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President's Scholars

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C O N F E R R A L



2024-25 President's Scholars

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT **Soraya M. Coley**

The President's Scholars Program represents the finest of Cal Poly Pomona's traditions. Scholarship recipients not only succeed in the classroom, they are committed to make society better. They volunteer as tutors and fund-raisers. They work in their communities volunteering their time at animal shelters, churches, libraries, schools and theaters.

They are driven to assist the next generation of college students, especially those in underserved communities. Since 1983, more than 600 scholarships have been awarded. Today's celebration would not be possible without the generosity of our benefactors. Like the students we honor, they are difference-makers. It is with great pleasure that we celebrate this year's recipients.





2024-25 President's Scholars

BENEFACTORS

Drs. Janet & W. Keith Kellogg II

Janet "Jean" Kellogg and W. Keith Kellogg II were longtime supporters of the university. In 1999, the Kelloggs donated \$200,000 to match contributions to the President's Council Scholars program. Their gift inspired numerous individual and family donations, leading to the creation of a significant endowment fund.

W. Keith Kellogg II is the namesake and grandson of cereal magnate W.K. Kellogg, one of the university's founders. He and Janet were champions of the W. Keith and Janet Kellogg University Art Gallery, which was expanded because of their generous support. The Honors College was named the Keith & Jean Kellogg Honors College in 2006 after a generous bequest from the W. Keith Kellogg II Trust.

In 1994, W. Keith Kellogg II received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Cal Poly Pomona and was also recognized as an honorary university alumnus. He passed away in 2005; Janet Kellogg passed away in 2014.





2024-25 President's Scholars

Wyatt Johnson

ALBERT ZORASTER President's Scholar

Major: Animal Science

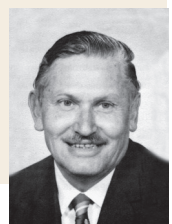
Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture

Activities: Vice-President of Avian and Exotic Animal Academy; Treasurer of Pre-Vet Club; Scheduler of Zoologists of Cal Poly Pomona; Author; Hippotherapy Volunteer; Assistant Scoutmaster; Wildlife Monitor

As a pre-veterinary major who values giving back to the people and experiences that inspired his journey, Wyatt sees his studies as a way to recognize the bonds between humans, animals and their environments. He envisions his future career as a veterinarian as a means to encourage caretaking, an ethos that he has embraced in his own leadership volunteerism. His work as an Assistant Scoutmaster in Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has allowed him the opportunity to teach youth members about his area of interest, mammalogy, as well as his love of hiking and National Parks. He notes that his overarching goal is to be a good person. "Whether its pursuit of a high GPA, sitting down to write the next chapter of a book, or taking my dogs for a walk, I keep the BSA slogan 'do a good turn daily' in mind." Wyatt hopes to open his own veterinary practice and mentor aspiring students to find their own passions within the field that inspired him to learn about behavior, kindness and stewardship.



CHRISTINE and ALBERT ZORASTER joined the President's Council in 1992. Christine endowed this scholarship in the memory of her husband Albert. His life celebrated the ideals of hard work and determination; he was an advocate for his community, industry and children. The Albert Zoraster scholarship is awarded to the student who values hard work and is dedicated to the enrichment of their community.



BENEFACTOR

Christine & Albert Zoraster



2024-25 President's Scholars

Ethan Bolos

MARK ALDRICH President's Scholar

Major: Accounting

College of Business Administration

Activities: FRL Department Student Assistant; Treasurer of Pilipino Graduation; Treasurer of Barkada; Business Marketing Coordinator of CPP's 34th Annual Pilipino American Culture Night; President of Beta Alpha Psi - Iota Chi Chapter; Public Relations Director of Cal Poly Society of Accountants

If you ask Ethan why students should choose Cal Poly Pomona, his answer demonstrates his positive mindset: "Different perspectives are essential for growth." As the eldest sibling and the first person in his immediate family to earn a college degree in the United States, Ethan values the diversity of connections with his fellow students in activities ranging from professional opportunities as a student leader in Beta Alpha Psi to his immersion into his heritage as a first-generation Filipino American immigrant through Barkada, the Filipino-American Student Association. Fondly recalling his grandfather's proud words to him at a younger age that "you can be the next President of the Philippines," Ethan's academic and extracurricular excellence pay tribute to his continuing zest for learning especially when combined with service. Encouraging him along the way has been Ethan's father, who has served as a role model in his insurance sales career and in his recent achievement of his lifelong goal of homeownership, demonstrating that hard work provides lifelong benefits. After graduation, Ethan aspires to earn his certified public accountant license and give back to his family that has provided tremendous inspiration for him.



Long-time philanthropists and Cal Poly Pomona supporters, **JO** and **TED DUTTON** generously established this scholarship named after their son, **MARK ALDRICH**. Mark is a Cal Poly Pomona alumnus who earned a bachelor's degree in finance, real estate and law in 1994. To recognize the contributions made by the fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, first consideration is given to its members for the Mark Aldrich scholarship.



BENEFACTORS

Jo and Theodore "Ted" Dutton



2024-25 President's Scholars

Piuneh Mehdikhani

EILEEN AND MICHAEL CONSIDINE President's Scholar

Major: Management and Human Resources

College of Business Administration

Activities: Professionals in Human Resources Association (PIHRA); Woodward Inc. Human Resources intern; Life Group Leader

Piuneh's parents chose to immigrate to the United States with the sole wish of providing their children with an excellent education and stable careers. Piuneh honors their commitment through her achievements in her academics while also pursuing leadership roles that help guide others. Prior to Cal Poly Pomona, Piuneh pursued multiple associate degrees, taking up to 18 units a semester. Yet, her pathway has not been linear. Emergency surgery and several weeks of hospitalization during her freshman year sidelined her efforts, but through perseverance, effective time management and organization skills, Piuneh recovered her grades and has maintained a 3.9 GPA. She plans to earn a master's degree in human resource management to learn more about the "behind the scenes" of companies and the systems that give them structure. In the future, she desires to give back to Cal Poly Pomona in gratitude for its "great programs and resources that truly support students and inspire them to do their best."



Alumnus **MICHAEL CONSIDINE** and his wife **EILEEN** have been active supporters of Cal Poly Pomona. From industrial manufacturing to investment management and sod distribution, the Considines have been fortunate in their business endeavors. Students who demonstrate the ability to succeed and enhance the financial or banking industries are awarded the Eileen and Michael Considine scholarship.



BENEFACTORS

Michael and Eileen Considine



2024-25 President's Scholars

Lana Hy

GREGOIRE FAMILY President's Scholar

Major: Management and Human Resources

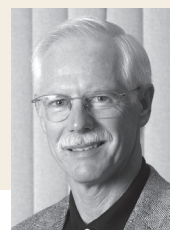
College of Business Administration

Activities: Kellogg Honors College; Human Resources Intern at Los Angeles County Development Authority; Student Writer and Editor at CPP's Department of Strategic Communications; Orientation Leader at CPP's Office of New Student Programs and Family Engagement

Lana chose Business Administration at Cal Poly Pomona as her field of study because of its versatility, opportunities for growth and its variety of possible career paths. Positive work experiences in on-campus jobs and in her current internship for the Los Angeles County Development Authority reinforced her desire to focus on management and human resources and her aspiration to help others create meaningful work cultures. "The average person spends 90,000 hours at work over a lifetime, about 1/3 of their life. I want to help others find employment opportunities that fit their skills and passions." Cheering her on toward her goal are Lana's parents, who are also college graduates and understand the demands and benefits of her educational commitment. In her future, Lana sees herself mentoring aspiring HR undergraduates to help them navigate their college and professional journeys, acting as a source of encouragement to overcome challenges, and an advocating for others to achieve their goals.



RONALD GREGOIRE began his impressive career in the auto dealership business by joining an accounting firm after graduating with honors from Cal Poly Pomona in 1971. Following many successful years in the auto industry, Ron sold his business to enjoy time with family and friends. The Gregoire Family scholarship is presented to the student who exhibits strong leadership abilities and a determination to succeed.



BENEFACTOR

Gregoire Family



2024-25 President's Scholars

Haiam Ibrahim

GWEN EVANS LA BOUNTY President's Scholar and **JASEN STRAND** Memorial President's Scholar

Major: Integrated Teacher Education

College of Education and Integrative Studies

Activities: Lopez Urban Farm Community Volunteer; Community Cook; Mother of Five; substitute teacher

Haiam desires to be a teacher to assist those who are in need and to encourage education as a means to build positive communities. She has chosen special education to advocate for those who are often not seen. "There are many students who have a disability, and I want to make it my job to serve them. Their voices, like many others, are silenced, and it isn't fair because they never chose to have that life. I feel they need more love and care." At the heart of her journey are her five children, whom she hopes to show through her own efforts that having an education opens doors and teaches resiliency. Her desire to give back the support that she has been given also includes volunteerism at a local urban farm, where people learn how to grow their food, promote green space, and provide nourishment for those in need. Cal Poly Pomona is a place that makes her feel welcomed and like family, says Haiam, and the scholarship will allow her to purchase necessary resources for her family's educational journey.



The first lady of Cal Poly Pomona from 1977 to 1985, **GWEN EVANS LA BOUNTY** was a devoted wife and mother; she embraced the university community until she passed away in 1985. As an advocate for education, Mrs. La Bounty pursued her teaching credential, served as a PTA president and was involved in a local preschool program. Mrs. La Bounty served as a role model of charity and compassion, and the Gwen Evans La Bounty scholarship is awarded to the student who represents these attributes and is committed to educational excellence.

In Memoriam
**Gwen Evans
La Bounty**



BENEFACTORS

Friends and Family of Gwen Evans La Bounty



2024-25 President's Scholars

Stevie Burns

ROBERTS FAMILY President's Scholar

Major: Liberal Studies, Pre-Credential Option

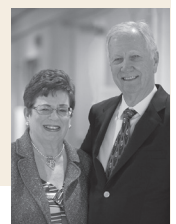
College of Education and Integrative Studies

Activities: Liberal Studies Club

Teaching for Stevie is an investment in students to better themselves and feel pride in their individual importance in their communities. Stevie enjoys the interdisciplinary connections in the liberal studies major which she believes will help her become a well-rounded educator who promotes community engagement and cultural learning. Sacrificing full-time employment to fully focus on her studies has had its financial challenges, but Stevie sees the support from scholarships as an endorsement that the sacrifices are outweighed by the benefits. Prior to transferring to Cal Poly Pomona, Stevie was honored to receive a Field Excellence award from Chaffey College for her elementary classroom performance. "It is still something that I am so moved to have received. The professor and mentor teacher had such kind words to say about me and it really affirmed my career choice. I will continue to give my all throughout my studies here at Cal Poly and into my career." For Stevie, Cal Poly Pomona "has something for everyone" and she is thrilled to pursue her dream path.



DOROTHY and KENT ROBERTS have been members of the President's Council since 1985. As past owners of an English language development publishing business for 26 years and active participants in several educational nonprofits in their community, the Roberts demonstrate their dedication to the educational process on a daily basis. The Roberts Family scholarship is intended to recognize promising students who are seeking educational careers, have demonstrated superior scholastic performance and want to make a difference in the world.



BENEFACTORS

Dorothy and Kent Roberts



2024-25 President's Scholars

Andres C. Torres

CHANG FAMILY President's Scholar

Major: Mechanical Engineering

College of Engineering

Activities: CPP Liquid Rocket Lab: Mechanism and Controls Engineer; Treasurer of CPP Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics; WAVE Fellow, Caltech Autonomous Robotics and Controls Lab

"It's like a superpower to will into existence any type of mechanism that of course doesn't violate the laws of physics," Andres says of his love of engineering and its ability to provide knowledge and tools to create machines for nearly any type of purpose. His interests in mechanical engineering and mathematics led to his current involvements with robotics, in large measure due to opportunities made available to him through Cal Poly Pomona faculty, Professor Alan Krinik and Professor Hubertus von Bremen. Through encouraging his math interests, Andres became an undergraduate researcher and applied for summer research, which recently culminated in the Caltech WAVE summer research program where he worked with Dr. Soon-Jo Chung, one of the nation's leading robotics researchers. Andres desires to pursue a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering studying robotics to advance cutting-edge robotics research and "to inspire the next generation of engineers to the possibilities engineering unlocks."



WEN and **MEI LIEN CHANG** are outstanding supporters of their community and Cal Poly Pomona. Wen and Mei Lien firmly believe that education is the most effective tool to aid all social classes in the pursuit of their dreams. The Chang Family scholarship was established to assist outstanding engineering students in their pursuit of scholastic excellence.



BENEFACTORS

Mei Lien and Wen Chang



2024-25 President's Scholars

Jai Sutaria

OSCAR PERLAZA President's Scholar

Major: Mechanical Engineering (Computer Science minor)

College of Engineering

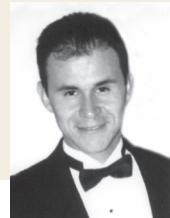
Activities: oSTEM Board Member; Social Justice Leader at the Asian and Pacific Islander Center; Achieve Scholars Program; Kellogg Honors College; Café Con Libros Press Volunteer

Jai's interest in robotics derives from his belief that research in the field leads to tangible and positive change for others, including their use in natural disaster situations, at-home medical care/support and education. Inclusion is key for Jai: "Academic research has been a historically restrictive field for marginalized groups, so I want to make it more accessible for folks who do and don't share my identities." An early introduction to robotics in middle school ignited his passion, and he sees giving back as a mentor to a First Robotics Competition team as most effective for encouraging a new generation of future engineers. Role models have guided his journey, including his mother who immigrated to the United States to follow her passions and open opportunities for her family. Jai finds value in volunteerism and advocacy for LGBTQ+ and disability rights and sees lifelong learning and giving back as a way to help others achieve their own successes. As an undergraduate, Jai sees "CPP as a diverse place where you will meet a variety of people with unique experiences that will help you grow as a person."



As the former director of the Maximizing Engineering Potential (MEP) program, **CATHARINE HUDSPETH** has helped countless students on their way to successful careers in engineering. The Oscar Perlaza scholarship was created to recognize the outstanding leadership and perseverance of a highly motivated MEP civil engineering alumnus whose life ended too soon. The Oscar Perlaza scholarship is awarded to the student who exemplifies leadership and dedication to the development of others.

In Memoriam
Oscar Perlaza



BENEFACTOR

M. Catharine Hudspeth



2024-25 President's Scholars

Tom Solomon

SHELTON FAMILY President's Scholar

Major: Computer Engineering

College of Engineering

Activities: Barkada; Southern California Engineering Technology Association (President); Tau Beta Pi; UMBRA (Avionics Team); UAV Banshee, Communications Team; Bronco Navigators mentor; IT Student Assistant

Tom is no stranger to the delicate balance of managing work, academics and free time. With his busy schedule, he is grateful to have CPP's Barkada Filipino Culture Club as his key touchstone: "At our 34th annual Pilipino American Culture Night, I felt great pride as I performed on stage doing Eskrima, our national martial art. It's moments like these that made the sacrifices and challenges of balancing academics and extracurriculars worthwhile, as they strengthen my connection with my family and heritage" he says. From his parents, he learned how education opens doors to opportunities, and he embraces all that CPP offers, including his membership on the communications team for CPP's UAV Banshee team, where he worked with OpenCV, a programming library that allows the engineer to work with video. "This would be especially useful for blind people, because OpenCV can be used to detect objects, meaning that it could give them a better description of their surroundings." Tom's dream is to become an embedded software engineer and help create affordable devices that can assist the visually impaired and communities in need.



MICHAEL and TINA SHELTON have been part of the campus community for more than 30 years. The Sheltons are each the first member of their respective families to achieve a college education. This scholarship was established to honor the memory of Doc's parents, Otto and Lois Shelton, who grew up during the Great Depression and were only able to attend school through the eighth grade. The Shelton Family Scholarship is designed to provide recognition and assistance to an outstanding student who is first in their immediate family to attend college.



BENEFACTORS

Tina and Michael "Doc" Shelton



2024-25 President's Scholars

Justin Mills

IANA WILLIAMS President's Scholar

Major: Civil Engineering

College of Engineering

Activities: Building Manager at Bronco Recreation Intermural Complex; Kellogg Honors College; Construction Engineering Management Association; American Society of Civil Engineers; Maximizing Engineering Potential; CPP Farm to pantry events; volunteer football coach at Redland East Valley

A highly supportive family inspires Justin to study civil engineering: his grandfather who worked as a construction worker recognized his aptitude in math and problem-solving; his parents are both passionate schoolteachers; and his brother models success as a civil engineer. "My motivation to graduate is deeply rooted in my family's emphasis on the importance of education. Throughout high school, I faced and overcame numerous challenges, including sports injuries and surgeries, but learned resilience and determination. My experience as an athlete has taught me to compete and improve continually, and with the support of family, I aspire to be a role model and mentor" he says. His eagerness to contribute to innovative solutions to the larger community comes from his fascination with the intricacies of planning and efforts needed to create the structures and systems that we rely on daily. His dream is to start an engineering company with his brother and contribute to the growth of the Inland Empire, a community that has "been incredibly supportive of my family and me."



As the former director of the Maximizing Engineering Potential (MEP) program, **CATHARINE HUDSPETH** has helped countless students on their way to successful careers in engineering. The Iana Williams scholarship was created to remember the outstanding leadership of a highly motivated MEP electrical engineering alumna whose life was cut short. The Iana Williams scholarship is intended to bring recognition to a student who has continued in Iana's tradition of furthering the development of technical expertise in their community.



BENEFACTOR

M. Catharine Hudspeth



2024-25 President's Scholars

Faheem Gulzar

FRANK D. WHITEHEAD FAMILY President's Scholar (Graduate)

Major: Mechanical Engineering

College of Engineering

Activities: Afrofuturism Scholar; American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Treasurer; World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Ambassador; soccer; music; backpacking; exploring

Faheem sees Cal Poly Pomona as a "home away from home" where his motivation to become the best engineer he can be is nurtured by the university's welcoming environment and supportive mentors. His interest in green technology comes from the challenges he observed in his home country of Pakistan. "There, climate change has resulted in accelerated melting of colossal glaciers and my dream is to revolutionize industrial practices to reduce the carbon footprint, create employment and reduce poverty in such developing countries." From engineering, Faheem has built a strong sense of social responsibility while backpacking around the world has given him a chance to immerse himself into other cultures through food and comradery. "I recently traveled with a group of Italians who were chefs, and the simple way they grilled blew my mind away and taught me a lesson to always question the conventional ways." Being the first in his family to graduate, Faheem wants to inspire his siblings to also pursue their desires.



HELEN AND FRANK (DON) WHITEHEAD co-founded LOUD Engineering in 1967 with just three employees, including Helen and Don. By the time they retired, their company was renowned for its skill and efficiency in the design, overhaul, and manufacture of airplane and helicopter landing gears. The Frank D. Whitehead Family scholarship is provided to recognize the achievements of outstanding graduate engineering students.



BENEFACTORS

Helen and Frank D. Whitehead



2024-25 President's Scholars

Ilke (LK) Suzer

JAMES H. JONES President's Scholar

Majors: Urban and Regional Planning; Finance, Real Estate and Law

Colleges of Environmental Design and Business Administration

Activities: ASI Student Body President; ENV Senator and Senator Pro-temp; board member of ENV Student Council, American Planning Student Association, and California State Student Association; Kellogg Honors College; APA-Orange County Young and Emerging Planners Division

Arriving in California with her parents in 2011, LK had an early understanding of the unparalleled opportunities that exist in the U.S. educational system. "The first time I saw a playground or even a lawn in a public school was my first day of school in America, where as back home this is a privilege afforded to only the most wealthy families at private schools. Here, no matter which school you attend, you are afforded the liberty of having an international reputation and being sought by employers to bring in your American expertise to other nations." Knowing that her parents have made sacrifices drives LK's zest for engagement in student leadership and volunteerism. She advocated for cultural centers in her role leading ASI student government because "these are places where students find belonging." A self-professed fascination with humans and the systems created for their needs has led to her double major in urban planning and finance, real estate, and law. She hopes to pursue law and work for a multinational organization like the European Union.



The late **LT. COL. JAMES JONES** was a longtime university supporter who established two major art collections for Cal Poly Pomona. After serving in World War II, Jones studied citrus fruit production at the Cal Poly Voorhis campus and finally received his degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1951. The James H. Jones scholarship is presented to an exceptional environmental design student who seeks to improve the community.

In Memoriam
**James H.
Jones**

BENEFACTOR



James H. Jones



2024-25 President's Scholars

Kat Chavez

RINEHART FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP (Graduate)

Major: Landscape Architecture

College of Environmental Design

Activities: Marketing and Project Coordinator for NOW Art, Los Angeles (a public art consulting agency); MudMobile Educator at the American Museum of Ceramic Art, Pomona; Certified California Native Plant Landscaper

Kat's journey to landscape architecture has been influenced by her respect for regional land history and its significant connection to those who reside there. After moving to the East Coast for her undergraduate degree, she became aware that her sense of disconnection and homesickness was tied to a desire to learn more about her ancestral history in Southern California. Before starting graduate school, she pursued an art-based career in museum education and public programming. Yet she found herself "wanting a greater engagement with land and public space in my creative practice." Kat sees her master's program as a way to bridge art-making with land-based public engagement. "I want to make space for more young people to understand their creative practices and full lives as interwoven with land and histories of place." She hopes to pursue a career that aligns with her core values of education, arts-based exploration and land stewardship, and is grateful for the vast life experiences that students and faculty share that inspire her to expand her knowledge and development.



LARRY RINEHART is the former president and chief executive officer of PFF Bank & Trust in Pomona and is a member of the President's Council. As a graduate from Pomona High School and the University of La Verne, Rinehart has been involved in the local community for many years. He has actively participated on various boards such as the Pomona Valley Red Cross, Mt. Baldy United Way, Fairplex, Casa Colina and the Cal Poly Pomona University Educational Trust. The Rinehart Family scholarship was established to recognize an outstanding student who is committed to the university and their local community.



BENEFACTOR

Larry Rinehart



2024-25 President's Scholars

Jucinda Lopez

AL LEVIE FAMILY President's Scholar

Major: Hospitality Management

The Collins College of Hospitality Management

Activities: Association of Event Professionals (ASEP); Club Management Association of America (CMMA); Hotel, Resort, and Destination Professionals (HRDP); National Society of Minorities in Hospitality (HRDP); City of Azusa Administrative Services Intern

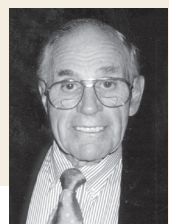
Jucinda feels deep empathy for those experiencing homelessness and sees her future career in hospitality as her way to mitigate their challenges. From a young age, she has put her values into practice — aiding those in need by selling her toys in elementary school and donating the proceeds and also leading an effort in high school to distribute hygiene kits. At Cal Poly Pomona, she is thrilled to learn all she can from professors and peers as the best training possible for her goal of lifelong service. "This school closed the door on self-doubt and opened gates of opportunity for me," Jucinda says. "My goals and dreams don't revolve around me, but the simple fact that we only live once, therefore we only have one chance to make a difference in our community." Jucinda loves all that she has learned about food and beverage and hopes to own her restaurant to one day direct profits to providing for other's basic needs.



In memory of **AL LEVIE**, who passed away in 1999, this President's Council Scholarship is named after the man who was instrumental in the initial fund-raising efforts of what is now known as The Collins College of Hospitality Management. Levie brought his leadership and expertise along with a vast network of industry executives to the young school in the '80s. The Al Levie Family scholarship was established to recognize high-achieving students in the hospitality management program.

In Memoriam
Al Levie

BENEFACTOR



Friends of the Al Levie Family



2024-25 President's Scholars

Bahare Maleki

THE LUNDBERG FAMILY FOUNDATION President's Scholar

Major: Hospitality Management

**The Collins College of Hospitality
Managements**

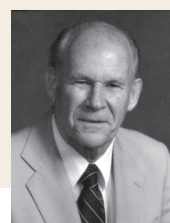
Activities: Eta Sigma Delta Honors Society

Bahare envisions working for hospitality groups worldwide to build a holistic approach to providing outstanding service with a focus on sustainability and ecotourism. Her motivation to pursue hospitality comes from a desire to bridge connections across cultures and provide people with experiences to cherish throughout their lives. The respectful and diverse environment of The Collins College of Hospitality Management has inspired her to reach outside of her comfort zone to experience all that the college offers as she has embraced new activities outside of her home country of Iran. Participating in Eta Sigma Delta provides experiences outside of the classroom, and she enthusiastically engages with the group for its opportunities for volunteerism, networking and mentoring. Bahare is thrilled to receive this scholarship as it serves as a "big high five for my hard work ... it is a game-changer that allows me to put more time into research, coursework, certifications, and other activities to help me shine."



DEREK AND LANCE LUNDBERG created this scholarship in memory of their father, **DR. DONALD LUNDBERG**, who founded the Hotel and Restaurant Management Program at Cal Poly Pomona in 1973. Dr. Lundberg was a beloved mentor, educator and prolific author, writing many books on tourism, restaurants, cooking, and industry leadership. The scholarship honors Dr. Lundberg's unwavering commitment to pay forward the support he himself received to assist students achieve their dreams.

In Memoriam
**Dr. Donald
Lundberg**



BENEFACTORS

Derek and Lance Lundberg



2024-25 President's Scholars

Katherine Priest

ARTHUR M. BERMAN President's Scholar

Major: Communication/Multimedia Journalism and Philosophy/Law and Society

College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences

Activities: President, Philosophy Club; President, Phi Sigma Tau; Treasurer, Society of Professional Journalists; Ethics Bowl Team Captain; California Center for Ethics and Policy Student Fellow; Pearson Campus Ambassador; Audio Editor, Poly Post

Eyeing graduate school, earning a J.D. and a doctorate in philosophy, Katherine demonstrates her tenacity in her academics and involvements. During community college, she discovered her a passion for serving communities in need of informational access and spent a year away from her studies in 2020 to pursue community activism through protests and sharing media literacy tips on social media. Energized by this experience, she returned to college with a desire to be a spokesperson for social inequity issues to bring about meaningful change. Challenges to help her family while pursuing her studies strengthens her resolve to know that working through adversity has made her a stronger, more engaged student. "I have learned that it is your experiences that ultimately make you who you are and how we choose to rise above struggles show us who we truly are," she says. Continuing her studies to understand ethics and politics and the most effective means to help marginalized communities, she embraces the dream that her grandfather sparked that she could be the first in her family to earn a Ph.D.



MICHAEL BERMAN was formerly employed at Cal Poly Pomona as the vice president for instructional and information technology. His family and friends established this scholarship in honor of Mike's late father, Arthur M. Berman. Art Berman worked for the Los Angeles Times for more than 30 years; he served as a mentor for many people in the newspaper industry and strongly believed in encouraging young people to determine their own futures. He saw education, and higher education in particular, as the most important tool for self-development. The Arthur M. Berman scholarship will honor a student who is working toward a career in journalism or public service.

In Memoriam
**Arthur M.
Berman**



BENEFACTORS

Ann Walker and A. Michael Berman



2024-25 President's Scholars

Stacie Gines

BERNARD AND LUCIE BIDART President's Scholar

Major: English – Education Emphasis

College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences

Activities: Paraeducator I for Chino Valley USD; Former Parent Faculty Association 501(c)(3) President, Vice President, Secretary, Fundraising Chair; Living Beauty Cancer Foundation member; Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society; Teacher Preparation Institute at Mt. San Antonio College

Stacie says that returning to college after two decades of being an actively involved parent to three boys has not been as easy one, yet she is no stranger to challenges. After battling breast cancer in 2015, her biggest takeaways were learning humility and the importance of relying on her tribe. "I needed help from my friends because I could not simultaneously be a mother and patient. They stepped in to feed my family when I could not get out of bed, drove me to chemotherapy appointments, and held my hand, surrounding us with their unconditional love and support. They are the ones who have been here to cheer me on, especially when I decided to return to college in 2019." Working as a paraprofessional in middle school has helped Stacie realize that every day is a "puzzle that needs solving to help students grasp concepts," and she feels great satisfaction when she sees student grasp concepts and nurture pride in their own successes. Stacie wants to pave the way for other nontraditional students to consider the leap to higher education and show her sons "the limitless possibilities that come with dedication and hard work."



A partner with the law firm of Shernoff, Bidart & Darras in Claremont, **MICHAEL BIDART** is an alumnus with a degree in economics. It was Bidart's parents, Bernard and Lucie, who inspired him to be an attorney. His parents encouraged their sons to pursue college degrees, knowing firsthand the hardships of life without a college education. The Bernard and Lucie Bidart scholarship has been established to help others fulfill their own educational dreams.



BENEFACTORS

Jeannette and Michael Bidart



2024-25 President's Scholars

Fionn Entus

ANNETTE F. AND MORTON J. BLUMNER President's Scholar

Majors: English, Applied Linguistics and Anthropology, Applied

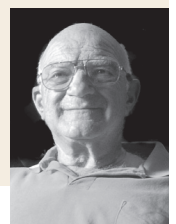
College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences

Activities: Kellogg Honors College; Lead Writing Tutor, Learning Resource Center; Sigma Tau Delta; Split Party Infinitives EML Club; Volunteer for INSAN Foundation and Go SGV

From a young age, Fionn has been fascinated with language, especially for constructed ones found in stories such as *Star Trek* and *The Lord of the Rings*. This interest led to an opportunity in high school to take an introductory linguistics class at Cal Poly Pomona, where Fionn discovered a passion for the impact of communication. "I love the connection I find to other people through my study of language and recently culture: My double major came after I became interested in sociolinguistics and the study of language's connection to and influence on factors like gender and socioeconomic class." Cal Poly Pomona has motivated Fionn to develop community interests as well, including work through Kellogg Honors College with INSAN, a Pomona nonprofit that focuses on feeding the people experiencing homelessness, and GoSGV, a San Gabriel-based nonprofit promoting environmental activism through green transportation and personal health. Fionn hopes to become a researcher and engage in activism that supports gender diversity for those in academia and for research study subjects.



DR. SIDNEY BLUMNER established the Annette F. and Morton J. Blumner CLASS President's Council Scholarship in honor of his parents. Professor Blumner and his mother, Annette Blumner, have supported Cal Poly Pomona's College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences for many years because of their belief in education and youth. "I am a product of public education," Blumner says. "I support public schools because they need help, and the students need help. People need to give back to society." This scholarship supports high performing students in the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences, where he spent 33 years as a tenured faculty member, chair of the Department of Economics, and is now a donor.



BENEFACTORS

Annette F. and Sidney Blumner



2024-25 President's Scholars

Pedro Rosales

NICOLE CHRISTINE COTÉ President's Scholar

Major: Sociology

College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences

Activities: Cal Poly Pomona, Bat Night; Crimedia lab; Lab Research Assistant, Freelance Menu-making

Leading a nighttime tour of campus to listen to bats or figuring out ways to use social media to debunk crime myths are just two ways that Pedro explores his interest in social human interaction. "I enjoy spending time with people, whether it be a simple walk and talk on a new route to a class or an event with plenty of new faces." He humorously recalls a recent nighttime adventure with friends, advancing on an isolated trail in the dark and being frozen in fear with the sounds of what sounded like laughter. Having the peace of mind to hit the record button for what turned out to be cries from a coyote den only yards away, he pragmatically preserved the terrifying sounds for a soundtrack for his horror film in the making. After he obtains his sociology degree, Pedro plans to fulfill his pre-med requirements to become a psychiatrist. "I aspire to focus on community health and the treatment of underprivileged communities on biological, psychological and sociological levels," Pedro says. "My inspiration for education is my drive to help others."



The **COTÉ FAMILY** endowed this scholarship in honor of Nicole Coté, who passed away during her senior year at Cal Poly Pomona in 1999 at the age of 21. Nicole was the recipient of the 1999-2000 Lowell Overton President's Council Scholarship. Nicole felt strongly that academic scholarships should be awarded based on merit, and it is with that in mind that the Coté family has made this scholarship available to a very qualified student in the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences.

In Memoriam
**Nicole
Christine Coté**

BENEFACTORS



Marguerite and Robert Coté



2024-25 President's Scholars

Vanessa Fuentes

HUGH and JUDY LA BOUNTY President's Scholar

Major: Public Relations and Minor in Marketing Management

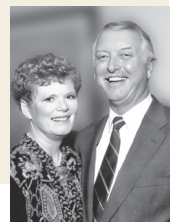
College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences

Activities: Hermanas Unidas-Chair; CLASS Council-Chair; Mexican American Students Association Chair; American Marketing Association; Student Assistant to the CLASS Communication Department; Reading; Hiking; Tennis

Vanessa loves to learn about the “why” of communication and finds Cal Poly Pomona a haven where students can embrace and celebrate their differences as one of the most positive forms of connection. Growing up and surrounded by multimedia such as the borrowed music from her sister's iPod, news shows in Spanish that her parents watched, or playing with her older brother's gaming system made her realize her passion for the interconnectedness of people and their means of expression. She wants to use the skills she is learning in public relations to strengthen community. “I would love to volunteer with organizations that help low-income Latino families in need.” Cheering on Vanessa are her family, and she is inspired by her brother who graduated with two majors, her parents who immigrated from Mexico, and upholding the dreams of her late sister, who attempted college but was unable to continue due to health reasons. “Growing up bilingual, I want to use my first language for good, whether that be with event planning or non-profits. I am planning on making change.”



HUGH O. LA BOUNTY joined the faculty of Cal Poly Pomona in 1953 as an instructor in the English department. He served as the university's third president and was responsible for transforming a regional institution into a major comprehensive university. President La Bounty's legacy includes having established the President's Council in 1980 as well as the President's Scholars program in 1983. The Hugh and Judy La Bounty scholarship is awarded to students who have distinguished themselves as excellent scholars in the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences.



BENEFACTORS

Hugh & Judy La Bounty



2024-25 President's Scholars

Katelyn Smith

LOWELL OVERTON President's Scholar

Major: Sociology, Social Work

College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences

Activities: Alpha Xi Delta Sorority Programming Director & Academic Achievement Director; Social Services and Practitioner Alliance Club Vice President; Associated Students Incorporated (ASI) Bronco Events & Activities Team Student Activities Supervisor; CLASS Student Success Center Intern; Degy Entertainment Intern

Katelyn's interest in guiding people to reach their full potential has been shaped by volunteerism in the CPP community. Her membership in the Social Services and Practitioner Alliance Club, including a collaboration with the Criminology Club to host a donation drive for the LOV Movement, which serve people within the Skid Row community. She and other members of Alpha Xi Delta hosted a toy drive for kids in the foster care system under the Stand Up For Kids Foundation, and in her role with the ASI Bronco Events & Activities Team, she helped lead the Homelessness and Hunger initiative to give students resources for basic needs and food. "I chose this major because it allows me to make a meaningful impact on individuals' lives by providing resources and encouragement needed to succeed." Especially meaningful to Katelyn has been the kinship of her sisters in Alpha Xi Delta and her family who "supported me in overcoming my fears and hesitations since choosing Cal Poly Pomona as my new home. The CPP community has profoundly shaped me, instilling confidence and molding me into a professional leader." She plans to explore careers focused on advocacy.



LOWELL OVERTON is a friend of education. He credits his education at Cal Poly Pomona for his success as a nationally recognized real estate broker. As an active alumnus and founding member of the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences alumni chapter, Lowell is engaged in the campus community and various alumni activities and programs. The Lowell Overton scholarship is intended to recognize exceptional students who are engaged in their communities and value their educational opportunities.



BENEFACTOR

Lowell Overton



2024-25 President's Scholars

Joselyn Archila-Tello

NORMAN WILLIAMSON JR. FAMILY President's Scholar

Major: Master's in Public Administration

College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences

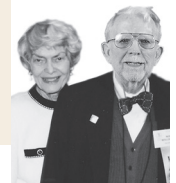
Activities: Interacting with different cultures to learn customs and traditions

Joselyn would tell future CPP students that "friendships and relationships built at the university will take you a long way." One of her biggest inspirations is her mother, who "has been the most supportive cheerleader that I could ever ask for. Even though she is not the one attending school, she has stood by my side every year, encouraging me to persevere." Seeing the dynamic social interplay in her undergraduate studies in human resources, Joselyn wants to learn all she can about its intersection with public service and to support first-generation students like herself. "My own journey has fueled my desire to become a mentor and champion for these students. Witnessing their growth and resilience has solidified my commitment to helping them bridge the gap and create a more level playing field." Scholarship support for Joselyn will allow her more time to volunteer in her community and serves as a source of inspiration that she can affect change for others who want to pursue careers in the public sector.



NORMAN WILLIAMSON JR. was the son of W.K. Kellogg's only daughter, Elizabeth Kellogg Williamson. His ability to retain and document the history of the Kellogg family was one of Williamson's legacies to his family and the university. Because of his active involvement with Cal Poly Pomona, the Norman Williamson, Jr. Family scholarship was established to honor those dedicated students who are committed to making a difference in their communities.

In Memoriam
**Norman
Williamson Jr.**



BENEFACTORS

Helen and Norman Williamson Jr.



2024-25 President's Scholars

Hasti Abbasi Kenarsari

DR. ANDREW G. CHONG President's Scholar

Major: Computer Science

College of Science

Activities: Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Fellow at UCLA (Break Through Tech); Director of Logistics at FAST (Forensics and Security Technology); Scheduler/Social Chair SheCodes, Corporate/External Committee Representative at Society of Women Engineers; Ambassador of Maximizing Engineering Potential, Women in Science and Engineering; CPP Water Polo; CPP Orientation Leader

Hasti fondly recalls time spent listening to the stories of her grandmother, whose poetic recollections of her family's history inspired her to seek a future to make her family proud. She chose computer science for its potential for large-scale positive impact on the lives of others and is particularly interested in developing innovative assistive software for individuals with severe paralysis, aiming to improve the quality of their communication and mobility. "In the pursuit of my career, I intend to create a human-computer interface (HCI) system to serve as an alternate input modality for users. The objective of the system is to analyze the duration/pattern of the user's blinks, translating them into mouse clicks. I intend to use machine learning algorithms to identify meaningful features in blinking frequency." Hasti has valued the pursuit of leadership opportunities that encourage collaboration, including competing in Hivestorm, a collegiate cyber defense team competition.



DR. ANDREW CHONG knows how important it is to see things clearly. As a successful optometrist in the San Gabriel Valley, he owns and operates two businesses. With a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, a master's degree in business administration and a doctorate in optometry, Chong values the educational opportunities provided to him. The Dr. Andrew G. Chong scholarship is awarded to recognize exceptional students from any major.



BENEFACTOR

Dr. Andrew Chong



2024-25 President's Scholars

Olivia Walsh

SIU FAMILY President's Scholar

Major: Physics

College of Science

Activities: Kellogg Honors College, Physics Research Assistant, President of the Society of Physics Students, Women and Gender Minorities in Physics, and Learning Assistant for the Physics Department

"Learning physics often feels like someone whispering the secrets of the universe to me," says Olivia. "Once I get through the initial learning curve of a new challenging subject, I get so excited by what I am learning, sometimes because I can directly see how it applies to my everyday life, or, in the case of quantum physics, because of how anti-intuitive it is, and a really cool way to nearly re-train your brain." Mitigating climate change motivates Olivia to delve deeper into research in renewable energy and climate sensing technologies. She hopes that her inclusivity efforts within the CPP physics department, where she helped initiate the creation of a Women and Gender Minorities in Physics subgroups of the Society of Physic Students club, convinces more women and underrepresented groups to study physics, which contains one of the smallest fractions of women researchers in a STEM field. Olivia plans to pursue a Ph.D. in experimental physics with a goal to work as a researcher at one of the National Laboratories.



The SIU FAMILY's involvement with education is longstanding, as evidenced by their generous contributions to the university. Both retired, Annie was an orthodontist and Tim, who passed away, was an anesthesiologist. The Sius enjoyed successful careers in their respective professions. The student who aspires to enrich quality of life through science will be awarded the Siu Family scholarship.



BENEFACTORS

Dr. Annie Chin and Tim K. Siu



2024-25 President's Scholars

Maggie Dillon

KIM FAMILY President's Scholar (Graduate)

Major: Master's in Biology

College of Science

Activities: President of the Biology Graduate Student Association; PADI Scuba Dive Instructor; Associated Students Incorporated Dive Center Supervisor

Supportive mentors and faculty have helped transform Maggie's love of the outdoors into a desire to earn a Ph.D. in marine sciences. In summer 2023, as a National Science Foundation Sustainable Scholar, Maggie participated in a week-long field trip on the northern coast of California, where she and other scholars met fishermen, Indigenous people and other stakeholders to discuss marine challenges in the area. Her graduate thesis is focused on the effects of construction material and habitat metrics at the Bolsa Chica artificial reef. The research will help "support management efforts in offshore federal waters off California, and improve decision making related to marine infrastructure projects such as offshore energy development, harbor breakwaters, and compensatory mitigation projects involving artificial reefs." Maggie especially enjoys sharing her passion for the ocean through scuba diving, working with students from a variety of CPP clubs to experience its thrills. She hopes to conduct research that will inform policy and protect communities as well as pay forward the kindness and enthusiasm that has shaped her own journey.



Alumnus **KEITH SOON KIM** and his wife, **SUNG**, have long supported Cal Poly Pomona. As a math and electrical engineering double major, Keith valued his educational opportunities and actively participated in campus clubs and programs. The Kim family demonstrates its commitment to education by providing opportunities for other students to succeed at Cal Poly Pomona. Outstanding engineering and science students are recognized by the Kim Family scholarship.



BENEFACTORS

Sung and Keith Soon Kim