Celebrating 75 Years of Agriculture
We in the College of Agriculture are very excited about celebrating Cal Poly Pomona’s 75th anniversary. We are very proud to be the founding college of the university from its humble beginnings of a few hundred “Aggies” at the Voorhis Campus to the 22,000 current undergraduate and graduate students who occupy our present campus of 1,400 acres on the Kellogg Ranch. I am also personally celebrating my fifth and final year as dean of the college and looking forward to retirement beginning September 2014. I must say it has been wonderful working with our dedicated faculty and staff who provide our students one of the best educational experiences in higher education. Looking back over my past 37 years of academic service to Cal Poly Pomona and the College of Agriculture, I find it most gratifying to look upon all the positive changes and advances this institution has gone through. The College of Agriculture has emerged over the past five years of nearly devastating budget cuts to become fiscally stronger, more program-focused and facing a much brighter future than when I took the position as dean in 2008. Our instructional farm budget is balanced, more sustainable and environmentally responsible while still providing students our signature hands-on experiential education. Our faculty have recently been awarded over $1.2 million in USDA/HSI grants, nearly $1 million in ARI matching fund grants and a new $500,000 grant in Renewable Energy, Natural Resources and Environment from the federal government. We are over two-thirds of the way ($18 million) toward meeting our comprehensive campaign goal of $26 million in fund raising for the college. Our student population continues to grow—up 8 percent this year to over 1,800 students with over 500 new students joining us this fall. We have established collaborative partnerships with two major commodities: California citrus with the Citrus Research Board, and the California Avocado Commission, which has partnered with us in avocado research at our Pine Tree Ranch in Santa Paula. We are currently planting an additional 10 acres of wine grapes, made possible by a generous donation, to quadruple production of our award-winning label, Horsehill Vineyards wines. These are just some of the highlights attributed to our hard-working staff and faculty and to all of our supportive alumni and industry friends who make it possible for us to provide the best educational experience for the students we serve.

The College of Agriculture has been my home away from home for nearly four decades. I will miss being here and experiencing firsthand all the exciting future opportunities and new goals our college is poised to accomplish after this year. Like most of you, I look forward to looking in on “what’s happening” with the College of Agriculture at Cal Poly Pomona by visiting our recently revised website at www.csupomona.edu/~agri for many years to come.

With warm regards,

Dr. Lester Young
DR. LISA KESSLER ACCEPTS NEW POSITION

On July 15, 2013, with the retirement of Dr. Doug Lewis, the College of Agriculture welcomed Dr. Lisa Kessler to the position of interim associate dean. Dr. Kessler came to Cal Poly Pomona in 2007, starting her service as an associate professor and director of the didactic program in dietetics in the Human Nutrition and Food Science Department. Dr. Kessler brings a wealth of experience to this interim position. Prior to joining the College of Agriculture, she worked overseas while accompanying her husband in the Foreign Service. She was dean of students at the American University in Dubai and director of health education at King Fahd Hospital in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. She also served as an assistant professor at Intercollege in Larnaca, Cyprus, and as an adjunct faculty at the University of Vienna’s Institute of Nutrition.

When asked what she enjoyed most about her field and the courses she has taught, Kessler said, “I really enjoy working with dietetic students since they are a dedicated and caring group of people. I am always impressed with their commitment to community service. I feel honored to help them achieve their goal of helping others with their health, so it gives me pleasure to help them achieve their career dreams.”

Dr. Kessler also said she liked being able to solve a problem for a student. “I think of my own children, one who is currently a college student and another that just graduated from college, and I know how relieved they were when an issue was resolved [with the help of an advisor], so it makes me feel good to be able to relieve some student anxiety by helping with any problems. I also enjoy discussing career plans with students, since I find the dietetics and health field interesting and important.”

Dr. Kessler became a registered dietitian and obtained a master of public health degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1987. She received a doctor of public health degree from Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health in 1994, where she published research on breastfeeding. Her more recent published work dealt with improving diversity in the field of dietetics through mentoring. Dr. Kessler was named the College of Agriculture Teacher of the Year in 2010 and Advisor of the Year for 2013.

VISIT FROM ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE

For the first time, Cal Poly Pomona played host this year to the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) of the University of London as it interviewed candidates for its world-renowned program. The RVC, which has been conducting interviews on the West Coast for four years, interviewed more than 30 candidates at CPP in January. The RVC also hosted a reception for students who already had been accepted. Four of those accepted students are current students or graduates of the Animal and Veterinary Sciences Department at Cal Poly Pomona. Among the RVC faculty representatives conducting the interviews was Dr. Dan Brockman, a soft-tissue surgeon and CPP graduate who was the first person to perform open-heart surgery on a car using a heart/lung machine bypass; Dr. Vicky Lipscomb, a board-certified soft tissue surgical specialist; Dr. Rob Fowlkes, a faculty scientist; and Dr. Raymond Machaira, a biomedical scientist.

SHEEP UNIT DONATES WOOL

The Cal Poly Pomona Sheep Unit donated more than 300 pounds of wool in 2012/13 year to Wool for Worthy Causes, a nonprofit organization, based in Ojai, that educates children in 4-H and Future Farmers of America about the excitement of science and technology, using the wool they grow as an entry point to getting them thinking beyond agriculture as a sheep grower and spurring them to pursue fresh ideas. The wool is transported to Montana where it is cleaned, and then it is donated to provide jobs for adults with disabilities who work at the nonprofit sewing company at the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind. This 105-year-old institution converts the clean wool into blankets and makes them available at their true cost. These blankets will be used by the Veterans Administration, shelters for battered women, and the U.S. military. Some of the wool also is used in leading-edge technology research at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and at college campuses seeking new applications for wool in locations across the nation.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

The College of Agriculture’s Animal Health Science program played host to a 16-member Chinese delegation interested in learning more about controlling animal diseases and veterinarian teaching methods.

According to Jorge Salazar, a representative for Infinity Medical Consulting, the company that arranged the visit, “They’re on a fact-finding mission to better understand our handling of food products, disease control and pet relationships.”

The group toured the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center and the Equine Research Center and visited AGRIscapes, where Dr. Oscar Chavez, an assistant professor and director of animal health science, made a presentation about Cal Poly Pomona’s Animal Health Sciences program.

The four-year program, established in 2004, trains students to become registered veterinary technicians capable of taking X-rays and performing other tests of animals, preparing them for surgery, administering anesthesia and closing wounds. It is a career track for many students who want to work with animals but cannot afford the increasing cost of attending veterinary schools.

The delegation peppered Chavez and other college officials with questions about the veterinary technician program and its entrance requirements, animal vaccinations, and treating and controlling animal diseases.

Hongyuan Qian, the head of the delegation and vice director of the Chinese Agricultural Ministry’s Animal Disease Control Center in Beijing, said he appreciated seeing the facilities and equipment and hearing about a curriculum that combines both theory and practice.

ESTUDIANTE DE DIETÉTICO

In June, 13 dietetic students completed the requirements for the Spanish Emphasis in Nutrition curriculum. This curriculum began in August 2009 with a three-year U.S. Department of Agriculture grant and recently finished its fourth year with funding from the College of Agriculture. Students take six additional one-unit courses in dietetics as it relates to Latino culture and become more fluent in Spanish as they learn Spanish words for medical and food terms. The students say the extra training helps them feel more confident interacting with the Latino community.
Angeles pets a goat at Danny’s Farm.

KIDS DISCOVER THEIR INNER FARMERS

Dozens of inner-city children got a taste of rural life this year on a field trip to Danny’s Farm on the Cal Poly Pomona campus.

In February 2013, the entire third-grade class of 99th Street Elementary School in Watts, about 90 students, visited the farm, which provides a petting zoo and lessons about agriculture to disadvantaged youths.

The students learned firsthand about farm animals they had never seen in real life and received invaluable lessons about healthy eating habits and agriculture. In fact, to everyone’s surprise, they couldn’t get enough fresh broccoli! Danny’s Farm received rave reviews from all the students, who were able to escape their often negative environment in Watts to safely enjoy the sights and sounds of a new experience.

The field trip was organized by the I Have A Dream Foundation – Los Angeles, which partners with underperforming schools in impoverished neighborhoods. The foundation adopts an entire grade level of children and conducts a comprehensive after-school and summer program aimed at increasing academic proficiency and improving emotional and physical health with the ultimate goal of college attendance for every student.

IHADLA serves 297 students in four active program sites, which were chosen across Los Angeles to ensure the most widespread impact possible. The number of children and adults positively affected by IHADLA is far greater than just the number of Dreamers, because the programs also have an impact on parents, siblings, peers, and community members.

AGRICOLUMN GETS AN UPDATE
By Professor Babette Mayor

This story began with a phone call and ended with a magazine, a poster series and a whole lot of hands-on experience for the graphic design majors in my Art 452 class, a senior-level course where students learn criteria for good design and the importance of conceptual development and originality. This story is another great example of Cal Poly Pomona’s learn-by-doing philosophy.

The actual assignment consisted of two parts. The first was the redesign of the AgriColumn magazine and masthead in a way that showcased the activities of the College of Agriculture, visually promoting its transformation from a small production college to a more modern, urban, inclusive College of Agriculture.

The second part of the assignment was to write and design a poster series (three variations) that dealt with some aspect of the college’s uniqueness, progress, 75th anniversary, and/or agricultural issues in general.

The first step in the design process was to reevaluate the masthead, which is the magazine name or logo. I lectured on some of the most successful magazines in history and talked about their mastheads in terms of meaning and visual identity.

Once a masthead was created, students designed several covers in an attempt to set the tone for the rest of the magazine. Students used their photos, taken during campus walkabouts, as well as classic agricultural photos found in the Cal Poly archives. Students went on to design the first 12 pages of their prototype, establishing a grid, typographic treatment and the overall look. The final step was creating a poster series and presenting the whole package, fulfilling Cal Poly’s learn-by-doing methodology.

The magazine you are reading today was art directed by recent graphic design graduate Megan McCoolman. Runners-up for excellence in magazine design included Andrea Garcia, Eun Ha, Maggie Lu, Lauren Schauman, and Eckr Torres. Both Megan and Christopher Avilaiano were selected for their unique poster designs. Finally, Desiree Holloway, Maggie Lu and Ashley Messina were acknowledged for their amazing photography.

You might say this was a lot of work for a 10-week course, and it really was. But the stunning results were well worth the effort.

TINY WASP ENLISTED IN FIGHT AGAINST DANGEROUS CITRUS PEST
By Valerie Mellano, Ph.D., Chair and Professor, Plant Science Department

The Asian citrus psyllid is a small insect that feeds on the leaves and stems of citrus trees. The insect is extremely dangerous because it can transmit a disease that is fatal for citrus. The deadly bacterial disease, called Huanglongbing (HLB) or citrus greening disease, has devastated the citrus industry in Florida and other locations around the world. It recently has been found in Southern California, putting all commercial and backyard citrus trees at risk. Once a tree is infected with HLB, there is no cure and the tree will die. The best way to prevent the disease from killing citrus trees is to stop the psyllid.

A tiny wasp, Tamarixia, has been tested and found to be effective at parasitizing and killing the Asian citrus psyllid. This wasp will be released throughout the citrus growing areas of Southern California as a biological control method. Students and faculty in the Plant Science Department at Cal Poly Pomona have been working with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the Citrus Research Board, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the CPP campus to fight the psyllid. Several students were employed full time during the summer to assist in rearing the wasp and in running field and greenhouse experiments that will help develop the most effective ways to control the pest.

Since Cal Poly Pomona is in the area infected by the Asian citrus psyllid, it is an ideal place to conduct research. The Citrus Research Board has agreed to construct a research greenhouse on campus and provide research funding, and the California State University Agricultural Research Institute is providing matching research funding, allowing work on this important project to continue for several years. There will be numerous undergraduate and graduate student assistantships provided by this research.

Funding and support for this program is provided by the Citrus Research Board, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the CSU Agricultural Research Institute and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

26 YEARS OF THE DIETETIC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Cal Poly Pomona’s Dietetic Internship program marks its 26th year this fall. The program is part of the Department of Human Nutrition and Food Science, one of four departments in the College of Agriculture.

The Dietetic Internship is a full-time post-baccalaureate certificate program that only admits students who have completed an accredited Didactic Program in Dietetics. The program’s five-year pass rate for the registered dietitian exam has always exceeded the minimum rate of 80 percent set by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). The dietetic internship graduates are consistently cited as being well-prepared for the work force by their employers on annual evaluation surveys. More than 290 registered dietitians have completed the program since its inception in 1987.

Dr. Kara Freeman founded the program and directed it for more than 24 years. After her retirement in March 2012, Dr.
Eleven seniors topped off their ag policy seminar with a field trip to Sacramento.

FUTURE LEADERS EXPLORE AG POLICY-MAKING IN CALIFORNIA

In fall quarter 2012, 11 seniors from six majors experienced a novel approach to leadership development in a special topics seminar taught by Professor Joyce Jong of Agribusiness and Food Industry Management and Dr. Peggy Perry of Plant Science. Through mentoring and coaching, participants focused on their personal leadership development skills and awareness while examining the roles of leadership in the organizational and regulatory systems involved in California food and agriculture. The seminar culminated in a field trip to Sacramento.

The overarching theme of the class was the role of stakeholders in California agriculture. By examining recent events such as the E. coli outbreak in spinach production and the passage of Proposition 2, which affects poultry production, students learned to identify the different voices in policy debates and how they influence outcomes. Guest speakers A.G. Kawamura, former California secretary of agriculture, and Leslie Leavens and John Krist of the Ventura Ag Futures Alliance, gave firsthand accounts of collaboration with stakeholders to address pressing local and state issues. Rebecca Tasur, human nutrition major, said, “I learned the meaning and importance of stakeholders.”

Another aspect of the course that had great impact was the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator assessment, the most widely used personality inventory. Each student received one-on-one feedback about the results that included areas for growth and development. Greg Anchondo, FMA major, said the MBTI assessment “showed me how and why I think the way I do in certain situations.” Students also were taped giving short presentations and given public speaking feedback.

Accompanied by George Soares, managing partner at Kahn, Soares & Conway, and Dale Stern, partner at Downey Brand, students took a day and a half field trip to Sacramento in late November. Students met with governmental relations experts, commodity organization representatives and advocacy organizations, and visited a farm in the Sacramento Delta region that would be heavily impacted by proposed solutions to water issues in the area. A highlight of the visit was the one-hour meeting with Secretary of Agriculture Karen Ross in which she fielded questions from the group. Small groups within the class selected topics to explore and present to an expert panel at the California Farm Bureau in Sacramento. Seeing issues from various viewpoints was an important goal of the visit. “Being able to hear from both the lobbyists and a farmer regarding the delta… really put the issue into perspective,” observed Skylar Matthews, animal and veterinary sciences major, said the MBTI assessment “showed me how and why I think the way I do in certain situations.” Students also were taped giving short presentations and given public speaking feedback.

Accompanied by George Soares, managing partner at Kahn, Soares & Conway, and Dale Stern, partner at Downey Brand, students took a day and a half field trip to Sacramento in late November. Students met with governmental relations experts, commodity organization representatives and advocacy organizations, and visited a farm in the Sacramento Delta region that would be heavily impacted by proposed solutions to water issues in the area. A highlight of the visit was the one-hour meeting with Secretary of Agriculture Karen Ross in which she fielded questions from the group. Small groups within the class selected topics to explore and present to an expert panel at the California Farm Bureau in Sacramento. Seeing issues from various viewpoints was an important goal of the visit. “Being able to hear from both the lobbyists and a farmer regarding the delta… really put the issue into perspective,” observed Skylar Matthews, animal and veterinary sciences major, said the MBTI assessment “showed me how and why I think the way I do in certain situations.” Students also were taped giving short presentations and given public speaking feedback.
When was the last time you ate a good bowl of weeds for breakfast or spent the day gathering seeds for your evening meal? Outside of a few people who have gone through Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) training with the U.S. military, I would guess never! If you are not eating weeds, you are eating genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Most of us have heard about GMOs and probably have formed an opinion about them without understanding the technology or the risks associated with them. To put things into perspective, virtually every vegetable, fruit and grain you have ever eaten was domesticated thousands of years ago. As the field of genetics was developed over the last century, its practical applications were soon understood and used to improve crops that were subjected to intense breeding efforts to increase productivity, develop disease resistance and facilitate commercial production and global transportation.

During the process of domestication, thousands of genes were altered from their natural state, and subsequently, many of our crops do not resemble their wild progenitors. In many instances, you would not recognize their ancestors even if you were standing alongside them. Similarly, when breeders make a cross between plants, each plant from the cross contains thousands of shuffled genes. The vast majority of these plants will not be agriculturally useful, so they are discarded. A few lucky plants will be good enough, and those eventually make it to the market. After thinking this through, you have probably concluded, “Gee, after going through domestication and breeding, we must have lost a lot of genetic diversity,” and you would be correct. Your next thought must have been, “Gee, this could cause all sorts of problems,” and again, you would be correct. Just as corporate mergers may lead to an increase in efficiency, they often do so at the cost of losing diversity. In agriculture, breeding has led to varieties that perform very well in the proper environments but not so well when challenged with a poor or stressful environment. Extreme weather events, like more frequent and severe droughts, and conversely, torrential downpours, are associated with climate change, and this represents a new challenge for crop breeders.

Agriculture can be thought of as a derived ecosystem subject to the same laws of nature as a natural ecosystem. Large monocultures, limited genetic diversity and global climate change affect the ability of the plant to survive diseases, insects and environmental stress. Through various means, any disease or insect found on a crop in one part of the world will eventually affect that crop throughout its entire range.

Some of the problems are serious enough that in the future you may go to the store and ask, “What, no oranges? No California wine? No bananas? No papayas?”

And the last goes on. Plants, like humans, succumb to diseases caused by bacteria, fungi and viruses. The first step in finding a “cure” is to search for plants that show some immunity to the disease. For example, the wine industry in Southern California has been devastated by Pierce’s disease, and grapes of Central and Northern California are threatened by this disease, caused by a bacterium transmitted by an insect called the glassy-winged sharpshooter. The cure? None. No rootstock has been found with immunity to the disease. Likewise, the orange industry is threatened by a disease called citrus greening, again caused by a bacterium. The cure? None. A worldwide search for a tree with immunity turned up none.

In both of these cases the short-term solutions to these problems include reducing the numbers of insect vectors spreading the disease by using various methods including biological control. To that end, the Agriculture Research Institute (ARI) is providing funding to Dr. Valerie Mellano (Department Chair, Plant Sciences) for a three-year study to optimize the production of a parasitic wasp that will control the insect vector, a psyllid. These ARI funds leverage funding and resources from the California Citrus Research Board pledged toward this project, including building rearing and testing facilities on the Cal Poly Pomona campus.

Biological control strategies capitalize on the natural parasitic tendencies of the wasp but will not eliminate the insect and subsequently may not be a suitable long-term solution. Finding the nation’s leading citrus producer, already has suffered devastating losses from citrus greening. The growers there have chosen to fight the disease using a different approach, biotechnology. Their strategy is to introduce a gene into orange trees that would attack the bacteria itself, ignoring the insect vector.

This will work if there exists, in nature, a gene that can kill bacteria, and it turns out that there is. The candidate gene sources include two vegetables, a virus, and a pig.

A synthetic gene (new to nature) was also tested in the laboratory. If the citrus industry is to survive, there is a distinct possibility that biotechnology, using recombinant DNA technology, will be its lifeline.

Tinkering with food crops has long been controversial. One such technology that produced “new to nature” plants was quite controversial in its day. Grafting, the process by which two plant tissues are joined together and subsequently grow, for example, has been around for at least 4,000 years. Yet, it was once seen as a form of magic. It, too, had its supporters and detractors. Andrew Marvell wrote that he “grafts upon the wild the tame / And Nature makes that mean. So, over that art / Why you say adds to Nature, is an art / That Nature makes is but that Nature – change it rather, but / The art itself is nature.”

Few technologies have stirred up as much controversy as biotech food crops. Transgenic crops have been on the market since 1994, starting with the Flavr Savr tomato. Each year, hundreds of millions of acres of transgenic corn, cotton and soybeans are planted. Other crops available or soon to be available include apples, squash, tomatoes, papayas, rice and cassava. There is no evidence that these transgenics have harmed humans, and the data indicate they have minimized the environmental impact of agriculture. In addition to traits that aid in growing the plant with less pesticides and water, biotech plants have been engineered to improve human health. Indeed, rice has been transgenically fortified to produce beta-carotene, the precursor to vitamin A, which will alleviate this vitamin deficiency in literally millions of people worldwide. Clinical trials will soon be underway to test the effectiveness of a rice engineered to deliver a vaccine to control a rotavirus that induces a diarrheal disease that kills about 600,000 children each year.

In California, strawberry crops were regularly fumigated with methyl bromide, but due to its effects on the environment, this fumigant is scheduled to be phased out. An alternative to fumigants is to engineer plants to use the biology of the plant to ward off the pests that were controlled by methyl bromide. The ARI is funding a project in which this concept is being tested. Dr. Craig LaMunyon (Professor, Department of Biology) leads a team that is manipulating the model plant Arabidopsis to ward off root knot nematodes. If successful during these pilot studies, this approach may be transferred to other crops. The engineered plants will have healthier and more robust root systems while at the same time eliminating or reducing the need for soil fumigation.

It is important to note there are no corners left on this Earth that have not been altered by human activity; no natural ecosystems have been left intact. Agriculture, unfortunately, has an environmental impact. To this point, biotechnology has had no part in contributing to the demise of the natural ecosystems. The question consumers will be asking, perhaps with increasing frequency, is: are we willing to forgo California wine, orange juice, bananas and papayas because they are transgenic? Is it the overwhelming consensus of the nation’s scientists, including the National Academies, and the editors of every leading scientific journal, that biotechnology is safe for the environment, animals and people. Biotechnology is not the entire answer, but it certainly offers one tool, among many, that may allow us to put off such questions.
Plant Science is the founding department of the College of Agriculture and Cal Poly Pomona

by Dan Hostetler
Professor, Plant Science Department

The Plant Science Department can trace its beginnings to the founding of the university. In fall 1938, when the Voorhis campus in San Dimas opened as a southern branch of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, the majors of ag services and inspection (today’s program in agricultural biology) and subtropical horticulture (today’s program in fruit industries) were transferred to San Dimas from San Luis Obispo. In addition, a major in ornamental horticulture was offered, while the same major continued at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Life on the Voorhis campus in the late 1940s and early 1950s was very bucolic. In the mid-1950s, enrollment began to grow by leaps and bounds. Almost all the students lived on campus in small dorms, and there was definitely a “family” atmosphere, as many faculty and staff also lived on the grounds. The campus is only one mile away from today’s Kellogg campus, or nine miles by road at the end of Valley Center Road in San Dimas. Prior to the building boom of the 1920s, it was surrounded by beautiful hills and citrus and avocado groves.

Above: Oliver “Jolly” Batcheller, right, was the founding chairman of the Ornamental Horticulture Department.
The second department was Ornamental Horticulture, which included all aspects of horticulture, and eventually encompassed a second major of park administration. The third department, Agricultural Engineering, was later renamed Landscape Irrigation Science due to the new emphasis areas of irrigation and water management in the urban sector.

The formats of three distinct departments continued until 1992, when Ornamental Horticulture/Park Administration and Plant and Soil Science became administered by one department chairman, Dan Hostetler, and renamed Horticulture/Plant and Soil Science. All majors remained intact, but the faculty worked toward delivering a somewhat common core. Most importantly, curriculum changes opened emphasis areas that gave students a greater choice of elective courses focused on career paths such as turfgrass management, nursery management, landscape management, crop production, crop science and many others.

In 2008-09, the Chancellor’s Office mandated a reduction in units from 198 to 180 for graduation, due to the high number of seniors in the CSU system. This was a time of tight budgets and threats of program closures for low-enrollment programs, which included many departmental majors. One of those was landscape irrigation science, which, because of its close ties to soils and horticulture, was also absorbed by the department.

With adequate enrollment in other majors when combined, the faculty voted (somewhat reluctantly) to become the Plant Science Department, collapsing all majors into one plant science major. A common core of courses was initiated that had similarities to all majors. The cuts in units came out of courses that were directed electives, from 40 units to about 24 units today.

Today, all students graduate with a degree in plant science but have the ability to minor in a discipline of horticulture, agronomy, pest management, irrigation science or soil science, which seems to be acceptable to the industry. Students can use their 24 units of directed electives to take units in chemistry, math, and biology/botany to fulfill prerequisites for a graduate program.

The Agribusiness and Food Industry Management program evolved from the Agricultural Business Management Department when it was established in 1959. The department ties together the technical departments in the College of Agriculture, such as Animal and Veterinary Sciences, Human Nutrition and Food Science, Plant Science, and Apparel Merchandising and Management. This is the only such program in Southern California. Graduates manage both agricultural and non-agricultural firms throughout the state, with an emphasis on the Imperial and San Joaquin valleys and the greater Los Angeles area.

In fall 2012, Hostetler stepped down as department chairman and resumed his teaching and farm management. Following a national search, Dr. Valerie Mellano was named chair.

Most of the acreage surrounding the original Voorhis campus was hilly and marginal for general crops, but good for citrus and avocado production.

When the campus was moved to the Kellogg ranch in 1956, much of the site was flat, which aided the expansion of a general crops program. By this time, work was beginning on Building 3 (today’s Science Building), which housed many of the original faculty offices and classrooms.

The Kellogg campus came with some original barns (including the old horse unit), residences (which served as dorms), and structures that were initially utilized. Many of today’s structures used by the department were built from 1953 to 1970.

In 1953, Cal Poly Pomona secured 127 acres of extremely high-quality farmland, Spadra Ranch, located between the...
two forks of San Jose Creek near the Pacific Colony (today’s Lanterman State Hospital).

In 1975, Carl Wasmendorf donated his 53-acre citrus and avocado ranch in Santa Paula to the university. The ranch still grows coastal lemons marketed through Limoneira, avocados marketed through Calavo Growers, and Valencia oranges, which are used for juice at the Farm Store. Many students have interned at the ranch over the years to gain industry experience. In 2013, an agreement was reached with the California Avocado Commission to provide 11 acres to its research division.

When Hostetler became department chairman in 1992, a group of seven faculty members took a road trip to the East Coast to study a “new concept” called sustainable agriculture. Many of the tour stops focused on demonstrations and plots that the group thought would be perfect for the newly combined departments of Horticulture and Plant Science. On a grassy knoll at the university’s Westwind Ranch, the idea of an educational center to be known as AGRIscape was born.

The plan came to fruition in 1998 when the Los Angeles County Sanitation District closed the Spadra Landfill and gave the university $5.1 million in return for the land and the building of this new educational center. In 2001, AGRIscape opened its doors with a new Farm Store, classrooms, educational exhibit, theater, recycling education center and office space.

Phase two of AGRIscape was realized in 2008 when the university President J. Michael Ortiz allotted $1.3 million for the construction of greenhouses to move the Horticulture Nursery from the original location near the Rose Garden to AGRIscape. This funding was made available via the Union Pacific Railroad, which ran a high-speed connector track between the north and south portions of the Spadra Ranch. Surplus funding also bought new equipment for the recent acquisition of the Westwind Ranch in Chino.

Today, the modern nursery is the home for retail nursery operations outside of the Farm Store and supports many horticulture classes. More than 8,000 square feet of indoor hydroponic production exists along with several acres of outdoor operations. The next phase of AGRIscape includes a food pilot plant and associated facilities for the Human Nutrition and Food Science Department. This will complete the building complex and allow visitors to observe plant agriculture from field to product (via this facility) to the store and to the plate.

In 2005, Cal Poly Pomona entered an agreement with the California Department of Corrections for the use of 1,100 acres of prime farmland around the California Institution for Men in Chino. With the loss of farmland due to campus construction, the Westwind Ranch provides much needed space for classes, laboratories, and most importantly, student projects. Many of the field crops needed for our irrigation and landscape program in Plant Science curriculum continues to climb, and the opportunities for new educational experiences are also growing. We have recently created a working partnership with the Citrus Research Board, the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to conduct research on the Asian citrus psyllid. Several undergraduate and graduate students will be employed to work on this project for the next few years. The Citrus Research Board is funding the construction of a new greenhouse on campus where some of this research will take place.

We are also developing a working relationship with the California Avocado Commission and will have several students working on projects pertinent to the avocado industry.

We recently established an advisory committee for the turf, irrigation, and landscape program in Plant Science. The number of students enrolled in the Plant Science curriculum continues to climb, and the opportunities for new educational experiences are also growing. We have recently created a working partnership with the Citrus Research Board, the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to conduct research on the Asian citrus psyllid. Several undergraduate and graduate students will be employed to work on this project for the next few years. The Citrus Research Board is funding the construction of a new greenhouse on campus where some of this research will take place.

We are also developing a working relationship with the California Avocado Commission and will have several students working on projects pertinent to the avocado industry.

The number of students enrolled in the Plant Science curriculum continues to climb, and the opportunities for new educational experiences are also growing. We have recently created a working partnership with the Citrus Research Board, the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to conduct research on the Asian citrus psyllid. Several undergraduate and graduate students will be employed to work on this project for the next few years. The Citrus Research Board is funding the construction of a new greenhouse on campus where some of this research will take place.

When Hostetler became department chairman in 1992, a group of seven faculty members took a road trip to the East Coast to study a “new concept” called sustainable agriculture. Many of the tour stops focused on demonstrations and plots that the group thought would be perfect for the newly combined departments of Horticulture and Plant Science. On a grassy knoll at the university’s Westwind Ranch, the idea of an educational center to be known as AGRIscape was born.

The plan came to fruition in 1998 when the Los Angeles County Sanitation District closed the Spadra Landfill and gave the university $5.1 million in return for the land and the building of this new educational center. In 2001, AGRIscape opened its doors with a new Farm Store, classrooms, educational exhibit, theater, recycling education center and office space.

Phase two of AGRIscape was realized in 2008 when the university President J. Michael Ortiz allotted $1.3 million for the construction of greenhouses to move the Horticulture Nursery from the original location near the Rose Garden to AGRIscape. This funding was made available via the Union Pacific Railroad, which ran a high-speed connector track between the north and south portions of the Spadra Ranch. Surplus funding also bought new equipment for the recent acquisition of the Westwind Ranch in Chino.
The Animal and Veterinary Sciences Department filled an industry need in the 1950s and trains a new breed of students today by Dr. Broc Sandelin Chairman, AVS Department

Above: President Julian McPhee and the Polyvue Court pose with a cow in 1967.

The beginnings of the Animal and Veterinary Sciences Department can be traced back to January 1952. That was when a council delivered a report to Cal Poly President Julian McPhee recommending the development of an animal industry program at the university’s Kellogg-Voorhis campus.

The original objectives were to allow students to obtain training in the production, management and marketing phases of beef cattle, horses, sheep and swine enterprises. Livestock feeding and marketing, meat packing and vocational agriculture training were included in this curriculum. The first commencement exercise was held at the campus in 1957.

During the early years, the animal lectures were offered on the Voorhis campus and the laboratories were held on the Kellogg campus farm. This campus was created from cereal magnate W.K. Kellogg’s Arabian horse ranch, which was obtained by Cal Poly in 1949. The first classroom building was completed on the Kellogg campus in 1956, and since then, all animal science classes have been taught on the Kellogg campus. The farm buildings used for the animal science livestock were structures that remained from the pre-World War II Kellogg ranch or that were built by the U.S. Army when Kellogg donated the ranch to the military to be used as an Army remount station.

As the number of students increased from the original 76 to 711 in 1976, the number of faculty grew to about 15 positions and included faculty members who had expanded their education from master of science training to doctorates or doctor of veterinary medicine degrees. As the faculty knowledge base increased with specializations in genetics, reproduction and nutrition, the graduate program for the master of science in agriculture with a specialty in animal science was approved by the California State University chancellor in 1975.

Today, the face of the department has changed. While it still has the livestock units and they are still a vital part of the curriculum, the focus has shifted primarily to educating students with an interest in companion animals. In the 1950s, the student population was strictly male, and today the overwhelming enrollment is female. More female veterinarians are in the work force than ever before. Veterinary technicians are working side by side with their doctors; becoming important members of the animal health care team. The future of animal and veterinary science is unlimited. Students can major in marketing, education, or animal health technology. Students heading to veterinary school can get their introductory pre-vet work done at Cal Poly Pomona. Nutrition, on both the animal and human sides, is an option. Biochemistry, cell and molecular biology, and neuroscience courses are now commonly offered, where once they were considered quite advanced and specialized.

The students are also a new breed. They are no longer focused primarily on farm animal production, and can pursue many diverse educational opportunities. The pet industry is booming and the majority of our students are interested in this field of study. Nutrition, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies are demanding our students for their knowledge and experience due to our hand-on learning approach to education.

With everything so specialized now, Cal Poly Pomona will rise to this challenge, finding new and exciting ways to educate, train and prepare its students for the new face of agriculture.

1952: The Animal and Veterinary Sciences Department was officially recognized. In 1952, when Weslie Combs was hired as the first animal science faculty member. The program began in fall of that year with an enrollment of 76 students. It was a two-year curriculum; if students wanted to continue their education, they would have to complete an additional two years at the main San Luis Obispo campus.

1957: The first commencement exercise was held at the campus. The original objectives were to allow students to obtain training in the production, management, and marketing phases of beef cattle, horses, sheep, and swine enterprises. Livestock feeding and marketing, meat packing, and vocational agriculture training were included in this curriculum. The first commencement exercise was held at the campus in 1957.

1968: The S3-acre pine tree ranch is donated to the university.

1975: The foods and nutrition department begins offering accredited dietetic internship program.

1976: The number of students increased from the original 76 to 711 in 1976, the number of faculty grew to about 15 positions and included faculty members who had expanded their education from master of science training to doctorates or doctor of veterinary medicine degrees. As the faculty knowledge base increased with specializations in genetics, reproduction and nutrition, the graduate program for the master of science in agriculture with a specialty in animal science was approved by the California State University chancellor in 1975.

As the number of students increased from the original 76 to 711 in 1976, the number of faculty grew to about 15 positions and included faculty members who had expanded their education from master of science training to doctorates or doctor of veterinary medicine degrees. As the faculty knowledge base increased with specializations in genetics, reproduction and nutrition, the graduate program for the master of science in agriculture with a specialty in animal science was approved by the California State University chancellor in 1975.

1887: The foods and nutrition department begins offering accredited dietetic internship program.
The Human Nutrition and Food Science Department has been nourishing young minds since the 1960s.

by Dr. Martin Sancho-Madriz
Chairman, HNFS Department

Below: Students serve up food in a 1970s cooking class.

The origins of the Human Nutrition and Food Science Department go back to the mid-1960s, when a new degree and a new department were established in the College of Agriculture.

In 1959, Dr. Ramiro Dutra joined the Physical Sciences Department in the College of Science at Cal Poly Pomona. Dr. Dutra, who had a degree in chemistry and a doctorate in food science and technology from UC Davis, began presenting a few lectures on food chemistry in his organic chemistry courses, which eventually led to three courses in food and nutritional sciences. His vision for a degree and department in foods and nutrition became a reality when President Julian A. McPhee received a letter informing him that the Board of Trustees approved the new degree program on December 4, 1964.

The Foods and Nutrition Department and baccalaureate program were launched in fall 1965 with 17 students, one and a half faculty positions, a $500 budget, and a foods laboratory housed in Room 223 of Science Building 3. From the beginning, the program met the requirements of the Academy for Nutrition and Dietetics (AND), known then as the American Dietetics Association. The dietetics option of the foods and nutrition degree remains an accredited program through AND’s Accreditation Council on Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND).

Facilities to house laboratories and offices were built for the Foods and Nutrition Department in 1970 when the new Agriculture Addition Building, later renamed the Environmental Design Building and known as Building 7, was completed at a cost of $1.8 million. The facilities included a food chemistry and analysis laboratory, two kitchen laboratories, four offices for faculty and department chair, and the main department office.

Today, these facilities are not enough to meet the growing needs of the department, requiring the use of classrooms in other buildings as well as offices for faculty located in Buildings 2 and 94, with a scientific research laboratory also housed in Building 2.

In 1971, the department began offering a baccalaureate degree in home economics, and a clothing laboratory was installed in Room 218 of Building 2. By 1975, the student population had increased to about 350. Dr. Dutra remained as chair and the department faculty grew to nine tenure/tenure track members plus three lecturers with emphasis areas in nutrition, dietetics, food science and technology, food service management, child development, housing and interior design, textiles and clothing, and education.

By then, the name had been changed to the Foods and Nutrition and Home Economics Department. A post-baccalaureate dietician internship program was started by the department, receiving accreditation in 1987. The program continues to be accredited by ACEND and prepares interns to become registered dietitians.

By the mid-1990s, some of the faculty had left the department to establish the Apparel Merchandising and Management program, and only the consumer science component of the home economics program remained while the name had been changed to the Food, Nutrition and Consumer Sciences Department. Enrollment in the consumer science option began declining to the point that the program was closed in 2001, and the department was renamed Human Nutrition and Food Science. By then, the department had begun focusing on the nutrition and food science fields with several emphases.

The food science and technology (FST) baccalaureate degree program began in 1999 with three students and has grown to the current enrollment of 145 students. In 2006, a Culinology track or emphasis approved by the Research Chefs Association was developed in a partnership with the Collins College of Hospitality Management, becoming the fifth program of this kind to be approved nationwide and in the first in California. Culinology blends the creativity of culinary arts with food science and the technical aspects of food processing. The college currently offers four tracks or emphases under the FST degree: science and technology, business, Culinology and pre-professional.

In 2006, a new option in nutrition science was established under the foods and nutrition degree, and in 2012, the department began to offer three new emphases under this option: pre-professional, nutrition and health, and animal nutrition.

The department also offers minors in foods and nutrition, food science and technology, food safety and Culinology. The total department enrollment in 2013 is nearly 500 students, including undergraduates in two majors, graduate students, and interns.

The department strives to continue upgrading its laboratory equipment, software and other resources to support a learn-by-doing environment. In summer 2013, thanks to a $25,000 donation from the Kellogg Co. and matching funds from the Dean’s Office, we began the first phase of renovating Room 237 in Building 7 to establish a much-needed Food Technology Laboratory. The department is seeking additional funding to complete phase 2 (floors, drains and hood) and phase 3 (additional food processing instructional equipment).

Our vision includes the establishment of the Center for Food Innovation and Technology (CFIT), which would be located at the AGRIscapes complex on campus. CFIT would provide critically needed facilities to the Human Nutrition and Food Science Department for academic purposes while also being a resource for the food and beverage industry in California.

Land in the AGRIscapes complex has been allocated for CFIT. The total area of the facilities is estimated at 22,000 to 24,000 square feet. With a $25,000 seed grant from the Southern California Institute of Food Technologists and matching funds from the Dean’s Office, a concept development and planning phase for CFIT was launched, including the development of architectural renderings for the proposed facilities. The next phase will involve a promotion campaign to seek funding for the project. The cost of the CFIT project, including the acquisition of pilot plant and laboratory equipment, is estimated at $25 million to $30 million.
The Apparel Merchandising & Management (AMM) program dates back to the work of two pioneering faculty members in the early 1990s. Jean Gipe and Betty Tracy were professors in the college’s home economics program. With the rapid growth and international success of California-based apparel brands, they recognized a need for a comprehensive apparel business and technology degree in California that embraced both production and distribution aspects of the apparel industry. After years of research, industry consultation and curriculum development, the AMM program was finally approved in fall 1995. The first students entered in winter 1996.

Coinciding with the launch of the program, Professors Gipe and Tracy also won a multimillion-dollar grant from the U.S. Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). The grant was to support the apparel manufacturing sector in Southern California as a defense industry supplier through technology transfer and training programs. The grant operated through the Apparel Technology and Research Center (ATRC), which was established in 1992.

The DLA grant, in combination with donations from the industry, enabled extensive remodeling of Building 45 (the chosen home for the AMM program) to create new laboratories, a demonstration factory, and offices for faculty and ATRC staff.

Gipe assumed the role of ATRC director, while Tracy headed the AMM program. Initially, the program was established within the Landscape and Irrigation Science Department. An Industry Advisory Board was also created to help guide development of the curriculum and promote the new program within the industry. In May 1997, the program was formally endorsed by the American Apparel & Footwear Association, one of only 13 schools nationally to be so recognized.

What followed was years of steady enrollment growth. By 2000, there were 95 majors. That year, AMM was granted department status, with Tracy becoming the department chair. By 2005, with the number of majors at 190, Tracy retired. Gipe assumed the role of ATRC director, while Tracy headed the AMM program. Initially, the program was established within the Landscape and Irrigation Science Department. An Industry Advisory Board was also created to help guide development of the curriculum and promote the new program within the industry. In May 1997, the program was formally endorsed by the American Apparel & Footwear Association, one of only 13 schools nationally to be so recognized.

Despite the deep cuts in higher education after 2008, the department continued to make progress. In 2011, a fifth tenure-track faculty member was recruited, and the first with a doctorate in retail management. In winter 2012, a number of advisory board member companies collaborated with the department to demonstrate how the integration of emerging technologies, including body scanning, 3D computer-aided design, e-commerce, digital textile coloration and computer-integrated garment manufacturing, will revolutionize how clothing is purchased and made. At our open house we delivered custom-designed, custom-fit garments for three volunteer customers in less than four hours from undyed fabric.

In spring 2012, the faculty submitted a proposal for launching a master’s program in international apparel management. The proposed program also includes a thesis option for students seeking to pursue doctorates. The anticipated launch date is fall 2015.

Today, the AMM Department boasts a strong faculty team of 13. This includes five tenure-track faculty including: Cindy Regan (assistant professor), who specializes in advanced technologies for apparel manufacturing; Dr. Chitra Dabas (assistant professor), who specializes in retail strategy and retail business performance; Dr. Jiangning Che (assistant professor), who specializes in color measurement and communications technology for the textile and apparel industries; and Dr. Peter Kilduff (professor and chair), who specializes in analyzing competitive dynamics of the apparel and textile industries. Our active adjunct faculty includes: Dr. Linda Tucker (wholesale and retail management); Dr. Ron Heimler (professional development and international business); Alejandra Partie (apparel production and fashion marketing); Debbie Johnson (patternmaking and garment construction); Sheila Esay (retail management and international trade); Carla Matus (fashion illustration and apparel aesthetics); Suzanne Schola (fashion marketing and research methods); and Koffa Toque (new media and fashion industry overview).

The department also has two dedicated staff members: equipment technician Antonio (Tony) Espinas (joined 2005), and Patzy Mutz (joined 2006), the administrative support coordinator.

After four years of university impaction, enrollment in the AMM program has started to expand sharply again. In fall 2012, the number of undergraduate majors rose by 50 to 338. A record number of applications to the program this last year will push the number over 360 in fall 2013. As a result, the department will launch a series of certificate programs based on segments of the AMM program, in collaboration with the College of the Extended University. The certificates are targeted at professionals who are seeking recognized qualifications but are unable or do not need to enroll in a full-time degree program.

In its first 17 years, the AMM department has emerged as a leading program in the discipline within California. In the next 17 we are committed to building a world-class teaching and research institution that will support the continued rise of the apparel production and fashion retail sectors in California.

by Dr. Peter Kilduff
Chairman, AMM Department

A final fitting for student designed clothing in 2001.
Will Keith Kellogg started his breakfast cereal company in 1906 in Battle Creek, Michigan, and found instant success with corn flakes. In the early 1920s, after a trip to the Pomona Valley to visit a niece, Kellogg became captivated by the area and decided he would choose a site in California for his Arabian horse ranch.

According to Horace B. Powell’s biography, Kellogg’s interest in Arabian horses began when he was a young boy and his family owned an old Arabian horse named Spot. The horse became a fast friend and playmate to the Kellogg children. When Kellogg’s father sold Spot, Kellogg was heartbroken and vowed that someday he would own a whole stable of Arabian steeds. Local legend says that Kellogg and one of the leaders of his church were traveling from Pomona to Santa Barbara to choose the site for the horse ranch. They stopped the car on a dusty road, and Kellogg threw a penny into the air, saying, “Heads, it’s Pomona; tails, it’s Santa Barbara.” Heads it must have been.

In May 1925, Kellogg purchased 377 acres of land for $250,000 from Cecil George, Spadra rancher and son-in-law of Louis Phillips, the first Anglo in the Pomona Valley. Over the next two years he built a mansion on the north end of the property, a manor house, stables, a training ring, a courtyard and a rose garden. He soon added a large grandstand for the public to watch his Sunday Arabian horse shows. The Sunday shows rapidly became a popular tourist and celebrity destination. Rudolph Valentino even came to the ranch, asking to ride one of the horses in one of his movies.

From 1925 to 1936, Kellogg spent more than $1.5 million building the Kellogg Ranch and acquiring the finest Arabians his agents could procure. Much of his finest stock was purchased from the famous Crabbet Arabian Stud in England.

In April 1930, Kellogg purchased an additional 425 acres adjoining the ranch, bringing the total to slightly more than 800 acres.

Almost from the time Kellogg purchased the ranch, he began planning a trust or another arrangement that would ensure perpetuation of the ranch and horse program. In April 1926, Professor Gordon H. True of the University of California wrote Kellogg a letter suggesting the ranch be turned over to the university to breed Arabian horses.

The story of the Cal Poly Pomona campus begins with a cereal magnate’s love of horses and the fortuitous flip of a coin by Dr. James Alderson

Director, Arabian Horse Center
In 1932, the ranch was turned over to the university. Kellogg also donated $600,000 to the university to perpetuate goals of the ranch and the breeding program.

Kellogg had been suffering from poor health, including deteriorating eyesight, but he continued to make visits to the ranch, where he maintained possession of the large mansion. On one of his visits, in May 1936, he discovered the ranch in poor condition, and he had attorneys investigate the possibility of reeding the ranch back to him. But UC's Board of Regents was unwilling to give up the land.

Meanwhile, Kellogg's eyesight continued to worsen. In January 1940, he had surgery to help slow down the advance of glaucoma, but his blindness was nearly total. In July 1941, Kellogg discovered that the U.S. Army was interested in the Arabian horses for a small Arabian stud at Fort Reno. Kellogg allowed the Army to take three of his own horses and soon went to work on a proposal to turn over the ranch to the Remount branch of the Army. In October 1943, the university transferred ownership of the ranch to the Army.

The ranch seemed to be in good hands until July 1948, when Kellogg discovered that the U.S. Army was going to abandon the ranch because of a lack of funds and decided to sell all the horses, equipment and land. Kellogg, then 88, was reported as being "greatly hurt" by the decision to sell the ranch, which he had learned about from the press.

The Department of Agriculture received requests for the land from Mount San Antonio College, and even the University of California tried to reclaim the property. However, the strongest plea was made by Julian A. McPhee, president of California State Polytechnic College at San Luis Obispo. He said the college needed a campus that could offer a curriculum covering all phases of agriculture and horticulture.

Finally, on June 4, 1949, President Harry S. Truman signed a bill that transferred the ranch and all personal property back to the Kellogg Foundation.

In July, the foundation transferred ownership of the ranch to the State of California, and on November 1, California State Polytechnic College officially took over operation of the land. The ranch was to become part of the San Dimas branch of the college.

The San Dimas branch had been owned by Charles B. Voorhis, one of the early executives of General Motors. He purchased the 157-acre ranch in March 1927 to establish a school for underprivileged boys. This school operated until 1936, when Voorhis offered to donate the school to another worthwhile cause. The ranch was transferred in 1938 through the diligent efforts of President McPhee and became known as the Voorhis Unit of Cal Poly.

Today Cal Poly covers about 1,400 acres. Its W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center ranks in the top five of all Arabian breeders for the number of champions it has produced. It recently modernized its breeding program and is producing 15 to 20 foals per year. The Kellogg Arabians are presented in more than 20 public venues each year, and the center has more than 300 students involved in the center's activities.

Cal Poly Pomona has continued W.K. Kellogg's tradition of Sunday horse exhibitions. The shows are held the first Sunday of each month during the school year, October through May, in a specially designed arena with covered stands. Shows also are staged on Thursday mornings during the fall and spring for elementary school children. Reservations are required for the Thursday shows.

The equestrian drill team performs at the Arabian Horse Center.
and planting native plants on our homestead of about seven acres in Texas. I may try to teach more, and I am considering writing a different type of textbook, such as one the student would actually use.”

Last words of advice for the students:

“Look at each course you take not as a hurdle, but as an opportunity to learn as much as you can.”

Last words of advice for the faculty:

“Faculty need to remember that they do not have jobs, they have a career. They need to act accordingly and strive for excellence. Do what it takes and show passion for your field of study.”

Mr. Edward Appel
Professor Emeritus, College of Agriculture

Edward Appel, professor emeritus and founder of the agricultural services and inspection/agricultural biology program, died on March 16, his birthday. He was 94.

Born in Orange in 1919, Appel was raised in Etiwanda and, as a child, worked on his family’s citrus ranches. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Oregon State College in 1940 and worked as an agricultural inspector for the San Bernardino County Department of Agriculture.

In 1946, Appel was chosen as one of two instructors to restart the agriculture inspection program at the Voorhis campus of Cal Poly Pomona. The program was suspended during the war because of a shortage of students.

Appel spent two years strengthening the academic side of the program and then was named program chair, a position he held until his retirement in 1976. The program itself went through several name changes. The current agricultural biology title became official in 1967.

Professor Emeritus Rex Baker, a friend and colleague, recalls Appel as a strong taskmaster who demanded a lot from his students but also wanted them to succeed. The family requests that donations be made to the Appel/Hobbs Scholarship Fund that supports agricultural biology majors. Donations can be made out to the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation and forwarded to the Plant Science Department, Cal Poly Pomona, 3801 W. Temple Avenue, Pomona, CA 91768.

Mr. Stephen Bonnell

Stephen M. Bonnell, 55, soil scientist and 1979 Cal Poly Pomona graduate, passed away suddenly at his home in Sugarey, N.Y., on October 29, 2011. Mr. Bonnell worked in Utah as a soil scientist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) and later was an environmental scientist at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. At the time of his death he was teaching soil science at the State University of New York at Oneonta. He is survived by his wife, Linda J. Melchionne; his children, Jennifer, Mary and Seth his brothers, Chris, Monroe and Mark; and his sister, Cherina Guzman.
Dr. Kimberly Miller
Teacher of the Year

Dr. Kimberly Miller is an enthusiastic, supportive and knowledgeable instructor, with an infectious personality that makes everyone around her smile. She is supportive, encouraging and recognizes her student’s needs. Dr. Miller works hard and provides a quality education, while making learning fun. She continues to develop undergraduate and graduate courses within the agricultural science program, while also directing the agricultural teacher credential program and the agricultural science master’s program. In addition to her teaching duties, she conducts the academic advising for all agricultural science majors, further mentoring and guiding the next generation of agricultural leaders.

Dr. Miller is an example of someone born to teach. “I was honored to be named College of Agriculture Teacher of the Year after only my second year at Cal Poly, and knowing that the students were the driving force in the decision made the recognition that much more inimitable for me,” she said. “Teaching is my core passion in life, and I am most comfortable in the classroom working with students, not talking to students. I thrive on students’ achievements and knowing that I was a part of a student’s successes in their careers. I am looking forward to continuing to work with, advise and get to know the goals and passions of as many Cal Poly students as possible in the years to come.”

Dr. Lisa Kessler
Mack H. Kennington Advisor of the Year

Dr. Lisa Kessler received numerous letters of nomination from students who are inspired by her advice and guidance. A former recipient of the Teacher of the Year award in 2010, she is sincere and easy to talk to, her students say. Her encouragement and advice have helped students take advantage of unique professional opportunities and advance toward their chosen career paths. To quote one of her students, “She has been an incredible advisor to me, and to her other advisers, I am sure. Without a doubt, she deserves the Mack H. Kennington Advisor of the Year Award for 2012-2013!” While Dr. Kessler will no longer be advising for the department, she will be in a position to further guide College of Agriculture students as our new interim associate dean. We congratulate Dr. Kessler on both of her achievements!

MRS. DONNA HA
Staff of the Year

Donna Ha, the instructional support technician in the Human Nutrition and Food Science Department, plays an integral role in her department, setting up labs, shopping for supplies and maintaining the equipment. She keeps the labs running smoothly under a very strict budget. She never hesitates when asked to take on additional tasks and responsibilities, and does so in a can-do attitude and ever-present smile. The chair of her department describes her as “a dedicated, conscientious and hard-working employee with . . . a great desire to serve the students.” Donna is an integral member of our college and another reason for the success of its students.

LIVESTOCK SHOW TEAM WINS BIG IN PORTERVILLE

The Cal Poly Pomona Livestock Show Team exhibited the Supreme Grand Champion Ram on March 9, 2013, at the California Collegiate Livestock Show in Porterville, California. The ram was born on campus and raised by Cal Poly students. Cal Poly Pomona students also exhibited the Grand Champion Registered Breeding Ram and Ewe at the show. In the more competitive non-registered ewe show, Cal Poly Pomona won six of the 12 classes.

In the beef cattle division, Cal Poly exhibited two heifers that won fourth place in two large classes of cattle. In individual showmanship competition, Ashley Pickard won second place in novice sheep showmanship and Cal Poly had seven of the top 10 individuals. In intermediate sheep showmanship, Kalise Bryant, Shannon Tomko and Mark Tan were top 10 individuals, and in advanced sheep showmanship, Taylor Zumstein and Nicole Paulden were also in the top 10 of a large class of showman.

The California Collegiate Livestock Show allows students to compete with exhibitors from other agriculture programs throughout California including Mt. San Antonio Community College, Modesto Junior College, Merced Junior College, Reedley College and Fresno State.

Cal Poly Pomona was led by sheep team captains Taylor Zumstein and Mark Tan and beef team captain Nicole Paulden (AnSci). Other exhibitors were Kalise Bryant (ABM), Ashley Pickard (ABM), Mark Tan (PLT), Ashley Pickard (AHS), McKenna Coveney (AnSci), Alyson Prior (AHS), Carina Anderson (PSY), April Aquino (AnSci), Kaylee Otterson (AnSci), Christian Otterson (AnSci) and Brittany Hill (AgSci).

The Cal Poly Pomona Livestock Show Team currently has 36 active members working with sheep, beef and swine. The team is advised by Dr. Allen Pettry and Mr. Steve Miller.
HORSE SHOW TEAM IS TALL IN THE SADDLE

The Cal Poly Pomona Horse Show Team concluded its 2012-13 season with its best finish ever at the Intercollegiate National Championship Show.

The team competed in 10 regular season Hunt Seat shows and eight regular season Western shows. As a member of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association’s (IHSA) Zone 8, Region 2, which consists of teams from Southern California and Arizona, the Broncos finished the year as the Regional Champion Western team as well as the Champion Hunter Seat team.

The Broncos hosted the IHSA Western Semifinals last March at the Pomona Fairplex. Cal Poly Pomona’s Western team finished third qualifying them for IHSA Nationals in May.

The Zone 8 Hunt Seat Championship show was held April 6-7 in Denver, Colorado. Cal Poly Pomona was well represented with its Hunt Seat team and two individual riders. The Broncos sent students Tyler Stellhorn, Mollie McGuire, Dominique Marcy-Mezar, Haley Berman, Emily Flack, Tanya LoPatrello, and team captain Sarah Pollock to compete for the team, and ended up in third place overall. This was not quite good enough to advance to Nationals but was still one of the team’s best showings at Zones in years. One individual rider, Stephanie Sosa, qualified to compete at IHSA Nationals.

IHSA Nationals were held at The Farm Complex in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, May 2-5. Cal Poly Pomona’s Western team consisted of Ryan Lawson, Nicole Thurman, Shannon Palmer, McKenna Covenev, and Laura Thomas, and competed against eight other Western teams for the national championship. The Broncos finished in fourth place, one spot higher than their previous best finish of fifth place. Stephanie Sosa, who competed as an individual in Walk-Trot Equitation, finished in eighth place nationally.

The team completed its highly successful season under the leadership of Erin Leon, president; Hunt Seat captains Sarah Pollock and Taylor Zumstein; and Western captain Laura Thomas.

RAN...
In just the last decade, the College of Agriculture has enjoyed significant growth in the number of donors—retired faculty, alumni, community partners and corporations—who have all charitably invested in the college’s future by establishing endowments.

As the university celebrates its 75th anniversary, these perpetual funds enable the college to provide stable financial support for academic programs, faculty research and student scholarships that will long impact future generations of Broncos.

One example of how endowments significantly impact the college’s mission is the generous support from alumnus John E. Andrews (Agriculture Business Management, ’92). In 2000, Mr. Andrews established an endowment to recognize and provide an annual cash award to one undergraduate and one graduate student who exhibit exceptional leadership. “It was an honor to be recognized for my hard work and dedication to the college. It also reaffirmed my desire to be a leader for future endeavors,” said Dorothy Farias (Animal Industry Business Management, ’02). This year, Mr. Andrews established an additional endowment to help support the salary of the Collins Garden student coordinator position. This student is responsible for managing the production of high-quality vegetables and produce that is served in the much-admired Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch. “I established each endowment to encourage student excellence in academics and hands-on work experiences that tie in directly with industry,” Mr. Andrews said. “Such opportunities, I believe, help drive student success.”

While endowments can be established with immediate gifts of cash, securities or real estate, they can also be created by a bequest gift from your estate. This year, alumnus Mr. Raymond Watje (Agronomy, ’59) pledged a percentage of his estate toward the future creation of an endowment to support the college’s farm manager position. “This is my way of continuing my support and to help others,” said Mr. Watje, who has also provided annual scholarships to plant science students since 1992. Mr. Watje’s generous commitment, which also honors his late wife, Patricia Watje, will help sustain our farming operations. “We’re very grateful for Mr. Watje’s continued support. Knowing that he and Pat included the college in their estate enables the college to make strategic decisions that factor in their future gift,” said Dean Les Young.

As we look ahead to another 75 years and beyond, endowments are critical to advancing agricultural education in our state. Endowments that support professorships, the purchase and maintenance of state-of-the-art equipment and technology, innovative student/faculty projects, and scholarships will help us maintain our competitive advantage in recruiting talented faculty and aspiring students who will have a limitless impact in our industry.

For more information on endowment giving, estate planning or to make a gift to the college, please contact Kristen Daley, director of major gifts, at kldaley@csupomona.edu or (909) 869 – 5471.
A joyful child holds his prize at the 2012 Pumpkin Festival where over 50,000 folks gathered to hunt for pumpkins, ride horses, pet farm animals, eat, and just have fun!
Stay in the loop

Let us know if your contact information has changed.
Call (909) 869-2200 or email dstewart@csupomona.edu

To visit our website scan the code!
www.csupomona.edu/agri