Evolution of Agriculture
From Farming to Fashion, the College of Agriculture Celebrates 70 Years of Excellence

By Esther Chou

As an urban agricultural college, students and faculty members are deeply involved in the science and research that help solve the many challenges of California’s agricultural industry. While traditional methods of farming have not changed, farmers are pressed to increase production while keeping costs down and using fewer resources such as water, fertilizers and pesticides. Global warming is expected to create extreme weather conditions, making farming even less predictable.

Through the California Agricultural Research Initiative (ARI), scientifically minded students and faculty from several universities, including Fresno State and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, help find immediate and practical solutions. At Cal Poly Pomona, some of the research projects include

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Greener Days Ahead

When the College of Agriculture opened its doors 70 years ago, the greening of the landscape was a reflection of the progress and success of its students. Today, as we make a true effort toward climate neutrality, the College of Agriculture is one of the key players on campus in working toward a greener future of a different kind. The college is looking to convert its tractors to biodiesel, is evaluating its livestock operation to reduce methane, and has reduced the use of pesticides in its laboratory operations.

In other areas, through the university’s John T. Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies, students are helping to develop a climate change action plan and strategies. In fact, they are involved with every step in the process, integrating the school’s polytechnic approach of “learn by doing” into a broad, campus-wide effort.

Cal Poly Pomona has gone tray-less in one of the dining halls, and recycling continues to thrive on campus. The Lighting and Photometric Lab is working with local cities to substantially reduce power consumption by street lights.

The university has converted nearly one-third of its facilities management gasoline vehicles to eco-friendly electric cars and trucks and offers free service on a natural gas-powered shuttle to and from the Metrolink train station in North Pomona. These and other electric needs will be powered through a pending campus solar project. A student group is consulting with other campuses to evaluate carbon emissions.

We are excited about the changes made thus far at Cal Poly Pomona – particularly about the involvement of our students in the process – and anticipate an even greener future.

Michael Ortiz
President
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"We love our work, love for the land and a genuine interest in helping people. It's all part of marketing and business." says Jean Gipe, interim associate dean. "We love our work, love for the land and a genuine interest in helping people. It's all part of marketing and business." It's important for students to understand the fabric, dyeing, machines and manufacturing. Eventually, they'll get to apply to real-life situations," says Douglas Lewis, chair of the Human Nutrition & Food Science department. "It's important for students to understand the fabric, dyeing, machines and manufacturing. Eventually, they'll get to apply to real-life situations," says Douglas Lewis, chair of the Human Nutrition & Food Science department. When he came from and where they go. It's all part of marketing and business."

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Proceeds from the Tasting & Auction will be used to help Cal Poly Pomona and its 21,000 students with production aspects of the apparel industry. "Southern California is the major center for apparel in the United States. It's eclipsed New York, economically," says Peter Koford, AFBM department chair.

In production classes, students and industry equipment to learn about design, cutting, and fabric protection lines. The department also employs a high-tech, 3-D technology center that can analyze clothing styles and colors, which helps students explore trends in contemporary fashion. Fashion retail classes impart the principles of marketing, planning and supply chain management.

The six professional associates come from different subject backgrounds — English, science, math and social science. Not only do they mentor beginning instructors, according to Sarmiento. They must be face in today's classrooms. For prospective teachers and students, according to Sarmiento. They must be face in today's classrooms. For prospective teachers and students, according to Sarmiento. They must be face in today's classrooms. For prospective teachers and students, according to Sarmiento. They must be face in today's classrooms. For prospective teachers and students, according to Sarmiento. They must be face in today's classrooms. For prospective teachers and students, according to Sarmiento. They must be face in today's classrooms. For prospective teachers and students, according to Sarmiento. They must be face in today's classrooms. For prospective teachers and students, according to Sarmiento. They must be face in today's classrooms. 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Carol and Jim Collins Pledge $5.25 Million to Spur Others to Help Collins College Grow

Carol and Jim Collins, the namesakes and primary benefactors of the Collins College of Hospitality Management, have once again shown tremendous generosity to Cal Poly Pomona. They have pledged to match, dollar-for-dollar, $5 million in donations for a $10 million academic building. The construction will incorporate green building design technology and lay the foundation for expanded hospitality educational programs.

“When I want to see a positive mark on Cal Poly Pomona is welcome to help out with the construction of the building, the garden, or the overall project,” Carol says. “I think we can increase the number of students—both those coming directly from high school and those from community colleges—who are graduating and going on to better opportunities, particularly Hispanic students, in the STEM disciplines.”

The Collins College is extremely grateful to Carol and Jim for their pledge at this important time,” says Dr. Claudia Pinto-Larkin, principal investigator of the grant and associate vice president of undergraduate studies. “In light of our current economic situation, the support of this grant is vital to help us make a difference even faster.”

For biology major Aleli Clark, support like this could have moved up her graduation date by a year. Like many students, Clark faced challenges in transferring credits for her classes between her semester-system community college and Cal Poly Pomona, which is based on the quarter system.

“It can be really discouraging,” says Clark. “If you have to redo a class, your whole year could be off. You can’t take the next class in the series because you have to take them in order.”

To help meet the demand, Cal Poly Pomona has been awarded a $4.1 million grant to help prepare science, technology, engineering and math graduates. The impact of the STEM workforce shortage extends beyond lost opportunities for job seekers in a global economy where math and science have been called “the new literacy,” says Dr. Margaret Spellings, it represents a challenge for the country to remain competitive.

“We've already been working to address these issues because of our major role in these fields,” says Dr. Claudia Pinto-Larkin, principal investigator of the grant and associate vice president of undergraduate studies. “Especially in light of our current economy, the support of this grant is vital to help us make a difference even faster.”

Many graduates are well positioned to fill the hospitality industry’s call for more skilled professionals. The Collins College is the first and largest four-year hospitality college in the United States. It is a leader in preparing professionals to enter the fields of food, beverage, and event management.

While the funding is intended to support Hispanic and low-income students, building the academic building extends beyond the project to support students from all backgrounds.

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The funding is intended to support Hispanic and low-income students in STEM disciplines, building the pipeline to the future for all students. Cal Poly Pomona will tackle this issue at multiple levels: generating additional grants in the disciplines, establishing support to ensure students successfully earn degrees and advancement processes, like the transfer of classes.

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Moa says. “To operate on a child who suffers from a cleft palate, for example, is not a cosmetic procedure; it affects a person in terms of general health and psychology,” Moore says. “My work gives me a way to be of service to humanity, and it is a great career.”

Moore, a Cal Poly Pomona alumnus, now serves as vice president of CARES Act would require insurance companies to cover reconstructive surgery on birth defects such as cleft lip and cleft palate.

Grether’s late father started the thoroughbred acquisitions in the late 1980s, and the stable now has expanded to 30 horses. One of the most respected Fasig-Tipton mixed sale in Kentucky. Greene adds: “Carl Grether is a perfect example of Cal Poly Pomona’s philosophy, ‘learn by doing.’" A 1979 agriculture graduate, he went on to work at the university’s farms on campus and in Santa Paula, doing just about everything — “you name it, if we did picking, pruning, ...”

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Interested in making contact and getting involved with Cal Poly Pomona? HERE ARE A FEW FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS:

Applying to the University – (909) 869-3210
To receive an application or find out about enrollment procedures

Extended University – (909) 869-2288
To learn more about career enrichment opportunities

Employment Hotline – (909) 869-2100
To check out job openings at the university

University Advancement – (909) 869-4997
To make a gift to the university in support of student scholarships and needs

Alumni Affairs – (909) 869-2963
To join the Alumni Association and receive university publications

Public Affairs – (909) 869-3342
To find answers to any other questions you may have

Visitor Center – (909) 869-3329
To schedule a tour of campus

As part of its commitment to green printing, Panorama is printed on paper certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. The FSC promotes environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests.

Did You Know...?
Student fees account for only 21% of university funding. The remainder comes from state appropriations (66%) and external resources (13%). Our role is to generate those resources to help students succeed at Cal Poly Pomona.