the President's Scholars scholarship, saying, "This scholarship was a blessing and has given me an extra boost to push harder toward my education, and motivated me to graduate at the top of my class."



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**



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Alex Armendariz

RINEHART FAMILY President's Scholar (Graduate)

**Master of Science** in Regenerative Studies

**College of Environmental Design**

**University Programs:** American Indian Science and Engineering Society co-founder, Native American Student Association co-founder, Lyle Center Sustainability Student Association member

**ALEX ARMENDARIZ** CHOSE REGENERATIVE STUDIES BECAUSE OF THE interconnectedness of food and tribal sovereignty for Native American populations. His research is focused on the Cahuilla tribal community in Southern California, exploring impacts of practices on traditional territories. As an undergraduate, he became involved with basic needs efforts at UC Riverside, including working with the university's community garden and the Native American Student programs, which guided his interests in regeneration. As a residence life Intern for the events team at Cal Poly Pomona, he values the Native American Student Center as a cornerstone of his education. He thanks his mom for being his greatest inspiration "who gave me everything she had to ensure that I was able to pursue my education and whatever else I set my sights on." He plans to apply research to advocate for the restoration of tribal cultural practices.



**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



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

### Sara Siu

AL LEVIE FAMILY President's Scholar

**Major:** Hospitality Management

**The Collins College of Hospitality Management**

**University Programs:** Director of Events for the Food and Beverage Professionals Club

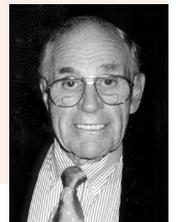
**"PEOPLE'S WARMEST MEMORIES REVOLVE AROUND SHARING A MEAL** with loved ones and learning to operate a restaurant will allow me to provide that experience for many others," says Sara Siu on hospitality. The first in her family to pursue a career in the field, she is determined to show how the career provides invaluable opportunities for connection and creativity. For the past three years, she has volunteered with the California Restaurant Association Foundation, which provides hospitality-oriented outreach to local high schools through tours and conferences and assists non-profits with charitable event planning. Her work provides her with the career skills needed for her ideal job – event planning for non-profits. Sara is grateful to her parents, whose hard work, perseverance, and determination is continuous inspiration for her to graduate. She is honored to be a recipient of the President's Scholars scholarship, which she says will help her work toward her aspirations to pursue a management development program abroad: "This scholarship will allow me to get the education I need to my goals and to provide people with experiences they will never forget."



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**



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Sarah Grace Petras

ARTHUR M. BERMAN President's Scholar

**Major:** English

**College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences**

**University Programs:** College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences Council secretary, CPP Lit Lab co-founder and vice president, Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival university representative, performed in the Southern California Shakespeare Festival in 2019

**SARAH GRACE PETRAS' INTEREST IN LITERARY STUDIES IS BASED ON** her belief that writing is a valuable and accessible way to understand the struggles, tensions, and excitements felt by people living through historical moments. "The way that this field is in constant flux, despite studying novels and writings who's text has never changed, is incredibly exciting to me," Sarah says. Her goal is to pursue a graduate program in archival studies and publish literary research, inspired by professors in the English and Modern Languages department such as Dr. Kate Ozment and Dr. Alison Baker. Sarah is grateful to her family and friends for their encouragement, especially to her mom who she says "worked incredibly hard to make sure I could get the best education possible. I couldn't ask for a better person in my corner, and I certainly wouldn't have reached the accomplishments and goals that I did without her."



**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**



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Jared Hasen-Klein

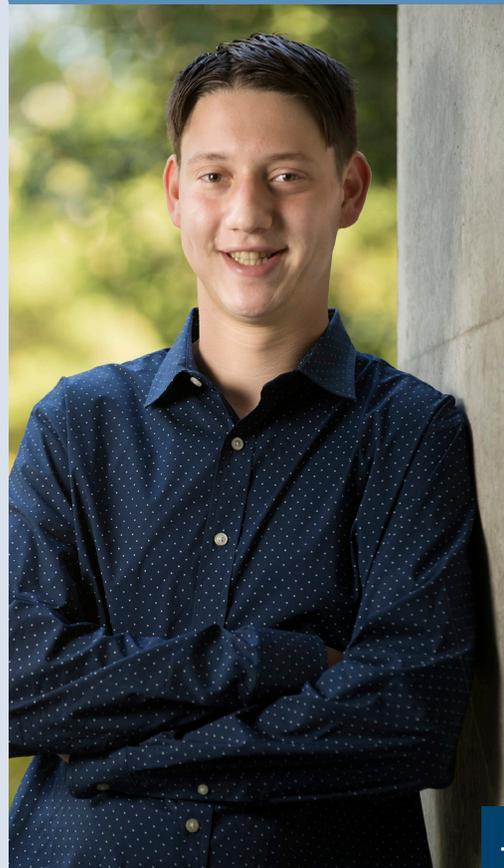
BERNARD AND LUCIE BIDART President's Scholar

**Major:** Political Science

**College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences**

**University Programs:** Bronco Associated Students Experience, Alpha Epsilon Pi Jewish Fraternity exchequer

**JARED HASEN-KLEIN HAS LEARNED AS A POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR** that the "opportunities for helping people are endless. I want to take my degree and make a positive difference in this world." Committed to the improvement of the quality of lives of others, his involvements include AIDS Walk Los Angeles where he led teams and later helped with event management. He participated in more than 75 FIRST Robotics competitions totalling 19,000 miles of travel during high school and organized a Cal Poly Pomona tournament while managing a website to provide resources for worldwide teams. His passion for student advocacy stemmed from the Bronco Associated Students Experience, which led to civic work opportunities including participating in the California Higher Education Student Summit, serving as a 2018 campaign aid for Governor Newsom, and being a legislative intern for the Office of Rep. Jamie Raskin in Washington, D.C. from 2019 to 2020. He also worked with the SoCal COVID-19 Makers Response Team as a project lead, and helped to produce protection equipment for front line healthcare workers. His family's encouragement has instilled in him values of education and service, and Jared is grateful to Cal Poly Pomona's accessible professors and administrators who promote empathy and respect.



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.



BENEFACTOR

**Jeannette and Michael Bidart**



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Gracelyn Michele Goodman

ANNETTE F. AND MORTON J. BLUMNER President's Scholar

**Major:** Anthropology

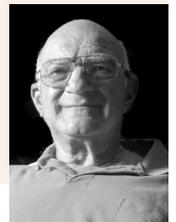
**College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences**

**University Programs:** President of both Anthropological Society and Pi Gamma Mu Social Science Honors Society

**GRACELYN MICHELE GOODMAN'S INTERESTS IN LANGUAGES,** research, and artifacts led her to major in anthropology with an emphasis in archeology. Dr. Mark Allen's archeology lab inspired her passion for research and motivated her to participate in field research in Greece, a country's ancient language that she is also studying (Attic Greece) in addition to Latin, German and French. Her favorite aspect of archeology are the artifacts, saying that they are "physical snapshots of time when put together can be inspected, documented, and interpreted by an archaeologist who puts them back into context. I plan to pursue a Ph.D. in Archaeology and continue work to create hypotheses about the past." Her career-related activities extend into the local community, where she is serving on the board of directors of the San Dimas Historical Society. Her motivation to pursue graduate studies is influenced by the support of her family and particularly her mom, who are committed to seeing her dreams come true. She is also grateful for Dr. Allen's mentorship and the guidance from Dr. Dorothy Wills and Dr. Claudia Garcia-Des Lauriers, who all encourage her to become a college professor and researcher.



**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, and Social Sciences, where he spent 33 years as a tenured faculty member, chair of the Department of Economics, and is now a donor.



BENEFACTOR

Annette F. and Sidney Blumner



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Victor Baserga

NICOLE CHRISTINE COTÉ President's Scholar

**Major:** Sociology

**College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences**

**University Programs:** Project Rebound, McNair Scholar, Alpha Kappa Delta, Sociology Club, Kings Chess Club, instructional student assistant

**VICTOR BASERGA CONNECTS AND EMPATHIZES WITH COMMUNITY** members through social work, providing them with needed resources to improve their lives. Learning research methods at Cal Poly Pomona helps him to analyze social inequality issues, which allows him to assist clients on a deeper level. He also contributes his time to the university through Project Rebound. He guides formerly incarcerated students to navigate campus life and advocates for the community by building awareness to other students by sharing his experiences. Victor's experience with the McNair Scholars Program is motivating him to attend graduate school in the future. He is inspired by the love and support from his family and is grateful to have a strong support network on campus. "My experience at Cal Poly Pomona can only be described as a blessing. I feel that every professor I've interacted with has had a positive impact on my life. Being recognized as a President's Scholar makes me feel validated for the hard work I put into my education."



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**



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Marianna Sidella

HUGH AND JUDY LA BOUNTY President's Scholar

**Major:** Sociology

**College of Letters, Arts, and Social Studies**

**University Programs:** Sociology department peer mentor, collaboration with Colorful Flags

**MARIANNA SIDELLA'S INTERACTION WITH PROFESSORS AND HER** peers helped her find passion in social work. Encouragement from Sociology professor Dr. Mary Danico provided advocacy skills to Marianna, a first-generation student. "What I like about my area of study is the sense of community. During the pandemic, students received so much support and encouragement that I am so proud to be part of this incredible family, composed also by students who are open to help each other. This sense of community will be definitely part of my future career," she says. Marianna also works with David and Margaret Youth and Family Services, where she helps with their food bank and organizes events around local service days. Her goal is to earn her master's degree in clinical social work to serve elderly populations or foster care youth. "Receiving this honor and scholarship means I can begin my internship, finish my education, and begin living the life of helping others" she says.



**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 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, and Social Sciences.



BENEFACTOR

Hugh & Judy La Bounty



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Kelsey Conroy

LOWELL OVERTON President's Scholar

**Major:** Psychology

**College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences**

**University Programs:** Brain Network Lab researcher

**KELSEY CONROY'S WORK IN CAL POLY POMONA'S BRAIN NETWORK** Laboratory ignited her interest in the areas of memory in psychology. Kelsey changed her career focus from the medical field after an injury forced her to stop working, putting her on a different path that would still equip her with the skills necessary to help others. "The education I am receiving in psychology has given me a deeper understanding of how humans manage their emotions and allows me to dig deeper into caring for individuals in a way I was incapable of before," Kelsey says. With Dr. Robert Blumenfeld, Kelsey is working on research related to Alzheimer disease, and considers the experience in the lab, with professors such as Dr. Lori Barker, as foundational to her goal to obtain her master's and Ph.D. in clinical psychology to counsel those suffering from strokes, brain injuries, or dementia. She provides ABA therapy as a behavioral therapist, fosters animals, and works at the equestrian center Riverside Rancheros. Hoping to inspire her younger siblings to "believe in their abilities and follow their wildest dreams," Kelsey wants to teach at a university to provide the same engagement and motivation she has received at Cal Poly Pomona.



**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 and 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



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Chelsea Christine Duran

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

**Master's in** Public Administration

**College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences**

**University Programs:** College of Engineering's Student Ambassador program events coordinator and program lead, Staff Council and Engineering Council volunteer

**CHELSEA CHRISTINE DURAN IS COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY BUILDING** and is motivated by the Master's in Public Administration program's emphasis on positive change. Her studies strengthened the importance of advocacy, and Drs. Lauren Hom, Mohsen Moayedi and Beverly Speak inspired Chelsea through their knowledge, accessibility and encouragement. Chelsea is involved in her student community by promoting educational opportunities that build connections and create an inclusive environment. She also provided her expertise during iPoly's Career Day by sharing her experience in sports marketing for an NFL team and media assistance with the Roggin's Heroes program. The first in her family to obtain a degree, Chelsea's career goal is to be a CSU administrator, eventually pursuing her doctorate. "My motivation for graduating is knowing there are others out there that have been told they can't. The sooner I graduate, the sooner I can begin the work to bring up others behind me. I am so grateful for the support and want to give back to the system that has given so much to me," she says.



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.



**BENEFACTOR**

**Jeannette and Michael Bidart**



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Alexia Limon

NORMAN WILLIAMSON JR. FAMILY President's Scholar (Graduate)

**Master of Arts** in English

**College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences**

**University Programs:** First-year composition courses  
teaching associate

**ALEXIA LIMON'S GRADUATE STUDIES ARE FOCUSED ON EDUCATING** and demonstrating to people how language can empower their participation in their communities. Her experiences as a writing tutor in community college inspired a passion for teaching. As a first-generation college student, she graduated with honors from UC Riverside, where she participated in Kappa Kappa Gamma. She volunteered with the Reading is Fundamental program and her position as Vice President of Organization for Kappa Kappa Gamma allowed her to direct her chapter's Leadership Day that brought governance and alumni together for discussion and workshops. At Cal Poly Pomona, she appreciates the faculty support in the English graduate program, which "has welcomed me into the community and consistently inspired me to develop skills through their words of encouragement and wisdom." She is grateful that the scholarship support will assist her to become a stronger professional in her preparation for graduation and a career as an educator.



**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.**



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Neeiyati Sanjay Ajmera

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

**Major:** Computer Science

**College of Science**

**University Programs:** Software Engineering Association co-president, Kellogg Honors Society member, sheCodes member, Learning and Research Center technology assistant

**COMPLEX PROBLEM-SOLVING INFLUENCED NEEYATI SANJAY AJMERA'S** interest in computer science. As a freshman recipient of a Google scholarship to learn application development, Neeiyati was "thrilled that I could be both methodical and creative at the same time to build something useful. I love that there is an element of rigidity as well as creativity in computer science." She applies her skills and experience to her communities as a peer mentor with the Asian Pacific Center, a volunteer with a K-6 STEM competition, Astounding Inventions, in the Irvine and Tustin Unified School Districts, and a software engineering intern at Avanade, a global IT services firm. Her career aspiration in educational technology is rooted in a belief that technology will enable us to transform work and its education helps students to leverage their strengths. She is thankful to her parents for their unwavering support and to her professors for their commitment and setting an example for her own aspirations to teach at a university.



**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



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Sahar Kebriaei

SIU FAMILY President's Scholar

**Major:** Biology

**College of Science**

**University Programs:** Student Health Advisory Committee, Pre-Medical Student Association Club

**EMERGING DENTAL DISCIPLINES LED SAHAR KEBRIAIEI TO PURSUE HER** microbiology major toward a career of becoming a cosmetic dentist. "Advancement in the field is helping people who may struggle with dental issues to get their smiles and joy back," she says. In addition to her on campus involvement, Sahar volunteers as a dental assistant in the community and at Kaiser Permanente. She is inspired by her professors, Dr. Shayda Kafai, who reminds students to prioritize mental health to ensure success, and Dr. Thomas Osberger and Dr. Wendy Dixon. Helping her toward graduation is the support of her family who have "sacrificed so much for me to be here. They left their belongings, their perfect careers, and all they cared about so that I can become the best version of myself in a place that has so many opportunities to offer. I am doing my best to be able to give back to those who have been supporting me through difficult times, as well as the Cal Poly Pomona community."



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 Sius 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**



## 2020-21 President's Scholars

# Suhani B. Bhakta

KIM FAMILY President's Scholar (Graduate)

**Master of Science** in Biological Sciences

**College of Science**

**University Programs:** Introductory biology lab teaching associate, researcher

**AN UNDERGRADUATE BIOLOGY CLASS WAS THE MOTIVATION FOR** Suhani B. Bhakta to pursue a master's degree in molecular biology, with the goal of eventually earning her Ph.D. She is interested in learning about the regulatory function of cells, which can inform both the development of diseases and immunity to fight off infectious pathogens. Her work with immunoparasitology research in Dr. Frances Mercer's lab gave her the opportunity to present at the Southern California Eukaryotic Pathogen Symposium. She also enjoys helping students build a foundation for their upper-division classes. "I would like to encourage women, especially women of color, to pursue careers in STEM because diversity in the field is important. When young girls can witness intelligent and independent women conducting science, they will believe that they can too," she says. Outside of school, Suhani teaches dance at the Bhakta Samaj of Southern California Center to children, hoping to ignite their passion to carry their cultural values and traditions to the next generation.



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