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Report: Pomona ranks among most vulnerable cities in LA County for climate hazards

By JANEAN SORRELL
AND EMILY FRISAN
Staff Writers

The 2021 LA County Climate Vulnerability Assessment, released last month, identifies the level of dangers across cities, populations and groups that are highly vulnerable to climate hazards. Pomona is listed as one of the most vulnerable cities in Los Angeles County to extreme heat on account of its high percentage of children and large number of outdoor workers.

Extreme climate events and stressors jeopardize the health and safety of Los Angeles County residents, who have an increased likelihood of risk of climate hazards. Every year brings new events that put stress on natural resources, the community's health and the facilities and infrastructure that provide the county's critical services.

"The Pomona basin is the worst air basin in the United States due to its lack of airflow and shading," said Douglas Kent, adjunct professor at Cal Poly Pomona's John T. Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies.

Cal Poly Pomona is adjacent to the intersection of three major highways, Interstate 57, Interstate



Smoke from the Bobcat Fire last September obscures the sun behind the Old Stables.

COURTESY OF TOM ZASADZINSKI



Downed trees that could ignite in a fire were cut up and cleared from a trail below the historic Kellogg House.

COURTESY OF GARY FONG

10 and Interstate 71, and the city lacks significant green space, inducing the Los Angeles basin to trap greenhouse gas emissions.

According to the report, Hispanic and Latinx residents make up nearly 48.5% of LA County's population but 66.9%

reside in areas that are vulnerable to extreme heat.

Rising temperatures can threaten the health of LA County's most vulnerable residents, including children, older adults, people experiencing homelessness, outdoor

workers and those with underlying health conditions. Excessive heat can also cause serious damage to the energy infrastructure which plays a pivotal role in helping people keep cool during extreme heat.

The Children's Center at

Cal Poly Pomona has taken the rising temperatures into consideration over the past five years. Director of the Children's Center Celeste Salinas said teachers have adapted to the heat by adding artificial shading, water-based activities, implementing water breaks and reapplying sunscreen for the children.

"Many of the children live in apartments or other small places without the ability to go outside," said Salinas. "The development from outdoor experiences is valuable."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heat stroke occurs when the body is incapable of regulating its temperature making it impossible for the body to cool down. Children become increasingly vulnerable to excessive heat since their bodies are growing, they are not able to maintain a stable internal body temperature as well as adults.

Outdoor workers are also vulnerable to excessive heat. To beat the heat, CPP's landscaping crew works 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., said Brian Lake, interim manager of the university's Landscape Services.

"The hours between noon and 2:30 p.m. See **CLIMATE**/Page 2

USC report forecasts regional rent surges

By EMILY FRISAN
Staff Writer

Southern California is predicted to face rent increases due to large-scale migration from cities to suburbs, according to an economic report published this month by USC's Lusk Center for Real Estate. The forecast predicts monthly rent in Los Angeles County to increase by \$252, \$410 in Orange County and \$348 in San Diego County.

The report attributed these increases to vacancies in multiple markets which predict lower rent growth in the next period. Top reasons for the jump in rent are the relocation of businesses, population loss, low mortgage rates and various eviction moratoria from all levels of government.

"A lot of us know we need to build a lot more housing, but we haven't found a way to motivate cities to do that yet," said Anthony Orlando, an assistant professor for the Department of Finance, Real Estate and Law.

In Los Angeles County, the average home costs nine to 10 times more than the average income.

See **RENT**/Page 3



Project CAMINOS student assistant Alejandra Arevalo with two prospective students.

COURTESY OF ALEJANDRA AREVALO

Project CAMINOS prepares incoming Broncos

By CECILIA LEYVA
Staff Writer

With the support of Hispanic-serving institution grants over the past three years, Cal Poly Pomona's Project CAMINOS, is on its third cycle of serving an average of 120 incoming students and is prepared to continue its mission as the California State University's Nov. 30 application for fall 2022

approaches.

The program's six-week summer course, Bronco Scholars, is designed for incoming high school students who were accepted to the university and need extra support in areas such as English and especially math. The fully residential program provides students with necessary courses, mentoring and academic coaching as well as supplies like

books, calculators and computers, all free of charge.

Upon college acceptance, incoming students are placed in education-based categories determine a student's level of necessity for additional help. Those who fall in the fourth category are required to take part in an early start program. Those students also become eligible for

See **CAMINOS**/Page 2

'Biggest book club on campus' spotlights empathy

By ALEXANDER OSORNIO
Staff Writer

As part of the Cal Poly Pomona First Year Experience, the Office of Student Success, Equity and Innovation hosted a webinar with Jamil Zaki, author of "The War for Kindness: Building Empathy in a Fractured World" and an associate professor of psychology at Stanford University on Nov. 16.

"The War for Kindness" was chosen for the fall 2021 Common Read for first-year students. It focuses on the significance of empathy in the modern world as an "engine for kindness." Zaki placed heavy emphasis on the importance of empathy when it comes to the struggles of the modern world, a landscape he characterizes as being designed to make people less empathetic.

"If you wanted to build a system to break human

empathy, you could scarcely do better than we have," he said.

Zaki described the rapid changes brought upon the modern world that have made empathy harder to come by, such as humans living farther apart from each other and interactions being "thinned out, transactional and anonymous."

These barriers to empathy were made especially prevalent to

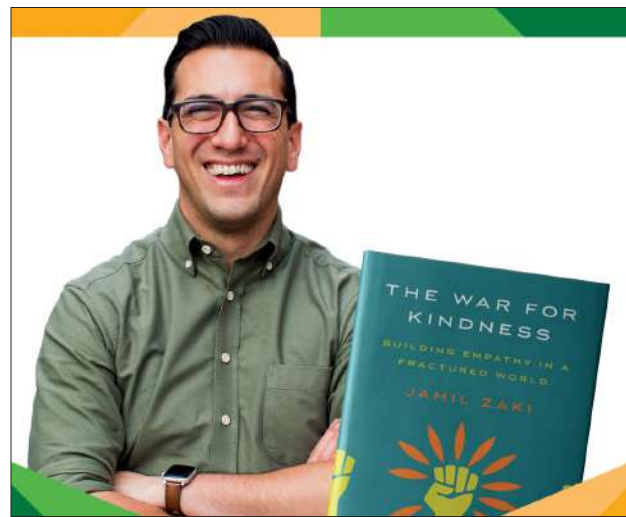
the campus community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alejandro Salinas, a political science student, mentioned that Cal Poly Pomona's move to virtual instruction made him lack empathy due to reduced interaction with his peers.

A major theme Zaki conveyed was the notion that empathy was a skill to be improved rather than a trait one is born with.

He described

See **READ**/Page 3



COURTESY OF DORA LEE

NEWS

Page 2

Philosophy event
sparks discussion

A&E

Page 4

Baskets of joy abound
at picnic event

OPINION

Page 6

Injustice system
serves white men

SPORTS

Page 7

Men's soccer secures
path to NCAA play

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WINTER INTERSESSION REGISTER BY DECEMBER 2

Classes begin December 18 and Jan 4 | 2 and 4-week sessions available

World Philosophy Day virtual events spark discussion

By JANEAN SORRELL
Staff Writer

Cal Poly Pomona’s Philosophy Department hosted its sixth-annual World Philosophy Day celebration on Nov. 18 via Zoom, bringing together students, faculty and alumni for an event that sparked discussions about the important role philosophy plays in everyday life.

World Philosophy Day was created in 2005 by UNESCO, striving to promote an international culture of philosophical debate that respects human dignity and diversity. Cal Poly Pomona’s virtual event featured alumni and faculty panels, student discussions, a demonstration of the Ethics Bowl, as well as dissertation and research presentations from alumni and faculty.

“I really appreciated the alumni panel because there were several panelists that helped me,” said Emily Reyes, a philosophy student. “They helped me figure out where certain programs are offered through LA

County.” Reyes said the panel was helpful for her to figure out what to do after college. Knowing she wants to do something in law, it was beneficial to hear about career opportunities that are available for her right after graduation.

The alumni panelists discussed their careers and academic journeys as well as how philosophy has impacted their lives.

“I was a student before, but now I’m coming back as an alumnus,” said Jacob Diaz (’19, philosophy), a CPP student conduct coordinator prior to the event. “So, I get to see a different perspective, being on stage and giving advice to the future generation of philosophers, which is always a great thing.”

According to Diaz, one of the benefits for students who participate in these events is to hear about professors’ research and from other classmates, who are star pupils in the department, and what they are currently working on.

Mia Miller, a philosophy student and executive editor of the Undergraduate Journal of Ethics, Policy and Social Justice discussed with the group why she decided to start the journal. Miller highlighted that the department and its faculty are incredibly supportive of students,

encouraging them to strive for their goals.

At the event, attendees were able to watch an Ethics Bowl demonstration, a team-based competition where students analyze contemporary ethical controversies and defend their stances.

“In the Ethics Bowl, the goal is to have a strong position,” explained Corwin Aragon, an associate professor in the Philosophy Department. “It’s more like a critical collaboration with attempts at building each other’s cases.”

The competition is hosted

by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics and it is meant to encourage students to think about ethical issues collaboratively and in a non-adversarial manner.

Unlike a debate, the Ethics Bowl is designed to foster conversation by presenting, defending and exploring different viewpoints.

Christine Wieseler, as assistant professor in the Philosophy Department, who specializes in biomedical ethics and feminist philosophy gave a presentation about anti-fat bias in medicine.

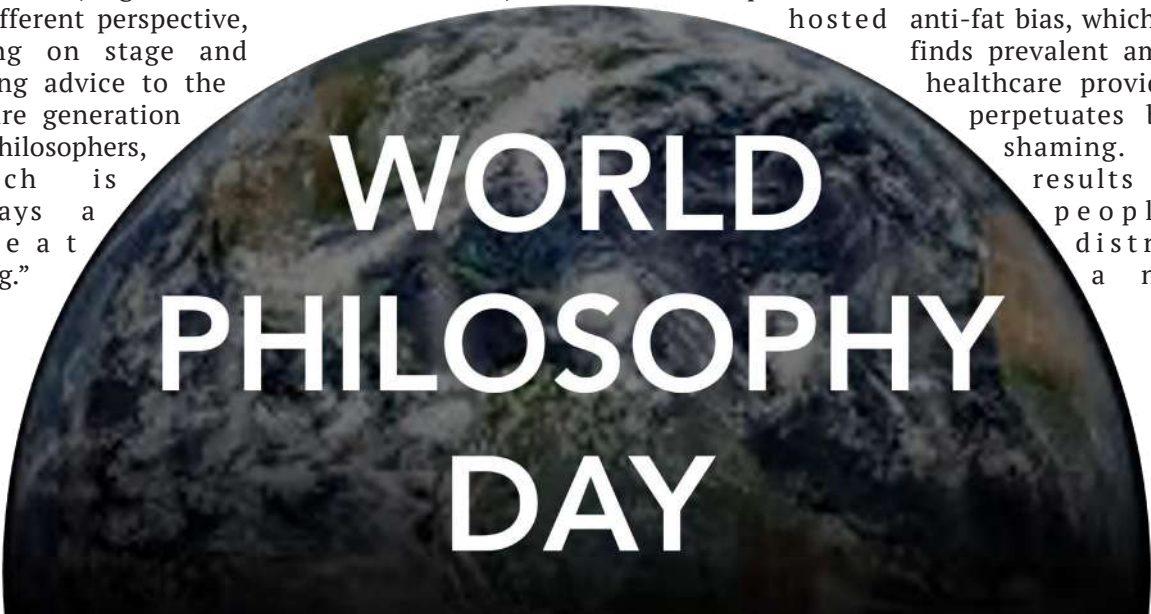
Wieseler shared that anti-fat bias, which she finds prevalent among healthcare providers, perpetuates body shaming. This results in people’s distrust and

misdiagnoses, promoting risky practices such as extreme dieting and bariatric surgeries.

“I can’t get over that presentation from Dr. Wieseler because I thought it was super important. It’s like that whole idea that education can be healing, there’s a holistic approach to education,” said Reyes. “After listening to some of these talks and conversations today, makes me realize how philosophy helps us navigate through the world and figuring out how we should respond to tough topics that are hard to talk about.”

The event ended with a faculty Q&A where students and alumni could ask the panel what they thought about philosophy, thoughts about pursuing higher education, the job market and advice for grad school.

“World Philosophy Day is a really good way to put students in touch with faculty and alumni and just come together and sort of celebrate CPP philosophy,” said Aragon.



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CLIMATE: Campus community prepares for extreme heat, wildfire dangers

Continued from Page 1
is probably the most dangerous time (range),” said Lake.

The university’s landscapers are also provided safety gear such as straw hats, tinted safety glasses for UV protection, pop-up tents to provide shade and long-sleeve shirts which are beneficial to prevent sunburn. The team must also undergo yearly training for sun exposure.

According to James Blair, assistant professor in the Department of Geography and Anthropology, another reason why the Pomona basin is vulnerable to extreme heat is because of its geography.

“It’s in the valley, high up, toward the mountains. It’s just in an area that is far enough away from the coast that the heat just gets trapped in just like the air quality, all that smoke gets trapped in and all the other air pollutants,” explained Blair.

With the risk of heat also comes an increased risk of fire.

Kent explained that California’s landscape is unique and has a well-documented history of wildfires; however, increasing temperatures and drought leads to the deterioration of the

natural environment.

Maintaining the control of fires leads to an increase of intensity due to combat-control methods, which serve as routine and operational guidelines that help incident commanders, such as firefighters, operate within numerous, all-hazard emergency situations.

CPP Landscaping Services has executed considerable work over the last two years around campus to keep it safe, removing debris and trees that can ignite easily with excessive heat.

“We’ve come a long way,” said Lake. “Previously we used to only maintain a 30-foot firebreak between the campus property and homeowner properties of the residents of Walnut, now we do much more.”

According to the report, LA County’s wildfire burn areas may increase up to 40% within the next 15 to 40 years, putting more than 1 million homes in danger. Additionally, smoke from the fires will affect residents across LA County and jeopardize energy assets and water quality for all its residents.

The report indicates these events create ripple effects with, “cascading social, political and economic

consequences.” Events such as power outages and relocations disrupt critical social networks for residents, businesses and the operations and services of other critical infrastructure and in turn, “exacerbate the region’s existing housing affordability and availability issues.”

Guillermo Nila Torres, the ASI officer of sustainability and transportation, familiarized himself with the report and reflected on the communities around him. He stated that ASI initiatives such as the Class Pass and Children’s Center are currently addressing the concerns outlined in the report.

“More down the line addressing climate change issues, we are making more initiatives to see how we as a campus and as a community can combat this long term,” said Torres. “We do have an Office of Sustainability and they’re always looking into what we can do with our facilities at Cal Poly and how students can become empowered to become advocates for addressing climate change.”

Reach Janean and Emily at managing@thepolypost.com

CAMINOS: Program seeks to expand students served by 25% annually

Continued from Page 1
Bronco Scholars. Prior to Project CAMINOS, those students were required to take up to three non-credit bearing math or English courses to catch up.

“It was a huge barrier toward making progress toward their degree and also psychologically,” said Associate Provost for Student Success, Equity, and Innovation Terri Gomez. “It was like they were being told they are good enough to be accepted to campus but not good enough to receive credit for their courses.”

After what Gomez described as a “bold move,” the CSU system removed the remediation classes across all 23 campuses. Shortly thereafter, the Office of Student Success, Equity and Innovation applied and received a \$3 million Title IV grant for Project CAMINOS, with a goal of increasing the number of students served each year by 25%.

“Ever since we got the funding, we hit the ground running trying to get every component of the program situated,” explained Project Coordinator for Project CAMINOS Cynthia Avina-Tejeda. “The first component is the outreach portion, the second is the transition of students into their first year and the third component is the professional development of the instructors.”

The first step in the trifold plan is hosting outreach workshops in local high schools within the Pomona Unified and Chaffey Unified school districts, as well as local community colleges, to attract and inform potential students of the resources available. Project CAMINOS also offers financial literacy workshops for the parents of the Bronco Scholars.

The second component comes after the student has been accepted into the university. If eligible, the student can take the necessary classes on their

own accord or become a part of Bronco Scholars. Though the program only takes place during a limited period, the resources and support remain available for the duration of the first year.

The third aspect is working with the faculty who will teach the courses and hosting professional development workshops. The courses touch upon topics on equity mindedness, race consciousness and how to design the courses.

“It really helps the instructors improve their teaching and better understanding the students that they have and how to better support them,” said Gomez. “If you want to change the trajectory of what’s happening with high failure rate courses, you have to work with the students and with the faculty.”

Prior to the Bronco Scholars program, the early start college level courses such as algebra and statistics saw high failure rates of 30%. Even while working virtually through a pandemic, the program saw an 8% failure rate in the courses, according to Gomez.

While Bronco Scholars has seen positive trends with its students, for Avina-Tejeda the greatest benefit is the accessibility to resources.

“The goal is for students to have a really smooth transition into college,” said Avina-Tejeda. “Most

of the students are first-generation students who are having to navigate this without much help from parents. It really gives the students a head start with the end goal being graduation.”

For Alejandra Arevalo, a Project CAMINOS student assistant, the program is more than just a service offered to students as it aims to teach students crucial information surrounding the Cal State application process, financial aid and proper tools for the college experience.

“A lot of high school students hear this a lot from their teachers and it’s that when you graduate high school, and you move on to college, nobody’s going to be there to hold your hand and walk you through it,” said Arevalo. “However, there are so many resources that we offer at CPP, and one of those is Project CAMINOS.”

With three more fully funded summers ahead, the Project CAMINOS team hopes to demonstrate the benefit this program continues to bring.

“I think if we can show the success of the program over the next three years in particular, we can go back to the university and say this is worth the investment and deserves to be funded permanently,” said Gomez.

Reach Cecilia Leyva at managing@thepolypost.com



Students participate in CSU Application Assistance Event.

RENT: Predictions come as 44% of local tenants are rent burdened

Continued from Page 1

As workers begin to transition to work from home, residents are beginning to move outwards of central business districts, such as downtown Los Angeles.

The report attributes business shutdowns due to an unwillingness to pay premium rent as a top reason for the large-scale tenant migration from cities to suburbs.

Orlando believes there is a possibility the trend may fluctuate as vacancy rates in central business districts regain popularity. As rents sharply increase, the tipping point of rent crises build for many years until the public notices.

Suburban areas, such as the neighborhoods surrounding Cal Poly Pomona, make it increasingly difficult for students to find temporary housing during the academic year due to newly permanent residents who have migrated from downtown areas.

Low mortgage rates fell from 4% to 2.5% in March 2020, which made home owning in the suburbs appealing relative to renting in the city. Since then, the report states suburban and central city apartments were competing with the owner-occupied housing market.

To pay a higher rent means less pay for other essential basic needs.

The predicted increases come as every submarket in Los Angeles and the Inland Empire has 44% or more of tenants who spend more than 30% of household income on rent.

Andre Mai, a civil



SHARON WU | THE POLY POST

engineering student, and his roommates pay a total of \$3,800 for a four-bedroom house seven minutes from Cal Poly Pomona. Mai individually pays \$850 plus utilities for off-campus housing.

“We need more housing not just built in downtown LA, but in the wealthier and traditionally exclusion areas and neighborhoods that have historically tried to prevent housing constructions in their communities.”

-Brady Collins

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science

we weren’t going to find housing for a while. I just kept on searching and luckily we called the property manager for the house we have now. It was all that was available,” Mai said.

Over the past 30 years, Southern California has made it increasingly hard to build housing due to the topography, government regulations and the

density of buildings and population.

Creating more housing units leads to a change in community and people want to solve the problem — but not in their own neighborhood, according to Orlando. Often associated with the term not in my backyard,

in the Department of Political Science, explained housing crises are regional, yet there is only a limited amount of oversight a city can regulate until the private sector becomes involved. Businesses decide what and how many units to build while the local

to the 50 states and municipalities in order to help address the housing crisis. It takes a lot of different stakeholders to make an impact.”

Units for rent are not stabilized, therefore residents are more vulnerable to housing crises and susceptible

in Los Angeles County who still owe back rent as they faced economic insecurity. As the tenant protection is about to expire, many residents are predicted to be pushed into homelessness.

Brian Lee, a computer science student, has lived in Koreatown with his mother and noticed the increase of rent over the past seven years. Since moving to off-campus housing, Lee has been aware of housing insecurities located in high-traffic Los Angeles business districts.

“It’s been a gradual increase,” said Lee. “They just send a notice. When I was living there it raised \$100 to \$200 more during COVID.”

Measure JJJ in Los Angeles was put in place in 2016 for private businesses owners to build infrastructure for populations close to public transit. But, according to experts, lack of affordable housing is still critical to address housing insecurity and could create an eviction crisis. New construction in areas of business tend to be expensive units of luxury, which most renters cannot afford.

“We need more, and we need more diversity in the geography,” said Collins. “We need more housing not just built in downtown LA, but in the wealthier and traditionally exclusion areas and neighborhoods that have historically tried to prevent housing constructions in their communities.”

Find Emily Frisan on Twitter @emily_frisan

READ: Nominations for next year’s book open until February 2022

Continued from Page 1

the importance of maintaining one’s level of empathy “like a muscle.”

Salinas took this message to heart.

“Like intelligence and athleticism, it’s fluid,” Salinas said. “You can work on it and get better at it.”

As someone who had already read the book, Salinas also noted the significance of empathy in areas outside of academics or work life.

“I see it more like a self-help book that you can apply to yourself and other people if they need help,” he added.

Zaki also took an empirical approach to his discussion by noting research conducted on empathy, including his own. Findings demonstrate how measures of empathy have decreased over the years as well as the concrete benefits empathy can have. One study cited had psychologists say statements to participants, such as “I try to look at everyone’s side of a disagreement before I make a decision,” and ask how accurately it describes them. These responses were used to give each participant an “empathy score” from one to five. This study was first developed in the 1970s and was conducted on American college students.

Results showed that participants scored an average of four out of five

in 1979. This dropped to a three out of five in 2009.

This distinction was noticed by Laurie Starkey, a professor in the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department, who was previously unfamiliar with Zaki’s work, but still felt that the topic was relevant to any field.

“I think empathy is so important and I can’t even imagine anything that’s more important when it comes to human relations,” Starkey said.

She noticed the distinction Zaki made in his presentation by presenting research on the topic of empathy, particularly with how empathy is a skill and not a trait. She added that this was something that should be implemented in other forms of education such as K-6 curricula.

“There is science to back up any rationale you have for why it would be great to introduce a curriculum or try to encourage it in others,” she said.

However, Starkey remarked on the importance of empathy education not only being accessible by those who are already empathetic, but also by those who need it the most, such as those in disadvantaged communities and those who are more isolated from society.

“Empathy is something you build from human connections, so if you cut off the human connections, then it’s

much harder to reach that empathetic state,” she said.

Dora Lee, director for Academic Support and Learning Services, helped organize the Common Read and is part of the First Year Experience committee which chooses books for the Common Read every semester. Every year, a book is nominated by the committee and vetted through faculty that teach first year experience courses.

This particular book was nominated by committee member Jessica O. Perez, a professor from the College of Engineering. She chose the book due to the significance it had to first-year engineering students when creating things that respond to societal needs.

Like past books chosen for the Common Read, Lee felt this book and event was an opportunity for campus community members to engage with each other around a common topic, particularly with issues relevant to the campus community.

Lee encourages students to contribute to the nomination process by submitting books to the committee for consideration.

Nominations will remain open until Feb. 1. Information can be found on the Office of Student Success, Equity and Innovation’s website.

Find Alexander Osornio on Twitter @alexosornio98

WINTER | 22

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Cal Poly Pomona alumnus sprouts new products for company Flipped Dimension

By MARIA FLORES
Staff Writer

Alumnus Christian Nunez ('21, plant science) expanded his Cal Poly Pomona inspired merchandise through his business known as Flipped Dimension over the fall semester with a handful of unique items for the community to enjoy.

With over 40 sticker designs inspired by Billy Bronco, his popular CLA Building keychain inspired by Antione Predock's historic landmark and Japanese-inspired embroidered tags, Nunez revealed his latest products and upcoming projects for the CPP community.

He launched his first organic cotton tote bag with a yellow handle and cross shoulder strap, printed with a graphic design of an inspired Billy Bronco fishing in the Japanese garden. With only 100 tote bags in stock at the time, he was astonished that they sold out in two days.

As of Nov. 20, Nunez has had 1,221 sales on Etsy including his vinyl stickers, cotton tote bags, Japanese tags, CLA Building keychains, face masks and CPP matte posters. However, Nunez explained that the process to develop the tote bags was challenging.

"Because of the whole pandemic, shipping from China is very expensive. The first launch was 100 pieces, and we couldn't do more only because of how much capital we had," said Nunez. "I was trying to look for tote bags of the same or higher quality in the U.S., but there weren't any of the ones I was looking for."

With limited inventory of the cotton tote bags, Nunez continues to research manufacturers in the U.S. to produce a faster amount of tote bags and maintain the quality of tote bags. In the meantime, he has increased his inventory to 150 tote bags and will receive the new shipment by the end of November.

Despite setbacks, Nunez continues to seek new ideas to allow CPP students to feel represented through his products. For each product he puts out, he hopes to gain a bigger investment to spend on



Nunez, owner of Flipped Dimension, showcases the CLA Building model with the upcoming bronco statue.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTIAN NUNEZ



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTIAN NUNEZ

The Flipped Dimension organic tote bag, as pictured above.

future products such as iron-on patches, beanies, bronco Starbucks inspired cups, stuffed animal keychains and a bronco statue.

Similar to his vinyl bronco stickers that represent the CPP student's major, Nunez will release nine iron-on patches that will say "College of..." on each of them. He hopes students

will wear them with the option of his green, yellow or black beanies or CPP's Bronco Bookstore "College of..." hoodies.

According to Nunez, creating "physical representation of each student's major brings a lot of sentimental value for people." He enjoys seeing CPP students and alumni's faces brighten when they see their major



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTIAN NUNEZ

A Flipped Dimension pin, inspired by Billy Bronco, as pictured above.



MARIA FLORES | THE POLY POST

Evan Kong, mechanical engineering student, purchases an item.

represented through his stickers.

According to Kaylee Bacani, nutrition student and vice president of the foods and nutrition forums, she did not see her major portrayed through his stickers. Thus, she reached out to Nunez to develop a sticker for her club.

"It is going to be the little bronco with a

little white coat, and he (Nunez) will incorporate the MyPlate into it on a little pin," said Bacani. "Also, there's a little name tag that says 'food expert,' and we are thinking of adding a book with the Krebs' cycle." MyPlate is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's nutrition guide that consists of fruits, grains, vegetables, protein and dairy.

In previous coverage, Nunez shared one of his first projects that included the 3D model of the CLA Building, a keychain and a pencil holder.

Currently, he is working on developing a replica of the bronco statue located near the residential suites. His test model can be found on Robert Tolone's, a youtuber and mold maker, YouTube videos.

"My friend and I both went out and took 1,000 pictures of the bronco horse. We put them into a software called Photogrammetry to make a 3D model and then I sent it out to a (Robert Tolone) out of state that had a resin printer," said Nunez. "I'm hoping that goes to plan. If the model doesn't end up working, I can use different materials for it or buy a resin printer."

Nunez seeks new products to add to his business frequently and compared his company Flipped Dimensions to a "tree."

"The trunk is the CLA Building and as the tree grows into different branches, they symbolize the different products like stickers. Then that branch deviates into other branches," said Nunez. "So now that I have the Billy sticker design, I use that design to make them into newer designs and newer products."

Biology student Diana Au modeled for Nunez's recent launch on tote bags, and helped behind the scenes with pitching ideas like the Japanese embroidered tag and tote bags.

"I am really proud of how far he has gotten. I remember when I first saw his business it was only stickers and the CLA model, but now he has more products, and a lot of people know about his business. It's just gotten so far," said Au.

Although Nunez graduated as a plant science major, he continues to remain active with the CPP community in hopes of officially becoming licensed to vend on campus.

For updates on Flipped Dimension products, visit Nunez's Instagram account @flippedimension or visit his Etsy account.

Reach Maria Flores at
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ASI's 'Picnic at the Plaza' celebrates friendships and outdoor bonding

By NADIA URBINA
AND SHANNON
HERNANDEZ
Staff Writers

Students had the chance to destress, build friendships and enjoy the outdoors at ASI BEAT's "Picnic at the Plaza" event hosted on Nov. 17 at the University Plaza.

Students lined up half an hour early to check-in for free picnic blankets, a complimentary charcuterie board and a well-shaded spot on the

Old Stable's lawn.

Jocelyn Chung, ASI's event lead student supervisor, said they decided to choose the event theme because of the popularity that picnics gained during the pandemic.

"That was a goal of the event, for students to enjoy themselves and the great outdoors especially with California weather," said Chung.

Options for food included individually packaged vegan and

non-vegan charcuterie boxes which included pretzels, a miniature jar of strawberry jam, fresh berries, dark chocolate, crackers, slices of salami and an assortment of cheese for attendees to munch on.

Attendees involved in the outdoor activities could hear the sounds of the water fountain and enjoy the welcoming atmosphere at Cal Poly Pomona. Pairs of students and groups of friends laughed and

engaged in conversation while creating paracord friendship bracelets with materials provided by ASI. Sociology student Arisbeb Campos attended the event in hopes of having fun before the holidays and finals begin.

"I was looking at my Outlook email and I found out about the event through there. Lately, I've been feeling stressed and overwhelmed with midterms and finals, so I saw this event as an opportunity to relax and

give myself a break," said Campos.

The event included an affirmation board to help students feel relaxed and safe. Students were able to write encouraging affirmations related to mental health and getting through finals with an assortment of markers and paper shaped like fall leaves.

ASI student activities assistant Tanish Ramisetty, who worked on the set up for the event, stated that they had

the intention of having food and activities that everyone could enjoy.

"Inclusivity and diversity is a big factor at Cal Poly. With everything we do, we try to keep others in mind," said Ramisetty.

For "Picnic at the Plaza," the RSVP limit was 100 people, with a maximum capacity of 200 which included staff members.

The atmosphere was filled with laughter as friends cozied up on the

See PICNIC/Page 5

ASI raises awareness for hunger and homelessness

By **GUSTAVO CASTILLO**
Staff Writer

As the holidays begin to approach, Cal Poly Pomona Basic Needs Task Force wanted to reiterate that now is an important time to give attention to students in need who may be facing food insecurity or homelessness with Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

A weeklong event was held for Hunger and Homelessness Awareness with workshops from Nov. 13-21, designed to educate the public on struggles students are facing and how to help.

In a Basic Needs Initiative 2018 Report, 41.6% of students reported food insecurity and 10.9% reported homelessness in comparison to CPP's 35.9% food insecurity population as well as its 14.9% homelessness data according to Crutchfield & Maguire.

"The goal is to use the skills and information you learned to better serve students struggling," stated Cheryl Love, career counselor in charge of the Clothes Closet Stipend Program.

According to the Journal of Nutrition and Food Sciences, the

reported food insecurity for yoWung adult students is alarmingly higher than national reported data for U.S. households.

Judy Crawford, basic needs chair coordinator and care services coordinator, added, "It's a real issue that people don't pay attention to because it isn't directly affecting them. It's a responsibility that should be spread across campus so that faculty and staff know where resources are for students in need."

With 49 participants at the Basic Needs Ally Training Zoom session, students and staff were introduced to ways in which individuals can help themselves or others to achieve Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs: self-actualization, esteem, love and belonging, safety needs and physiological needs, in order to succeed in school.

Students and staff were given tips on empathy, reflective listening and attending behavior as well as being aware that cultural sensitivity, relativism and humility all play a part in understanding each unique individual student's needs. The workshops also focused on being sensitive due



GUSTAVO CASTILLO | THE POLY POST
Students fill Bronco Home kits with home goods and personal essentials.

to personal identities that may be considered privileged. For example, being aware of a straight cis-gendered man's advantages relative to a non-binary person of color.

On Nov. 16, ASI hosted a Basic Needs Resource Fair that was hosted by all campus resources such as the Poly Pantry, CalFresh Outreach Program, Broncos Care Basic Needs Program and many more. Broncos

were able to write letters to government leaders in support of advocacy efforts for students facing basic needs insecurity. Attendees could also be involved in a volunteer service project which allowed students to create a Bronco Welcome Home Kit. Each Bronco Home kit was custom made alongside an envelope inside with words of encouragement provided by fellow students. Each kit included living

essentials such as home goods, clothing and menstrual products.

Paige Jodoin, mechanical engineering student, was one of the volunteers who assembled two Bronco Home kits.

"I have a part time job where I help people with affordable housing," said Jodoin. "I wanted to volunteer at this event because I enjoy helping out the Bronco Community."

Both students and staff were found intertwining in the front of the BSC gathering information and receiving raffle prizes.

Kenya Rampersant, senior coordinator for Health Promotion and Wellness Services, expressed a similar ideology. "This is one of the things I love to do. It's for students that need any type of help, whether that be education in nutrition or rapid housing," she said.

On Wednesday, the program encouraged students to watch Netflix's limited series "Maid," and have an open discussion with the Counseling and Psychological Services, or CAPS, Survivor Advocacy Services and the Parenting Student Support Services.

"Maid" follows a young woman and daughter

desperately in need of housing while leaving an abusive household with unsupportive parents; it stars Margaret Qualley, Andie MacDowell and Nick Robinson. This series brings realism in the form of entertainment with a story students can relate to.

During the week, a panel of CPP students and staff shared personal stories on how they navigated through student hunger and homelessness.

Lastly on Nov. 19, the Multipurpose room hosted an event that strengthened students' knowledge by providing tips on how to create a healthy family meal while engaging in conversation and creating a healthy budget-friendly snack together.

For students interested in helping fellow Broncos in need, they can visit the Basic Needs 2021 Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week page where individuals can donate items to the Poly Pantry, or to Feed A Bronco by donating unused swipes or participate in a Basic Needs Survey.

Visit Basic Needs for all other services or follow Basic Needs on Instagram.

Find Gustavo Castillo on Twitter @guscopp1

PICNIC: Baskets of joy abound at ASI's picnic event at University Plaza



NADIA URBINA | THE POLY POST
Enixe Aguilar (left), Vanessa Amador (middle) and Thalia Aguilar (right) enjoy complimentary charcuterie boxes.



NADIA URBINA | THE POLY POST
Students seen social distancing and enjoying the fall weather, as pictured above.

Continued from Page 4

complimentary picnic blankets along with other students and participated in competitive lawn games such as corn hole and Jenga.

"I was able to hang out with friends I haven't seen in a while, eat free food and be able to just talk about schoolwork

and how it's been a long semester," said Campos. "This definitely helped me reset and give me a much needed break this afternoon."

Students interested can visit the ASI website for information on future virtual and in-person events.

According to Chung, as

virtual events start coming to an end, ASI plans to have plenty of outdoor events next semester. Although this was the last in-person event for the semester, students are already looking forward to upcoming events in the new year.

Reach Nadia and Shannon at ae@thepolypost.com

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The injustice system and who it really serves

By ALEXANDER OSORNIO
Staff Writer

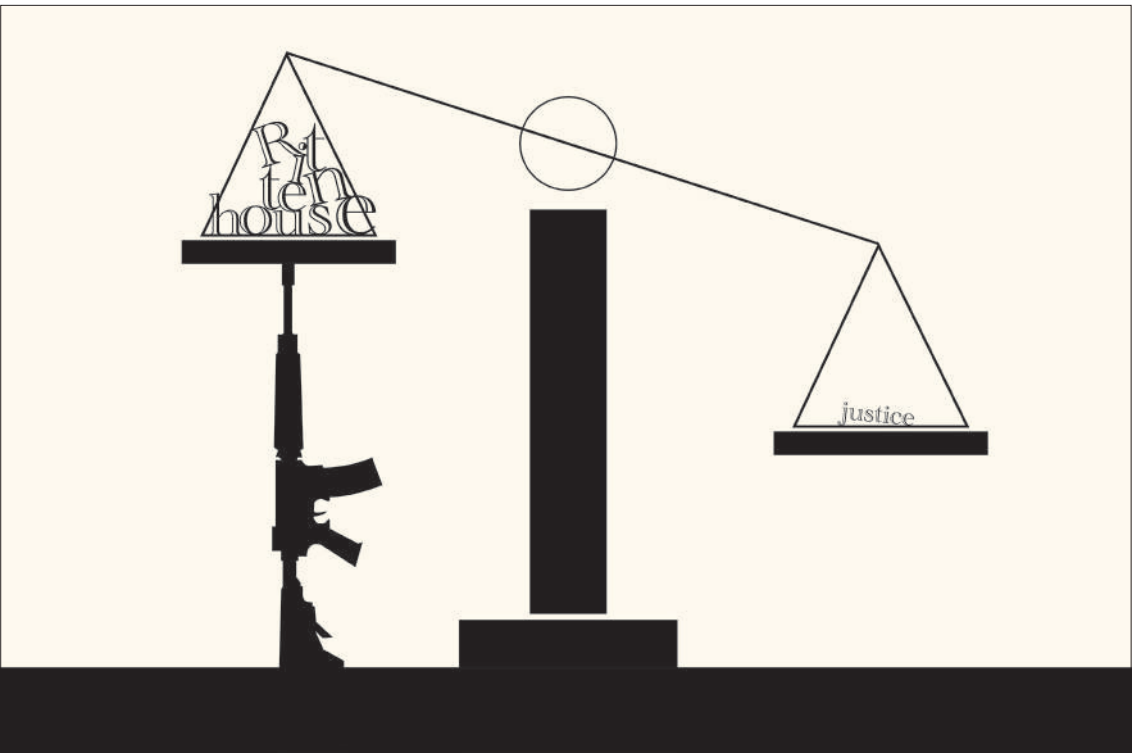
Ever since the death of George Floyd in May 2020, not a moment has gone by without the world’s spotlight on the American justice system, or rather the lack of one. This was the system the country spent last summer protesting and yet is the same one that has failed to uphold justice against someone who was perfectly emblematic of the issue.

Kyle Rittenhouse, an 18-year-old from Illinois, was acquitted of charges of homicide, reckless endangerment and unlawful possession of a firearm after killing two men and injuring one other while trying to defend a business during a demonstration in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Rittenhouse’s defense consistently framed the incident as him acting in self-defense.

The very notion that Rittenhouse acted in self-defense or was simply someone who went to Kenosha, a city he did not live in, with a weapon that he did not have a legal right to carry, is simply preposterous.

Not only did he demonstrably go out of his way to supposedly defend a business, he came in response to a call to action from militia group Kenosha Guard. Every bit of background information shows that he acted in offense rather than defense yet he is going to be allowed to walk away.

But perhaps the biggest



JUSTIN OO | THE POLY POST

punch in the gut is the fact that Rittenhouse will go down with the legacy he wanted in conservative circles. He will go down in history with the same reputation as George Zimmerman, the man who fatally shot Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old Black high school student.

After being acquitted from a murder and manslaughter charge, Zimmerman went on to become a figurehead in conservative circles for his purported act of justice, even going as far as to auction off

the gun he used to kill Martin for over a quarter of a million dollars while disparaging Martin’s parents.

Similarly, Rittenhouse became a brief spokesperson for Black Rifle Coffee Company and had a fundraising website open for him soon after his arrest. This site at one point sold merchandise featuring images of him as the new poster boy against the Black Lives Matter movement.

After seeing countless demonstrations for people of color being killed by police, by hate groups or by a pandemic and seeing how little has been systemically done to improve these conditions, a verdict like this is draining to learn about.

Rittenhouse ended the lives of two people trying to bring attention to police brutality in their city and got away with it while protestors faced potential life sentences for property damage. The disparity in how people on either side of the issue of police brutality are treated by the law

cannot be ignored.

What more should we have expected from this trial? How could anyone have possibly expected justice from the same authorities who actively prevented members of the press from covering responses to their injustice?

The same authorities whose police forces turned a blind eye to the actions of far-right extremists until it became unsafe for them. The same authorities that incited violence at peaceful protests.

The idea that anyone could look at the status quo and act like any of it is acceptable is honestly baffling. It is as if I am looking at everyone say, “two plus two equals five,” and I am the only one seeing that it equals four.

It is unbelievable how anyone could look at the Rittenhouse verdict and act as if the justice system is anything but broken. It proves that any meaningful change that is needed for people to survive will not come at the hands of those in charge.

Whatever happens from here, it should never be forgotten who it was that was allowed to walk free after killing those that fought to bring light to oppression. This dispute was started by authorities violating the rights of the people and it will be up to the latter to make the efforts worth it.

Reach Alexander Osornio
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Do you miss them or are you just lonely?

By BREEZH NUNEZ
Staff Writer

Breakups can be difficult. Stopping a bad habit can be difficult. However, sometimes the harder decisions can be rewarding in the long run. When a relationship ends it can become lonely, especially when you strive to stay single for self-healing rather than jump into a new relationship to easily fill a void.

After a breakup, taking the necessary time you need to reconnect with yourself is vital to the healing process.

It can be easy to fall back into the arms of your ex because the lonely times allow your mind to replay all the good moments both you and your partner shared.

We sometimes



SHARON WU | THE POLY POST

decisions from then on would determine if I was going to move forward or set myself back. I had to break free of what my mind was used to in order

Many times, a person can invest their all in a relationship, but if it is one-sided it will never work out in their favor.

I’ve learned through

however as many times as you choose to stay in the cycle, the problems will most likely reoccur.

People often rely on their partners for happiness, when instead both partners should have personal happiness and share it together. Nevertheless, do remember that not every relationship is perfect.

It takes both time and dedication from both partners. It’s normal to have bumps in the road; It just depends on how both partners handle them.

It is important to remember that you matter. Do not sacrifice your happiness, peace or self-love for someone that does not value you. Investing time in your healing process and growth is never a waste. Give yourself the chance to fall in love again – with yourself!

Do not sacrifice your happiness, peace or self-love for someone that does not value you.

to reshape it and begin my healing process. It seemed that for the first time I truly understood that feeling alone is okay because what’s the point of being with someone if you still feel lonely?

When I felt these feelings rushing over me, I had to take a breath and reflect, as should any who go through this. I had to think about why it ended in the first place and if it would be any different if I returned.

Relationships are supposed to have two partners share mutual love, respect and loyalty. A healthy relationship consists of two partners that each bring in their own happiness and share it together.

my experiences that in order to have a successful partnership, it takes both spouses putting in mutual effort and communication to make it work. After leaving a relationship, many seek out another without taking the time to heal. This can be an unhealthy decision because you are taking all the insecurities, pain and negative perceptions from one relationship to another. It can be possible to spiral into a cycle of unhealthy relationships rather than taking the time to learn and heal yourself so you can gain happiness from within. Unhealthy cycles can consist of constant fighting followed by a short honeymoon phase,

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Letters should run between 250 and 500 words and may be edited for accuracy, clarity, length, style and libel. Cartoons should only be drawn on white paper, not lined paper. All submissions should not exceed 8 by 10 inches and must include the author’s full name, telephone number and other relevant information, such as class standing, major and place of residence.

Visit www.thepolypost.com for more submission details.

Broncos secure path to NCAA play despite latest loss against CSULA

By **MICHAEL YU**
Staff Writer

The CPP men’s soccer team played against Cal State LA on Nov. 14 at the Jesse Owens Field in Los Angeles for the final match of the CCAA championship. The game culminated with the Broncos suffering a 3-1 loss.

Nonetheless, the Broncos earned the opportunity to advance to the NCAA Division II Championship Tournament.

The game kicked off with strong defensive plays from the Broncos, as the CSULA team hardly left its side of the field.

The game was locked in a stalemate for the majority of the first half, with neither team able to score.

As both teams fought to break through each other’s defenses, senior midfielder Eduardo Faria shared his thoughts on how CPP was able to effectively command the field.

“We were able to control the flow of the game really well, especially in the first half where we had a lot more chances to score than them,” said Faria.

However, as the game progressed, the tides turned as CSULA scored its first point in the 24th minute of the first half.

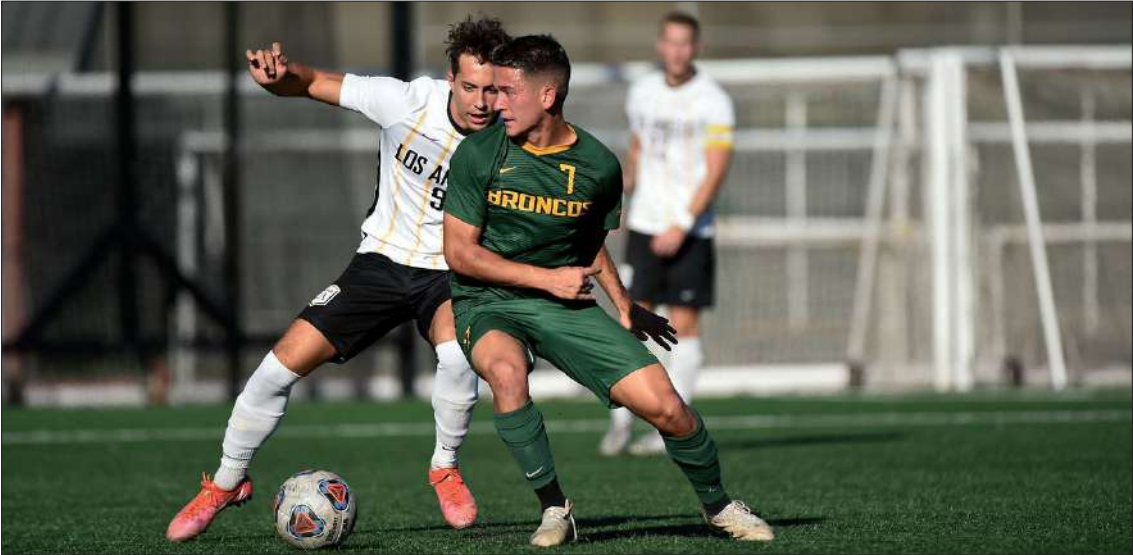
Upon entering the second half of the game, the Golden Eagles were able to score two more goals.

“The game went well for the first 20 minutes, but then they got a counterattack and we gave up a soft goal,” said



Midfielder Ateno Ajeakwa blocks an opponent from reaching the ball.

COURTESY OF ROBERT HUSKEY



Midfielder Eduardo Faria defends the ball from the CSULA team.

COURTESY OF ROBERT HUSKEY

senior goalkeeper and captain Jordan Aldama. “We conceded an easy goal while they gained more momentum and it all

trickled down from there.” Falling behind 3-0, CPP was able to gain momentum and push through CSULA’s

defense as third year forward Jerry Ramirez scored the team’s only goal near the end of the match.

Prior to the match, the Broncos decided to alter their usual game plan by utilizing a different lineup of players.

Aldama shared that the team did this to remain unpredictable after having played against CSULA multiple times this season.

As the team regrouped after the defeat, Head Coach Matthew Sullivan shared his perspective of the games results and the team’s performance.

“It was disappointing that we lost,” said Sullivan. “Even though we started really well and had some good chances in the beginning, we just missed some key moments and weren’t good enough today.”

Cal Poly Pomona now ranks fifth in the NCAA Division II Super Region 4 as of Nov. 17, following the results of the CCAA championship tournament.

The team opened as the No. 7 seed in the Super Region 4 bracket during their first championship game against Biola on Nov. 19.

As the Broncos entered the NCAA championship, they were intent on learning from their mistakes and playing both smarter and harder.

“Right now, it’s do or die; win or go home,” said Aldama. “We have to put all our energy, all our focus and all our desire into these upcoming games.”

To keep up to date on the team’s progress in the NCAA, visit the Bronco Athletics website.

Find Michael Yu on Twitter
@Michaelyu33454

Men’s basketball defeats Westcliff in third game of season

By **NICK VASQUEZ**
Staff Writer

The CPP men’s basketball team now holds a 3-0 overall season score after a 75-52 home win against Westcliff University on Nov. 17.

With a lineup composed of three freshmen, the team is off to a strong start.

Head Coach Greg Kamansky expressed how impressed he is with the team’s performance so far in the season, despite missing two key starters, senior guard BJ Standley and junior center Finn Eckhardt.

“It was a scary thought on paper this year because we have so many young freshmen on this team. We’re putting new guys in new roles and they’re stepping up,” Kamansky said.

The win was fueled by a significant amount of strategic

plays from the Broncos. CPP started the game on an 11-2 run and started the second half on a 16-5 run.

A quick seven points were made by senior guard Phoenix Shackelford and a pair of free throws from freshmen guard Christopher Mitchell.

Freshman forward Dane Erikstrup started the second half off with a pair of field goals to spark a run.

Outside of a couple of slight shifts in momentum for the Westcliff Warriors, the Broncos dominated the ball from the tip off.

Kamansky believes the Warriors’ faltering defense allowed the Broncos more opportunities to score points throughout the game.

“They played hard, give them credit, but they had big guys on defense that couldn’t move very well so we could get

our shot any time we wanted,” said Kamansky.

The Broncos employed their signature attacking style as they took 13 more shots than the Warriors, out-rebounded them 42-31 and turned the ball over 14 times.

Mitchell led the team in scoring, earning 16 points while going 5-11 from the field and 6-8 from the free throw line.

Shackelford followed with 15 points while going 7-12 from the field.

Mitchell shot 2-7 from the field in the first half, yet recovered quickly in the second half with a 3-4 showing from the field.

Mitchell utilized a vigorous, yet calculated approach to the game in the second half.

“Just seeing what they give us and playing off that we get to the short corner with



Forward Dane Erikstrup passes the ball to a team member.

COURTESY OF MIKE FARRELL

our bigs all the time with our second pass in the corner,” said Mitchell.

He noted that the Broncos’ big men were open on the weakside baseline during most of his drives to the basket.

Shackelford started the game on a roll, scoring seven out of the first 11 points for the Broncos.

Shackelford explained how he was able to take advantage of the Warriors defensive miscues early in the game.

“They were sagging a little bit, so I just tried to take advantage as much as I could,” said Shackelford.

Shackelford mentioned sagging in reference to the defense playing off him in fear of him driving to the basket, which meant that he had space to shoot open jump shots.

As the Broncos displayed an increasingly aggressive play strategy throughout the game, they scored five three-pointers

in the second half after going 1-10 in the first half.

They shot 55% from the two-point range. Shackelford commented on this strategy, which was emphasized by Kamansky in his halftime speech.

“In the second half we tried to take good shots, be efficient and stay aggressive,” said Shackelford. “The main focus was to stay aggressive.”

The Broncos start off CCAA play this week with a game at Cal State San Bernardino on Nov. 27.

The CSUSB Coyotes are currently 3-0 as well and the game is shaping up to be an enticing start to league play.

To watch the CPP men’s basketball team compete via livestream, visit the CCAA network website.

Reach Nick Vasquez at
sports@thepolypost.com



Phoenix Shackelford rises up for a two-handed jam early in the second half.

COURTESY OF MIKE FARRELL

Inside the rink: Cal Poly Pomona’s roller hockey club

By **MATEO LOPEZ**
Staff Writer

Among 12 sports clubs on campus, the Cal Poly Pomona Roller Hockey Club is the university’s official hockey team under ASI’s Campus Recreation Sports Club having won two games so far this season.

Established in 2015, the club competes in Division III and IV of the Western Collegiate Roller Hockey League, becoming Division III champions in 2019-2020 under the National Collegiate Roller Hockey Association.

Taylor Paerels, an applied mathematics and statistics 2020 graduate, founded the club in fall 2015 and actively competed as a member of the team until graduating with a master’s degree in statistics.

“We were the first ones to get our foot in the door and say we are the official Cal Poly Pomona Roller Hockey Club,” said Taylor Paerels.

Additionally, Paerels served as the club’s first president, handling scheduling, travel, recruiting and student eligibility.

“It was always in the back of my mind entering college,” said Paerels. “It wasn’t until late sophomore, early junior year, I looked at the league, I’ve seen what goes on and I think I can pull this off,” said Paerels.

Prior to the club’s establishment, another CPP hockey club was formed in 1999 but was not considered an official team under CSU Executive Order 1006, which requires club sports to carry insurance with the university’s Office of Risk Management.

Since 1999, the Broncos have compiled a record of 241 wins, 267 losses and 19 ties, according to the club page. The club was chartered in 2015.

“In my time we were able to have two full

squads, multiple goalies—it was rewarding seeing the people who have been there the entire time I was there with the new players,” said Paerels.

While Paerels may no longer be involved with the administrative aspects of the club, the team remains an integral part of the Paerels family.

John Paerels, Taylor’s father, is a substitute teacher for Rowland Unified School District and currently Head Coach for the CPP Roller Hockey Club. John Paerels began playing roller hockey himself when he was 10 years old and soon after formed a street hockey team with his friends.

As a college student, Paerels played in several hockey teams and was a founder of two hockey clubs at Los Angeles Harbor College and Springfield College in Massachusetts.

“I’ve always loved being involved with teams getting started and everything,” said Paerels.

Paerels has been involved with the club since its founding and assisted with the registration process.

Paerels became further involved with the club after an alumnus withdrew from the head coach position.

“I knew how hard it was when I was in college when you don’t have a coach,” said Paerels. “You’re trying to organize things before the game and then go out to play and it’s too much,” said Paerels. “Even if they had the alumnus, I was willing to help out wherever they needed and see what happens with that.”

In his position for six years now, Paerels recalls his best coaching memory as one of his most recent with the 2021-2022 team.

“Back in 2020 when we won the WCRHL Championship—after five years of work, the team got better each year,” said Paerels, referring to the

Western Collegiate Roller Hockey League.

Paerels will eventually step away from coaching but plans to remain a strong supporter of the team and hopes to be a familiar face for new players to come.

One of the newest members of the team, fourth-year transfer student Stewart Ramirez registered as a member of the club just this year and quickly bonded with the rest of the team.

“It’s a great group of guys, I love them. Everyone just came together. The guys that were here, with all the new guys that came on, they just embraced us and accepted us,” said Ramirez.

Ramirez, raised in a Mexican household, found that many are shocked by his love for hockey.

Ramirez originally played ice hockey since he was a child, garnering his interest from his father.

This year Ramirez traded in his ice skates for rollerblades and noted the differences between ice and floor rinks.

Having played two games as part of the club this season, Ramirez hopes the team continues to grow in the coming years.

“The coaching is great, the practice is great,” said Ramirez. “When you have a good group of guys it makes everything enjoyable,” said Ramirez. “Practice doesn’t feel like work you just have to come out here and have fun and when the game comes around it’s all money.”

The club is open to all CPP students regardless of academic standing. Students who wish to join must be enrolled in nine units and adhere to the club’s individual registration forms and fees.

Find Mateo Lopez on Twitter @Teolopezzz



Coach Paerels and the Broncos hoist the 2020 WCRHL Division III trophy.



The team holds a scrimmage as part of its practice regimen.



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