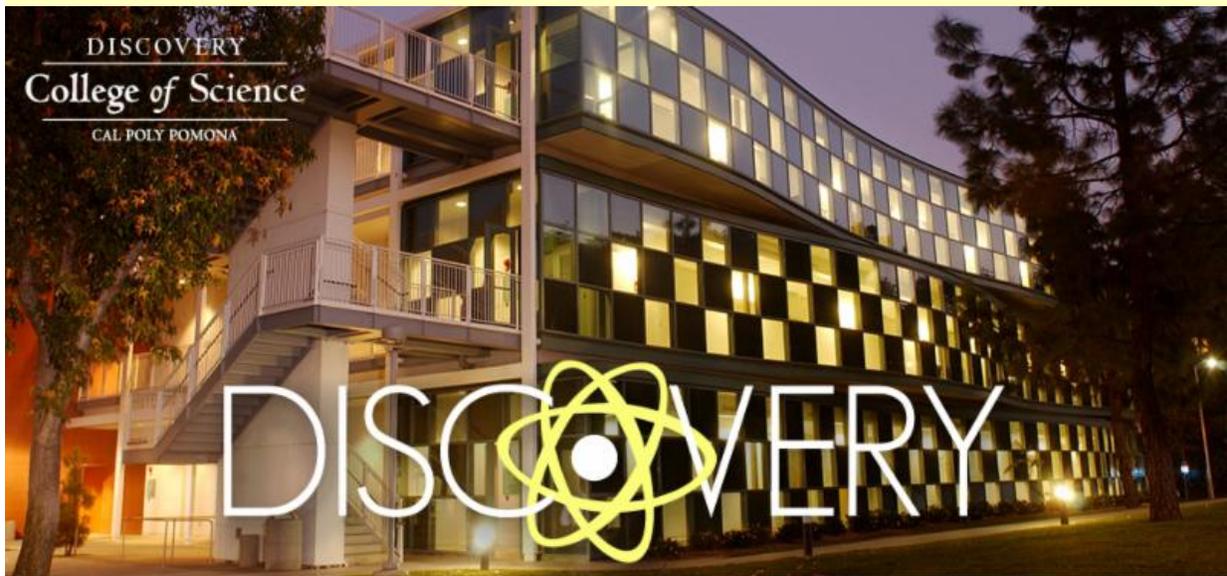


January 2019



## Welcome

Welcome to the 2019 spring semester! As we begin our second semester we will also be beginning the development of an updated strategic plan for the College of Science. It will be aligned with the [university's strategic plan](#) and [academic master plan](#) which were recently completed. As part of our planning process we will be asking for your input and feedback.

The firm K2OH, which has been working successfully with the College of Engineering for their planning, will also be assisting us with our process. To better understand where we are as a college and to develop a plan that will guide us into the future, we will be asking for your input via focus groups, interviews, and surveys. Your participation is important to us and most appreciated.

Have a great semester!

## Motor Development Clinic will Celebrate 40 Year Anniversary in 2019

The ability to walk, run, and play sports is something that most of us take for granted. But for children with developmental delays these things do not come naturally. Since 1979 the **Motor Development Clinic** at Cal Poly Pomona has been helping such children to lead more active and fulfilling lives.

One mother put it this way, "You haven't just given my child the ability to kick, to dribble, or to ride a bike, you've given my child his self-confidence. You've given him the ability to be



included, to belong.”

[Read More](#)

## Michael Brown Celebrates 40 Years of Sowing the Seeds of Student Success

You may not know Michael Brown or recognize his signature hat or cheerful bearded grin but you’ve no doubt seen his handy work. He is the curator of four gardens on campus. If you walk past the [Mesozoic Garden](#) you may catch him tending plants, or instructing students on their medicinal properties in the [Ethnobotany Garden](#), or guiding students as they plant native species in the new riparian habitat at [Project Blue](#).



[Read More](#)

## Student Highlights



### SheCodes Hosts Hackathon

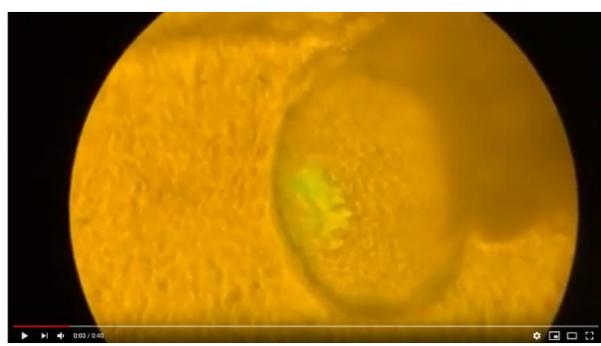
Campus Club [sheCodes](#) hosted their first [Hackathon](#) sponsored by Major League Hacking on December 1, 2018. The event drew over 70 participants that included students from local high schools as well as students from UC Davis and California Baptist University.

The event is a learning experience where students work in small groups to invent interesting apps or products. The first place team developed a “smart cane” using a [raspberry pi](#) and a motion sensor. Second place was a game created by five high school students, and third place was a recycling-themed game created by CPP sheCodes members on the Unity platform.

## Stem Cell Biology Lab Students Capture Heart Cells on Video

Students learned how to induce cell differentiation to produce cardiomyocytes (heart cells) that beat.

The additional time provided by semesters allowed Professor Yuanxiang (Ansel) Zhao from biological sciences to provide this experience for students.



(Click image to see the video)



## Biology Students Work on Fire Restoration

Associate Professor Erin Questad's biology students surveyed invasive plant species such as the Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) in riparian zones of the Angeles National Forest.

The work is part of a two-year project titled "Planning for Restoration of the Angeles National Forest" and is funded by a grant from the

Environment for the Americas. Data from this survey will be used to monitor the effect of invasive species on the forest's waterways. [The work is featured on the Forest Service Website, image #5.](#)

## Faculty Highlights

### New Chair for Department of Biological Sciences

Professor Ángel A. Valdés has been appointed the new Chair of Biological Sciences effective January 16. Valdés is a distinguished professor who received the Provost Teacher-Scholar Award in 2013 and has great vision for the department.

We would like to thank Professor Nancy Buckley for her service as interim chair and Professor Wei Jen Lin as interim associate chair during the fall semester.



### Professor Rudolph Presents at American Astronomical Society

Professor Alexander Rudolph from the Department of Physics and Astronomy is co-chair of the [Task Force](#) on Diversity and Inclusion in Astronomy Graduate Education for the American Astronomical Society (AAS). The AAS has endorsed the [task force's recommendations](#) and Rudolph co-presented their findings at the annual AAS



meeting in Seattle, January 8, 2019.

The report is available [HERE](#) and will also be published in the [Bulletin of the AAS](#).

## Mathematics Professor Jennifer Switkes Receives Teaching Award

The [Mathematical Association of America](#) (MAA) has honored Professor Jennifer Switkes with the Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics.

Switkes makes extensive use of projects in her courses and includes content that encourages students to explore issues beyond the central questions of the project.

The MAA recognizes the great positive impact Switkes has had on mathematics education at Cal Poly Pomona, regionally, and internationally.



## New Publications

***If you have a recent publication that is not included, please let us know so that it can be listed in next month's newsletter! email: [djgriggs@cpp.edu](mailto:djgriggs@cpp.edu)***

1. Deshpande, S. A., Meiselman, M., Hice, R. H., **Arensburger, P.**, Rivera-Perez, C., Kim, D., . . . Adams, M. E. (2018). Ecdysis triggering hormone receptors regulate male courtship behavior via antennal lobe interneurons in *Drosophila*. *General and Comparative Endocrinology*. doi:10.1016/j.ygcen.2018.12.003
2. **Bergman, B. A., Bobich, E. G.**, Davis, S. D., Utsumi, Y., & **Ewers, F. W.** (2018). Dense but flexible wood – How leaf nodes impact xylem mechanics in *Juglans californica*. *IAWA Journal*. doi:10.1163/22941932-20170205
3. Pondella DJ, II, Robart MJ, **Claissse JT**, Williams JP, **Williams CM**, Zellmer AJ, Piacenza SE (2018) Spatial and temporal fishing patterns at the outer banks of the Southern California Bight. *Western North American Naturalist* 78: 341-357
4. Williams JP, **Williams CM**, Blanchette CA, **Claissse JT**, Pondella DJ, Caselle JE (2018) Where the Weird Things are: A Collection of Species Range Extensions in the Southern California Bight. *Bulletin of the Southern California Academy of Sciences* 117: 89-202
5. Pondella DJ, Williams JP, **Williams CM**, **Claissse JT**, Witting D (2018) Restoring a Nearshore Rocky Reef Ecosystem in the Challenge of an Urban Setting. In: Bortone SA (ed) *Marine Artificial Reef Research and Development: Integrating Fisheries Management Objectives*. American Fisheries Society, Bethesda, Maryland, USA, pp 165-186

6. Hernández, E., Questad, E. J., Meyer, W. M., & Suding, K. N. (2018). The effects of nitrogen deposition and invasion on litter fuel quality and decomposition in a *Stipa pulchra* grassland. *Journal of Arid Environments*. doi:10.1016/j.jaridenv.2018.11.003

7. Starbird, C. A., Perry, N. A., Chen, Q., Berndt, S., Yamakawa, I., Loukachevitch, L. V., . . . Mcculloch, K. M. (2018). The Structure of the Bifunctional Everninomicin Biosynthetic Enzyme EvdMO1 Suggests Independent Activity of the Fused Methyltransferase-Oxidase Domains. *Biochemistry*, 57(50), 6827-6837. doi:10.1021/acs.biochem.8b00836

8. Mogul, R. (2019). Protecting planets beyond Earth. *Physics Today*, 72(1), 66-67. doi:10.1063/pt.3.4120

## Upcoming Events

### January 28 - February 8: Campus Campaign

Support Cal Poly Pomona and participate in the "Top 5 Challenge."

### February 4-7: Science Week

Feb. 4 - Motivational Monday, 10-12, University Quad

Feb. 5 - DIY STEM Day, 11-1, University Quad

Feb. 6 - Science Trivia (win prizes), 11-1, University Quad steps ("the pancakes")

Feb. 7 - Science Carnival, 4-7 p.m., University Park

### February 5: Love Button Lecture: From Stress and Anxiety to Resilience and Success

Learn how to live free of stress.

### March 1: Student Research, Scholarship & Creative Activities Conference (RSCA)

Application Deadline is January 30.

### March 7: Spring Career Fair

### March 30 - April 5: Spring Break

### April 26: Research Symposium - College of Science

Support the College of Science

## College of Science Advising Center



**IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES**



College of Science  
Advising Center



**Jan. 2 - Feb. 4:** Add/Drop period for Spring 2019

**Jan. 19:** Spring semester classes begin

**Jan. 21:** Campus closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**Feb. 4:** Last day to drop classes without receiving a "W"

**Mar. 15:** Last day to apply for current semester graduation

Make the Advising Center your first stop for any of your academic needs! Drop by our office in Building 3, Room 1645 today to get your questions answered!

Feel free to call 909-979-5654 or email [sci\\_advising@cpp.edu](mailto:sci_advising@cpp.edu)

DISCOVERY  

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**College of Science**  

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