



October 2024

Message from the Dean

In November, we recognize the sacrifice of Veterans, and we gather for days of reflection and gratitude with family. Students are registering, faculty are grading, and staff are juggling budgets and scheduling for spring. Gratitude is part of many people's daily well-being practices, and as the weather turns chilly and we get tired, now is an especially good time to express our gratitude to others. Thank you to the outstanding staff in the Student Success Center. Our professional advisors provide timely, effective advising and are booked solid. Thank you to the faculty who served on the DRTPC. Your careful and considerate work in reviewing your colleagues' packets is appreciated. Thank you to the chairs for your leadership, your responsiveness is appreciated. Thank you to the CLASS Curriculum Committee, your work moving our GEAR courses is appreciated. Thank you to the staff for your work organizing the Pumpkin Fest, the Halloween Party, and CPP Explore Day – as well as department events. Thank you to everyone who attended a Four Friday event this semester, your showing up for each other is appreciated. Please join me and thank someone, today.

Kind Regards,

Cami

Save the Date!

Explore CPP Day | November 2, 2024

CPP will be hosting Explore CPP Day (Fall Preview) on Saturday, November 2nd from 9am-3pm. This event is for prospective students interested in attending CPP starting the Spring 2025 and Fall 2025 semesters. This event introduces prospective students to staff, faculty, and students so they know why they should choose CPP and CLASS majors. If you are interested in volunteering, join us in the Performing Arts Plaza (between Buildings 24 and 25).

Is Grad School for Me? Book Talk | November 7, 2024

Join us in celebrating First-Gen Week with a special presentation by authors Yvette Martinez-Vu and Miroslava Chavez-Garcia on their book, *Is Grad School for Me? Demystifying the Application Process for First-Gen BIPOC Students*. Join us on November 7 at 10 a.m. in Ursa Minor for this insightful event. RSVP [here!](#)

DHC Digital Skills Workshops | Nov 12, 14, & 18

The Digital Humanities Consortium (DHC) is hosting 3 amazing Digital Skills Workshops, **open to both students, staff, and faculty**, led by DHC Student Fellows Katie Priest and Pedro Rosales. See events below and [register here!](#)

- (T) 11/12 @ 11:30-12:45 (1-305) - PODCASTING 101
- (Th) 11/14 @ 11:30-12:45 (1-305) - PODCAST EDITING

- (M) 11/18 @ 10-11:15 (1-305) - VIDEO EDITING

RSCA in Five: Disability & Neurodiversity | November 15, 2024

Join this virtual event to share your RSCA activities and interests in Disability and Neurodiversity through engaging five-minute, five-slide presentations. Interested in attending or presenting? RSVP [here!](#)

World Philosophy Day | November 19, 2024

Join us for a day of thought-provoking discussions, engaging lectures, and insightful conversations celebrating philosophical inquiry and global perspectives. Don't miss this opportunity to delve into the world of philosophy and broaden your horizons. Info coming soon!

GIS Day | November 20, 2024

Don't miss out on this chance to dive into the world of GIS on Wednesday, November 20th from 10 am - 2 pm in BSC's Ursa Major. Learn about GIS with hands-on activities including GIS trash bins, geocaching, and more! More details and RSVP coming soon!

Bronco Launchpad | Now extended through 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.

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!

Performing Arts at CPP

Come see CPP students in action as our music and theatre performances kick off for the fall semester. Theatre and New Dance is offering free tickets to CLASS faculty and staff! Access the [Theatre Box Office](#) and [Music Box Office](#) for tickets.

Sociology

Dr. Mary Kunmi Yu Danico was honored at the Provost's Award for Excellence Symposium on October 3rd. The Provost's Award for Excellence recognizes Cal Poly Pomona faculty who have stood out in their selective field, such as teaching, scholarly and creative activities, and service. Dr. Danico was the Director of the Michi and Walter Weglyn Endowed Chair, and Asian American Transnational Research Initiative at Cal Poly Pomona. Both of these roles have a commitment to promoting social justice and initiating conversations that concern underrepresented communities. Read more about Dr. Danico's service [here](#).

Discover how Sociology professor, Dr. **Bianca N. Haro**, empowers CPP students to explore Pomona's history, culture, and systemic inequalities through hands-on learning and community partnerships. In Fall 2023, students collaborated with the nonprofit [Gente Organizada](#) to develop an Equity Report for Pomona Unified, gaining real-world advocacy experience. Read the full article [here!](#)

Dr. Anthony C. Ocampo was recently featured in an article about voter registration by *The New York Times*. He quoted the following, "Filipino Americans can also be more difficult to reach because they are more geographically dispersed in cities than other ethnic groups," said Anthony Ocampo, a professor of sociology at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Read the article on [The New York Times website](#).

Sociology alum, **Mary Khalil**, M.Ed., Ed.S., is making waves as a school psychologist by bridging the gap between classroom learning and mental well-being. With a unique blend of academic expertise and practical mental health strategies, Khalil is shaping how schools support students holistically. Learn more about her inspiring work and impact in this in-depth article from Asialogue: [Read here](#).

Theatre and New Dance

Theatre Adjunct Professor **Colin Campbell** [writes](#) about the pain of losing his children to a drunk driver, the "permissive culture around dangerous driving," and the passage of [Senate Bill 961](#), which would make passive "intelligent speed assistance" a [requirement](#) on all new cars sold in-state by 2030. "We'd be the first state to do it, if [Gov. Gavin] Newsom signs the bill," he says.

The **Theatre department** recently hosted a virtual alumni panel, featuring successful graduates who shared their career journeys and insights into the industry. Panelists **Dustin Schofield** ('07), **Kedra Dawkins** ('11), **Catherine Campbell** ('15), and **Olivia Jones** ('16) discussed their experiences and answered student questions in a lively Q&A session. Catch the full panel on our YouTube channel [here!](#)

Theatre's production of "8 Minutes Left" was featured in The Poly Post's October 22nd review. The **Department of Theatre and New Dance** at Cal Poly Pomona delivered a reenactment of "8 Minutes Left," bringing themes of love, friendships and regrets, and provoking a range of emotions within the audience from tears to laughter. Directed by Colin Campbell, the play follows the residents of Charlesville, New Jersey, while they plan their last moments on Earth with only eight minutes left to live. The play was performed in the smaller theater located in Building 25 on campus with the theater nearly reaching maximum capacity with 55 seats opening night. Read more [here!](#)

Theatre Adjunct Professor **Nancy Loomis Kyes** starred in three John Carpenter films: action-thriller "Assault on Precinct 13" (1976), "Halloween" (1978) and "The Fog" (1980). Her latest film credit is "[Hauntology](#)," released on Sept. 17. Read "[Here's where the original Halloween cast is now, nearly 50 years after the iconic horror movie premiered](#)" on *Entertainment Weekly* and in *People Magazine*, "[The Cast of Halloween: Where Are They Now?](#)".

English and Modern Languages

Assistant Professor of Latin American literature & creative writing, **Claudia Salazar Jimenez**, was invited to the [International Book Fair](#) in New York City. She participated on a panel about Critical Thinking and Migration. Professor Salazar Jimenez was also invited to the [LGBTQ+Ñ Festival](#), the first literary festival that brings together Spanish and Latin American writers who explore and celebrate sexual diversity in their works. This pioneering initiative seeks to provide a platform for creative expression and dialogue about the LGBTQ+ community in the world of literature, as well as to analyze the various creative and social realities in Spanish-speaking countries. Additionally, she was [interviewed by the Spanish newspaper El Pais](#) about her new book and her experiences as a Peruvian immigrant in the US.

While in residence as a fully funded [Visiting Researcher](#) at the University of Bristol, Professor **Dewey W. Hall** delivered his paper "The Political Ecology of Matter: Marbles, Volcanoes, and Humans" in the Peel Lecture Theatre to the College of Humanities and College of Geographical Sciences on September 18, 2024, which was extremely well received by the Bristol academic community. Hall also traveled to the University of Oxford to deliver his paper "A Materialist Approach to the Parthenon Sculptures: Subject, Object, and Thing" at the New Oxford Research in the Humanities Interdisciplinary Conference on September 27, 2024.

Political Science

Political Science Professor **Renford Reese** recently published his latest book, [Violence in America: From a 'Criminal's' Perspective](#). Dr. Reese is the founder and director of the Prison Education Project and the Reintegration Academy, as well as the co-founding executive director of the California State University Project Rebound Consortium. With a rich background in criminal justice, he has produced eight documentaries on the subject. *Violence in America: From a 'Criminal's' Perspective* marks his 12th published book.

[New poll shows where Californians stand on drug penalties and rent control](#) — Politico, 9/30

The survey, conducted by researchers at Cal Poly Pomona, CSU Long Beach and USC, and exclusively shared with the publication, reflects a conservative shift in how Californians view criminal justice issues, despite remaining overwhelmingly Democratic. Political Science Assistant Professor **Jarred Cuellar** is part of the California Elections and Policy Poll team that conducted surveys between Sept. 14-21.

Also see:

- ["Democratic Party invests in these Southern California House races ahead of election"](#) — Orange County Register, 9/27
- ["New survey suggests Southern California could be key to a House flip"](#) — Orange County Register, 9/26
- ["Could Rep. Katie Porter be voters' top choice for governor in 2026? Here's what new polling suggests"](#) — Orange County Register, 10/1
- [CPP professor on Trump's Coachella Valley rally](#) – KFBK-AM 1530 10/13
- [CPP Professor on Harris campaign's strategy to release VP's medical report](#) – NBC Los Angeles 10/12

Political science adjunct professor, **Farrah Hassen's** latest [op-ed was published by the Colorado Times Recorder](#). Hassen writes that the costs of war "always reverberate at home" and that Israel's assaults on

Lebanon, Syria and Yemen threaten to drag the United States into a wider war with Iran that shouldn't be seen as inevitability.

Do political candidates benefit from celebrity endorsements? An article from [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#) cites research by **Mia Santillan** ('21, political science) published in the "[The Undergraduate Journal of Political Science](#)" at Cal Poly Pomona. Santillan [argues](#) that such endorsements can negatively affect political candidates in the long run.

Economics

The **Economics Department** lost a dear former colleague, Professor **Nestor Ruiz**, on September 3, 2024. Nestor joined the Economics Department at Cal Poly Pomona in 1990 and retired in 2013, serving as Department Chair in 2008 and 2009. Nestor's door was always open for students, and he is fondly remembered as a sincere, dedicated advisor and advocate for our students.

Philosophy

The **California Center for Ethics and Policy** hosted a 2024 Election Fair in the Bronco Student Center on October 11th. Students connected with representatives from political campaigns and heard from groups on both sides of measures on this year's ballot. Jackie Wu, former Orange County election official and author of "on the Front Lines: An Election Official's Story of Protecting the Vote in 2020" also led a discussion.

Philosophy alum ('20), **Marmar Tavasol** was accepted into the Teach for America Corps program and is teaching students with special needs at Stella High Charter Academy in LA.

Geography and Anthropology

Archaeology students were featured in CPP News for Professor **Annie Danis'** "garbage archaeology" project. Read more on [CPP News!](#)

James Blair, associate professor of anthropology, was invited to contribute to a nice water-themed issue of [The Geographer magazine](#). Blair was also recently quoted in [Imperial Valley Press](#) responding to an EPA settlement.

Music

Professor of Music, **Nadia Shpachenko** recently hosted a concert on October 23! Known for her Grammy-winning talent and passion for contemporary classical music, Shpachenko delivered a mesmerizing performance featuring bold and innovative compositions. If you missed the event, check out the [full recap](#) in the Claremont Courier.

In honor of National Arts and Humanities recording artist and Music alum **Simone Ledward** ('15), shared her journey and insights with CPP Music students at a virtual event on October 23rd! [Watch the Q&A on YouTube!](#)

Jose Alex Mascorro ('19, music) was featured in the [Fontana Herald News](#) for playing at Fontana's Day of the Dead celebration is 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. "I wanted to learn about that culture and music because that's what I grew up listening to. I went to California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and met some students. Eventually, we came together as a band to rehearse and perform."

Ethnic and Women's Studies

Ethnic and Women's Studies Assistant Professor **Ayana Jamieson** joined a panel of Afrofuturist author Octavia Butler's "Parable of the Sower" and the real-world parallels with the political, environmental and social issues propelling the plot of the 1993 novel, which takes place from 2024 to 2027. [The NPR story](#), "The Power And Prescience Of Octavia Butler's 'Parable Of The Sower'" was aired 134 times across dozens of NPR affiliate stations across the country. Dr. Jamieson was also featured in an [interview](#) for LACMA and The Getty on her recent collaborations.

Urban and Regional Planning and Ethnic Studies Associate Professor, **Álvaro Huerta**, was recently honored at the [Latina/o Heritage Month Celebration and Honors](#) at Cal Poly Pomona earlier this month. In addition, His [op-ed](#) was recently featured in CALO news. Huerta argues that "[Donald] Trump's anti-Mexican campaign helped him (and the complicit/immoral VP candidate Mike Pence) secure victory in 2016" and questions how parents who work hard to instill the morality of "right" and "wrong" to their children can also simultaneously vote for Trump and J.D. Vance in 2024.

Also see:

- [CPP professor weighs in on whether Trump's controversial remarks could cost him the 2024 election](#) – Buelna News

CLASS

Congratulations to **Maria Anzaldo**, Retention & Graduation Specialist, and **Julie Froid**, Senior Budget Analyst, for recently completing the CPP EDGE program! The mission of the [CPP EDGE program](#) is to inspire and ignite learning while preparing future leaders to explore and further develop their personal and career aspirations. Participants gain valuable experience, acquire essential skills, and grow as leaders and advocates, promoting the CPP culture.

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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