Two Alumni Share a Friendship That Spans Decades and Careers

By Emily Velasco

If you live in Southern California and turn a faucet, take a shower, make some ice cubes or wash your dog, chances are that the water you’re using got to your home thanks to the hard work of two Cal Poly Pomona alumni who have been friends since their days on campus.

Of course, thousands of people are involved in that process that supplies us with water, but Brent Yamasaki (’89, mechanical engineering) and John Poli (’93, political science) have attained influential positions at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the largest supplier of tap water in the country.

The MWD supplies water to 19 million people in an area that spans six counties and 26 cities. The agency operates the Colorado River Aqueduct and nine reservoirs throughout the state.

John Poli, left, and Brent Yamasaki help ensure that water flows to 19 million residents in 26 cities.

(Cont. on page 2)
The site will be located at Kellogg Drive and Eucalyptus Lane, part of which is the horse pasture. The decision comes after five years of studying multiple options and balances student housing needs with the well-being of the Arabian horses. The expanded housing community will include dining, sports and open spaces for student activities—all with close access to academic and administrative buildings. The new buildings will replace the 1960s-era residence halls and will address the academic, social and technological needs of today’s students.

In addition, the university is committed to the success of the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center. Over $200,000 will be invested to upgrade fencing and paddocks. The W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center can be found at www.cpp.edu/equine/.

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Program for Underrepresented Doctoral Students Receives Funding

Updates

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Inventive Ideas

More than 300 teachers from across the region convened at Cal Poly Pomona to get insights about innovative teaching methods and their classroom practices. The campus was one of 33 host sites for the inaugural “Better Together: California Teachers Summit” on July 31. Throughout the two days, an estimated 15,000 K-12 teachers attended the event. One of the speakers was alumna Johnna L. Lee, who is an instructional coach at Rosamond High School. She shared insights about the burgeoning role of technologies in the classroom, which he believes is a game changer.

Students interested in teaching K-12 are encouraged to register at www.cpp.edu/semester.

Program for Underrepresented Doctoral Students Receives Funding

A mini-grant program for students underrepresented minority students to enter doctoral programs in biomedical research has received $2 million in federal funding. The NSF Program offers 58 full-time opportunities to students in the form of workshops, paid research, faculty mentoring and GRE preparation courses. The grant from the National Institutes of Health will fund NSF for the next five years.

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Avanade Pledges $400,000 for Women in Information Technology

By Gary Feng

Efforts to bolster the ranks of women studying information technology received a tremendous boost after Avanade, a leading global provider of innovative digital services and business solutions, pledged nearly $400,000 over the next five years for five scholarships.

The $15,000 Avanade Women in Information Technology Scholarships will be awarded to students majoring in computer information systems or computer science. Scholarship recipients will be monitored by faculty and Avanade professionals, and will have the opportunity to present IT surveys to middle- and high-school girls. In addition, students will be invited to networking events and receive internship opportunities through Avanade.

Colly Pouns is the only university in the United States selected by Avanade to participate in the scholarship program. The scholarships are the largest corporate grant the university has ever received.

“We are deeply honored that Avanade chose Cal Poly Pomona to receive these prestigious scholarships. This gives our students even more opportunities to achieve their dreams,” says University President Soraya M. Coley. “Avanade’s generosity and foresight will have a profound impact on this university.”

Avanade also made a $200,000 gift last year to establish the Mitchell C. Hill Center for Applied Information Technology at Cal Poly.

By Melanie Johnson

Rose Float Offers a Sweet Treat

Seven ponytailed ducks float on a frame, while other horses play in a sugar wonderland in the 2016 Cal Poly Pomona Rose Float “Sweet Shenanigans.”

This entry, which was recognized as the 68th entry for the Cal Poly Pomona and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo campuses. The partners have earned 55 awards.

Sawyerr is working on promoting the lab to students – and not just engineers and computer science majors.

The iLab opened on the sixth floor of the classroom side of the CLA Building.

“Dr. Ortiz liked the idea of innovation,” she says. “He wanted student innovation to be encouraged.”

The program is so popular that one-third of the students who applied for it this academic year were turned away because of space constraints, Sawyerr says. The new lab will provide an opportunity to incubate ideas.

The lab builds on the College of Business Administration’s existing Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation and the Technology Transfer/Industry Clinic Office, with the aim of guiding students from concept to marketplace.

The team is seeking patents for its design, and the Technology Transfer/Industry Clinic and the College of Business Administration are working to manufacture it, and market and sell their goods or services.

Since its launch, 2,712 students from four colleges have developed and marketed nine products and services. Feel products include a Bluetooth-equipped USB flash drive and a coffee travel mug.

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“Formal lab dedicated to innovation is very exciting,” she says. “That means the opportunity will be opened up to more students.”

Sawyerr also credits President Emeritus Michael Ortiz with helping to get the lab up and running.

“Poly Poppins,” gives multidisciplinary teams of students one year to identify an innovative technology, develop a product or service, build a prototype, create the organizational structure to manufacture it, and market and sell their goods or services.

Last year, Sharbat received a $100,000 grant from the Bureau of Reclamation through a federal program aimed at turning brackish (slightly salty) groundwater, which is plentiful but unpolluted, into something drinkable.

Electricity to run.

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For the first time in a long time, Californians are facing water polluted by runoff from farms and urban sources. Sharbat says. San Joaquin’s first steps included setting up a pilot system to test the viability of the technique.

Since then, Sharbat and a team of 11 engineering students have developed a portable unit compact enough to easily fit in a family home like any other kitchen appliance.

Thirst Grows for Desalination Device

By Emily Velasco

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Architect Infuses His Passion for Re-Imagining and Rehabilitating Historic Structures With Room for Social Consciousness

By Greg Toumassian

You may not know the name Barry Milofsky, but if you’ve ever ventured downtown to Los Angeles or Hollywood, you probably have seen his work — and it is changing lives.

A Cal Poly Pomona professor and colleague, Barry has more than 20 years of experience. Milofsky has made a career out of blending technical expertise with social consciousness.

For him, historic preservation is not just a matter of saving buildings from demolition, and while Milofsky may not be a mind reader, it is definitely something that he feels deeply in the ability to do, “Milofsky says of his field of work.

Milofsky’s firm, Barry Milofsky and Michael Architect, “is an opportunity for the community of Los Angeles to be a part of the historic content.

As a founding member of the Los Angeles-based firm, Milofsky has been responsible for preserving and re-imagining dozens of historic structures.

Most recently, the firm was nominated in the restoration of the Flynn Apartments in downtown Los Angeles for the Los Angeles Conservancy Preservation Award and California Historical Foundation accolades.

The Flynn, renovated in 1970, was revitalized and accomplished by Milofsky’s firm to serve 2,425 formerly homeless veterans and 140下降s of decent housing.

For the Los Angeles Conservancy, Angel Holistic Design, the work is also an extension of Milofsky’s ethos. “Barry is a skilled architect who has volunteered through the years in a variety of ways to make our cities and communities better,” Holistic says. “He doesn’t just talk about making places better, he works to make a difference."

It’s a sentiment that he brings to the classroom.

“One of the lectures I teach is on the difference between affordable housing and luxury housing,” Milofsky says. “I believe the difference is how the housing — and the housing itself — are treated."

Holistic says, “There is no real difference in what is required. Everyone needs and deserves a place where they can feel safe and the pride in your community. That sense of identity is important. It is for all, but it also provides an opportunity and a sense of place that allows us to grow.”

Everyone needs and deserves a space where they can live their life, where they can access the resources they need to thrive.

“Preservation is the heart of our mission, it is definitely something that we take pride in the ability to do,” Milofsky says of his firm.

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Once the full security is in place, Milofsky wants to create a campus community where women in all STEM majors — science, technology, engineering and math — feel welcome.

Her leadership prowess also was evident as the president of Tau Beta Pi, a national engineering honor society.

She not only pursued high academic achievement, she also saw the value in student development, which made her an appreciated student leader,” says Carolina Delos Santos, advisor for Tau Beta Pi and associate dean for the College of Engineering.

Men and women have reached out to Rosdail to continue her work in STEM fields.

The movement was inspired by her own experience.

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Bouncing Back

After achieving 20-win seasons, the Cal Poly Pomona men’s and women’s basketball teams are gearing up to take the court again. The Bronco women’s squad will play Azusa Pacific in its home opener on November 13 at 7 p.m. in Kellogg Arena. The men’s team will take on Winona State in its opening home game on November 21 at 7 p.m. Free schedule posters will be given to the first 100 fans at both games.