Cal Poly Pomona Pride Runs Deep in Hassen Family

To say that **Khaled Hassen** ('68, civil engineering) has a strong connection to Cal Poly Pomona would be an understatement. He and his wife, **Nadia** ('76, microbiology), are both graduates—as are their seven children. As are his brothers and some of their children. And their extended family members, including sisters and brothers-in-law from Nadia's side of the family.

In all, more than 35 members of the Hassen family have graduated from Cal Poly Pomona.

Besides providing funding for the university's Model U.N. program, Khaled has donated to the President's Scholars program and served as a founding board member of the University Educational Trust, a philanthropic auxiliary that raised millions of dollars for CPP scholarships.

"Because Cal Poly Pomona is so special to me and my family, I have always felt a responsibility to give back as an alum," he says.

Recalling how he came to California speaking very little English and possessing very little money, Hassen says his education, hard work and persistence enabled him to achieve success. He was the longtime president of Hassen & Associates, a firm engaged in real estate development and international business investment, development and marketing.

"I want all students, including immigrants who identify with my story, to take pride in their roots, take advantage of all the programs and opportunities Cal Poly Pomona has to offer, and be empowered to support and inspire the next generation of Cal Poly Pomona students."

"I saw the joy in her face and watched her grow in confidence as a young woman determined to make a difference in the world," says Khaled, who emigrated from Syria to the United States in 1962 and later became a U.S. citizen.

He says he recently made another contribution to the endowment after seeing University President Soraya M. Coley's "continued support and enthusiasm" for the campus program.

Much of its success is credited to history Professor Emeritus **John Moore**, the team's faculty advisor for more than 30 years. Moore says it was rewarding to see how students grew from their Model U.N. participation, recalling how they would return from the New York trip "changed people every time—not only changed but more mature, more interesting."

Members of the CPP team take a class to prepare them for the spring conference. They research everything about their assigned country, pair up to write policy papers and form into delegation committees. In New York, most of the activities are held at a hotel, but typically the conference culminates with a session at the U.N. headquarters. Students gather in the building's historic General Assembly Hall.

"I think all students would say the greatest part of the trip is going to the actual U.N.," says Farrah Hassen, whose sister Susan ('08, communication) was also on the Model U.N. team.

Political science Professor **Marc Scarcelli**, the team's current advisor, says students learn crucial skills that translate to any career path: research and analysis, writing succinctly, thinking on your feet, public speaking and cooperating with others.

And when it comes to multicultural education, he says, "you couldn't ask for a better example than this program."

Polytechnic Boot Camp
STEAM Academy Prepares Young Minds for Higher Education

By Chris Park

This summer it was full STEAM ahead for an innovative pilot program that teaches high school students technology skills through team-based, hands-on learning and online courses.

The **Polytechnic STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) Academy** also connected the students with their peers across communities and institutions, giving them opportunities to collaborate with Cal Poly Pomona and industry partners.

Fourteen students from Diamond Bar High School were recruited for the 36-week program that started on campus this summer with a six-week "Engineering Design" module focused on machine learning and computer science.

"Like an engineering student, they're required to develop project deliverables, professional portfolios, and professionally document, exhibit and articulate design processes," says Professor **Angela Shih**, chair of mechanical engineering and lead developer of the academy. "But they have to be able to dig deeper and understand how what they do impacts the world around them. This is the essence of engineering."

The second part of the academy lasts through spring semester and emphasizes peer mentoring, with CPP students engaging with the high school participants.

Lily Gossage, director of the Maximizing Engineering Potential program, believes that "virtual peer mentoring" is a cost-effective approach to serving a greater number of students but also cautions that a thoughtful approach to training is critical.

"We live in a digital world with relationships being built across the internet in a non-restrictive way; and knowledge transfer happens in the blink of an eye," Gossage says. "But people are different, and everyone has their own context that overlays what they hear and perceive. So peer mentors must be trained on how to adjust their communication style to be able to be effective in a virtual setting."

Building the Polytechnic STEAM Academy

Developed in partnership with MIT Lincoln Laboratory Beaver Works (MIT LL) and the College of Engineering, the academy is made possible by the **W.K. Kellogg Foundation Legacy endowment**.

CPP representatives visited MIT LL, headed by Robert T-I. Shin, director of the Beaver Works Center and division head of MIT LL's Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance and Tactical Systems Division.

Cal Poly Pomona and Diamond Bar High School participants gather on the academy's final day.