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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2019

Memorial to be held for student Raoul Soans

By **KELCIE HARTLEY**
Staff Writer

From 5-7 p.m. Dec. 5, a memorial service will be held for the passing of Raoul Soans, a senior business administration student, in the Bronco Student Center (BSC) in Ursa Major C. Friends, family and anyone who knew Soans are welcome to attend to pay their respects to the fallen Bronco.

The entire Cal Poly Pomona community fell silent while reading an email at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 24. The Office of Vice President of Student Affairs informed the CPP community of the passing of student Soans.

On Oct. 22, Cal Poly Pomona Police Department sent out an email asking for assistance to find a missing student. Soans was last seen around 9:49 a.m. Oct. 19.

According to the email, "On Oct. 21, 2019 at about 9:49 p.m., Cal Poly Pomona student Raoul S. Soans left his campus residence in a silver 2018 Ford Escape with Texas plate KWB3607 and has not been seen since. Soans was last seen wearing a black long-sleeved shirt and dark blue pants."

The entire CPP community was urged to contact campus police with any information regarding Soans' disappearance.

According to the email sent by Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Eileen G. Sullivan, "It is, however, with a very heavy heart that I share news of Raoul Soans' passing. On the Dean's List, Raoul was a senior majoring in business administration with a concentration in computer science. He was employed as a BRIC adventure attendant, and involved in the Indian Student Association, the Forensics and Security Club and the Bronco Ascenders Club."

Third-year finance student Will Lincoln knew Soans through climbing at the Bronco Recreation and Intramural Complex (BRIC).

Lincoln said, "He was always so bubbly and had a smile on his face. He was just a great person to hang around and talk to. I knew he was from Washington, and when I first moved to California and Cal Poly, I was from out of state too. We bonded over that."

The last memory Lincoln has with Soans was about three weeks before his passing in Seattle-Tacoma International airport.

"I happened to run into him as I was standing in line. I did a double-take because I said, 'That looks like Raoul. Raoul is that you?' he said, 'Oh my god, what a small world.' We were both on a flight back to Ontario. Unfortunately, that was the last time that I saw him, and he was just so happy."

Lincoln wanted all of CPP and Soans' family to know, "He was loved by so many and had so many friends. I don't know how much his family knew about what he was doing down here, but he was so loved and so cared about."

Reach Kelcie Hartley at
managing@thepolypost.com

Campus Children's Center to receive \$1.3 million grant



GRACE MIKURIYA | THE POLY POST

The first year of the funds distribution will be considered a pilot year, taking into account of how many parents use the services.

By **MICHAEL ACEVEDO**
Staff Writer

Cal Poly Pomona's Children's Center, which operates under Associated Students Inc. (ASI), has been awarded the Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program Grant (CCAMPIS) and will receive \$1.3 million over the course of four years.

The funding, which is a federal grant, has been awarded to the Division of Student Affairs at CPP

and will be distributed with \$327,000 annually to the Children's Center. The funding will go toward upgrading facilities and a new pilot program.

According to the Children's Center director, Celeste Salinas, the first year of funding will be focused on an evening child care pilot program that will add a session from 6-8 p.m. Monday through Thursday during the spring 2020 semester. Children from 18

months to 5 years old will be allowed to participate in the new pilot program.

One of the pilot program's goals is to gather data on how many parents will actually use the new services being offered. As a direct result of receiving the grant, the pilot program will be free of charge.

According to Salinas, the first year will include hiring an additional staff member whose primary purpose will be to support student

parents by helping them find services they need on and off campus.

"We're hoping by the end of year two to be able to have added an infant classroom to our center and a one-year-old classroom," Salinas said. The center currently has one classroom for children from 18 months to 3 years old and an additional three classrooms for preschool.

At the Children's Center, See **GRANT/Page 2**

Tim Lynch removed from AVP Strategic Communications position



GRACE MIKURIYA | THE POLY POST

The Strategic Communication Department (pictured) remains with a vacant AVP as an official statement has not been released.

By **ZUVANNY MACIAS**
Staff Writer

The associate vice president (AVP) for Strategic Communications, Tim Lynch, parted ways with Cal Poly Pomona as of October.

Lynch has been with the university since April 2009. Although, there was a brief period between August 2014 and July 2016 when he moved to California State University Stanislaus to fill the role of

associate vice president for communication and public affairs.

The Strategic Communications and Marketing department watches over campus news networks like PolyCentric and is the news link between Cal Poly Pomona and outside communities. PolyCentric is the official news source for Cal Poly Pomona.

The department also

manages the university's official social media accounts.

In his role as AVP, Lynch supervised the Department of Strategic Communications. Now, Lynch is moving forward with his career aspirations elsewhere.

"I am currently working on a contract basis at Claremont Graduate University's Office of Advancement," Lynch said about his current work.

According to Lynch, he was

terminated from his role as the AVP and is unable to make a statement on the matter.

"At this point, on the advice of legal counsel, I cannot comment further," Lynch said.

Before joining Strategic Communications, Lynch was a faculty advisor for The Poly Post.

Reach Zuvanny Macias at
managing@thepolypost.com

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Broncos Care Program hosts Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

By ZUVANNY MACIAS
Staff Writer

The Cal Poly Pomona Broncos Care Program hosted a Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week for students Nov. 18-22.

The overall goal of the Broncos Care Program is to provide students with the resources they need if they find themselves in a place of housing instability, food insecurity or any other emergency and/or crisis situation.

"Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is designed to educate the public, draw attention to the problem of poverty and build up the base of volunteers and supporters for local anti-poverty agencies," states the Basic Needs website regarding the 2019 Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

On Monday, Nov. 18, the week kicked off with the "Ribbons of Truth." During this event, students decorated the campus with ribbons containing facts and quotes regarding student hunger and homelessness.

One of the quotes marked on a ribbon stated, "California State University (CSU) 2018 Study of Student Basic Need Reports that: 42% of college students have been food insecure — that's 10,900 of Cal Poly Pomona students who are food insecure."

On Tuesday, Nov. 19, there was a resource fair where students could gain information regarding resources to support basic needs on and off campus. During the fair, L.A. County Department of Public Social Services representatives provided information and applications students could use to apply for services such as Medi-Cal and CalFresh.

According to Covered California, "Medi-Cal is a program that offers free or low-cost health coverage for children and adults with limited income and resources." CalFresh is a program that assists low-income people to be able to afford food.

Often, this assistance comes in the form of benefits that are distributed through personal Golden State Advantage electronic benefits transfer (EBT) cards that are accepted at most grocery stores and farm stores. Many CPP stores, such as the CPP Farm Store at Kellogg Ranch, accept EBT as a form of payment.

There were also other organizations in attendance, such as the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Tri-City Mental Health and Wellness Services and many more.

On Wednesday, Nov. 20, there was a panel, "My Story: Understanding Student Hunger and Homelessness," where CPP students shared their experiences navigating hunger and homelessness.

Dinner was provided during this event. The event was held so students could learn how the CSU system and CPP are addressing food and housing insecurity.

Thursday, Nov. 21 was an opportunity for students to help stock the Poly Pantry. The event, Stock the Poly Pantry: Park and Give, occurred in Parking Structures 1 and 2. This was a convenient drop-off point to make it easier for students to donate toiletries, non-perishable food and nutritious snacks from their cars.

On Friday, Nov. 22, Cultivating Community: Parenting Students and Basic Needs was a discussion regarding the parenting student experience and meeting basic needs. Lunch was provided during the event.

During the week, students were also able to drop off items for the Poly Pantry at multiple drop-off locations.

Students are still able to drop off donations, as the Poly Pantry operates almost entirely on donations. Drop-off locations include the ASI Care Coordinators' office, the Bronco Student Center (BSC), Building 35, room 1339C from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and Conference and Events front desk in the Bronco Student Center (BSC), Building 35, room 2359 from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday and from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays.

The Poly Pantry is located on the first floor of the Bronco Student Center (BSC), Building 35, room 1333.

Students with meal plans were also encouraged to donate a meal through the Feed a Bronco Meal Sharing Program.

The Feed a Bronco Meal Sharing Program allows CPP students who have a meal plan to be able to donate a meal to their fellow CPP peers that need meal assistance.

Reach Zuvanny Macias at
managing@thepolypost.com

GRANT: Center cares for a maximum of 71 children per day

Continued from Page 1

student-parents are given priority in the enrollment process, followed by staff and faculty. "Because we are on a campus, we want to help students work towards graduation and help close the equity gap," Salinas said.

However, senior e-business student Gabriel Rios believes the center still has room for improvement. "I wanted to apply for the Children's Center, the cost is cheaper than regular daycare depending on your income, but I found it was still too expensive despite my family's overall income."

Rios also feels the center does not adequately prioritize student-parents starting with the overall cost. "To have a children's center focused on students first should be a priority; it should be included in tuition or at a severely reduced cost," Rios said.

Although the center will now receive extra funding to address issues like the one Rios has faced, the center is still struggling with the overall size of the facilities. The center, which is estimated to have between 50-70 children per day, is cooperating with CPP facilities in search of a temporary solution to care for additional children.

Currently, the Children's Center is

only licensed to care for a maximum of 71 children per day. An expansion for the center would also require a new license to care for more children.

The enrollment process consists of a two-page wait list form that must be submitted to the center (Building 116) or emailed at childrenscenter@cpp.edu. After submitted, the center will determine if there are currently any spaces available for the child, or if he or she will have to wait until an opening is available.

The waitlist varies for student-parents and CPP faculty and staff. According to Salinas, there has been a great deal of staff and faculty on the waitlist for a long time. The long waitlist period for faculty and staff is a result of prioritizing student-parents first. With the help of the CCAMPIS Grant, the waitlist period is expected to be sped up as upgrades to the facility are made.

For more information on the enrollment process, waitlist and daily rates, visit <https://asi.cpp.edu/childrens-center/enrollment-process/>. Information regarding volunteering can also be found on the center's webpage.

Reach Michael Acevedo at
managing@thepolypost.com



A class is available for children 18 months to 3 years, along with other classes for preschool ages.

MICHAEL ACEVEDO | THE POLY POST

POLICE BLOTTER

Vandalism

8:00 a.m., Nov. 19
Parking Lot K - beat 4,
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Disposition: Inactive/Suspended

Transporting (mail)

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CPP community celebrated Thanksgiving



JOANNE GUINTU | THE POLY POST

Food was served along with dance performances by the Torress Martinez Tribal students during the Native American Harvest Day Celebration.

attending, according to Quan. **The Native American Student Center's Harvest Day Celebration**
The Native American Student Center, as the last event of Native American Heritage Month, held "Harvest Day: Reconstructing Thanksgiving."
The event was held to redefine what Thanksgiving means due to its history of imperialism and genocide, according to the event's host Kyle Brown, a social justice leader at the center.
The event served a traditional Native American meal using resources local to California. Following dinner was a panel of speakers from various tribes and then dance performances by the Torress Martinez Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, K-12 students.
The event was held Nov. 26 from 5-8 p.m. in the BSC, Ursa Major, as advertised on the center's Instagram.

By **CHEYENNE THOMAS**
Staff Writer

Cal Poly Pomona students unable to go home for the Thanksgiving holiday were still able to celebrate the holiday with a few organizations on campus.

Four events acknowledging the holiday occurred on campus in the two weeks leading up to Thanksgiving. The Pride Center hosted its holiday dinner Nov. 18, the International Christian Fellowship hosted a Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 22, the Native American Student Center hosted its Harvest Day dinner Nov. 26 and CPP Dining Services provided complete Thanksgiving dinners to students for \$85.

Pride Center's Holiday Dinner

The Pride Center's holiday dinner welcomed all students to a night of friendliness and fun. The event was held in the Bronco Student Center (BSC)

Games Room from 6-8 p.m. Nov. 18. The center posted on Instagram to advertise the event to the campus community. The post stated the event offered free food, karaoke and games.

The Pride Center is a safe space for students who are part of the LGBTQ+ community. People in this community are sometimes not accepted by their families and need a welcoming and supporting environment during the holidays like Thanksgiving.

"The holiday dinner is an event for people to come together and socialize that possibly do not have that same affirming environment at home for the holidays," said Bri Serrano, coordinator of the Pride Center.

The International Christian Fellowship Thanksgiving Dinner

The International Christian Fellowship at CPP also welcomed all

students to its Thanksgiving party Nov. 22.

"Our focus as an organization is to serve international (or) immigrant students on campus. So, we host various holiday events as sort of a cultural exchange and community-building event," said Matthew Quan, the worship leader for the International Christian Fellowship.

The Fellowship posted an invitation to the party on the CPP Reddit page Nov. 21. The post described the food served at dinner, followed by a list of activities that included a time of worship and an open mic night.

Rather than hold the dinner on campus, the International Christian Fellowship and guests met at Foothill Vineyard Church at 100 E. Foothill Blvd. in San Dimas. This year's turnout was lower than normal, with 20 people

Resources available to students during fall finals

By **JANNETT DIAZ**
Staff Writer

Finals are once again upon students and professors at Cal Poly Pomona. Kicking off the actual testing week (Dec. 9-15) is this week: pre-finals preparation week, beginning on Dec. 2-8.

During this time is when students report stress and losing the most sleep due to studying. To combat stress, CPP has resources available to help students through finals to motivate all to focus and recharge before exams.

The University Library extended hours

The University Library is the main hub for all students to utilize for school work. It may be to study alone or get a study room with other classmates and form a study group. Space and utilities like computers, printing and scanning documents are available to all with extended hours beginning this week into next week from 7:30 a.m.-2:30 a.m. Monday to Thursday.

The first and second floors will be home for a variety of activities and snacks to help destress and renew all students. The library staff will have healthy snacks Dec. 4-10 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., hands-on activities Dec. 3 and 6, video games Dec. 4 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. and therapy dogs available (Dec. 3-5 from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.).

"I study at the library every week so having extended hours with snacks and dogs to destress my studying will be a big help this finals season," said Melissa Jaime, a fourth-year urban regional

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

CAPS will host workshops for 30 minutes of mindfulness throughout the week, a test anxiety workshop Dec. 4 at 1-2 p.m., Surviving Finals workshop Dec. 5 from 10-11 a.m. and yoga sessions Dec. 10.

These workshops will be open for all students to come and relax throughout these stressful days to practice self-care. Stop by CAPS Counseling Center Building 66, room 116 for any event or for any questions.

Associated Student Inc. (ASI) extending hours

ASI will host extended hours in the Bronco Student Center (BSC) and the Bronco Recreation Intramural Complex (BRIC) both week 15 and 16 for students needs. The BRIC will be open between 7 a.m.-2 a.m. Monday to Thursday and the BSC from 6 a.m.-midnight Monday to Thursday during week 15. Extended hours on the weekend may vary.

During finals week, there will be free goodie bags, snacks, coffee, Scantrons and blue books available while supplies last at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. in front of the BEAT office, Building 35, room 1329.

The BSC will also host a series of yoga sessions available to RSVP at eventbrite.com.

Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)

The EOP office will have open space for studying during Dec. 2-10. Free snacks, Scantrons, blue books, pencils



JANNETT DIAZ | THE POLY POST

The BSC will offer extended hours from 7-2 a.m. Monday through Thursday.

and graphing paper will be available for students to take and use. EOP staff will also host a study lounge on Dec. 2-3 from 9 a.m.-noon and Dec. 5 from 2-5 p.m. All events will be located at Building 94, room 122.

"EOP tutorial services are opening drop-in appointments, hoping students can review any questions before they take their final exam," said EOP tutor Odaly Perez and fourth-year visual

communication student.

Campus Safety

Campus police will work during finals hours and be available for escorts after 6 p.m. to the campus community.

For more information on the exact dates, times and services for events hosted at any location mentioned, visit cpp.edu/focus-on-finals.

Reach Jannett Diaz at managing@thepolypost.com



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Students share their tips and tricks on how to study efficiently for finals

As the fall semester is coming to an end, finals week is right around the corner. As a student, finals weeks can be one of the most stressful times of the semester. We asked Cal Poly Pomona students what they do to study and prepare for the busy week ahead.



David Zavala | Fourth-year landscape architecture student

"I try to give myself a lot of time to actually study the PowerPoints, to re-write the notes and ... rewrite whatever things I don't understand and try to memorize it. This semester, I've been kind of giving myself a chance to kind of let myself just read through PowerPoints and just trust myself in reading them and try to understand and make associations with different chapters and things that I know."



Rick Vasquez | Sixth-year computer information student

"I like to get spaghetti or (some) pasta, and I like to eat that and get some energy in me. And then after that, I'll study the PowerPoints and then I'll actually read some of the chapters in the book And then I just do some of the homework, like the ones that I really feel I should get refreshed on. And after that, when I go take the test, I just kind of wing it and hope I pass."



Couper Schmidt | Third-year nutrition student

"I definitely go into the library and just go through all of the syllab(i) and make sure whatever class is cumulative or not cumulative and make sure to be prepared ... (I) make sure I have enough caffeine, and (have) gotten a lot of sleep the night before and then I turn off my phone. As long as I'm eating right while I'm studying, I just feel like (it's) something I can worry less about."



Sofi Sanabria | Fourth-year history student

"I basically just stay on campus and just ... find somewhere quiet and go over my notes and, honestly, that's basically it. I just go over my notes and all my lectures. Personally, like for finals especially, I like studying alone, so I won't get distracted."



Samantha Villagran | Fifth-year mechanical engineering student

"I gather a solid group of four people, maybe three sometimes, depending on the class. (I) spend a lot of time in the library reviewing homework problems, old quizzes that we've taken and then just doing them again, making sure I understand the concepts Also, (I take) a lot of breaks in between so I don't burn myself out."



Michelle Wyatt | Fifth-year mechanical engineering student

"I just go over all the notes from day one, and I read over them, look at all the examples and then I look over homework and then any quizzes or midterms that we took. Well yeah, just do all that stuff and prepare ahead of time. I'll take breaks and also don't procrastinate or else you'll get too stressed. Drink some coffee."

Photos and quotes compiled by staff writer Desiree McClean



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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A&E 5

Harvest Day deconstructs the history behind Thanksgiving

By **ELIZABETH AQUINO & JOANNE GUINTU**
Web Editor &
Staff Writer

Associated Student Inc. (ASI) BEAT honored Native Americans and their history with the event Harvest Day: Reconstructing Thanksgiving, which deconstructed the westernized concept of Thanksgiving through food, dances and discussions. The well-attended event was held in the Bronco Student Center Ursa Major on Nov. 26.

The event started with an opening prayer, recited by Julia Bogany, a member of the Tongva Tribe. Bogany explained that praying is very important in Native American culture.

Before the Thanksgiving meal was served, the food was blessed by another prayer. "(We) bless the food and the hands that make the food," Bogany told the attendees.

The meal prepared by Cal Poly Pomona students featured traditional Southern California Indian foods, such as salmon, wild rice, corn, California cactus salad and chia pudding.

Attendees were also given a choice between lemongrass tea and chai tea.

Elders were served first, as a form of respect.

After everyone finished his or her traditional Native American dinner, the panel discussion began.

The panel consisted of



ELIZABETH AQUINO & JOANNE GUINTU | THE POLY POST

Harvest Day panelists intended to spread awareness about the true meaning and history behind Thanksgiving.

Native Americans from different tribes and of different ages.

The panelist spoke about their life experiences and shared their take on Native American traditions. They also advocated for more awareness of Native American history in the school

system, since they want to ensure their culture is passed down in the correct way.

After the panel ended, attendees had the opportunity to ask any questions or express concerns they had.

Ultimately, the panel hoped the campus community would learn

from their experiences and begin spreading awareness about the true history behind Thanksgiving.

"The way Thanksgiving is done, the way (you'll celebrate) in a few days, is not the way the first Thanksgiving actually happened, or

(a representation of) the way Native people are," Bogany said. "We d(id) not sit around the table with Pilgrims. We d(id) not wear feathers in our cap. We d(id) not gather the turkey and kill it and put it on the table, or any other story you've heard."

The event also

included a traditional Native American dance performance by Torress Martinez Tribal students.

Ranging from 2 to 12 years old, the elementary school students dressed in bright, traditional clothing.

With big smiles on their faces, the students proudly performed multiple dances, which represented different tribes and origins of the Native Americans.

Members who attended were encouraged to donate school supplies in exchange for prizes from BEAT and the Native American Student Center (NASC).

All of the donations went to the Torress Martinez Tribal TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) K-12 students.

Gabi Wijdaja, a second-year psychology student, attended Harvest Day and enjoyed the panel.

"My favorite part about the event was the panel and the conversation of what Thanksgiving is to them and their heritage," Wijdaja said. "We need to be more informed about this culture."

Wijdaja also hopes others will start to respect the real history behind Thanksgiving.

"(Thanksgiving) is not just a national holiday. In the perspective of Native Americans, (it) is a national day of mourning," she said.

Reach Elizabeth Aquino & Joanne Guintu at ae@thepolypost.com

New Music and Electronic Ensembles electrifies the stage

By **ANELA MIKI-HAN**
Staff Writer

The New Music and Electronic Ensembles shared the stage during their electrifying concert on Nov. 25.

The New Music Ensemble made its concert debut at Cal Poly Pomona, since this is the ensemble's first semester as a class. The concert also showcased students of the newly offered composition degree program in the music department; most of the songs were student-composed.

The concert opened up with an invisible piano arrangement of "Key Jane" by Michael Beil. It was performed by Marissa Aronson, a student musician of the Electronic Ensemble. It was a unique way of listening as well as watching music being performed.

After the invisible piano opener, student musician Adrian Chavez took the stage with guitar in hand. He performed a classical guitar song called "Eihwaz Rune," which he composed. The arrangement was graceful and soothing.

The next two songs were piano pieces composed and performed by students, which were beautiful and haunting.

First was the song "Nate's Piano," composed by Joshua Cooley. As the crowd listened, the mood shifted from



ANELA MIKI-HAN | THE POLY POST

Guitarist Roger Mantero (left) and synthesizer Henry Ly (right), play with the Electronic Ensemble to close the show.

calmness to complete sadness. The song portrayed a story of so much vulnerability and sorrow in the most gorgeous way.

Next, director Isaac Schankler performed "Glass" by student composer Mark DeGonia. He wrote this piece "for someone so delicate, they broke." This song also portrayed the same sadness as the previous song, but differently.

"Gongs" by student composer Nathaniel Hall took the concert in a different direction. The song transported the audience

into a horror film. The song changed tempos frequently, which made the audience's hearts beat faster and palms sweat as it sped up.

The student-composed songs concluded with an arrangement by Esther Kala called "Trio for Violin, Guitar and Accordion." The song portrayed a story of darkness at first, but sheds light and turns the audience's mood from sorrow to joy.

"This piece itself pictures darkness and uncertainty at first, just like the night would bring," Kala said in the program notes. "Until the

morning bells ring to bring forth hope and joy, just like a song would bring comfort during troubling times."

Throughout the arrangement, the accordion was the main focus. The use of the instrument reminded the audience of an accordion player on the streets of Paris; a surreal and lovely tune to listen to.

After the student-composed song, the New Music Ensemble took the stage for two more songs before the intermission of the concert.

The first song performed was "Thick Line" by Alex Temple.

The arrangement changed for the inclusion of a hodgepodge ensemble, or confused mixture. The ensemble somehow took chaos and transformed the mixed sounds into a controlled song that does the original song justice.

The last song before intermission, "Still Life with Avalanche" by Missy Mazzoli, was another hodgepodge arrangement. The original piece was a "pile of melodies collapsing in a chaotic free fall," according to Mazzoli in the program notes.

The last two songs were definitely a new and surreal experience in the best way.

The Electronic Ensemble performed the last three songs after the intermission. "Stronger" by Kanye West was a crowd-pleaser. The ensemble took its own twist of the widely popular song and had a musician rap to the song.

The other two songs, "Les Moutons de Panurge" by Frederic Rzewski and "Eight Lines" by Steve Reich, were two very strong songs performed by the Electronic Ensemble. It showcased the group's skills with synthesizers.

The Electronic Ensemble was a great closer to a night full of new and unique ways of experiencing music.

Reach Anela Miki-Han at ae@thepolypost.com

The Harvest Festival brings holiday spirit to Pomona



COURTESY OF LISA CAREY PUBLIC RELATIONS

Artists and vendors of all kinds had beautiful items on display for the perfect holiday gifts, at the Pomona Fairplex last year.

By KELCIE HARTLEY
Staff Writer

The holiday season is officially here and the Harvest Festival at the Fairplex in Pomona is bringing the cheer.

From Dec. 6-8, this art and craft show features around 300 artists and vendors with thousands of diverse, handmade creations.

This show is family friendly and the perfect environment to buy the perfect holiday gifts for loved ones.

According to a press release sent out Nov. 25, "As a family-run business, we take pride in creating an

immersive holiday shopping experience that serves up something remarkable for all ages to enjoy," said Nancy Glenn, owner of the Harvest Festival.

The artisans at the festival pride themselves for being the best in the business; many also have customizable gift options to give customers exactly what they are looking for each holiday season.

"In themed attire and merriment, the nation's top trend-setting artisans showcase their originals of magnificent

jewelry, clothing, photography, oils, hand-turned wood, ceramics, eclectic art pieces, kid's accessories, holiday decor and ornaments, blown glass and much more," the press release stated.

Catherine Cowles, creator of Leaf Motif, has been an active vendor at the Harvest Festival for about 10 years.

"The Pomona Harvest Festival is a combination of all the harvest festivals in California and Nevada. It's the granddaddy of shows. Most of us (vendors) who do the shows try to go to the Pomona

show because it's big, it's celebratory and it's the last one of the season," Cowles said.

According to www.leafmotif.com, "Leaf Motif offers a range of home decor products including framed original leaf collages, artist-selected giclee reproduction prints and a line of illuminations which includes the original Kandle Kuffs, e-Kandle Kuffs, e-Kandle Wrapz, occasional lamps and illuminated wall sconces."

Crafts aren't the only items for purchase. An abundance of food vendors will also be present and ready with delicious

samples to lure shoppers into buying every item. A food court with a variety of tasty options will also be present for the convenience of shoppers.

According to harvestfestival.com/pomona, entertainers will be present each day of the festival at various times. Make sure to be on the lookout for Washboard Willy, WC Willy as Stilt Santa and Fables of the West.

Families can check out an area just for kids. The press release states, "Macaroni Kid and Home Depot host the Kidzone, an oasis of festive activities for

youngsters with free make 'n' take arts & crafts and building projects."

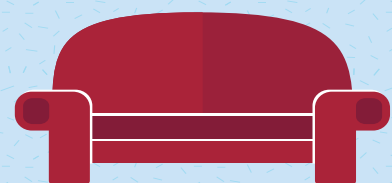
General admission tickets are \$9, 62 (and up) and military are \$7, youths ages 13-17 are \$4. Kids 12 and under are free. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, according to the website.

A ticket is good for all three days and coupons only apply when purchasing tickets at the door. For more information go to harvestfestival.com/pomona.

Reach Kelcie Hartley at ae@thepolypost.com

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The phenomenon continues: A review of 'Frozen II'

FROZEN II

EDUARDO RANGEL | THE POLY POST

By **STEVEN EVERETT**
Staff Writer

In 2013, Disney released "Frozen," its adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale "The Snow Queen," over the Thanksgiving weekend. Thus, one of the biggest pop culture phenomena of the decade began. It was an instant hit and a record-breaker at the box office. Until 2019's "The Lion King" (the remake of the 1994 original), "Frozen" held the record for the top-grossing animated film of all time, earning a total of \$1.29 billion worldwide. It won Academy Awards for Best Animated

Feature and Best Original Song. "Let It Go" (the winner of the aforementioned Best Original Song award) is a staple of Disney playlists even to this day. It's impossible to overstate what a boom "Frozen" was for Disney, let alone for animation in general. It's an impressive legacy to say the least, and it would be tough for anything to live up to it, even its own sequel. However, "Frozen II" did indeed manage to live up to its phenomenon-spawning predecessor. "Frozen II" was released Nov. 22, exactly six years after its predecessor. It

takes place three years after the events of the first film. The story is about Elsa hearing a spirit voice calling her out to an enchanted and forbidden forest. Her sister Anna, the mountain man Kristoff, his loyal reindeer Sven and the living snowman Olaf come along on this journey which reveals the origin of Elsa's magic among many other mysteries concerning Arendelle and a nearby tribe of people who coexisted with nature spirits. The soundtrack makes great use of Idina Menzel's singing talent, especially in the songs "Into the Unknown" and "Show

Yourself." It wouldn't be a surprise if either songs joined "Let It Go" in winning an Academy Award for Best Original Song. The background music was also a treat to hear, and it worked to the movie's advantage. Just like the predecessor, exquisite attention to detail was paid to the animation, especially on the snow, ice and water. The water and ice were the most meticulous and costly details in the film, due to a theme throughout the movie about water containing memories. The plot had many interesting twists and turns; it excellently follows the theme

that water contains memories, and a lot of the problems that were present in the first "Frozen" (illogical actions by certain characters being chief among them) are not present in this one. Although the characters themselves were great, the actions taken by a majority of them in the first film were foolhardy at best. Thankfully, this problem is fixed, and as a result their development doesn't feel forced. Kristoff's hesitance to propose to Anna is hilariously awkward (by the writing's intent, not by incompetence on the writers' part),

Elsa's protectiveness of Anna is believable and Olaf is still as cute as ever. Even when he starts to get angry (no, really, he does at one point), he's still such a jolly guy overall. The first "Frozen" was a good, but flawed film. However, there is no denying how much of a gigantic cultural phenomenon it was and what a great legacy it was and still is. "Frozen II" is a worthy addition to that legacy as well as a worthy sequel to a landmark film. Perhaps it'll be a phenomenon of its own.

Reach Steven Everett at ae@thepolypost.com

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Upcoming 'Devised Play' sells out first show

By **GEORGIA VALDES**
Staff Writer

Arguably one of the most challenging jobs is performing for a live audience. The theater students at Cal Poly Pomona are all too familiar with it, but they were pushed even further in Stacy Stearns's devised theater course. The final project: Work together to write, produce and perform an original piece.

While most theater classes are student-driven, Stearns took an even more unorthodox route to teaching her class. She preferred a non-hierarchical structure, in which the students held equal power to herself in the classroom.

She feels this allows for the most amount of creative freedom for her students.

"It's going to be like looking at someone sewing a piece of clothing, rather than going to a fashion show," Stearns said. "If (the students) can live in the live moment of being in these moments of activity and creation in front of an audience ... that is going to be pretty cool for the audience and it's going to be a learning experience for us."

Stearns implemented a specific technique to facilitate the creative process called "Deep Pieter." This is an exercise she picked up in her study under

Jmy James Kidd at the dance space Pieter. "Deep Pieter" mirrors the way a brave space may function in community engagement meetings. The students began each class by saying their names and pronouns, what they need and what each could offer the class within session.

"I am here to make a space where (the students) can actually learn by doing in a very collaborative way Agency is my number one for people. What I feel with this group is that we have engaged ourselves consciously in a lot of (these) actions," Stearns said.

It's a mixed bag of reactions to the technique from her students, with some for and some against. With much of the performance ad libbed, theater student Matthew Covalt found the practice beneficial.

"(Deep Pieter) is nice because it feels like I see everyone and everyone sees me We are able to work off of each other," Covalt said. "It feels like everybody is involved."

Others, like fourth-year design and technology and stage management student Margaret Saba, struggled with the disorganization of the course.

"I hate the class for a few reasons ... I disapprove of the lack of structure. In



Matthew Covalt, a fourth-year acting student, rehearses a scene with a skeleton prop.

COURTESY OF STACY STEARNS

a traditional play, there is always something to come back to, it's the script In a devised piece, there is

no script," Saba said. In an alternative reality plot, the performance is satirical and silly, yet deals with heavy topics such as violence, loneliness and seeking friendship.

Veronica Cortez studies theater and works as a stage manager for rental performances.

She found that in the early stages of creation, the class was mostly just playing around.

Soon, they recognized a recurrent theme of violence and death. In discussion, they realized

that they weren't just having fun but processing heavy, real-life events within a safe space.

"It was really interesting We all realized how fun it was to play with violence. It was, in a way, exhilarating," Cortez said.

The ensemble kept to these themes, but with light and humorous narrative.

The audience can expect complete immersion in the performance, and some members may even be called to participate in a scene or two.

The first

performance which is at 8 p.m. Dec. 5 has already sold out, but there are four more shows: 8 p.m. Dec. 6, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 7 and 2 p.m. Dec. 8. It is a \$5 entrance fee to attend.

"I have a strong feeling the audience is going to be very confused, but also so taken aback that they'll want to see more," Cortez said. "Personally, one of my goals is to see some of the audience members walk out from outrage."

Reach Georgia Valdes at ae@thepolypost.com

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The unseen disaster



EDUARDO RANGEL | THE POLY POST

By **MICHAEL PHAM & WILLIAM MCKINNEY**
Contributing Writers

For thousands of years, humanity has looked to the night sky and seen its heroes in the stars and constellations. Orion, Andromeda and the Pleiades dominated legends and myths of cultures around the world, inspiring people for generations and fueling their curiosity for the “great beyond.” Today, however, finding inspiration and fueling curiosity from stargazing has become difficult. Constellations and most stars are obscured by an ominous glow that dominates the night sky.

This glow is light pollution, a phenomenon resulting from artificial light produced by streetlights and lights in homes and workplaces that are either improperly shielded or turned on at night. Light pollution was brought to the forefront by an ambitious citizen science study by Fabio Falchi, “The New World Atlas of Artificial Night Sky Brightness,” published in the Journal of Scientific Advances.

The study used advanced satellite imagery, computer algorithms and hundreds of reports from amateur astronomy enthusiasts from around the world to compile a frightening

picture showing that more than 80% of the world’s population lives under light-polluted skies.

This artificial light obscures our view, hiding the Milky Way galaxy from approximately 80% of North Americans.

The increase of light pollution throughout populated areas has become so severe that the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) designates “dark sky preserves” similar to how the Fish and Wildlife Service designates nature preserves for endangered animals.

Many argue that increased light makes society safer, for example, by decreasing crime

and improving visibility for drivers.

Those arguments, however, ignore the impact of light pollution on the physical and mental health of humans, as well as its disruptive effect on wildlife.

Researchers have suggested that light pollution increases the risk of obesity, depression, sleep disorders, diabetes and breast cancer in humans.

In animals, the effect can be as equally disastrous.

Sea turtles, for example, tend to travel toward the brightest light in sight when they hatch.

The brightest light is supposed to be the moon’s reflection on the sea, drawing the hatchlings to their natural habitat.

Light pollution, however, confuses them and leads the hatchlings away from the sea where they are vulnerable to predators. This pollution is equal to death for the exposed, disoriented newborns.

Light pollution further affects our ideas of how and where we fit into the universe. In his book “Pale Blue Dot,” Carl Sagan wrote: “Our planet is a lonely speck in the greatly enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.”

Gazing up at the vast and endless sea of stars reminds us that we are a small part of a much greater whole, humbling us and highlighting that the universe is not simply ours to do with as we please.

Despite light pollution’s

clear negative effects, and the clear positive effects of reducing it, little is being done to address it.

Scientists have estimated that approximately one half of city light use is wasted, illuminating nothing but the sky.

The Department of Energy has estimated that a reduction of this wasted lighting could save U.S. citizens \$3.5 billion per year in energy costs. Yet, people remain more or less disinterested in it, as turning off or shielding lights at night is viewed as an inconvenience. Legislation is typically a slow process and is often undercut by special interest groups that benefit by maintaining the status quo.

We do not have to completely depend on policy makers, scientists or urban planners to reduce light pollution.

Relatively simple and immediate steps can be taken by anyone who can turn off exterior lights at night, shield lights that cannot be turned off or dimmed or install more efficient lights that have a warm color temperature.

Rather than being afraid of the dark, perhaps we can focus on regaining the inspiration and curiosity produced by the constellation of heroes so aptly displayed in the stars.

William McKinley is the project leader for Bronco Space’s BLADE (Balloon Launch Assessment Directive) program at Cal Poly Pomona. Michael Pham is the Bronco Space program manager. Bronco Space, Pomona’s CubeSat Lab, has launched a program to investigate our atmosphere and our planet from LEO (low earth orbit).



EDUARDO RANGEL | THE POLY POST

Companies need to stop manipulating consumer data

By **CHRISTIAN ARREDONDO**
Staff Writer

Due to technological advancements, it has become the norm for companies to obtain data to tweak users’ feed or homepage with advertisements that are relevant to search or purchase history.

Although this may be convenient for the user, it’s inappropriate for companies to sort through data to manipulate advertisements.

In a lot of ways, what we do on our phones and how we navigate the web is private. But there are concepts to consider when utilizing such technology.

So far, technology has leaped bounds since the 2000s. Mankind is dedicated to make improvements to advance society further.

As a result, we can pretty much find any information we want on the web. Although every bit of information may not be available on the web, the internet has come a long way to provide access. Yet, this privilege is prone to all sorts of malpractices.

Granted, user data is important when it comes to performing certain tasks on the web.

Such as, when you log in on a site, your information will already be inputted.

You don’t have to go through the hassle of remembering login information. However, this privilege of obtaining user data can provide leeway for companies to tailor your feed.

While our data is used to provide a more satisfying experience, it’s not clear how our data is used.

Consider this: You walk into a store and buy a product. You swipe your card and you go about your day.

Later, you log onto Instagram, Facebook or YouTube and you find an advertisement that is similar to the product you bought. How did that come about?

Well, your recent purchase established the content of the advertisement. If you pay attention to the advertisements, you may find them tailored according to your search history and purchases.

While this experience is “harmless,” it’s very manipulative as it can make you form an opinion based on what you see.

In the same instance, this practice is problematic for the receiver. If you think about it, companies are handling data in order to shove more products down our throat.

It’s weird and uncomfortable to have companies utilize data in order to suggest more products.

I understand targeted advertisements are tailored to users’ needs, but it seems as if companies don’t care about how data is utilized.

There are companies that will sell your information. If you buy from a store and you provide your phone number, you will probably receive marketing calls for a month.

It’s really unnerving to know that our data is utilized as “products” and not something of “value.” After all, I reckon everyone values his or her privacy.

Reach Christian Arredondo at editor@thepolypost.com

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SPORTS

SPORTS 10

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Women's basketball on three-game win streak



CARLOS OLIVARES | THE POLY POST

The women's basketball team now has an overall record of 6-2, while they are undefeated, 2-0, in conference.

By **CARLOS OLIVARES**
Staff Writer

Cal Poly Pomona's women's basketball team took down the Concordia-Irvine Eagles at Kellogg Arena at 4 p.m. Nov. 27. The Broncos battled to their third win in a row and improved to 6-2 on the year.

A lot of credit goes to the Broncos' junior center Leilia Orji and

senior forward Kasey Smit, who both combined for 39 of the Broncos' 68 points and 17 rebounds. Orji scored a season high of 20 points on 10-of-16 shooting in 21 minutes. She was the spark on the team and rallied her teammates up with her performance.

Team effort and encouragement was impactful for the Broncos and head coach Danelle Bishop said that's what

helps win games. She said the Broncos support each other like a family and feels that the team's bond reflects onto the court.

"It's exciting (to) see the love that each of these girls (has) for each other. And with it being Thanksgiving, in the locker room, I talked about how grateful and thankful we are for each other and how the game goes beyond basketball,"

Bishop said. "These girls have a sisterhood ... to see that love and support for each other while they're out there ... it's pretty awesome."

Orji had a different mindset going into this game and it showed on the court. She dominated the paint and led the Broncos in points. She gives a lot of credit to her team for supporting her and cheering her on with high energy that

she fed off..."

"I feel that today was really good for me because I started off the day poised; I wasn't focused on 'Oh I need to do this, I have to do this.' I changed that mentality from 'need to, have to' to 'want to' and I made it so much easier to play my game," Orji said.

Orji's performance radiated on her teammates and helped them perform better as well. Smit was just behind Orji with 19 points and earned her second double-double with 11 rebounds.

Senior starting point guard Jackie Ricketson nearly had a triple-double performance, scoring 11 points, dishing out nine assists and collecting 11 rebounds of her own.

"It feels so great (when there's a spark on the team). We need (Orji) out there and it's so amazing because it opens so many doors for her to get that many shots," Smit said. "I think it's good for her to get those looks to coming into other games; it just builds her confidence even more, so I think it's good that she had a really good game."

The defensive effort was a huge factor as the Broncos did not give the Eagles a chance to lead after the first quarter.

The Broncos had eight steals, forced 12 points off turnovers and only allowed 26 points in the paint. They had active hands throughout and controlled the pace of the game.

Bishop saw a lot of improvement on defense from their previous game and is glad to see her team improving.

"I was really proud of them with their effort and really just growing and learning," Bishop said. "We had our hands up. We were active (and) created a lot of turnovers against Concordia. Obviously, they did a great job, but more importantly, they learned from our last game where we weren't doing those things; we pulled out a 'W' (win against Monterey Bay), but we needed to improve, so it's great to see that improvement tonight."

The Broncos will try to protect their home and advance their streak to 4-0 against Humboldt State at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 5.

Both teams are undefeated in conference, but only one team will remain undefeated after their matchup.

Reach Carlos Olivares at sports@thepolypost.com

Broncos 2-0 in CSUSB Thanksgiving Classic

By **HECTOR AMEZQUITA**
Staff Writer

Men's basketball won back-to-back games over the weekend in the Cal State San Bernardino Thanksgiving Classic tournament.

The Broncos pushed their overall record to 5-2 and extended their win streak to three games.

The Broncos kicked off the tournament on Friday, as they rolled over the Saint Katherine Firebirds, 98-50.

"We came out a little slow, but that's expected after the holidays. But our guys kept to the task and grinded this team down," head coach Greg Kamansky said. "The other team had been playing pretty well this week so we were a little worried, but once we opened up in the first half, the first five minutes of the second half we felt pretty confident."

The Broncos had a season-high shooting from the field as the team shot 61.5%. Senior guard/forward

Riley Schaefer led the Broncos in scoring with 21 points along with four rebounds, two blocks and one assist.

Aside from Schaefer, the Broncos had two more players with double figures in scoring, as senior guard William Christmas contributed with 19 points, followed by junior guard Phoenix Shackelford, who chipped in with 11 points.

"It was a really good team win. Everyone played well from top to bottom," Schaefer said. "I thought (the key for tonight's dominant win) was just giving the ball inside, and work inside out. Our shooters hit shots and we got a lot of stops and overall we just kept playing defense."

Early in the first half, Christmas and Shackelford got things going for the Broncos with back-to-back baskets. Despite the hot start, the Firebirds responded with multiple baskets that kept the game close for the first couple minutes. Seven minutes into



COURTESY OF BEN ANDERSON

Senior guard/forward Riley Schaefer racked up a career-high of 21 points during Friday's match.

the game, Christmas' dominance was evident as the senior drove into the paint to score a basket to keep the Broncos ahead on the scoreboard.

"We just had to rebound the ball better and play better defense," Christmas said. "I thought we struggled for a little bit early in the first half, but we picked up the defensive intensity later in the first half and in the second half, and we were able to pull away with the win."

In the middle of the first half, as the game was tied, Shackelford hit a 3-pointer that triggered an 8-0 run for the Broncos that gave them their largest lead of the game up to that

point. With five minutes left in the first half, the Broncos' strong defense would pay dividends, as it only allowed the Firebirds to score eight points.

The Broncos continued with the hot hand in the final six minutes, scoring 21 points during that span that saw them take a 46-25 lead going into halftime.

To start the second half, the Firebirds quickly tried to minimize the deficit after knocking down four free throws. Despite the fast start from the Firebirds, the Broncos responded right away with back-to-back baskets from Schaefer.

With 15 minutes and 34 seconds on the clock,

junior guard BJ Standley drove into the paint for a basket that would initiate an 18-5 run, which led the Broncos to extend their lead by 30 points.

During the final 10 minutes of the game, the Firebirds continued with their offensive struggles and were only able to score 11 points. On the other hand, the Broncos scored 26 points.

The Broncos, during that span, were also able to have their largest lead of the game, as they led the Firebirds by 48 points at the end of the second half.

"I thought going inside helped us a lot tonight. We were good; we did not shoot very well early in the first half, but our

press helped us to get the other team to turn it over 16 times in the first half," Kamansky said. "And that leads to layups, so it makes it easy."

The following day, the Broncos took down the Texas A&M International Dustdevils 75-45. Christmas led the Broncos in scoring with 17 points and was one of four Broncos with double figures in scoring.

The defense was outstanding once again as it forced the Dustdevils to commit 26 turnovers.

The Broncos will return to Kellogg Arena at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5 to take on Humboldt State.

Reach Hector Amezcuita at sports@thepolypost.com

Life as an international student-athlete

The 2019 men's soccer team consisted of two athletes from Brazil and three from Israel. The students opened up about what it is like, not only being an international student and adjusting to the American culture, but also being a student-athlete.



Ori Kenett - Israel | Senior defender, business administration

"I heard about CPP from another Israeli student-athlete that told about an Israeli coach named Yossi Raz, that at the time was the head coach. The main factor that dragged me into the school was the fact that besides the coach, we had three more Israelis on the team. This gave me kind of a soft landing and helped me to adjust quickly I came from Israel after four years without playing soccer at all. I served in the Israeli military without the ability to keep playing. So, getting back into a sport routine was the biggest change—physically and mentally. I also assume it's true for most of the international students, studying not in your native language is always a big change. This is my first time going to any university, so that was a change in its own. When you add the language obstacle to it, it becomes quite a challenge. It took me four to six months to adapt to learning techniques and gain confidence to talk in class Soccer is my first love. I'm grateful that I had the opportunity to play at this age, while most of my friends stopped playing years ago The combination of playing with your best friends, traveling around the states, winning and ending up with a degree in your hands is absolutely amazing. There is something very special in the athletic department and in the soccer program in particular. Maybe it looks like another program from the outside, but the players and staff know it's an extraordinary place to be a student athlete."



Eduardo Faria - Brazil | Junior midfielder, business administration

"I was already in the U.S. and our old coach Adam (Reeves) was watching me play Sunday league games and he liked me. I sent him my highlight video, he gave me an offer, I accepted and started my career at CPP The biggest differences are all the opportunities around here; they are not so often in my country, Brazil. It is also much safer to live here. Of course, I miss my friends and family, but the safety and opportunities makes the U.S. really different from the other countries My favorite part of playing at CPP is that we are a family, we work all together. We are very connected and it makes it easier to go forward I really like the campus and where I live, it is pretty close to the campus. The facilities that we practice give us all the chances to go to the nationals and maybe win next year. We have all the possibilities to do it, it is just on us to do it."



Cyro Oliveira - Brazil | Senior midfielder, applied economics

"I heard about Cal Poly Pomona after my first year in Bakersfield because of its success ... and one of my coaches presented the program to me. The soccer program was the main reason I decided to attend, the playing style and (the previous coach) Adam. Also, when I came to visit the school, I really liked the campus. Some of the research that I did on the school gave me the perspective that it was a good academic school. The location and amount of students was attractive for my decision The biggest change moving to the U.S. was leaving my family behind and the culture change. Leaving my family and friends was the biggest struggle for me, but the culture change, types of food and language was also a difficulty I faced My favorite part of playing for CPP was the student-athlete environment I had during my time as a Bronco. It's like having a big family, not only by your own sport but also with all the other sports. The friendships acquired at my time as a Bronco will last forever."



Alon Grod - Israel | Senior midfielder, computer science

"When I first came to the U.S., I went to San Diego State University for two years. After two enjoyable years, I decided to leave because of personal reasons. At that time, my Israeli friends, Nadeer Ghantous and Ori Kenett were playing for CPP. Nadeer called me and told me that Adam Reeves, the former head coach, wants me to come play for them. I met with Adam and decided to take the opportunity because I wanted to play for a good school like CPP and, at the same time, I wanted to be with more Israelis The biggest change for me was that I needed to be more independent and more responsible because I was by myself without my family for the first time My favorite part about playing for CPP was the people in the program. The management, coaching staff and my teammates became my second family and every day that I was around them was unforgettable. They were always willing to help and be there for me. If it's academic problems or personal problems, you know that you are not alone and they will help you to pass every obstacle."



Omer Green - Israel | Junior midfielder, civil engineering

"In my first year of college, I was at Catawba College, North Carolina. I had already heard about CPP by my friends who played here. When I decided to transfer, my first goal was to transfer to CPP because I knew how good the soccer program was and I knew that the engineering program is one of the best in the nation. That is what I wanted to study and my previous school did not offer engineering. I knew the location was amazing which is an important part as well The biggest change is that I'm living here by myself and I have to take care of myself and living far away from my comfort zone, which allows me to cope with difficult situations. And of course, studying civil engineering bachelor's degree in English My favorite part about playing for CPP is the way we play here. The coaches have a system for success. The biggest part is the traveling for away games, that made for the most memorable moments."

Photos and quotes compiled by sports editor Grace Mikuriya

UPCOMING GAMES

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

DECEMBER 5
5:30 PM
VS HUMBOLDT STATE

DECEMBER 7
5:30 PM
@ CHICO STATE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

DECEMBER 5
7:30 PM
VS HUMBOLDT STATE

DECEMBER 7
7:30 PM
@ CHICO STATE

Jay Mason named CCAA Coach of the Year

By **NOUK KEOVYPHONE**
Staff Writer

On Nov. 14, Cal Poly Pomona's head women's soccer coach Jay Mason received the honor of the 2019 California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) Women's Soccer Coach of the Year.

After four years of coaching the Broncos, Mason had his most successful season yet. Mason took the Broncos on a 13-win season, which almost triples the total number of wins from last season.

At 14 years old, Mason played as a goalkeeper for a small club in Canada and had a taste of coaching when his club would hold free clinics to teach younger goalkeepers.

His coach encouraged these clinics as an effort to give back and the rest was history.

After graduating summa cum laude from the University of the Incarnate Word in Texas with his bachelor's of science in physical education in 2004, Mason then continued his education at the same university earning his master's degree in kinesiology in 2006.

"As I was winding down my professional career, I stopped enjoying playing the way I used to," Mason said. "I realized the thing that I loved about sports was the team itself, and the relationships that you build within that team, and the experiences you share with other people."



COURTESY OF CPP ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Mason led the women's soccer team to the NCAA Division II first round this season.

With this season's success, Mason emphasized that this year was special for him. Being able to see the players achieve their goals that they set was a special memory for him.

This past season, Mason and the other coaches took the team to Costa Rica and had a reflection book that one of the assistant coaches started. The players wrote little notes about the trip, things that they felt were important and memories.

Mason reflected on how it was memorable to see the players step out of their social bubble and to see another culture that they might've not seen if they weren't

playing collegiately.

"For me, the most impactful thing is to see the alumni at the games and talk to them, to see where they are professionally and personally," Mason said. "Those things are the most rewarding for me."

Mason has learned a lot from coaching at CPP, from the professional side to the personal.

"Being a coach is one of those professions where there's so many different personalities and so many different challenges for each individual," Mason said. "Trying to get a group of people to invest everything — emotionally, physically, mentally — into one

goal is the exciting and challenging part of being a coach. I've learned a lot about people in general as far as how I can help them reach their potential, and help them grow."

Besides coaching as Mason's job title, there's other aspects to what he has taught the players on the Cal Poly Pomona women's soccer team.

"Ultimately, my job is to make sure (that) when they leave here, they are stronger than they were when they came in, more mature and that they are prepared for what life has in store for them," Mason said. "We all know life doesn't get any easier once we leave college and the decisions

get heavier."

With being able to coach such a successful team of hard-working women, Mason has made it important to the players to never stop working hard to reach their goals.

"I strongly believe we are tasked with the challenge of developing female leaders and we need more of them," Mason said. "It's great for me to see them taking the reigns and being confident. Soccer is kind of the vehicle that we're allowed to drive as coaches and that allows us to teach those skills."

Senior defender Cassidy Overstreet and senior forward Ambria

Pogue both have been under Mason's wing at CPP for more than three years. Overstreet and Pogue were two of the nine Broncos that earned spots on the All-CCAA Team this season.

Both Overstreet and Pogue said Mason's award for Coach of the Year was well-deserved due to such a successful season this year.

"He just motivates all of us by always being there," Pogue said. "He's always in his office, always willing to help us out, always willing to talk with us on how to improve. I think that's really motivating when you have a coach that's willing to be there for whatever it takes to make you a better player and a better person."

Mason has taught Overstreet a lesson she will take into life beyond the field.

"He always emphasizes us to be appreciative of everything that we have," Overstreet said.

"Even though it's not necessarily related to soccer, he would always make sure we were checking in (with) our family, our friends and loved ones."

Going into next season, the women's soccer team is expected to be a top contender for another season under Mason's reign.

With the success from this season, Mason hopes to feed that to his following seasons to get the team to achieve its goals once again.

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