



November 2024

Thank You!

With Thanksgiving break just around the corner, we want to take a moment to say how grateful we are for our amazing CLASS faculty and staff. Your hard work, dedication, and care for our students and community make a difference every single day. Thank you for everything you do to support our mission and create meaningful learning experiences. Wishing you a relaxing and joyful Thanksgiving break filled with warmth, gratitude, and special time with loved ones!

Save the Date!

Thanksgiving Break – Campus Closed | November 28-29, 2024

Campus will be closed on Thursday, November 28, and Friday, November 29, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. We hope you enjoy this time to rest, recharge, and spend time with loved ones. Campus will return to normal business hours on Monday, December 1st.

Bronco Launchpad Ends | November 29, 2024

Support Student Success in CLASS with Bronco Launchpad! Bronco Launchpad has been extended to November 29, 2024. Seize the chance to be a part of something extraordinary—powering the launch of our most anticipated fundraising needs and transforming CPP student dreams into reality. [Choose the campaign](#) you would like to support, share with your community, or make a gift.

Dream Chasing: Former Disney Imagineering Book Talk | December 3, 2024, 12p – 1p

Discover the magical career journey of former Walt Disney Imagineering president Bob Weis ('80, architecture; honorary doctorate) when he visits campus for an [exclusive book talk](#). Copies of Weis' most recent book, "Dream Chasing: My Four Decades of Success & Failure with Walt Disney Imagineering," will be available for purchase.

Music Department's Holiday Extravaganza Concert | December 8, 2024, 8p

Kick off the holiday season with the Music Department's Holiday Extravaganza, a festive concert featuring performances by various ensembles from across the department. This joyous event will include holiday favorites, classical pieces, and some surprises, making it the perfect way to celebrate the season with family and friends. Join us for an evening of music, merriment, and holiday cheer. [Purchase tickets here!](#)

Performing Arts at CPP

Come see CPP students in action via our music and theatre performances. Concerts and shows are available in December! Theatre and New Dance is offering free tickets to CLASS faculty and staff! Access the [Theatre Box Office](#) and [Music Box Office](#) for tickets.

Professor for a Day | March 10-14, 2025

Mark your calendars for the Alumni Professor for a Day Program in March 2025! This special event offers alumni the opportunity to return to campus, teach a class, and connect with students. Share your real-world experiences, demonstrate how your education shaped your career, and inspire the next generation of professionals. Interested in participating? Contact External Relations Associate Noelle McKinn at ncmckinn@cpp.edu for more details.

CLASS Events Calendar

Keep up with CLASS events all semester by adding the CLASS Events calendar to your Outlook calendar. View this [how-to guide](#) to learn how to access it!

Theatre and New Dance

On Thursday, November 21, the **Theatre** department in collaboration with **EML** and **History**, hosted a pre-show conversation ahead of the performance of *We Are Pussy Riot or Everything Is PR*. The [panel discussion](#), titled “Pussy Riot: What Led a Russian Punk Band to Punk Putin,” explored the play through the lenses of Russian history and applied linguistics. Panelists included Emeritus Professor **Elise K. Wirschafter** (History) and Assistant Professor **Valerie Sky** (English and Modern Languages), moderated by Professor **Bernardo Solano** (Theatre), the play’s director. This event was an excellent example of inter-departmental collaboration, if you’re interested in hosting a similar event contact the Theatre and New Dance department, theatre@cpp.edu.

Bernice Lopez, a senior majoring in theater with an emphasis on design and technical production, utilized her unique background and creative vision to design the set of Theatre’s most recent productions “We Are Pussy Riot, or Everything is PR” directed by Bernardo Solano. Read more about Bernice’s work in [The Poly Post](#).

English and Modern Languages

Andrew Moss, professor emeritus of English and nonviolence studies, was featured in an article for [Fountain Hills Times Independent](#). Moss writes that “it takes a certain moral imagination to understand the scope and consequences” of Donald Trump’s plans to deport 15 to 20 million undocumented immigrants if re-elected president.

Political Science

Between September 24th and November 7th, the **California Elections and Policy Poll** received a total of **354 media** mentions of the CEPP across print/online, television, and radio news outlets. The geographic spread extends beyond U.S. national news, with coverage as far as Canada, Pakistan, and Israel. Congratulations to **Dr. Jared Cuellar** and **the CEPP team** for your impactful work.

Political Science major and ASI Secretary of External Affairs, **Alejandra Lopez Sanchez**, was interviewed on student civic engagement story by [EdSource](#), a higher-ed news outlet; and a [New York Times article](#)

that used data from the California Elections and Policy Poll which **Dr. Jarred Cuellar** worked on as part of a multi-university policy team.

Political Science alumni, **Jorge Marquez** and **James Brulte**, share words of wisdom with [The Poly Post](#). Marquez and Brulte, who were involved in political campaigns during their time in college, used their political activism as steppingstones into their political careers.

Do political candidates benefit from celebrity endorsements? The article cites research by **Mia Santillan** ('21, political science) published in the "[The Undergraduate Journal of Political Science](#)" at Cal Poly Pomona. She [argues](#) that such endorsements can negatively affect political candidates in the long run. - "[How a rave with Bill Nye and Quavo turned out droves of early voters at City Hall](#)" — The Philadelphia Inquirer, 10/29

Communication

The Communication department celebrated a momentous occasion on November 16th with the dedication of the [Dr. Vinita Dhingra Communication Laboratory](#) in the College of Letters, Arts, & Social Sciences. Through the remarkable generosity of **Dr. Dhingra** and her husband, **Ashok Dhingra**, our Communication Department has taken a significant leap forward. This state-of-the-art facility will equip our students with cutting-edge technology, enabling them to master contemporary communication tools and gain invaluable hands-on experience. Their visionary gift will shape the educational journey of countless students for generations to come. *Thank you!*

Victoria Mejicanos, news editor of The Poly Post and a 2024-2025 College Journalism Network Fellow, co-bylined a [CalMatters article](#) where she interviewed political science student **Aadi Mehta**. "I find that sometimes sticking out and being sort of the outlier, it's not a problem at all," said Aadi Mehta, a third-year political science student and president of the CPP Republican Club. "There's a lot of pressure for conservatives, especially not only on this campus, but in California in general, to kind of get in line with more of the dominating liberal standpoint." This article was also republished by [The Press-Democrat](#) in Sonoma County.

Communication alumna ('11), **Rachel Anderson**, was recently [celebrated for excellence](#) in marketing and consulting services. Anderson is a fractional chief marketing officer and leadership coach at Pivot Studios.

[CPP Alumni Night: Forge Your Legacy](#) was a fantastic evening of reconnection for Communication alumni. Graduates from various industries and generations shared inspiring stories of their achievements, rekindled memories, and formed new connections, showcasing the strength of the CPP community beyond graduation. The event was a testament to the enduring bonds within the department. Special thanks go to the event planning class and **Dr. Andrea M. Smith** for organizing this memorable celebration!

Congratulations to Communication Professor, **Sid Robinson**, and the **2022 Event Planning class** student team! They received the [Inland Empire PRSA Chapter's Polaris Award](#), securing first place in Student Projects.

The Associated Collegiate Press 2024 [announced its annual finalists](#) and **The Poly Post** is nominated for Story of the Year and Illustration of the Year! Congratulations to **Matthew Acosta**, **Christie Counts** and **Jose Mosqueda**.

History

The **CPP History club** hosted a debate on October 22nd between the Student Initiative for Justice and the CPP College Republicans Club to promote civil discourse on campus despite frequent opposite political views. Read more about it in [The Poly Post](#).

The **History department** welcomed new faculty member, Francisco Beltrán, this Fall. Beltrán was featured in a Poly Post article discussing his journey from first-generation student to Assistant Professor. [Read the article here](#).

Assistant Professor of History Fang Yu Hu's book, *Good Wife, Wise Mother: Educating Han Taiwanese Girls Under Japanese Rule*, received praise in a recent [Taipei Times review](#) for its groundbreaking focus on how gender-specific values and practical knowledge were taught to Taiwanese girls during World War II. Unlike most studies centered on male subjects, Hu's work sheds light on the Japanese colonial government's assimilation (doka) and imperial subjectification (kominka) policies through the lens of female education. The review commends the book as "overdue" and highlights the value of its analysis.

Philosophy

The **Philosophy department** hosted [World Philosophy Day](#) on November 19th. The event was a special day of panels, giveaways, food and critical reflection on the fundamental nature of reality. Students, faculty, and guests came together for thought-provoking discussions, interactive activities, and a deep dive into the big questions that shape our world.

The **Digital Humanities Consortium** is delighted to welcome three new Faculty Fellows for 2024-2025: **Lauren Furey** (COM) produces the [Pink State podcast](#), whose Season 3 will showcase the 2024 election; **Robert Lewis** (HST) will use GIS in his research on World War II and transit mapping through the National Archives; **Denisse Vasquez-Guevara** (COM) works on public science education, creating short-form videos on science literacy. The DHC is also excited to have two amazing Student Fellows. **Katie Priest** (COM/PHL) is a podcaster extraordinaire who has worked on The Poly Post, The Poly Post Magazine, and the [California Center for Ethics & Policy podcast](#). **Pedro Rosales** (SOC) is a videocasting whiz who is a leading member of the Criminology Media Lab team.

Geography and Anthropology

GIS Day 2024 was a fantastic event filled with inspiring presentations from GIS professionals, hands-on activities, and engaging discussions about the impact of Geographic Information Systems. Thank you to

everyone who participated and made the day a success! Check out photos from the event and relive the highlights: [GIS Day 2024](#)

Dr. Annie Danis' Youth Ambassador Program was recently highlighted in an article by [History Colorado](#). This year, young descendants of Amache incarcerated will participate in the Spiritual Healing Run through the newly launched "Youth Ambassador Experience," a program led by Dr. Danis, Assistant Professor of Anthropology. Dr. Danis also oversees field programs for the University of Denver Amache Project. The program received additional recognition through the Chancellor's Office in their CSU Roundup.

At the [Environmental Health Summit](#), Associate Professor of Geography and Anthropology **James J.A. Blair** discussed Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs), contracts between companies and the communities they impact. Blair explained that CBAs, sometimes enforced by government entities, often address financial and infrastructure mitigation while including workforce provisions such as local hiring and living wages.

Music

Music student-led punk band, Zombieload, was featured in a [Poly Post article](#). What started as an eighth-grade passion project, has transformed into something much larger. Earlier this year, the band played for a sold-out crowd at Bronco Fusion, celebrated its 10th anniversary, and now is preparing to release their debut album, Pelican Bay.

The [Poly Post recently reviewed](#) the **Mariachi Los Broncos'** Fall Recital. The event featured performances by CPP's folkloric dance group, Zapateando del Corazon and an off-campus mariachi band, Los Caballeros.

[Ashland.News](#) an Oregon publication, recently reviewed **Nadia Shpachenko's** concerts held in Ashland, Oregon. "The Sunday concert, 'Unbreakable Spirit: Music of Resilience,' featuring Shpachenko, was nothing short of astounding. For two hours, Shpachenko led the audience through a labyrinth of tonal and atonal pieces stirring feelings from fear to anger, from sorrow to hope."

["Fontana plays Day of the Dead celebration"](#) — Fontana Herald News, 10/24

Jose Alex Mascorro ('19, music) is the director and founder of Mariachi Los Santaneros and a full-time music teacher at Martin Elementary School in Santa Ana. "I wanted to create a group for the longest time, and this came about in 2018," he says.

Ethnic and Women's Studies

Dr. Álvaro Huerta, associate professor of urban and regional planning and ethnic and women's studies, published an [article in CALO News](#) writing that xenophobia mostly explains President-elect Donald Trump's victory over Vice President Kamala Harris. Huerta also published another [CALO News article](#), "My immigrant mother 'stole' American jobs: A 'confession' from a child of Mexican immigrants."

CLASS

Iris Levine, dean emerita of the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences, discusses Vox Femina Los Angeles, the city's premiere women's chorus which she founded nearly 30 years ago. The chorus, which

has performed more than 300 concerts throughout North America, kicked off its 28th season with a concert about the women's suffrage movement on Nov. 3 at Zipper Concert Hall at the Colburn School in downtown Los Angeles. "[The story of VOX Femina, one of LA's most regarded all women's choir](#)" — "AirTalk with Larry Mantle," KPCC-FM 89.3, 10/29 (Audio)

CLASS, in collaboration with the [I am First](#) program, [Weglyn Endowed Chair of Multicultural Studies](#), and [McNair Scholars Program](#), hosted an event as part of the First-Generation Students Celebration earlier this month. Drs. Yvette Martinez-Vu and Miroslava Chavez Garcia presented their book, [Is Grad School for Me? Demystifying the Application Process for First-Gen BIPOC students](#). You can check it out on the CLASS [youtube](#) .

Submit your news!

CLASS Kudos is a monthly list of shout outs to brag about the incredible work you are doing! Keep us up to date on what is happening in your departments and tell us about upcoming events, share exciting news, announce student successes, and more by [submitting your news on our website](#)! For questions, contact CLASS Communications Specialist, **Ashley Bagwell**, adbagwell@cpp.edu.

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