

June/July 2024

CalPolyPomona
College of Science

DISCOVERY

Introducing "Science Minute"



Science Minute is a new video series that will highlight what's happening in the College of Science. You may not have time to read an article but you can spare a minute to hear about exciting projects and research happening in the college! The first installment is a visit to a new ethnobotany project at BioTrek. Follow our YouTube channel for more.

[Watch Science Minute](#)

Spring 2024 Staff Awards

Every semester, the staff award committee, made up of past recipients, reviews nominations and selects two winners from about 50 staff members that work in the College of Science. The categories on the nomination form are job performance, successful interaction and/or relationships, college/university-wide service, noteworthy accomplishments that advance the goals of the College. The Spring 2024 winners are Dan Griggs (top, center) from the Dean's Office and Mari Arriaza from the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry.



[Read More](#)

Employee Service Recognition

| Milestone | Name | Department |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 35 | Pearl Viggers | Biological Sciences |
| 35 | Jonathan Nourse | Geological Sciences |
| 35 | Alane Daugherty | Kinesiology & Health Promotion |
| 30 | Glenn Kageyama | Biological Sciences |
| 30 | Weiqing Xie | Mathematics and Statistics |

The CPP **Years of Service Awards**

Ceremony, will be held in Ursa Major, August 20, 8-10 am. Faculty and staff are recognized for service milestones of 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, and 50 years of service to the university. The annual CPP Years of Service Recognition ceremony is part of a tradition of recognition and gratitude for our dedicated employees.

[View Complete List](#)

Faculty Awards

Distinguished Teaching Award

This College of Science award recognizes teaching excellence. The college is recognizing two faculty for 2023-2024: Nicholas Van Buer and Elizabeth Scordato. Awardees will share their teaching philosophy with the college at their award presentation events this fall.



Nicholas Van Buer

Geological Sciences

Nicholas Van Buer is a field-oriented petrologist who began teaching at CPP in 2014. He's developed 24 multi-day field trips to provide enhanced learn-by-doing educational opportunities for students. While on sabbatical, he hiked 500 miles while filming a 12-part YouTube series on geology to share with students. Van Buer has mentored 30 student research projects, leading to 15 completed senior theses. He engages students by incorporating hands-on scientific problem solving in the classroom.

Elizabeth Scordato

Biological Sciences

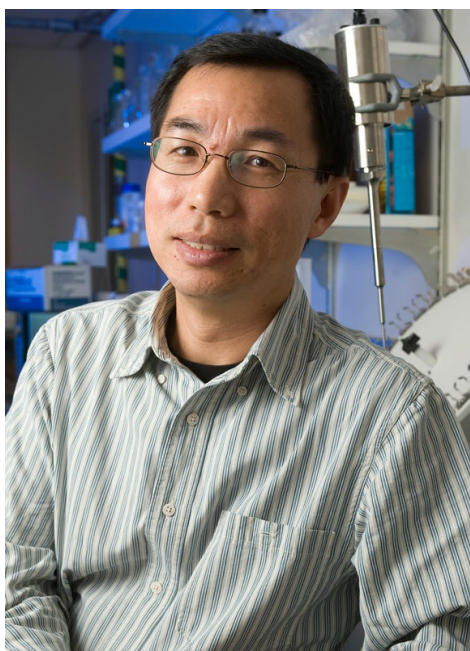
Elizabeth Scordato is an evolutionary biologist who uses field work and genomic analysis to understand how human activity affects the evolutionary process in barn swallows. Since joining CPP in 2017, she has completely restructured BIO 3240 (Evolution) and reduced DFW



rates and course equity gaps. Scordato has created and taught a graduate course in scientific writing which prepares students for completing their degree by providing valuable feedback on their thesis introductions.

Ames Distinguished Research Award

This College of Science award recognizes productivity in discipline-based research.



Junjun Liu

Biological Sciences

Junjun Liu is a molecular biologist studying the mechanisms that underlie the regulation of metastasis in breast cancer cells. His research is relevant in advancing the understanding and treatment of breast cancer. A secondary area of interest is in studying antibiotic resistant bacteria that poses a threat to the poultry industry.

In the News

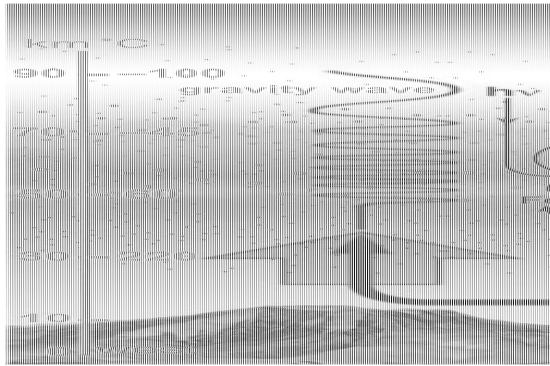
Breanna Binder Featured in Astrobiology

In the search for habitable planets, Assistant Professor Breanna Binder and colleagues examined X-ray data from Chandra and XMM-Newton. "Without characterizing X-rays from its host star, we would be missing a key element on



whether a planet is truly habitable or not,” said Breanna Binder.

[Read Article](#)



Rakesh Mogul Featured on History Channel

Professor Mogul was interviewed about his research on the possibility that there may be signs of life in the clouds of Venus for the History Channel's show (episode 4) The Unexplained: Mysteries of the Universe.

[View Episode Four](#)

Publications

If you have a recent publication that is not included, please let us know so that it can be listed in next month's newsletter! email: djgriggs@cpp.edu

1. Kelling, C., Haensch, A., Mendible, A., Brooks, S., Wiedemann, A., **Aminian, M.**, Hasty, W., & Higdon, J. (2024). Data collection and analysis for small-town policing: Challenges and recommendations. *Statistics and Public Policy*, 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2330443x.2024.2379270>
2. **Farahmand, F., Sidikpramana, M., Gomez, A. R., Rivera, L. J., Trzeciak, J. R., Sharif S., Tang, Q., Leininger, G. M., Güler, A. D., & Steele, A. D.** (2024). Dopamine production in neurotensin receptor 1 neurons is required for diet-induced obesity and increased day eating on a high-Fat diet. *Obesity*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/oby.24066>
3. **Liang, M. T. C.**, Moustafa-Bayoumi, M., Auslander, A., Rocha, J.R., (2024) Association between Sedentary Behaviors, Tobacco Smoke, Epigenetics, and Cardiovascular Disease. *The Journal of Biomedical Research and Environmental Science*, 5(6): 540-548 DOI: 10.37871/jbres192
4. Townsley, L. K., Broos, P. S., & **Povich, M. S.** (2024). T-rex: The tarantula—revealed by X-rays. *The Astrophysical Journal Supplement Series*, 273(1), 5. <https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4365/ad435c>

Grants

Qing Ryan, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Collaborative Research: Improving Upper Division Physics Education and Strengthening Student Research Opportunities at 14 HSIs in California, NSF (2024-2027)

Jayson Smith, Department of Biological Sciences, BOEM MARINE Long term monitoring program of rocky intertidal habitats and species adjacent to OPS oil and gas operations in the Pacific Region, Regents of the University of California, Santa Cruz (2024-2028)

Andrew Steele, Department of Biological Sciences, Deciphering Dopaminergic Circuits Required for Food Anticipatory Activity in Mice, (Supplemental for equipment) NIH, (2024-2025)

Chantal Stieber, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Mitigating per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in agriculture using nickel catalysts, ARI (2024-2025)

Support the College of Science

College of Science Advising Center

IMPORTANT DATES

August 2: Summer classes end

August 5-6: Finals

August 19: Grades finalized

August 22: Fall semester classes start

The Science Advising Center is located in Building 8, Room 306

Contact by email at:
sci_advising@cpp.edu

You can
schedule an appointment
through CPP Connect.

CalPolyPomona

College of Science

Our Mission:

Educate, mentor, and inspire students through scientific inquiry and hands-on learning

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