Letter from the new Dean

Welcome to the inaugural issue of our e-newsletter for the College of Science! Since we have many achievements to celebrate and events happening in our college and on campus, we will now be sharing them with you monthly.

Another fall quarter is already underway and I am thrilled to be settling in as the new Dean of the College of Science. It has been such a pleasure meeting faculty, staff and students here over the past two months.

For more than two decades I was on the East coast, and now I am enjoying being back “out West” where I grew up and
attended school. It is wonderful to be at Cal Poly Pomona which is known for providing students with a high quality, affordable education that embodies a ‘learn-by-doing’ philosophy.

This fall we are welcoming the largest incoming class into the College of Science—over 1,600 students! For those of you who attended the Fall Conference (click here for slides), you also heard that Cal Poly Pomona is developing a strategic plan that is focused on student success. The CSU system has a new Graduation Initiative 2025 which aims to more than double the four-year graduation rate of our incoming freshmen, and to eliminate achievement gaps among our students by 2025. As the quarter progresses, I want to listen and learn about your perspectives and suggestions for moving our college forward in its own strategic planning process to support student success.

If you have a moment, please scroll below this message to read about some great stories in the College of Science. Also, the right sidebar highlights events that are planned in our college or on campus in the near future. We would love to hear how we can better communicate across the College of Science, so please send us your suggestions (sci_news@cpp.edu).

In closing, I would like thank all of our dedicated faculty and staff for their hard work and their collective commitment to the success of our students.

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“Who dares to teach must never cease to learn.” – John Cotton Dana
The Milky Way Project

Over the last twelve years, NASA’s Spitzer Space Telescope and WISE satellite observatory have captured sweeping new views of our Milky Way Galaxy. However, scientists need our help to make sense of this deluge of data. Cal Poly Pomona Astronomer and Milky Way Project (MWP) Lead Scientist Matthew Povich leads an international team of scientists and manages the website that gathers data for this highly successful “citizen science” project, currently funded by the National Science Foundation.

Once-Homeless Graduate Gets Life on Track

If you have news to share this is a great place to do it! Please submit news and events to sci_news@cpp.edu. We will submit your news and events to the College of Science events page, newsletter, and social media outlets. Keep your colleagues informed by keeping us informed!
At age 10, Mich Hamlin was homeless, living in cars, on the streets, behind dumpsters and in city parks with his family. Then he and his brother were taken from their parents and placed in foster care. His mom eventually succumbed to her addictions and his dad ended up in jail. Mich found solace in running. He joined the high school track team. He applied to Cal Poly Pomona and got in. He joined our track team, too. Mich has been beating the odds his entire life. This year he’s doing it again — graduating with a 3.5 GPA and plans for grad school.

Camp for Teens Trains Next Generation of Cyber Defenders

Over the past few years, demand for trained cybersecurity professionals has surged as two million information security jobs have gone unfilled. To fill this shortfall for trained cyber security professionals, Cal Poly Pomona is working with the National Security Agency (NSA) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) to train the next generation of cyber defenders from local area high schools.