



The Poly Pulse

SINCE
2025

Cal Poly Pomona's Student Magazine

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QUIZ!
DISCOVER YOUR
**college
match**



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WELCOME, FIRST-GEN STUDENTS!

If you're the first in your family to attend college, we're excited to support you with resources, services, and a welcoming community committed to your success. Getting involved and reaching out for support early can make all the difference in your college journey—you're not alone, and we're here for you!

Bronco Navigators

Through Bronco Navigators, incoming students are matched with current students who share their interests and goals to help them navigate their first year. Mentors show new students the ropes at Cal Poly Pomona, answer their questions, point them to the best campus resources, and share insider tips on how to make the most of their college experience.

www.cpp.edu/navigators

I Am First

I Am First celebrates and supports the first-generation college student community through workshops, resources, and mentoring. We proudly celebrate CPP First-Gen Week in November to recognize and honor the achievements of first-gen students while providing them with tools and support for their continued success.

www.cpp.edu/iamfirst • @iamfirstcpp

Reading, Advising, & Mentoring Program

The Reading, Advising, & Mentoring Program (RAMP), a TRIO Student Support Services program, serves low-income, first-generation college students, and students with disabilities. We provide reading tutorials, supplemental advising, and peer mentoring. RAMP promotes community-building, skill development, academic success and lifelong learning.

www.cpp.edu/ramp • @cppramp

PolyTransfer

PolyTransfer is a comprehensive first-year experience program dedicated to supporting transfer students. The program enhances students' understanding of campus resources and empowers them to achieve their personal, academic, and professional goals. PolyTransfer offers a range of services, including the PolyTransfer Summer Transition Program for incoming students, peer mentorship, and workshops focused on academic and career success. Each October, the program proudly celebrates National Transfer Student Week.

www.cpp.edu/polytransfer • @polytransfer



OFFICE OF STUDENT SUCCESS
Academic Engagement & Success

Learn more about our programs at <https://bit.ly/cpp-aes>



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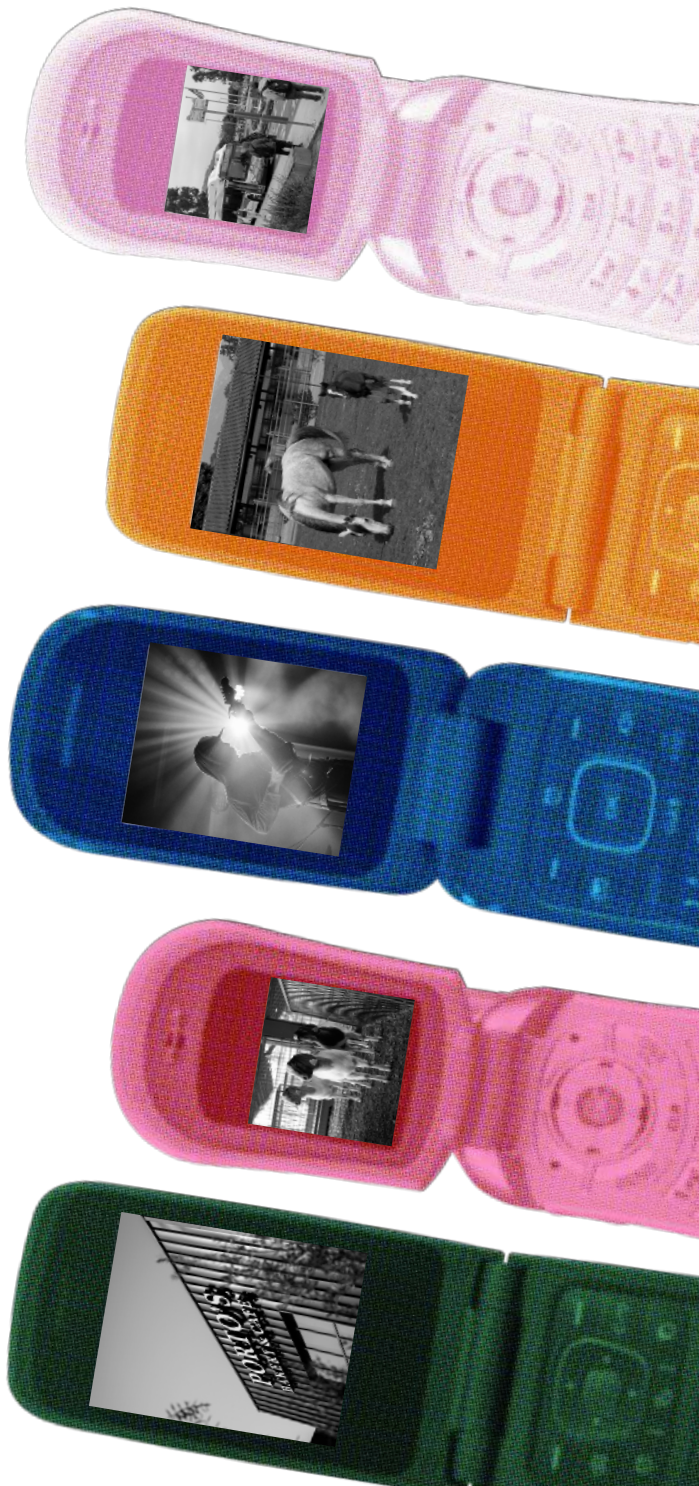
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Letter from the *Editor-in-Chief*

Dear readers,

Welcome to Cal Poly Pomona! We're so excited to have you here. My name is Kristine Pascual, and I'm the editor-in-chief of the very first edition of The Poly Pulse!

Originally known as The Bronco Guide, I felt it was time to go in a different direction. The Poly Pulse is meant to capture the heartbeat of CPP's campus. Giving the magazine a new name was important to our team to strengthen The Poly Pulse's affiliation with The Poly Post and show our readers that this publication is created entirely by students and for students. We wanted it to look and feel more like a magazine with vibrant images, a cohesive theme and to convey to our readers that we're not directly tied to the university.

Growing up, I've always been interested in magazines. I would beg my parents to let me pick up the latest issues of Tiger Beat or Seventeen at the grocery store. My favorite movies always featured a female journalist protagonist, like "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days," while my favorite TV show, "Gilmore Girls," followed Rory's journey to pursuing journalism. While I didn't always know I wanted to pursue a career in journalism, I've always been surrounded by it in one form or another.

I spent many hours scrolling through Pinterest, looking for new ideas. I want to express my gratitude to the talented writers, graphic designers and photographers who worked on this issue with us. And thank you to Dr. Furey, who helped me lead this team every step of the way. The Poly Pulse would not be what it is without their wonderful contributions.

In this issue, you'll find stories from the legendary haunts at CPP, the best rivalry sports games you can't afford to miss and the iconic animals on campus. The CPP community is as diverse as it is vibrant, offering something for everyone. By reading The Poly Pulse, you'll not only discover fascinating insights into campus life, but you'll also find the perfect place for you.

Over the last two semesters, our team has worked endlessly to help bring my vision of the inaugural edition of The Poly Pulse to life. I am so proud of our team, and I hope you enjoy the content and find something that connects with you. While I'm sad to see my time here come to an end, I'm thrilled for the beginning of your journey at CPP.

Best,

Kristine Pascual
Editor-in-Chief



Editor's story picks



ALL YOUR COURSE MATERIALS

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Fresh. Flavorful.
On campus.*



✓ **10+ rotating food stations** —Mongolian grill, sushi, pizza, deli, sweets & more!

✓ **Inclusive eats:** Halal, vegan, vegetarian & 100% nut-free.

✓ **Pop-ups, themed nights, and cultural events** like Lunar New Year & Persian New Year.

✓ **Need support?** Our **in-house dietitian** is here to help!

✓ **Farm fresh:** 35% of our produce comes from CPP's own Spadra Farm!

Location:
Building 72



centerpointedining.com

WELCOME TO CPP...

where **BECOME BY DOING** is *a reality*.

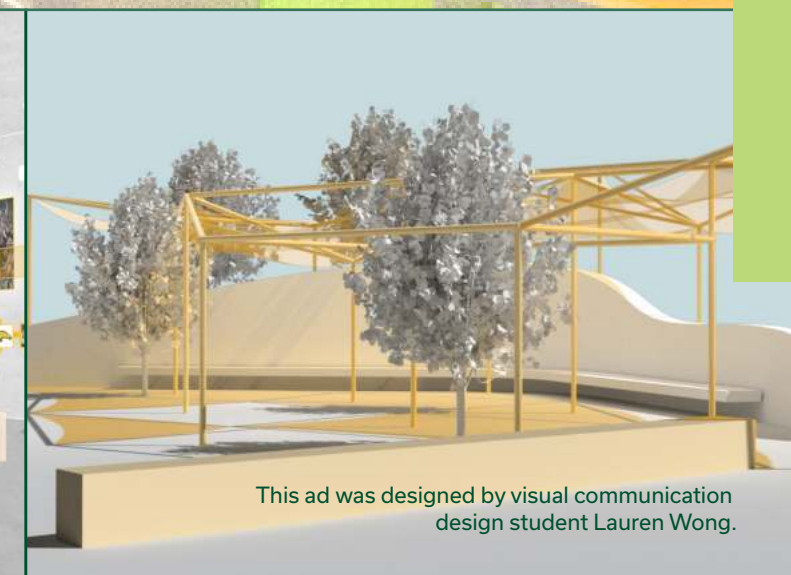
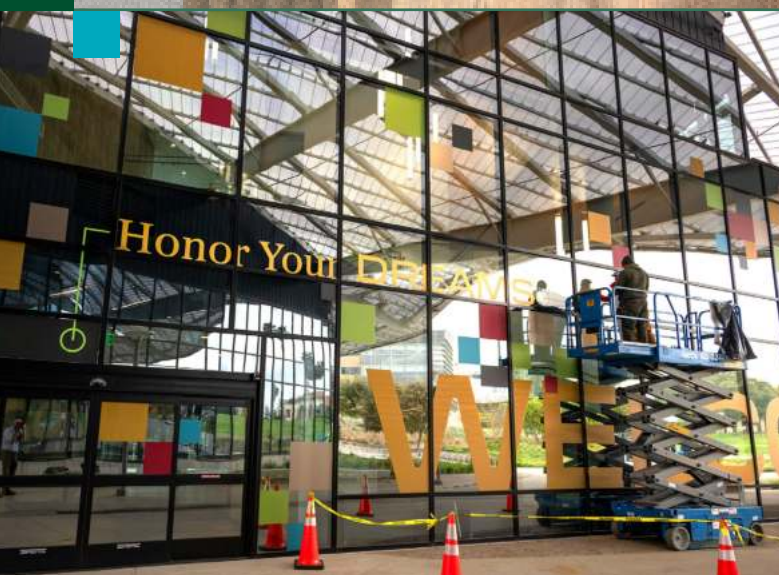
IN CLOCKWISE ORDER FROM TOP:

- (1) A 3D rendering of the newly developed Welcome Center lobby interior.
- (2) A 3D rendering of the planned outdoor canopy by the Welcome Center.
- (3) A 3D rendering of the proposed Welcome Center lobby's information booth and wayfinding.
- (4) A student studies in the SSB.
- (5) The application of the SSB's new rebranded exterior vinyl graphics welcoming guests.

On the first day of school, stop by the new Welcome Center in the Student Services Building to explore Cal Poly Pomona's vibrant student life, learn about campus resources, and discover how to get involved with campus outreach. The space—designed by students and faculty from the College of Environmental Design (including this ad!)—showcases the creativity and collaboration that defines our campus. Interested in joining the team? **Ask about becoming a Bronco Explorer!**



ABOVE: CPP third year architecture students who designed the Welcome Center, in respective order: Figen Costa, Gabby Perez, and Sera Yun.



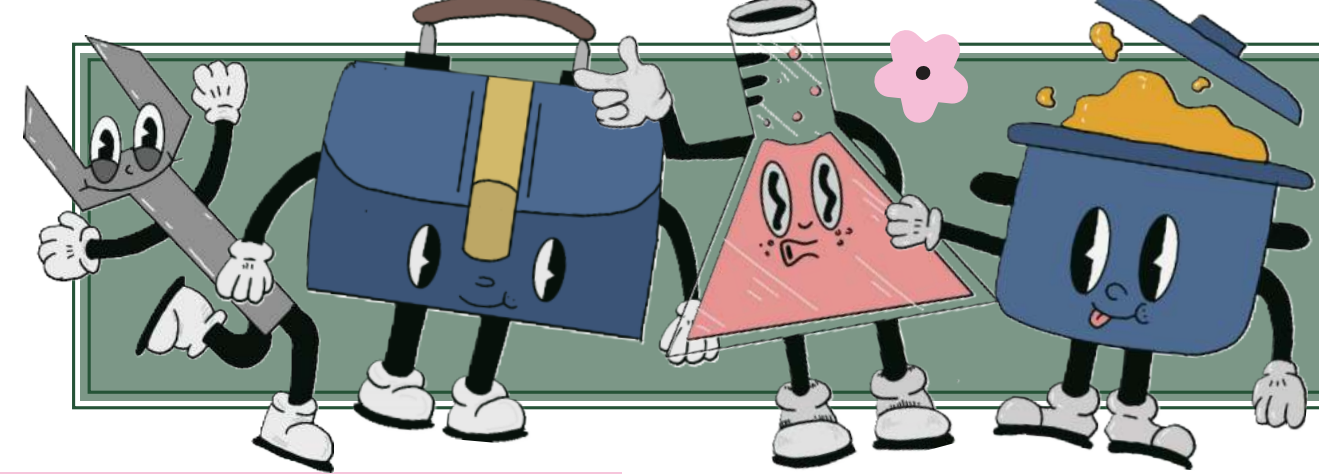
This ad was designed by visual communication design student Lauren Wong.

START HERE

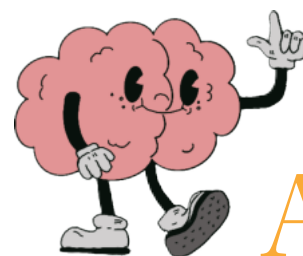
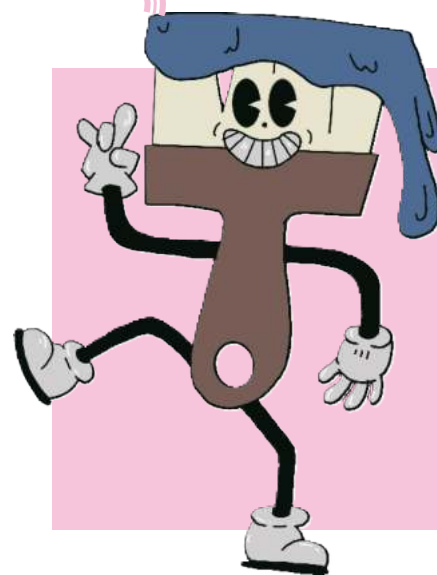


How to find the RIGHT MAJOR

for you
by RAVEENA RAHMAN



“I feel like I found my place at Cal Poly (Pomona) upon switching majors.”
-Diana Menor



A high schooler applying for college often has no clue what they want to do with their lives. One of the hardest decisions a college student has to make is choosing the right major, because it essentially helps students find their career path.

Cal Poly Pomona offers multiple major options through all eight of its colleges for a bachelor's degree. Ashley Duran, an undeclared and exploratory advising coordinator, said there are five steps to declaring a major: do your research, find the requirements, meet with an adviser, apply and then you're in.

According to Duran, students should explore the change of major guide that can be found on the Student Success Central website, and every student, whether they are declaring a major or changing their major, must fill out a change of major form, which can be found on the Registrar's Office webpage.

Pedro Navarro, an interim associate director and Student Success adviser who also works with the undeclared program at CPP, said students must maintain the institutional GPA in their first semester of college when declaring a major. The GPA requirement to get into a specific major varies by each department.

“One of the best things about being an undeclared student is that students get to explore different disciplines,” Navarro said. “They are not pigeonholed into one discipline right from the beginning. They can take different courses to see what interests them. The undeclared program provides them the opportunity to explore these kinds of interests.”

Navarro also explained how the change of major guide allows students to look at required courses before getting into any major. He advises students to either talk to an adviser or the department chair of the major they are trying to get into in order to better understand the prerequisites for that major.

Students must earn a specific grade for certain prerequisites in that prerequisite to count toward the major. The grading style is different for each department.

According to Navarro, undeclared students have to complete at least one semester before declaring a major, but they have until the end of their first year to do so.

Navarro and Duran both described being an undeclared student as a positive because students get the opportunity to explore their interests.

Duran explained the different workshops offered for students who are unsure of what major to do. The undeclared team collaborates with different departments to provide information sessions, where students can learn about majors. These information sessions consist of faculty members, staff and ambassadors who essentially inform students on potential career paths.

Duran encouraged students to take advantage of the available resources CPP offers.

“We are very student-centered,” Duran said. “Our students are not alone through this journey. We are here to support our students and make sure that their curiosity and perseverance does come alive and make sure we are a resource to them.”

The undeclared team also partners with the career center in which students get to speak to a career specialist.

Maria Anzaldo, a retention and graduation specialist in the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences Student Success Center, discussed the benefits of connecting with a specialist like herself.

“The thing I always tell students is to connect with a career specialist,” Anzaldo said. “They can have a conversation about their interests and values, and sometimes they can help them do assessments. I also give students the change of major guide because it can be really helpful to see what prerequisites and requirements they would need to take to switch into a different major.”

Anzaldo further advised students to look at the majors catalog and explore the list to see what piques their interest and to also look at what courses are required for each major.

The list of academic programs on CPP's website provides the list of all degrees and categories that fall under each degree as well as subcategories of the specific majors offered.

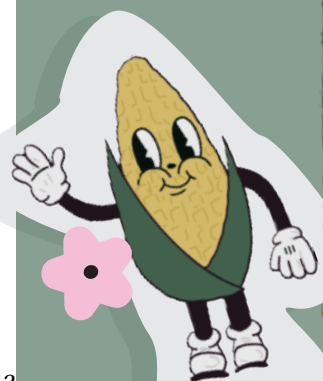
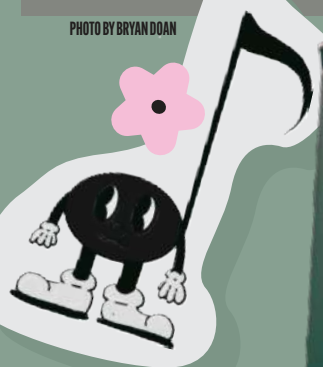
“After recognizing my poor performance in science classes, I made the decision to change majors,” said CPP student Diana Menor. “Despite dedicating myself to studying, I found myself in a relentless cycle of failing or dropping courses. This struggle took a toll on my mental health and led to academic probation.”

But for Menor, switching majors helped improve her entire college experience.

“Not only did the change of major allow me to use my passion for design in my academics, but I have also stumbled upon amazing individuals who not only shared common interests with me, but helped me in terms of growth and expression,” Menor said. “While this major was definitely the right choice for me, it also gave me a positive college experience.”



PHOTO BY BRYAN DOAN



TRANSFER TALK

5 TIPS TO HELP TRANSFER STUDENTS HAVE A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO CPP by RYAN LEON

Transferring from a community college to a university is challenging. The shift can be jarring and overwhelming. The size of the university, the larger amount of people and feeling out of place — all of these play a role in the higher education adjustment.

Faculty and staff play a vital part in making sure transfer students experience the smoothest shift possible from their specific community college or previous institution. Cal Poly Pomona alumni also shared their wisdom of the transfer experience, making the adjustment to a university even easier. **Here are five essential tips for transfer students that can help alleviate the stress of starting someplace new:**

ASK AS MANY QUESTIONS AS YOU CAN

“Closed mouths don’t get fed,” said **Samuel Nieto**, the senior coordinator for transfer and early engagement at CPP. “What’s the worst that can happen when you ask a question? I always ask my students: ‘What can you do to ask more questions? How can you ask more questions, especially for transfer students who might not really have that guidance all the time?’ **Just ask as many questions as you can.**”

Nieto is a former transfer student at CPP who earned a bachelor’s degree in gender ethnicity and multicultural studies. As a student, he worked for the PolyTransfer program in its inaugural year.

Nieto said having experience early on gave him the opportunity to center his attention on transfer students and ponder exactly what they go through when coming to a university.

After his time as a student at CPP, Nieto obtained his master’s degree at Cal State Fullerton in higher educational leadership. When looking for jobs, Nieto knew he wanted to return to CPP and give back to students in some fashion.

“Everybody is on their own journey.”

— Tyler Okamoto

One noteworthy way Nieto did this was by helping a student successfully appeal their denial to CPP. He found students were eligible for an associate degree for transfer and was able to assist them in the transfer process as a result.

FIND A MENTOR

Nieto strongly advised students to look for a mentor during their time at CPP because he never had one himself. He described how the transfer process might have been a lot easier for him if he had a mentor of his own, highlighting the value of seeking mentorship as a result of his lack of guidance.



PHOTOS BY
BREN BELMONTE

“Find a mentor; find someone who has gone through that process so that you don’t feel like you’re going at it alone,” Nieto said.

CONNECT WITH THE UNIVERSITY BEFORE YOU TRANSFER

Having opportunities to connect before transferring is a helpful way to experience a smooth adjustment at the university. **S. Terri Gomez**, the provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, shared a way students can achieve this: attend CPP’s summer academy.

According to the PolyTransfer website, the PolyTransfer Advantage Summer Academy Program is a way for incoming transfer students to begin feeling like they are already a part of CPP through meetings with peers, faculty, staff, resources and assistance with applying to a California State University.

“What we started doing was a summer academy, so when transfers were in their first year or their second year, we were already bringing them to campus,” Gomez said. “They were getting to know the colleges, the associate dean. It became a different kind of community for them.”

Gomez, who has a doctorate in political science, started the PolyTransfer program 10 years ago. She was inspired by UCLA’s transfer program, which helped her feel safe, valued and supported when she was a student there. Gomez said if she ever got a chance to repay in-kind and create a space like that for future transfer students, she would.



PHOTO
COURTESY OF
POLYTRANSFER



BE PROUD OF YOUR JOURNEY

Everyone has their own path to higher education. Some take longer than others, and that’s OK. **No matter where or when that path begins, students need to be proud of themselves for facing their fears and taking a chance on themselves.**

“You’re not just changing your own trajectory; you’re changing the trajectory of your family and your community,” Gomez said. “I think it’s really important to honor your journey. **When you stumble, those are just opportunities to grow.** Know that you’re destined for greatness, and this journey through the four-year

university is just a small part of it. **Honor your journey, because it’s transformational.**”

NEVER FEEL BAD FOR ATTENDING COMMUNITY COLLEGE

There are many people who frown upon going to community college before attending a four-year university. This can be due to a certain level of pride that comes with going to a prestigious university or ignorance. Disregard them.

Attending community college first is a great way to save money, all while learning the same skills and knowledge that costs more at a four-year institution. It’s also a practical way to complete general education courses that carry units over to the university, making it easier to focus on courses specific to your major once you transfer.

“It’s a huge, huge cost-saving mechanism, coming out of college and hopefully not having to pay very much or anything at all for your first two years of education is phenomenal,” said Tyler Okamoto, the learning assistance center coordinator and an English professor at Rio Hondo College.

Okamoto, who has a doctorate in organizational leadership, is a strong advocate for earning college degrees debt-free. As a former transfer student from Rio Hondo College and alumnus of CPP, Okamoto was able to earn each of his college degrees with zero accumulated debt. This isn’t the case for most college graduates, which is why **attending a community college is a good first step toward obtaining a debt-free college education.**

Although never feeling bad for attending community college is the final tip in this story, transfer students

might be feeling nervous about going to a brand-new school. As a past CPP transfer student, Okamoto didn’t feel this way. He was highly motivated to get his degree and start working because of his responsibility and

desire to provide for his family. However, his experience as a transfer student allows him to share wisdom with other transfers.

“**Just be true to who you are and remember that you are on your own journey,**” Okamoto said. “Everybody is on their own journey. You don’t have to be the smartest guy or girl. You don’t have to be the most experienced. Take it at your pace so that you get a valuable learning experience out of the process.”

Think about how difficult it was to get to this moment; embrace that. Let go of feelings of imposter syndrome, doubt, giving up, all of it. **Happiness, excitement and success is on the horizon because of the important decision you made to go to college and change your life.**

“Know that you’re destined for greatness.”

— Terri Gomez

8 Student Parent Resources

by DAMARIZ AREVALO

Offered at CPP

Transferring or being a first-time college student can be overwhelming. It can be more daunting for student parents, who have to get themselves ready for school just as their children.

Student Parents are defined as a student who has a child or children under 18 years of age who receive more than half of their support from that student, according to Parenting Student Support. Here are eight resources Cal Poly Pomona offers to student parents:

Student Parents Priority Registration

Student parents' priority registration allows students to register early for classes before the upcoming semester. A California law AB 2881, which passed July 1, 2023, mandates all student parents receive priority registration within the California State University system.

Student parents can verify their status at the Parenting Student Support website. To sign in, student parents need to sign in with their Bronco ID and password. The application will ask for their name, email and youngest dependent's date of birth. There is also a box to upload acceptable documents including state of California and federal tax forms, birth certificates, court documents and government-issued documents such as CalFresh, TANF and WIC.

CPP CHILDREN'S CENTER

The Children's Center in Building 116, southeast of the Bronco Bookstore, offers preschool child care for children aged 18 months to 5 years old. Child care is offered to students, faculty and staff. Potty training is not required, and children with special needs and disabilities are welcome.

Enrollments are open throughout the year, but most occur during summer. If a child is placed on the waitlist, there is not a definite time of how long the wait will be. Enrollment depends on children aging out or leaving the program rather than first come, first serve.

To begin the process, an interest form must be filled out and turned in by email or in person at the Children's Center. After receiving the form, the child will be placed on a waitlist. The Children's Center will look for a space and once available, the staff will be in contact with the parents to continue the enrollment process.

WOMXN'S RESOURCE CENTER

The Womxn's Resource Center is located in Building 95 across from the Career Center and is a resource for all students. There is a volunteer board, a mini kitchen, sleeping pod, computer lab and services for student parents, according to WRC Assistant Coordinator Dora Lopez.

"We have a little section for parents or even anybody who might just bring their siblings to campus," Lopez said. "We have a little children's corner. It has toys, coloring pages and children's books. We tried to be inclusive in that area because we also know that it might be difficult for parents to be managing academics and child care."



photo by DAMARIZ AREVALO

Celina Robles is a student parent and part of the e-board for the Parenting Broncos Club.



photo by DAMARIZ AREVALO

Yoanna Ruiz Melendez providing information during the Club Fair. The Parenting Broncos Club welcomes all student parents.

PARENTING BRONCOS CLUB

The Parenting Broncos Club is a community of student parents to bond over the challenging situations of understanding the struggles of being a parent, student, work and other responsibilities, according to Stephanie Sanchez, co-chair of the Parenting Broncos Club.

"I highly encourage them to join the Parenting Broncos Club," Navarro-Cruz said. "This club offers an invaluable network of resources, important information and a supportive community that truly understands the unique challenges they are facing."

PBC hosts monthly meetings during the semester and provides support for student parents.

"I discovered the Parenting Broncos Club, and it made a world of difference," said Diana Castillo, a biological science student. "Connecting with other student parents was so uplifting, and I truly wish I had found it sooner. I've made wonderful friends, including Co-President Stephanie Sanchez Blanco, who has been an incredible source of support for both my husband and me. It's been such a relief to find community and share experiences with others in similar situations."

OTHER RESOURCES

Other CPP student parent resources include the Poly Pantry, which offers all students free groceries, CAPS for mental health and the Care Center, which provides help and information about food, housing or financial needs. To stay updated with services, the Parenting Student Support page has more information for student parents.

"Overall, my journey as a student parent on campus has been challenging but also rewarding, and I'm grateful for the support I've found along the way," Castillo said.

CONNECT AND PLAY

Connect and Play meets at the Broncos Family Space, which features different events throughout the semester where student parents can bond with each other. Parents who join Connect and Play receive a free book and are able to engage in activities and conversations.

During the fall 2024 semester Connect and Play had three events about different topics such as parenting resources with a block art activity, time management, card making, managing stress and canvas art.

It is led by Giselle Navarro-Cruz, a professor of early childhood studies, and Denise Urzua, a therapist for counseling and Psychological Services that collaborates with the CPP Parenting Broncos Club.

Navarro-Cruz is a professor and a parent who has used the resources that CPP has to offer.

"It's such a special experience to be able to share this space with other parents, many of whom are also parenting students," Navarro-Cruz said. "We connect over our shared struggles and joys of parenting while our children play and create art together. These moments remind me of the power of community and the importance of having a supportive environment where both parents and children can thrive."

THE BRONCOS FAMILY SPACE

The Broncos Family Space is located on the third floor of the University Library. It is available to students, staff and faculty. It is a safe and designated area for children to play in with toys, books, a mini play kitchen and other children's items.

The family space is used for different student parent events and activities.

There is a men's and women's restroom with a changing table in each nearby the family space.

LACTATION STATIONS

CPP also provides Lactation Stations in several locations around campus for students, staff and faculty. It is a room to express milk in a safe, private and clean space. It is a first come, first serve basis.

A campus map on its website shows where the stations are located, such as a lactation station next to the WRC. To gain access, sign in at the WRC, and they will provide a key pass. There are places to sit, store your belongings and access to plug in your electronic devices, according to CPP Lactation Support.

Go Outside

Top 5 campus nature locations

by REYES NAVARRETE

Among the parking lots, sprawling quads and the hills that make up Cal Poly Pomona are beautiful outdoor areas that are underused.

"I always see people hanging out in their car waiting for class, and I'm like, 'Oh my God. You wouldn't you rather be outside walking around doing something?'" said Edward Bobich a curator at Rain Bird Rainforest Learning Center. **"I mean, let's say you've had a rough day, or let's say it's a Friday afternoon. You just want to take a minute to yourself. You can go to one of these places and just be like, 'Yeah.' I always loved that. My favorite time of the day was the afternoon. I always liked going to places and just sitting down and kind of going, 'I got through this week alive.'"**

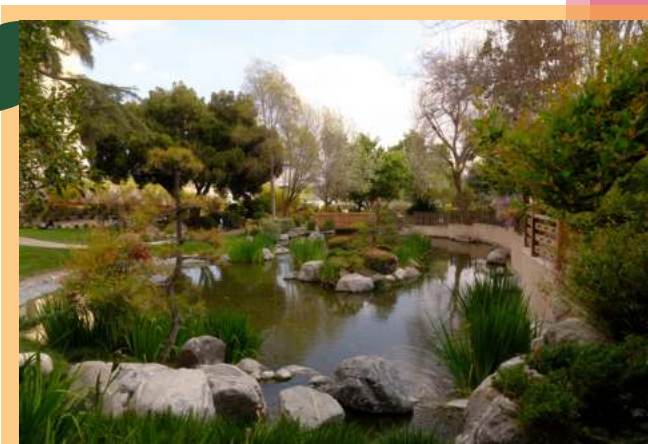
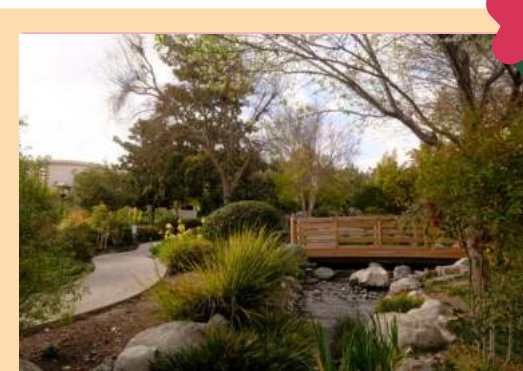
It is well known that W. K. Kellogg, the man behind the famous cereal company, built a ranch on the north end of campus as a winter residence. Previous to the settlers of the land were the indigenous Tongva people who lived in the region, and records of their existence as well as foliage from the age of the dinosaurs are still visible through these historic outdoor spaces on campus. Get out and explore these top five outdoor locations on campus.

Aratani Japanese Garden

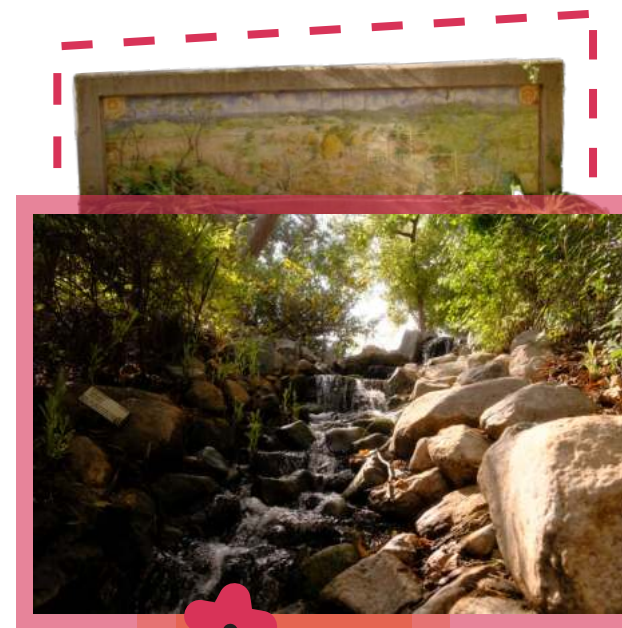
A revered area on campus, the Aratani Japanese Garden is a 1.3-acre garden found next to Building 98, formerly the CLA Building. The garden was donated by George and Sakaye Aratani and designed by Takeo Uesugi, a world-renown landscape architect who taught at CPP for more than 30 years.

Uesugi was a 14th generation Japanese gardener who used the traditions and aesthetic principles of Japanese gardening to design notable gardens, such as the Japanese Garden at the Huntington Library, the Japanese Friendship garden at Balboa Park in San Diego and the James Irving Japanese garden in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo Historic District.

The Aratani Japanese garden has multiple seating areas



to sit and study, an amphitheater and a viewing deck perfect for meeting up with friends. Visitors can take time to sit among the sculpted pine trees, sasa bamboos and zoysia grass while meditating on the tranquility of the running water. At the center of the garden is a natural spring-fed pond with koi fish and turtles that greet those who pass by. The garden is nestled neatly in the backdrop of the campus, providing a unique getaway for time between classes.



PHOTOS BY BRYAN DOAN



Ethnobotany Garden

Ethnobotany is the study of how cultures in a region use native plants, and this garden, which is a natural extension of the Rain Bird Rainforest Learning Center located in Building 8A, is an ode to California native plants, showcasing organisms from all areas of California's geography.

"We have plants ranging from deserts to the rainforests where the giant coastal redwoods live to mountain streams to the Channel Islands," Bobich said. "We have plants from all over almost every corner of this state represented in that botany garden. In fact, I always say pound for pound, we probably have more diversity in that botany garden than any other botany garden I've seen, you know, just based on the space."



The previous curator of Rain Bird Rainforest Learning Center, Michael Brown, began the garden on the roof of Building 8, but soon pushed for a more developed space for students and visitors to occupy. The garden and greenhouse now welcomes all visitors to walk through its distinct ecosystems.

The greenhouse is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the ethnobotany garden is always open. The garden has a stream that begins atop a waterfall and runs through the garden into a pond. There are large rocks at the shore of the pond, where students can easily sit and ponder how the first people of the region lived.

There is also a land acknowledgment of the Tongva people by way of a ceramic tile depicting what a village would look like in the region. At the other end of the garden is a learning circle made up of wood seating. In native fashion, people can gather, have lunch, relax and discover California's biodiversity.

Mesozoic Garden

The Mesozoic Garden is another garden originating from the efforts of the Rain Bird Rainforest Learning Center, and it's inspired by plants from the time of dinosaurs.

Finished in 2013, the garden represents vegetation of the era with modern species related to the plants of the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. It is hard to visualize what Earth would look like from this time, especially since the land mass was different than it is today, but the Mesozoic Garden is a representation of the environment at the time.

There are redwoods, large conifers and a variety of cycads that look like palms but are primitive versions of the plants. According to Bobich, some of the cycads found in the garden produce giant female cones that weigh approximately 15 to 20 pounds, which fall apart once they hit the ground so animals can disperse their seeds.

At the center of the garden is a clearing with large rocks that were scouted by the geology department and are period correct, according to Bobich. The rock seating is positioned in a learning circle, and is a great isolated spot to take in an environment when dinosaurs ruled.



Kellogg Rose Garden

One of the most iconic landmarks on campus, the Kellogg Rose Garden, was built for W. K. Kellogg's wife, Carrie Staines Kellogg. It was designed by landscape architect Charles Gibbs Adams in 1926. Adams, who most notably designed the Hearst Castle garden, planted a unique variety of roses, that had their first bloom 1927.

The Rose Garden is where the college held its first commencement and is now where the wine and tasting event is held during springtime. John Hiatt, a garden specialist and a CPP alumnus, has seen how the Rose Garden has evolved firsthand since he was a freshman in 1978.

According to Hiatt, before there was a white gazebo at the center of the garden, which built as a gift from the class of 1994, there were rose trees. The roses that were originally planted in the garden have been replaced gradually since they were growing old and tired, according to Hiatt. An infestation of chilli thrips also took a toll on the bushes.

Hiatt worked to redesign the garden with a new supply of roses from Weeks Roses, a wholesaler who donated approximately 1,000 bushes to the campus. Hiatt chose to lay out the new roses by color.

Students can find a rose called the "perfect moment," a flower with an orange-red blend that can be seen for at least a week and a half in the red rose section of beds. In the lavender and red rose area, a popular flower called "blue girl" was planted. It's a soft lavender, and according to Hiatt, is one the most fragrant roses in the garden.

The pink and white flower section was planted together with wedding photos in mind. The gazebo is a perfect setting to take wedding and graduation photos. From the point of view of the gazebo, the angle perfectly spans the lawn and Building 98 in the distance.

According to Hiatt, most of the varieties that existed in the garden cannot be found in the United States anymore. Although most of the old variety of roses are hard to come by, original varieties, such as Playboy and Mon Cheri, still survive on the outer edge of the garden.

"One of the things that I really liked about working (in the garden) is, especially in the morning, are the bird songs, because there's always birds in the trees," Hiatt said.

The best time to view the roses are in the spring from April until June.



Project Blue

Created out of a campus initiative to conserve water, Project Blue is an outdoor space built to teach visitors about the natural resources found on campus.

Completed in 2018, Project Blue can be found behind Building 1 at the foot of the Voorhis Ecological Reserve. The outdoor area has a learning circle made up of boulders and a sidewalk that runs along the side of a creek. Small curving pebbles were placed along the curve of the sidewalk along with signage explaining the underground water systems present.

According to Bobich, the water from the creek comes from a natural spring that runs from Forest Lawn.

The Project Blue initiative brought notable changes since there were efforts to plant native Californian river plants. Now, the site is a thriving riparian habitat and more accurately reflects what would have been here before Kellogg built his ranch, according to Bobich.

"When the Spaniards came here, they imagined a city as big as Rome at the time because of all the resources," Bobich said. "It's a very resource-rich area, and so Project Blue highlights one of the major resources of the area."

During the fall, the oak trees of the Voorhis Ecological Reserve begin to change their leaves, and students can see the seasons change, a rarity in Southern California. In the morning, and when there is less traffic in the evening, Bobich said members of his department have spotted hawks, coyotes and deer roaming the hill.

A note for anyone adventurous enough to hike the Voorhis Ecological Reserve: there is a trail to access the CPP letters, but it is advised to bring water and proper hiking shoes since it is an official wildland.

"We get birds in the beds, and they're on the roses, and it can get very very musical out here without any actual music – just the birds."

- John Hiatt said



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PREPARING FOR SUCCESS

by Noel Sanchez

TOP 5 ESSENTIALS AT THE BRONCO BOOKSTORE THAT EVERY CPP STUDENT SHOULD HAVE

Back-to-school shopping used to be an activity elementary school students dreaded. However, fast forward to college and those same students now look forward to buying everything they need to succeed in a higher level of education.

The Bronco Bookstore is a campus retailer that sells textbooks, school merchandise, snacks, electronics and other products. It is tempting for incoming students to spend hundreds of dollars during their first visit here, as they look through the different course materials and custom apparel, but there are five essential items anybody starting off their collegiate career at Cal Poly Pomona should prioritize purchasing:

LAPTOP

A reliable laptop is helpful to students beginning their first year at CPP to take advantage of the digital evolution the university's academic system has gone through in recent years.

And now, with the Instant Access program allowing students to fully view and engage with their textbooks and course materials



through a screen instead of a physical textbook, laptop sales have steadily increased at the Bronco Bookstore. The Bronco Bookstore even has a no interest fee "Student Laptop Program" where students are able to make a 25% down payment, followed by 11 monthly payments.

"There are so many classes now that are using interactive products where you do your actual homework and quizzes on digital platforms," said Suzanne Donnelly, the senior associate director of Bookstore Services. "You need to have the proper devices to use these kinds of digital materials."

BACKPACK

CPP's campus is 1,438 acres wide, and most students find themselves hiking across numerous fields and up and down hills during the week as they navigate between their classes and extracurricular activities.

A reliable backpack is necessary as an incoming student at CPP in order to ensure a proper learning experience as well as a proper way to carry everything you need while commuting around campus.

Outside of just carrying a laptop or tablet, most students will bring snacks, extra clothes, wallets and other necessities for a day of school.

"I have so much in my The North Face backpack," said Tory Truong, a biochemistry student. "My friends like to call me the 'mom' of the group since I always have snacks, emergency supplies and even makeup on me."

The Bronco Bookstore has a wide selection of backpacks and laptop carriers from brands such as Herschel Supply Company, The North Face and JanSport. This backpack variety is available thanks to the purchasing team at the Bookstore keeping a close eye on trends among students at CPP and researching what items work best for everybody.

"The trends now are a little hard to grasp at times," Donnelly said. "Something that I do to try and determine them is instead of listening to what people say, I watch what they do. What they say and what they do sometimes don't match, and this allows me to see what items they are willing to purchase while on campus."



REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE

A common theme most students attending CPP can relate to is they have to prepare to be on campus for long periods of time each day and pack accordingly to ensure they can walk a substantial amount between parking lots and classes in torrid weather. According to the National Weather Service, the city of Pomona will reach an average high of 80 degrees every month in 2025 and peak at 95 degrees in August, which is also when the fall semester begins.



Luckily for all students and staff members, more than 30 buildings on campus offer hydration stations where anyone can refill their bottles and drink water from the fountains. Therefore, a refillable water bottle or container should be near the top of every incoming student's shopping list when they first enroll at CPP and walk through the sliding doors at the Bronco Bookstore.

Not only will it come in handy as they navigate their way through the university's landscape with the sun beaming, but it is great to have it in certain classrooms, during school recreational activities and for drives to campus and back.

"With the weather fluctuation, some kind of reusable drinking vessel is key," Donnelly said. "Whether it's a Hydro Flask or a different kind of tumbler, you really want to have water with you while you walk around campus. You will feel the heat as you get accustomed to your schedule."

SNACK PACK

Outside of just water, students will also need to maintain their energy throughout their days on campus by having a supply of snacks with them. CPP already has a number of dining options to choose from for breakfast, lunch and dinner, but lines get long at certain times, and the Bronco Bookstore has a variety of snacks in stock at all times.

Clint Aase, the director of Bookstore Services, said it's important for students to keep a keep for storing snacks, so they can have a quick bite throughout the day in between classes.

"Students should definitely have some sort of snack pack with them as they start coming on campus," Aase said. "Whether they keep protein bars, assorted energy nuts or other small snacks, their physical health is important to their well-being, and we make sure that the bookstore has these packs available for all students."



CPP SWAG

Incoming students will also be looking for CPP merchandise to wear on campus and at any social gatherings to represent the next chapter of their academic careers. The Bronco Bookstore offers many clothing items and apparel, including hoodies, T-shirts, beanies, polo shirts, baseball caps and other essentials with school colors and logos.

It is important for new students to feel a sense of belonging and be able to proudly wear merchandise that showcases their university. The bookstore's marketing and purchasing teams regularly meet with apparel companies to supply their location with reliable, affordable brands.

"It's really important to have at least one branded item from Cal Poly Pomona," Donnelly said.

"You need to feel that connection to the school, especially with most of the student body commuting. Studies show that students who feel more psychologically connected to their university tend to perform better in their classes and graduate."

- Danny Wu

CPP is not the easiest campus to navigate off the jump, but the university tries to provide as many resources to new students as possible to make their transition smooth. The Bronco Bookstore is just one of these resources that specifically tries to offer a number of essentials that allow students to thrive academically and socially. The Bronco Bookstore is conveniently located adjacent to the Bronco Student Center.



photos by BREN BELMONTE

A display of the new Cal Poly Pomona logo on crewnecks and a baseball cap located in the back of the bookstore

5

programs to help you ace your classes

by ALLISON LARRIMORE

Whether it's on the phone or computer, applications are used for a variety of activities in a student's daily life and there are plenty that could help a student reach their goals in their academic endeavors.

In the age of technology, it's important to take advantage of tools that are accessible by getting work done efficiently and effectively as possible. Here are five programs to help boost grades from Cs and Ds to As and Bs.

Grammarly



Grammarly is a program intended to check text for proper spelling and grammar usage that can enhance the quality of a student's work and maintaining true to their writing style. It can be downloaded as a Google Chrome extension, computer program or as an added keyboard on a phone.

All students generally need to engage in some form of writing in their college experience whether it's for general education, major courses, research papers, essays or even something as simple as emailing a professor or an advisor. Writing may not be a strong skill for some students and Grammarly can help minimize any mistakes to make their writing worth reading.



WED
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Calendar Apps

Everyone has a calendar app on their phone, whether it be a default or external one such as Google Calendar or Microsoft Outlook Calendar. These calendar apps can be very useful for juggling a busy class schedule, keeping track of assignment deadlines and staying on top of other commitments during the week, such as a job or extracurricular activities.

Apps like Google Calendar have allowed events to be shared with others, which is helpful for clubs or group projects, ensuring everyone is informed on when and where to meet. Having everything planned for the day or the week can be conveniently located in one spot to help students practice time management.

Canva

Canva

Canva is a design website where users can create and customize posters, presentations, charts and a variety of unique graphics for any purpose. This can be especially helpful if students want to give their slides or presentation posters a custom flair to make projects stand out.

The user interface is easily navigable for anyone with the drag-and-drop feature for adding visual elements such as text boxes, images, shapes and animated stickers. Canva also allows design files to be shared between users, promoting collaboration and helping group projects shine.



X/Twitter



X, formerly known as Twitter, is another popular social media website and app that has allowed people to connect with each other and provides users access to breaking news from news organizations and independent journalists alike. This can be helpful for students who want to get involved with activism or cultural centers on campus and understanding what current issues are occurring and how to fight against them.

Enrique Menjivar, a chemical engineering student, values how X has kept him informed on political world events such as the documentation of the genocide in Gaza and war in Ukraine.

"As a student, we should be encouraged to educate ourselves as best we can and seek the truth and be critical in our analysis of world events," Menjivar said. "What's the point of being a student in university if we can't even decipher what we see in front of our eyes?"

Using technology can help students be successful and get the most out of their educational experiences. By taking advantage of apps and programs at their fingertips and academics are sure to soar.

Discord



Discord is a popular social networking platform with servers on any topic from gaming and fandom to education and technology. A feature designed for students is the Student Hub, which allows users to connect their school accounts and access servers in the campus community.

Gabriella Harrison, a business marketing and management student, found this to be a major contributing factor to her academic achievements.

"Class Discord groups create a sense of community," said Harrison. "They also help me stay on top of assignments and serve as an easy communication method for group projects. It has undoubtedly changed my college career and guided me to success."



Uncovering Eerie Secrets

5 famous myths haunting CPP's campus

by NOEL SANCHEZ

Cal Poly Pomona is primarily known for its agricultural and engineering programs, but like most universities that have been home to generations worth of students, it has its share of stories. Even though CPP feels modern with its architecture and a growing social scene, [deep down underneath its pristine appearance lies a slew of different myths.](#)

A number of stories can be found throughout history books, while others have come to light in recent years. Here are five legends students and faculty members continue to debate over today:

KING JOHN'S BURIAL GROUNDS

W.K. Kellogg from the cereal brand established CPP's Arabian Horse Center in 1925 and imported many horses from different countries. But [his favorite was a white Arabian horse named King John.](#)

King John became well-known throughout the state of California, as Kellogg invited friends and family to the Arabian Horse Center to visit him.

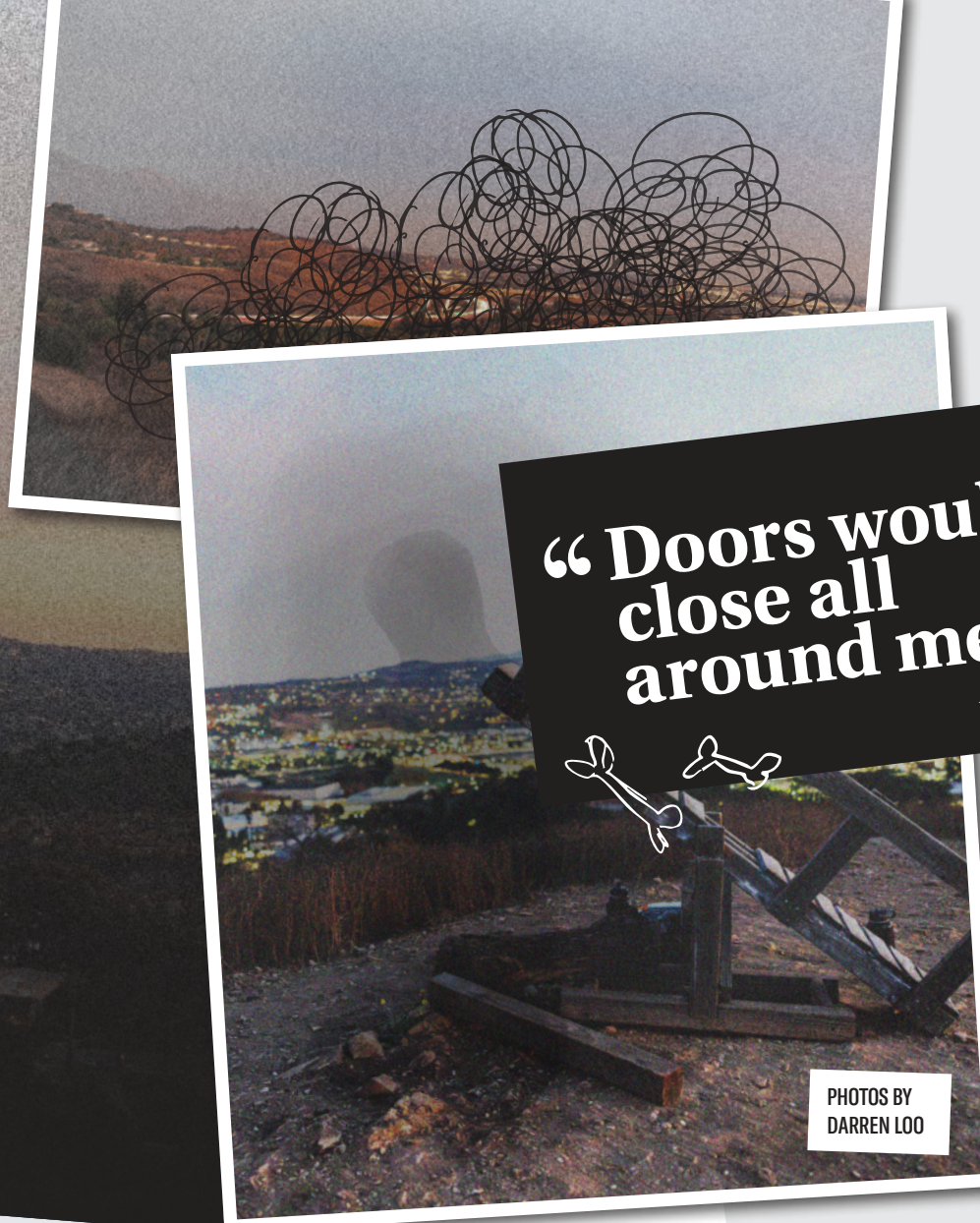
"We get plenty of new students every year that already know about King John," said Arabian Horse Center student assistant Stephany Robles. "Their parents and

other family members usually let them know what an honor it is for them to be walking on the same grounds that he did."

King John's fame grew to a national level in the 1930s, as he made cameos in the Hollywood films "The Crusades" and "Lives of a Bengal Lancer." Kellogg then negotiated with Walt Disney Productions in 1937 to use him as the main horse model in "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

Perhaps that star-studded life is what got King John a unique send-off to the afterlife.

[When King John died, rumors began that he was buried at the heart of CPP's Rose Garden.](#) King John's potential resting place remains one of the more notorious sides of CPP lore today.



"I did routine electrical checks two years ago in the Palomitas dorms as part of my pathway," said former CPP student Carlos Garcia. "I had to go inside by myself multiple times at night, and it just never felt right. [Doors would close all around me while I went through my checklists, and I would hear other people talking, even though I was positive I was alone.](#)"

According to Garcia, there are no open entrances to the dorms anymore, but that hasn't stopped people outside from seeing figures walking from room to room or faces peeking out in the window. [Many students believe the dorms on campus are haunted,](#) and the rebellious few who have made their way inside have reported hearing

mysterious footsteps and sounds.

As part of the California State University Five-Year Plan to clear structures built on an active earthquake fault, Palmitas and Cedritos halls, La Cienega Center and Los Olivos Commons are in the process of being demolished. Buildings will not replace the demolished site, but instead will be turned into an open green-space area. Construction is scheduled to finish before the next school year.

THE HIDDEN CPP LETTERS HIKE PATH

Hiking up to the famous CPP letters is among the top activities all students should participate in before they graduate. It allows them to enjoy the sunny Pomona weather, partake in physical exercise and visit one of the most famous landmarks on campus.

Many students have taken part in this throughout the years, taking pictures and videos to document their experiences. But some of those who have embarked on this trip at later hours in the day have experienced another famous legend within the university.

Students have reported a path in between Building 1 and Parking Lot J on the way to the letters leads into a forest. [This path leads through a section of the forest that once had a treehouse built by former students, and a Pomona cemetery marks the end of that path.](#)

BUILDING 98'S ABANDONED BASEMENT

When the Student Services Building opened in January 2019, workers, students and resources were relocated from the tower portion of the CLA Building, leaving their original floors empty. One of these floors included a basement that was once used as a packing warehouse, but even after it was emptied, electricity still ran through its hallways with endless turns.

[Some also claim the Rose Garden is haunted,](#) potentially by W.K. Kellogg or King John, and have had some frightening experiences there at night. Kellogg and John will always be honored by CPP, but this burial story has worked its way up among the university's most popular myths.

THE ABANDONED PALMITAS AND CEDRITOS DORMS

Leading up to the early 2000s, the Palmitas and Cedritos dorms at CPP were filled every year with students of all ages. Whether its residents were studying, hosting house parties or simply hanging out with one another, rooms were filled, and it was a premier socializing spot on campus.

However, CPP made the decision to abandon the building and allow students to dorm in new buildings in 2020.

Despite the electricity still running in the building, the rooms have been boarded up, and most of the doors and windows are locked. Even though the dorms haven't been used for years, curiosity has gotten the best of [some students as some have reported skeptical findings.](#)

Students found their way to this basement floor, some by pressing the wrong button in the elevator and others out of the need for an adrenaline rush. Visitors in recent years were surprised to find that CPP did not use the basement floor in the CLA Building anymore, and one student believed he knew why.

"I was trying to find the most creative spots at CPP to take graduation photos, and I randomly came across the CLA basement during my indoor search," said former CPP student Jack Robles. "When I tell you that I was stuck walking around those hallways for almost 30 minutes, I'm not joking. Scary stories have never been my thing, but something didn't feel right down there, and maybe that's why nobody works on that floor anymore."

Other students have also described the CLA basement floor as "something that looks straight out of a horror movie" and a place that you didn't want to return to after visiting. These feelings may have come from its abandoned presence, or there could have been something bigger at play.

"I was stuck walking around those hallways for almost 30 minutes."

— Jack Robles

PHOTOS BY DARREN LOO



KELLOGG HOUSE FEVER

Kellogg's love for CPP spread past the horse stables. He grew to build a connection with the land, so much so Kellogg hired established architect Myron Hunt to build him a West Coast retreat on campus known as the Kellogg House in 1926.

The Kellogg House remains at CPP to this day on the north side of campus, serving as a space for conferences, weddings and student tours. Even though workers within the building are still amazed by its design and history, **they have shared stories about hearing voices throughout the rooms when no visitors are present and footsteps during graveyard shifts after visiting hours end.**

"My co-workers and I always used to joke that the new hires would have to work the late hours because nobody wanted to have any ghost encounters," said former Kellogg House staff member Judy Velasco. "I didn't do more research into the property until a couple of months after I started working at Kellogg House, and even when I did, it was hard to believe any of the haunted stories. However, I did get spooked during the few graveyard shifts I worked because I ensured all windows and doors were locked, but **I heard voices and footsteps for a 30-minute stretch.**"

A popular custom among Kellogg House workers over the past couple of years has been to announce their presence before they step foot in the building, so they don't disturb any spirits there. Some workers have even gone as far as praying before they clock in to their shift to ensure they will not cause any disruptions.

Many people who work or stay in the mansion for long periods of time say they try to reassure Kellogg they mean no harm and have even reported less-peculiar experiences whenever they treat the property with care and respect.

Kellogg West employees often work at the Kellogg House and have reported hearing strange noises in Kellogg's bedroom. Others currently working at Kellogg House revealed they have never had a bad experience in the area despite having knowledge of the myths.

Kellogg's wife, Carrie Staines, is also rumored to join him in spirit watching over their former residence. **Former workers and tour visitors have heard what they describe to be a woman's voice in the night and even sounds that resemble crying at times.**

CPP has been open for 85 years, and it's natural to see stories being passed down by each graduating class. Even though these myths and legends cannot be verified at the moment, it is left up to each student to decide whether they believe in them.

THE CARE CENTER

is the first-stop for students who are of concern or in distress. The Center connects students to resources needed to succeed both on and off campus, as well as support them through crisis, provide advocacy, and offer basic needs services.

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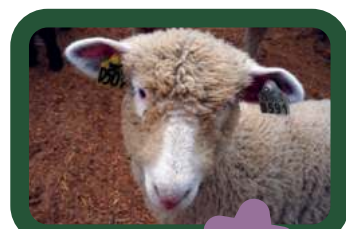
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CAMPUS CREATURES

MEET THE ICONIC ANIMALS AT CPP

by REYES NAVARRETE



For some students at Cal Poly Pomona, the cows decorate the hills of the campus by laying about and gently sauntering alongside University Drive. For Mia Herrera, a pre-veterinary science student with a minor in equine studies and cattle team captain, the beef unit in Building 32 is her classroom.

After putting on their boots and entering a pen with seven heifer calves, Herrera guided new members of the Livestock Club on how to show the animals. Together the students corralled the calves toward the fence, grabbed hold of their ropes and began to walk the cows. As the students adjusted to the pace of their calves down the stretch of barn and back around again, Herrera said some of these new club members never touched a cow before that day.

CPP evolved during the early 20th century into an agricultural school due to sponsorships with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The animal livestock used for farm production are raised on campus for educational purposes with the space held over from the Kellogg Ranch period of the school's history.

Herrera described working with animals as teamwork between two spirits. The bonds developed through hands-on experience with the animals exemplifies the CPP's become-by-doing ethos, and students are welcome to study alongside these iconic animals regardless of major. Here are some iconic animals you can visit as a student on campus:



PHOTOS BY TERESA ACOSTA

Cows, goats, sheep and swine

In addition to being cattle team captain, Herrera is a student live-in. Agricultural or animal health science student live-ins stay in a dorm near the livestock. Herrera is in charge of the sheep and swine unit. Her chores involve feeding the animals, giving them medical help, moving them around the farm and maintaining the facilities.

"And then I see someone next to me, and they're like, 'Oh my God, a goat,'" Herrera said. "I forgot people are like that."

There are managers on staff to facilitate direction and keep in touch with the school, but everything is student run. Animal health and agricultural students conduct practical farm training for agricultural businesses, and time spent with livestock counts toward their majors.

However, if students want to work with the animals but are not studying these majors, they can join the livestock show team. A dedicated group of students from all majors, the livestock show team shows cattle, goats, sheep and swine at competition.

There are two shows in the spring as well as in the fall that members train for. The biggest competition for the livestock team is the Los Angeles County Fair. The competition comes down to the animals body compositions, highlighting what consumers like for production.

"Generally, the cows have their hair brushed upward to make the calf look more full and healthy," Herrera said. "The male cows do not shave any of their body except their face to make them look more pronounced, preferable for beef production, and the female cows are judged based on dairy production and calf reproduction."

The livestock team practices with mock shows in the spring to give members an idea of what it is to show an animal for the first time. A general member would need an hour of chores and an hour of practice, but with time, students dedicated to the team could be designated specific animals.

According to Tory Johnson, an animal science pre-veterinary student and goat team captain, joining the club has opened her mind about working with different species of animals than she originally planned for.

"I mean I didn't know how to show, period," Johnson said. "I've never shown in my life, so it was literally my first time ever touching a goat."

The experience she gained handling goats had broadened her interest from small animals like dogs and cats to a mix of animals.

"For someone wanting to join, I would just say to have an open mind," Johnson said. "Even though you're not showing and you don't have any show experience, you're still gonna get a lot of hands-on experience about what showing is and how to do it. And if you end up loving it, it can be like your hobby. You don't have to make it so degree driven. It could be like you're in a sport and you're in school."

In addition to the LA County Fair, students can see these animals at the campus petting farm at Agriscapes. The star of the farm is a Dorper sheep named Oreo, and another crowd favorite is an alpaca named Pancho.

Those coming on campus to see the animals on the farm behind the fence should not feed or touch them. For those wanting a more hands-on experience, join the Livestock Club or plan for a petting farm when it is available.

PHOTOS BY BRYAN DOAN



Arabian horses

W.K. Kellogg founded the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse center on his ranch in 1925 to breed the finest purebred Arabian horses. Kellogg's admiration for the breed lives on through the school's mascot, Billy Bronco, and the Arabian Horse Center in Building 29, where Arabian horses are studied, trained and cared for by staff and students.

Originally from the Middle East, the Arabian horse is one of the oldest domesticated horses, according to Kathryn Kugel, the Horsemanship Club historian. The Arabian horse is unique since it can be considered a little hot, meaning it has more high energy and is alert.

These horses have a dish-shaped face developed evolutionary out of the desert climate, a flagging tail and stride that was born by years of sliding on sand. The Arabian's refined and dignified temperament is also very versatile.

When Kellogg chose to donate his land, it was agreed upon by the university and Kellogg family to hold public exhibitions showing the horses every first Sunday of the month, during the regular academic year.

The horses are shown in Western and English style at the outdoor arena of the Arabian Horse Center. The shows demonstrate how a horse carries itself along with the rider's abilities in a mix of how the horse moves and poise of the rider.

Each horse has a show name, such as CP Khavilier. Some national champions were bred on campus, according to Kugel. The horses sold at auction carrying the "CP" name but are also given a nickname by live-ins who are assigned mares when they're foaling. They are given a nickname before they get their registered names.

A majority of show horses exhibited during the Sunday shows are held in the research barn. There are a variety of Arabians with different pedigrees at the center with coats of bay, chestnut, black and gray. Roughly 70 horses reside on campus at a given time.

Students working with the horses build a rapport with the horses in controlled experiences at first and have the potential to take lessons in riding if experienced enough. If you have no riding experience, joining the Horsemanship Club and volunteering 10 hours will allow for a riding lesson, and after that, an additional four hours is needed to have time to ride. You can become student staff and groom the horses, clean stalls and perform other farm chores.



If you have riding experience, there are interviews and tryouts to join the show at the beginning of the school year. It is a year-long commitment.

"Everyone here loves them," Kugel said. "They're treated like kings; they're very well taken care of. They get the best life possible. And you know, we have all life stages here. We have a 3-week-old baby, but we also have horses out there that are approaching 30 years old."

The horses born last year, also known as the yearlings, spend most of their time in the pastures. They get used to being a horse for a few years, and then they start training once they are 2 or 3.

At the furthest end of the land are pastures for geriatric horses to live out their years strolling through the grassland. Animal vet students are available next door to check in on aging horses and provide care and educational experience.

After the Sunday show, there are usually two horses people can take pictures with and pet. To approach a horse, Kugel said the horses have a blind spot at the tip of their nose, so it is best to stand off to the side slightly so the horse is aware. Then reach out and give them a little pet on their neck or cheek.

Do not touch the foals. Even within the staff and club-members, the foals are so small that the team does not want them to develop bad habits.

For those interested in seeing the Arabian horses, the center is open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for free. Self-guided tours are available all year except for holidays where the campus is closed.



Reptiles of the rainforest

The Rainbird Biotrek rainforest greenhouse in Building 8A holds foliage from wet rainforests, dry forests and cloud forests from around the world. Included among the diverse plant life are reptiles belonging to ecosystems in Central and South America.

There are two sister cuvier dwarf caimans, named Jacaré and Lara, who were rescued and live behind a glass barrier together in a freshwater pond. The caiman are native to South America and are a restricted species in California.

According to Rainbird Biotrek animal care technician Tatiana Vargas Hernandez, an alumna from CPP with a master's in biological science, the animal care team works closely with the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure the caiman are healthy.

Jacaré and Lara are used to human interaction, especially since the greenhouse allows for guided tours for K-12 students when open on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The approximately 3-foot-long caiman stays in plain sight and on a hot day perches out in the open for all to see.

In the front of the greenhouse is a green Solomon Island skink named Ren, Galileo the iguana, two chameleons and a Boa Constrictor named David Boa.

According to Hernandez, most of the animals were donated, and some were purchased as ambassadors for animals found in the rainforest. Hernandez and her team of student assistants work to provide health care for the animals since CPP is these reptiles' forever home.

The spring time is especially humming with life in the greenhouse since the plants begin to bloom, but the regulated humidity makes the location a great place to visit year-round.

CPP offers a unique opportunity for students to engage with live animals on campus. From cows to horses to reptiles, these animals are the foundation of the university's campus.



meet the CATS PROWLING AROUND CAL POLY POMONA

by AVA UHLACK



PHOTOS BY NOAH DAY,
GERARDO SANCHEZ,
AVA UHLACK



“Let them be and let them do their job. Don’t feed them. They’re there to manage and mitigate the rodents.”

—Efrain Loera

While Cal Poly Pomona is most known for its agriculture and engineering, there seems to be a rising group of celebrities on campus, and they happen to have four legs.

More than seven cats roam campus, each having their own area they tend to frequent, and at least six of them have names, according to @catpolypomona, an Instagram account that documents CPP’s cat happenings.

There is Bluebell, who is the renowned gray cat that hangs around the Student Services Building, Art Building and University Library, while Ursula, a light gray cat with white paws, provides rodent control for the Cattle Unit, according to Efrain Loera, the unit’s manager.

Ursula was acquired from the Pasadena Humane Society as part of its program to employ feral cats picked up off the street, according to Loera. The cats are spayed or neutered, vaccinated and then set up for adoption in preferable working homes so they can hunt.

“She’s been at the unit for three-four months now,” Loera said. “She’s been a great pest control. She’s done her job really well. That’s for sure.”

Ursula is known to venture out onto campus, notably around the traditional red-brick dorms and eventually returns to the Cattle Unit, according to Loera.

“The Pasadena Human Society did tell us that because they are feral cats, they tend to venture a lot farther than a regular cat,” Loera said. “We keep her

food available with water at all times, and she’ll usually come back.”

The Cattle Unit has had cats act as pest control before, and usually one of two situations occur, according to Loera. Either they venture off and don’t come back for some reason, or sometimes people take them home.

Loera said the cats are usually collared to imply they are taken care of and to leave them alone. He even spoke of an instance of Ursula venturing off campus around the Walnut area toward Mount San Antonio Community College.

“She ended up at a yoga place, and they ended up taking her to the vet,” Loera said. “Through the chip they were able to get our information and give us a call to get her back.”

Ursula is not the only cat known to hang around the red-brick dorms. There is a gray-striped cat named Noss who sticks to the area, although not much information is known about Noss.

There is also a rumored orange cat that lurks around the Arabian Horse Center and the campus suites. However, this cat is a bit elusive and rarely seen, according to the @catpolypomona account moderator.

Lastly, Momo and Kona are Bluebell’s

offspring with black and white fur. They frequent the Horse Center as well, but Kona is a bit bolder and can go as far as the main campus, according to Cheyenne Thayer, the student activities coordinator.

According to Thayer, there were a couple people within

the animal science department who noticed Bluebell was pregnant and trapped her to help her have her kittens safely. She was then spayed and tested for various feral cat diseases to ensure Bluebell was safe to roam around campus with other cats.

According to Thayer, the cats were moved from the animal science department to the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center around October of 2023 after hearing the Horse Center was looking to add cats to their team for rodent control.

It was then Momo and Kona were adopted by the Horse Center and given a home base to return to at night. Now, the bi-colored duo takes care of mice, rats and other pests.

The Horse Center prefers using more natural ways to rid the area of small nuisances, such as mice, thus making friends with the cats, according to Thayer.

“They have a curfew where they get locked up at 5 p.m.,” Thayer said. “They’re supposed to be at their home and in bed. There are a lot of coyotes around, and they’re pretty bold cats, and they’re very feisty, so they might not realize the coyote is a predator and might think, ‘Oh, this is a friend.’”

The Horse Center staff makes sure the two cats are up to date on vaccinations and medications if needed, as well as provides food and water for their four-legged team members, according to Tina Kabbouche, one of the caretakers of Momo and Kona who has worked at the Horse Center for about 3 years.

As for Bluebell, they did try to provide her a spot in the Horse Center family.

“We tried our best to introduce her to our environment to make her home here,” Thayer said. “We took care of her in a kennel. On her first day of freedom she was like, ‘Oh, I know where I’m at’ and went back

to her home on the main campus. Ultimately, she is a wild cat, so we can only do so much.”

This isn’t the first time the Horse Center has had cats on their premises. Previously, there was a gray cat that used to reside there named Noelle who died this past summer, according to Tina Kabbouche, a live-in student at the Horse Center.

Noelle was a barn cat around the age of 8 who had gone missing for a couple of weeks, explained Kabbouche.

“She’s gone missing before; she likes to jump into cars,” Kabbouche said. “This time we found her collar in one of our pastures. What we assume is that the coyotes got a little adventurous and got to her. We’re not sure, but we know she’s not here anymore.”

Kabbouche stated the two cats, like Ursula, are chipped. Not much is known about the origins of Noss from the traditional dorm area and the orange cat from the suites, if they belong to a department or are just more additions to CPP’s ever-growing feline population.

That said, the cats that work within their respective units on campus are just that, working cats. Loera urges the community to leave the cats alone.

Kabbouche echoed the same sentiment about Momo and Kona saying the cats’ routine includes a slightly-less-frequent diet to encourage them to hunt, which in turn keeps the rodent level to a minimum.

The cats on campus will remain a hotspot for four-legged friends, so be on the lookout for whatever cat might be around the corner. Just be sure to leave them on campus. Their home is here, not in a dorm, according to both Kabbouche and Loera.





CONCRETE & COMMUNITY

A drop-in look into CPP's skate club

by ATHENA FLORES



photos by BRYAN DOAN

A group of students with scuffed shoes and well-worn skateboards sat along a ledge behind the Bronco Recreation and Intramural Complex. Their chit-chat and laughter are drowned out by the sound of polyurethane wheels slamming against the pavement.

Looks of determination, frustration and fatigue covered their faces as they watched their fellow rider flail in the air before landing both feet back on the skateboard. Instantly, the group erupted in cheers, and they rushed to celebrate. This is a typical meeting for the Cal Poly Pomona Skate Club.

Founded in 2021 by Ryan Paja and Kai Flynn Leeper-Sale, the CPP Skate Club has amassed more than 50 members and is now officially recognized as an organization on campus.

Beginning his skateboarding journey in high school, Paja quickly fell in love with the sport and was inspired to share his passion with others on campus.

When the club first began, Paja admitted it was difficult to find members to join. However, in recent years, the rise in the popularity of skateboarding on campus created a sense of community for this group of students. From releasing an official skate video to hosting tournaments sponsored by local skate shops, Paja feels the club is skating down a promising path.

Notably, the CPP Skate Club released a skate video in 2024 titled "Club Tapes Vol. 1," which consisted of a collage of various members performing tricks and it

had reminiscence of a '90s-style skate film.

Aaron Pangilinan, the club's president, has hopes to create more projects like this one to showcase the club. He welcomes riders of any skill level to join the club.

By fate, Pangilinan happened to join the club the day it was founded after running into Paja and Leeper-Sale at Ayala Skate Park in Chino. Since that day, he has been a committed member.

"It's changed my experience a lot," Pangilinan said. "I made the club official through MyBar, and I have just been working on growing the club. It's become such a passion project. It doesn't really have anything to do with my major, but it's really fun managing something I love doing and working with all these cool projects."

For newer members, the club has given students an opportunity to step out of their shells and meet new people. Brandon "Bogie" Bocanegra was recruited to join after being spotted by a club member while riding his skateboard on campus. Although he felt hesitant at first, Bocanegra fell into place and now does most of the club's camera work.

"I was a bit shy at first," Bocanegra said. "I started to go out to more meets, and everyone was super welcoming and supportive. Since then, I have gotten to connect with multiple people and make friendships with people of very different cultures, environments and backgrounds. It's made me more confident to get out there and meet new people."

"It's already surpassed what I thought it would be. I'm really proud of the guys and how they're handling it, especially with the film projects coming out. I never would have imagined it this big."

- Ryan Paja

Bocanegra admitted he found something special both within skateboarding and his newfound friendships. For many like him, skateboarding is more than just a hobby; it is a powerful outlet to showcase originality and expression.

The CPP Skate Club has continued to turn the campus into its own unique obstacle course, treading behind Olympic skateboarder Nyjah Huston, who skated here before them.

Whether students just picked up a skateboard for the first time or have been skating for years, anyone interested in joining the club is urged to follow the club's Instagram page @cppskateclub for updates on meetups and upcoming projects.

"Pretty much anything with wheels is welcome," Pangilinan said. "We're all friends here."

The club has hosted a bracket-style game of SKATE called Battle at the BRIC in October. It is similar to the game of HORSE in basketball, skateboarders will battle in a head-to-head, trick-for-trick game.

"I had a lot of ups and downs in skating. I sustained three major injuries, and that kind of sucked, but it made me prove that I am more resilient and kept me coming back for the love of the sport and the love of my friends. It's really fun, and I can't get rid of it as much as my body wants me to."

- Ryan Paja



"For me, the biggest aspect is definitely creativity. There's a lot of things that are already set in stone, but people come up with new tricks and ideas. Apart from that, it's the community. When you see someone going for a trick over and over again, and they're fighting for it, you rally behind them, and you feel that energy they're feeling, and it motivates them."

- Brandon Bocanegra



photos by BRYAN DOAN

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From the

horse's mouth

Connecting with CPP's spirit animal
by BETTI HALSELL

They have a shorter head; big, black and round intelligent eyes; a shapely face; and a high-set neck. With more than 20 years of experience, John Lambert, the executive director of the W.K. Kellogg Horse Center, has a trained eye to recognize the specific traits of a bronco in addition to their spirits.

"You can't breed heart," Lambert said. "It's something that (the horses) are born with."

The horses at Cal Poly Pomona represent a century-old legacy. As the mascot and subject of study, these broncos connect with students through multiple facets of the collective culture at CPP.

When entering the eastbound entrance of the CPP campus, through Temple Avenue and Valley Boulevard, teams of horses are busy grazing across the fields, leading up to some of the main parking structures on campus.

All of the horses are housed at the W.K. Kellogg Horse Center, next to the Animal Health Science building but generally work with students who are a part of the Huntley College of Agriculture. There are an average of 70 horses on campus.

The horse center primarily focuses on the care of the horses. Some are bred and trained to be sold in public auctions, but most of the horses live their full lives on the land, where their ancestors also roamed on the CPP campus.

Through consistent interactions with the horses as a full-time lecturer from the animal and veterinary sciences department, Melissa McCormick has learned to identify many of the horses by their characteristics.

"They're individuals, and they all kind of have their own personalities and quirks," she said. "You can tell, once you kind of work with them multiple times, you get to know some of them — whether they are kind of off one day or maybe not acting like themselves."

McCormick spotted a distinct difference in the broncos' comfort levels while hosting an audience of students. Some of them are more timid; others are open to the company because they know there's a treat involved.

McCormick teaches Handling, Restraint and Nursing Care of Domestic Animals, where students learn the basics of haltering, leading horses and handling horses safely along with other introductory nursing skills.

"In general, it's always really cool to see students that have no experience whatsoever," McCormick said. "A lot of students are total city kids and maybe never even touched a horse or met a horse in person. And it's pretty intimidating. They are really big animals."

The 100-year-old horse-led culture started as a childhood dream, according to Arabian Horse Center's website. W.K. Kellogg grew up with the desire to have the finest bloodline of Arabian horses. Word of the equestrian

heritage reached Hollywood, and many celebrities from the 1920s would visit Kellogg's ranch.

Kellogg presented the horses and ranch to the state of California in 1932, and in a time of war, the Kellogg facility and foals served as the choice breed for the battles of World War II.

Kellogg requested during the state transfer of his property that the breeding remain pure and the horses be prepped for showing on Sundays, which is still present to this day. Every first Sunday of every month, CPP students and faculty can see the show with free admission.

Students are also encouraged to stop by the horse center and get involved through the Horsemanship Club, and there is the W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Library, one of the world's largest publicly viewed archives of Arabian horses.

The Horsemanship Club does not require any prior experience to tend to the horses, but Lambert confirmed caring for the horses is a learning process, and training will be provided.

Veterinary nursing student Matthew Vasquez enrolled as an undecided major until he locked eyes with the colts.

"They're like big dogs, like giant little goofballs," Vasquez said.

"They're adorable and so sweet. I love horses."

— Matthew Vasquez

Lambert welcomes students to visit the horse center and see the high level of pedigree that serves as the beacon of CPP spirit and to feel a moment of peace among the chaos of being a student.

"Life is challenging, especially as a student," Lambert said. "There's a lot you're dealing with. You have your studies, you have your life, and you're trying to figure out the next chapter of your life. You're trying to figure out your finances. It's not easy, and we realize that. These Arabian horses have been domesticated for 5,000 years now. They are the oldest breed of domesticated horses on the planet, and why is that? Because they have a deep connection with people."

“They’re like big dogs, like giant little goofballs.”

PHOTOS COURTESY OF W. K. KELLOGG
ARABIAN HORSE CENTER FACEBOOK PAGE



From Start to Finish

How Cal Poly's Rose Float is built

by DARREN LOO

For 76 years, Cal Poly Pomona and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo have worked together to build a float that make the five-and-a-half-mile trip down Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena for the Rose Parade every New Year's Day, winning it's 63rd award in the 2025 Rose Parade.

The Cal Poly Rose Float is built from the ground up, independently, by students and not by professional float builders. It is, in fact, the only float in the parade that is fully designed and built by students. Building the Cal Poly Rose Float is a year-long process with countless hours put in by volunteers and student leaders.

Starting before the current float goes down Colorado Boulevard, the leadership team for the upcoming Rose Float already starts planning for next year's float. Anna Wu, the decorations chair of the Pomona team, explained they will finalize what colors to put on the float and what florals to use by April. The final sketch is then created.



PHOTOS BY DARREN LOO

Aside from working on more engineering-focused tasks, there are many positions that other majors like Architecture or Apparel Merchandising and Management can contribute to.

"We had a new subdepartment this year in design, where we had a Textiles major come in, and instead of using steel for one of our elements used, we used wetsuit fabric or neoprene, which allowed us to make a flexible moving element," said Atwell.

Aside from working on the float, many join the club for the community it fosters. As students start their college career, it could be a daunting experience not knowing many people and being thrown into a new environment.

"If you join this program, you're joining a family, and we all have made our lifetime friends in this program," Atwell said. "So of incoming students join, just know you're signing up for a lot of really good friends and a lot of really fun time spent together."

In the 2025 Rose Parade, the Cal Poly Rose Float received the Leishman Public Spirit Award. The Leishman Public Spirit Award is given to the float with the "most outstanding floral presentation from a noncommercial participant," according to the tournament's website.



"When I joined, I didn't have any expectations. I came to my first lab day not knowing what I was going to do, and being a non-engineering major, I thought they would put me in a corner with flowers and leave me alone, but they wanted me to work in construction because they wanted to teach. They were like, 'You're perfect. You don't have any preconceived notions or bad habits we need to break.'"

—Colin Marfia

Construction on the float begins in the summer months, starting from a blue frame. The rear and front halves of the float are connected in October where the float slowly comes to life, with the frame of the elements completed. In mid-December, the float moves to Pasadena to start the decorating process.

The decorating process takes place in Brookside Pavilion, next to the Rose Bowl stadium. The decorating process is a grueling, consisting of super early mornings and late nights, hours of almost nonstop work to get all the fresh materials on the float just days before the parade.

Although building the Rose Float is a long and complicated process, most people who join Rose Float come to enjoy it. It may seem like the Cal Poly Rose Float is an engineering-focused club, but many actually join as non-engineers, like Amelia Atwell, the Cal Poly Pomona design chair who joined as an architecture student and Colin Marfia, the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo president who joined as a student in higher education, counseling and student affairs.

"Every year, it's just this huge wave of emotions. You feel a sense of accomplishment for what you did on the float that year."

—Brooke Handschin



During the pandemic, grocery stores struggled with long lines, empty shelves and panic-buying. Many shoppers found it difficult to navigate aisles with bare shelves, uncertain if they would be able to secure basic necessities.

Cal Poly Pomona's Farm Store, a hidden gem for most, kept the grocery store running the business with smooth sailing. The Farm Store was a huge help, not only for students and alumni, but for the surrounding neighborhoods and communities, too.

"We were the best-kept secret during the pandemic," said Farm Store manager Brianna Cox. "For us, it was just business as usual, and we told shoppers to tell your friends about us, and they were like, 'No way. You guys are my store.'"

But Cox doesn't want the Farm Store to be a secret anymore. She wants freshmen and transfer students to know the Farm Store exists. Cox takes pride in the idea the Farm Store is what she calls "Cal Poly Pomona's shining star."

"I know those are big words, but I think we're one of the best places for people to visit at CPP," Cox said. "We're customer-facing. We're public-facing. So we're not just serving the campus community; we're also serving the surrounding community. We are a wonderful outreach hub and visual point for the community to see some of what CPP produces."

Located about a mile from campus, Spadra Farm is home to vegetable and fruit production as well as various student and faculty research projects. There is an organic production enterprise encompassing 10 acres of the ranch where they produce organic fruit and vegetables to supply for the Farm Store and farmers markets.

Bryan K. Van Norden, specialty crop farm supervisor and a plant science alumnus of CPP, oversees supplying food to the Farm Store. As he took a swig from the quart container of orange juice from the Farm Store, Norden shared the orange juice process.

"Student crews will go out in a gator like this (indicating the four-wheeler he rode over in) with a bin behind, which can hold up to 800 pounds of oranges," Norden said. "They'll have picking bags, a sling that goes over their chest."



From Spadra to the Farm Store

Helping CPP's legacy of agriculture endure

by TREVOR RYAN



Depending on the size of the trees, students will use ladders to offload the oranges into Building 28, the packing house that used to be the Farm Store. The oranges are dumped onto a conveyor belt and go through a wash tub of bleach solution for food safety before they're tumbled into a light dryer with fans. Once the oranges are dried, they are placed into a bin on a truck and dropped off at the back of the farm store to be made into juice.

Cox said they have a whole other team at the Farm Store just in charge of the juicing because of the high demand. The Farm Store juices daily to keep fresh orange juice in stock, as it's one of the more challenging products to keep on the shelves.

They have a juice machine and put the whole oranges in the machine where they all go into a large hopper. The juice is not pasteurized. There's nothing else added; they're just squeezed because preservatives take away from the taste, according to Cox.

They'll go through as part of a quality control process to sort oranges by size like they do with other produce. The larger, nicer looking ones are put on the shelf for people to buy individually and all the smaller, less pretty ones go to the juice press.

Cox said getting products on the shelf all starts by giving Van Norden's team an order for the produce needed to fill their inventory. The agriculture students will then deliver the order and put it inside their coolers.

Those products then become prioritized as part of what's called the first-in, first-out function. This ensures customers are getting access to the freshest produce to maintain the quality of the CPP-grown products. This can happen several times a day to make sure Farm Store staff comply with the FIFO priority.

The school also has partnerships with local businesses like Coney Island Creamery and South Coast Winery to use CPP grapes, oranges or avocados to make wine and flavored ice cream.

The students who work in the fields aren't majoring in plant science exclusively. Van Norden pointed out how different majors like agricultural science, nutrition, music, along with quite a few engineers show up to help. Anyone willing and able to be outside and help farm is welcome and represented. Van Norden was a history student before he realized this is what he really wanted to do.

"All the agri-tourism we got in October showed that kids find out what they want to do when they go on field trips because they're going to remember, 'Oh I saw the little ponies,' or 'Oh I saw the little sheep,' or 'I got to pick my own pumpkin,'" Van Norden said. "I played video games, and I thought I wanted to make those until I realized I got to sit at a computer all day."

Plant science alumna Julissa Cabral reinforced the importance of Spadra before going out for another day in the fields, overalls already equipped, her last day on campus.

Cabral originally came to CPP to study agriculture science but switched from a more theory-based experience to the hands-on one she grew to love so much more.

"I didn't know they actually let students grow the crops, so that's when I knew I wanted to do this," Cabral said.

Cabral's favorite part of the process is harvesting and then seeing what she and others spent so much time and effort being on the shelf in the Farm Store for people to buy and enjoy.

"People scoff that, 'You went to school to learn to be a professional gardener,' but if you ate this morning, thank a farmer."

- Van Norden

"Even if you feel like it's too much to be outside and it's too hot, just remember that this (food) came from somewhere. There's time and effort that went into it," Norden said.

It isn't just the Farm Store that represents the produce students work on, but the campus as a whole. Produce like avocado and cherry tomatoes are ready to go with minimal handling or processing and get sent off to Centerpointe, Fresh Escapes and Kellogg West. Van Norden said oranges aren't an exception; they harvest everything by hand.

Cal Poly Pomona's Farm Store is a location for everyone to go visit and benefit from the university's become-by-doing identity or participate in it themselves.



photos by BRYAN DOAN

All plants, produce and products displayed at the Farm Store are available for purchase by any customer.



"Lots of people think all produce comes from right on campus (she indicated the surrounding citrus and avocado trees near the Farm Store), but actually all the row crops like tomatoes and zucchinis come from Spadra."

- Julissa Cabral



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What Does it Mean to be Polytechnic?

by KATIE PRIEST

From horse shows to rocket launches, Formula teams, Model UN and everything in between, the campus motto of “become by doing” encapsulates the polytechnic experience at Cal Poly Pomona.

Students are offered a variety of opportunities to take their education outside of the classroom and apply it to real-world skills. Become by doing at CPP is for everyone, regardless of major or class level. Through a variety of departments and programs CPP ensures that become by doing is for everyone.

ACADEMIC INNOVATION

The Office of Academic Innovation oversees many of the become by doing experiences on campus. The office was created in 2014, and its purpose is to create experiential learning opportunities for not only students but also faculty and staff.

These experiences range from research programs that provide students with funding for research opportunities to on-campus clubs that take learning outside the classroom.

“Everything related to academic internships, service learning, engaged learning (and) volunteerism is within Academic Innovation,” said Olukemi Sawyerr, associate vice president of the Office of Academic Innovation.

Two large programs within the Office of Academic Innovation are the Office of Undergraduate Research and PolyX.

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

The Office of Undergraduate Research has worked to increase the opportunities for students to engage in research across CPP. Particularly, the office is designed to help students who are under-represented within research, such as transfer students, first generation students and lower-division students, among others.

One of these programs is the Research through Inclusive Opportunities program. RIO provides sophomores and first-year transfer students with research opportunities. The projects apart of the 2024-2025 academic year include: examining the use of social media by student journalists to cover protests, investigating the components of health in medieval Italy, an analysis of well-being and helping behavior in the psychology department and many others across five of the eight colleges on campus.

POLYX

Signature Polytechnic experiences encompass many of become by doing opportunities on campus. These experiences help students develop skills outside of the classroom. PolyX classes have designations because of real world experiences they provide both inside and outside of the classroom.

“PolyX comes alongside and provides students the opportunity to experience what they’re learning in the classroom or in their program,” Sawyerr said. “Nothing beats that.”

Some of PolyX opportunities include Model UN, the Harvest International Journal, the Apparelscape student business and even The Poly Post News Practicum and Magazine Practicum are PolyX experiences.

FORMULA AND BAJA SAE

Formula SAE and BAJA SAE are an instructionally related activity on campus where students design, build and manufacture a car for competition. The competitions require that students compete not only on the engineering side of things that involves testing the car but also on the business side of things, where students track budgets and market the team.

“(It) definitely taught me a lot more skills outside of class and it’s just reinforced every topic I have learned,” said mechanical engineering student Andre Lim. “Just by being able to apply it and learning what’s actually right and what’s actually wrong, since some of the lesson plans don’t actually cover like what people like to see in, say, engineering drawings.”

Formula SAE is open to all students on campus, not just engineering students. The purpose of the program is to not only give students hands-on engineering experience but also to take their knowledge outside of the classroom.

“We have to manage and market our team like an actual motorsport team,” said Sneha Ramakrishnan, president of Formula SAE IC. “And so you learn and pick up on a lot of these things, and it’s transferable knowledge.”

APPARELSCAPES

The Don B. Huntley College Of Agriculture is home to Apparelsapes, a student-run retail store that sells a variety of apparel merchandise for students. The students who run the store are in charge of all aspects of the store, including designing, marketing and creating the merchandise.

Part of the Apparel Merchandising and Management

photo by KRISTINE PASCUAL

curriculum is the senior capstone. AMM students have the option to focus on production or retail and Apparelsapes is run by the retailing students. Students can stop by the store to purchase CPP merchandise that cannot be found in the bookstore such as limited edition baby tees and tote bags.

Apparelsapes can be found in the Apparel Merchandising and Management in Building 45.

RESTRUANT AT KELLOGG RANCH

The Collins College of Hospitality Management runs the Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch, which is managed by students and located on CPP’s campus. Another one of CPP’s signature polytechnic courses students have the opportunity to experience is working in all aspects of a restaurant setting, including guest services, management plans and preparing food.

Hospitality students enroll in the RKR class where they rotate between restaurant positions. Each student has the chance to step into the role of a manager, cook or server. Twice a week, students work eight hours a day to prepare, cook and serve delicious meals for customers as part of their coursework. The course is facilitated by professionals who mentor and guide students as they prepare to enter the hospitality industry.

They even use ingredients grown right outside RKR ensuring fresh ingredients and delicious foods. The menu changes every semester and has included a blend of global flavors from America to Asia to Morocco. If you plan to eat at RKR, make sure to double check hours as they are only open specific hours for lunch and dinner.

Sample PolyX Classes
CLS 4100: Model United Nations
AMM 4970: Apparelsapes
COM 3351: The Poly Post
COM 3352: The Poly Pulse

photo by ANDRE DAVANCENS

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CAL POLY POMONA'S

Best Rivalries

By SPORT

by DYLAN LONG
CHRISTIAN MAGDALENO
CESAR RIVAS
& JACOB RODRIGUEZ

Rivalries represent the heartbeat of what it means to be a sports fan. They ignite passion between two teams that makes the game so special for everyone involved. The thrill of witnessing two rivals lock up, adds intrigue and flair to the same games that we normally watch.

The Broncos are a Division II sports program and play in the California Collegiate Athletic Association. Over the years each sport, from baseball to soccer to basketball and everything in between, has created their own rivals that bring out the best in them. In collegiate sports, supporting your school during their rivalry game is one of the best parts of being a fan.

For new and incoming students, it may be hard figuring out which games to circle on their calendar for the upcoming school year. **To help solve that issue, here are the best games to catch for each sport here at Cal Poly Pomona:**

PHOTOS BY
CHRISTIAN MAGDALENO
& BRONCO ATHLETICS



Baseball

Baseball has an illustrious history at Cal Poly Pomona. It's highlighted by many legends and years of success, including national championships, CCAA championships and countless NCAA tournament appearances. But through it all over the past decade, **the Broncos have consistently seen one foe late in the season, the Cal State Monterey Bay Otters.**

Every time the Otters and the Broncos face off, fireworks ensue. 2025 was no exception with the Broncos opening the regular season with this rivalry matchup, winning the series and shutting them out 6-0. Both teams have combined to be the last three winners of the CCAA Tournament. Former Broncos infielder Jacob Lopez spoke on the intense battles that take place when they meet on the field.

"Monterey Bay is definitely the team that we look forward to playing the most when the schedule drops at the beginning of the season," Lopez said. **"Monterey brings out the best in us, and they are the most intense games that we play every season."**

The rivalry started when the teams met in the 2023 NCAA Regionals and played a heart wrenching thriller ending with an Otters 13-12 victory in extra innings. The Otters also took three games of the four-game series in the 2024 regular season, which included two shootout games with scores of 14-13 and 9-8.

"You can feel the electricity when we meet on the field," said former Bronco outfielder AJ Nimeh. "Nobody wants to give in and that really adds up to some great baseball that gets played."



"They are the most intense games that we play every season."

— Jacob Lopez



"It is the best action that you will see at our level."

— Matt O'Sullivan



MEN'S SOCCER

Men's soccer had an unbelievable 2024 season that included a run to the second round of the NCAA tournament; however, **one of the season's biggest rivalries was between CPP and Cal State LA.**

The Golden Eagles and the Broncos were two of the best teams in the nation in 2024, and it showed when they met on the field. Physical, fast-paced and gritty battles took place when the teams met up. It ultimately resulted in a 1-1 stalemate, so neither team was able to pull away with the victory.

"It is the best action that you will see at our level," said men's soccer head coach Matt O'Sullivan. "We know how good they are, and they know how good we are. We have played some classic matchups, and we all know it is going to be like that again this upcoming season."

The Broncos have been hunting for their first win against Cal State LA since 2021, and with the successes of the 2024 season, it looks to be another good matchup between the two teams in 2025.

PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN MAGDALENO

PHOTOS BY BRONCO ATHLETICS

Women's Basketball

For the women's basketball team, the 2024-2025 campaign was filled with standout performances from many different players, like Sydney Nelson and Kalaya Buggs. But for this group, when the Broncos linked up with Chico State, that's when the energy entered a new level.

CPP and Chico State met four times throughout the season, splitting the matchups 2-2. The first playoff match-up was in the semi-final match in the 2025 CCAA tournament. The Broncos struck first in the CCAA tournament, beating the Wildcats by a score of 73-61 to secure their appearance in the finals.

CPP faced Chico State for the final time in the first round of the NCAA West Regionals. In an intense back-and-forth game, the Wildcats cut the Broncos' season short when they forced the game into overtime but came out on top 57-52.

This series included three close games that went down to the wire, and all of them could have been won by either team.



"The Chico State series was a really entertaining series of games to be a part of," said head women's basketball coach Danelle Bishop.

"We took game one and gave a complete effort all around, but we knew that Chico was going to come back from that first

game with revenge on their mind. **It was a really high level of basketball from both sides, fun to watch."**

Just like with men's soccer, the women's basketball team had their conference tournament ambitions end at the hands of rival. This will only add fuel to the fire when these teams meet up again this year.



PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN MAGDALENO

Volleyball

Women's volleyball is a staple of the sports catalog at CPP. The Broncos boasted a 25-4 overall in the 2024 season and the CCAA regular season championship, an improvement from 22-8 in the 2023 season. Both seasons included appearances in the NCAA Division II West Region Championship Tournament.

Despite terrific seasons, the Broncos have a bitter taste in their mouths because of the gritty matchups between CPP and the Cal State San Bernardino Coyotes. The Broncos and the Yotes went to war the last two seasons with the Yotes snapping the Broncos' 18-game win streak in 2024.

"The games against Cal State San Bernardino were the most intense ones we played last season," said former Broncos outside hitter Samantha Campion. "All of them came down to the wire, and we could have very easily come away with victories in all of them."

The Broncos and the Yotes met three times in 2023 and twice in 2024; all of them were high intensity matches. The rivalry ignited when they first met in the 2023 regular season, then again in the 2023 CCAA Tournament Championship game and lastly in the NCAA Division II West Regional Semifinal, which all resulted in big wins for the Yotes.

The rivalry continued into 2024 when the Broncos opened the regular season with a dominating 3-1 win over the Yotes but fell to them later in the season, ending their win streak before the CCAA tournament.

"Our games were so close and competitive that it motivates us to know that we could have walked out as the winner," Campion said.



PHOTOS BY BRONCO ATHLETICS



"Our games were so close and competitive that it motivates us."

— Samantha Campion

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The men's basketball team finished the 2024-2025 season with an overall record of 18-11, clinching its appearance in the Division II West Regionals. **The season was filled with highlights**, including wins over two nationally ranked opponents and a CCAA Tournament appearance.

One of the most intense matchups of the campaign was with the Cal State LA Golden Eagles. The Broncos fell short in their first match-up but rallied together for a buzzer-beater win on the Golden Eagles' home court.

Guard Demarreya Lewis-Cooper recorded 11 points, two blocks, four assists and the game-sealing steal. The Broncos' zone defense — a more team-oriented style of defense compared to individual players' defensive efforts — was a crucial factor in defeating the Golden Eagles.

"We stayed locked in on defense all game, and I think that's been a big part of our team's success whenever we win," Lewis-Cooper said.

Within the past few seasons, this rivalry has come into its own with both teams trading wins, but the Broncos lead the overall record 19-10. Make sure to check out this matchup in 2025-2026 to see if the Broncos can continue to widen the gap.

"I just had a feeling with our team that it didn't matter what was in front of them."

— Jay Mason



PHOTOS BY
BRONCO ATHLETICS

WOMEN'S SOCCER

As the women's soccer team will be defending its Division II National Championship title this year, all of matches should be exciting. **But the rivalry game between the Broncos and Cal Poly Humboldt is a must-watch.**

CPP defeated the Lumberjacks in the first annual Cal Poly Clash, taking a 1-0 victory to clinch the 2024 CCAA regular-season title.

Before that, the Broncos and Lumberjacks also met in the first round of the 2023 CCAA Tournament, defeating them 1-0 to secure the Broncos' first CCAA tournament win in over four years.

"As a coach, you go into this, wanting (a national championship), but with a realization that this is a really hard thing to do, a lot of things have to go right," said head coach Jay Mason. **"And I just had that feeling with our team that it didn't matter what was in front of them."**

Rivalries ignite the truest of passions between teams in any sport, especially at CPP. The Broncos have a wide variety of rivals across all their sports programs, and games between them are must-sees. When looking to find out which games to see here at CPP, **make sure to find some time to watch these intense clashes on the fields and courts.**



PHOTOS BY
BRONCO ATHLETICS



One Hour, Endless Possibilities

by ATHENA FLORES

How to make U-Hour all about you



As students, free time can be hard to find in the fast-paced and unpredictable environment of college life. Because of its rarity between heavy workloads and back-to-back classes, many people are not sure how to effectively use their free time when it becomes available.

Luckily for Cal Poly Pomona students, every Tuesday and Thursday at noon, a one-hour period is void of any classes and is set aside for students to engage in leisurely activity.

The time is meant for students to get involved in campus activities. Whether it is simply unwinding in a peaceful location, meeting new people or picking up a hobby, here are five ways to make the most of U-Hour:

RESET AND PRIORITIZE YOUR WELL-BEING

In a school like CPP, where academics are competitive and resumes are staggering, there can be an overwhelming amount of pressure to always be productive. Students may have felt a sense of guilt as they scroll through their phones for a quick break while their fellow classmates are buried away in textbooks. However, it is essential for students to take a step back every once in a while and give their busy minds a rest. CPP offers numerous relaxing and scenic locations for a quick escape. Third-year student Anthony Vargas recognizes the importance of taking time for himself.

"I feel like there can be pressure to catch up on homework or cram in some studying," Vargas said.

If students are feeling particularly overwhelmed, they can take the time to visit Counseling and Psychological Services, which offers numerous mental health resources and well-being support. From free individual therapy to mental health workshops, CAPS is a great campus resource all students should familiarize themselves with. Students can find support in Building 66, Room 116.

"I think it's important to remember that it's OK to take the time to relax. I usually spend my U-hour just having lunch and enjoying the Japanese Garden. It is a great way to clear my mind."

- Anthony Vargas



photos by BREN BELMONTE

The entrance of the Cesar E. Chavez Center for Higher Education

VISIT THE CPP CULTURAL CENTERS

One impressive aspect of CPP is its diverse pool of students. The six CPP cultural centers stand as a reminder there is a strong sense of community and authenticity on campus, whether it is a quick visit to the Pride Center or a check-in at the Native American Student Center.

Students using their free time to familiarize themselves with the different identities flourishing CPP can be a great way to expand the understanding of the world and become more solidly rooted in their own identity, said Julie Barbosa, a student assistant at the Cesar E. Chavez Center for High Education, which serves as a safe space for Hispanic students but is open to all.

"Students can find the center that they feel like they identify most with, or they can explore all the centers and make friends everywhere," Barbosa said. "We all have completely different identities, but the different parts of our identities intersect. For example, someone can be gay and also be Black and Asian, which are three parts of themselves that intersect. In a way, we are all connected."



BUILD YOUR SKILLS BY UTILIZING CAMPUS RESOURCES

Many students go through their college careers without knowing about or taking advantage of the numerous resources and support that CPP offers. Using U-Hour to explore the different departments and learning centers may be an effective way to get ahead and expand a skill set.

For instance, if you are interested in evolving your writing, you can visit the Writing Center, which is located in the University Library and offers workshops from qualified peers. There are also photo studios, medical care and math tutoring to utilize. The options are truly endless when it comes to providing the resources necessary for success. All it takes is a little bit of research and showing up. One student who takes advantage of these resources to advance her career is music industry studies and computer science student Arianna Torres.

"I feel like there are so many opportunities waiting for students on campus that they don't know about," Torres said.

"I like to use the recording studio in the music department to make my music. Equipment is so expensive, and it is not as easily accessible outside of school, so it is really cool that we are able to record and mix and all of the technological stuff."

- Arianna Torres



Brochures and decorated frames from the Black Resource Center

BREAK A SWEAT AT THE BRIC

CPP has a three-story recreational center, called the Bronco Recreation and Intramural Complex, complete with high-end equipment, a rock climbing wall, an indoor track and basketball courts. The best part is that everything is completely free to use. If students find themselves with nothing to do during U-Hour, fitting in a little bit of exercise could be a good way to release endorphins, brighten up their mood and improve overall health.

GRAB LUNCH AND A DRINK WITH FRIENDS

Sometimes, the only thing better than unwinding is unwinding with friends. Since CPP is a commuter school, it can be difficult to make connections with other students. It is so important to cherish and make time for friendships. Using U-Hour as a time to connect and surround with friends is a healthy distraction and a great way to have a better mood for the rest of the day.

The newly built Innovation Brew Works can be a place to have a quick catch-up with friends on campus. Its selection of hand-crafted beer is also the perfect exploration for students of age, and those not able to drink can try some of the delicious food menu items.



photos by TERESA ACOSTA

A recording studio located in the music department

HOW to make friends

by ALEXIS ALVAREZ

Making the transition to a four-year college can be scary as you're surrounded by unfamiliar faces and filled with uncertainty about what your college experience will look like. But, there are friendships awaiting to be made.

Developing friendships throughout college is about putting yourself out there and having the courage to try new things. There are many ways to make friends, but here is some advice from current students on how to make friends at Cal Poly Pomona:

"I think it's the people that you meet and the experiences that you share with people that define your college life," said Colin Chuang, a civil engineering student.

The involvement students have had on campus can change their college experience. According to Chuang, whether students join Greek life, clubs or meet people from their classes, those connections and shared experiences are what makes college more enjoyable.

"Without the friends I've made, I would not have as much fun, or it would not be as enjoyable at Cal Poly Pomona as it is right now," Chuang said. "The friends that I've made, they're what makes me excited to go to school. They make me want to get out of my room, get out of studying and go do something else besides school, besides being a full-time student."

Chuang was able to make friends through intramurals, clubs, going to class and playing basketball at the Bronco Recreation and Intramural Complex.

He believes as long as students consistently go to class and start up conversations with people around them, they can develop a friendship right then and there, but it could take effort and courage to deepen those friendships outside of the classroom. Chuang's advice for students is to ask their classmates to study, hangout or grab food after class.

"I think deepening relationships just comes down to being OK with rejection and putting yourself out there and just asking the person outside of wherever you already met," Chuang said. "It takes many tries in order to develop confidence in something. You have to do it over and over again and get better at it."



photo by BRYAN DOAN

Breanna Lee and Caroline Gonzalez choose to bond at The Games Center, which offers 8-Ball.

In order for Chuang to develop friendships at CPP, he put himself out there and took the initiative to make connections with people in his major and with similar interests.

Chuang's first year at CPP was during COVID and taking classes on Zoom. During a class, he was playing "Counter-Strike: Global Offensive." He saw in the class Discord another student playing the same game and took the initiative to ask if they could play together. That's how Chuang made his first friend at CPP.

"I was pretty shy; I was worried that people weren't going to like what I had to say or people weren't going to think I'm interesting. But as I met people, I realized that people at Cal Poly Pomona are actually pretty friendly."

- Colin Chuang

Taylor Gonzalez, an English education student, took the Greek life route to make friends, where she was able to meet people in the same major and had similar interests as hers.

"My first couple of years, it was just me going to class and going home," Gonzalez said. "I never felt truly happy, but now I run into so many people I know. It makes my day more enjoyable."

Gonzalez's involvement in Greek life allowed her to make deeper connections and friendships, throughout the many events and socials they have had. Being around the same people constantly has been beneficial to her social life.

"I'm surrounded by them, what feels like every single day, and just spending so much time with them, getting to know them has really been wonderful," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez recommended getting involved in campus activities like Greek life and clubs because it can make college more enjoyable.

Lucas Bolanos, a mechanical engineering student, has been involved with the running club since his first month of starting at CPP. He already had a love for running, so when he saw the club running around campus, Bolanos knew he wanted to be a part of it.

Bolanos credits the running club with helping him get out and socialize, instead of hiding away in his dorm.

"Coming to a consistent place and having the same people there multiple times a week, it really helps kind of get you in there, getting to know them," Bolanos said.

Bolanos recommended students to go out and talk to people and see if they would make good friends.

"People are generally pretty nice and everything," Bolanos said. "You can just talk with them, and they're not going to be weird about it."

Christopher Carlos, a post-grad student working on his teaching credential, is the vice president of the running club and has been a part of Barkada, the Filipino club. He found that being in organiza-



photo by BRYAN DOAN

The Games Center offers a variety of games like Jenga for students.

tions was a great way for him to make friends, and before his life was only centered around school and work.

"I was so focused on my studies, it was really hard to make friends because I felt like I couldn't really connect with anyone outside of class," Carlos said. "So joining the running club changed my experience because it gave me a way to be active, while also finding new people that I wouldn't have met without the club."

For Carlos, joining the running club was a leap of faith because he didn't think he would like running for fun.

During Carlos' first years of college, he found himself closed off and having the mindset of just going to class, work and home. He never really got involved until he



Photo by BRYAN DOAN

The pickleball court at the BRIC is one way David Peck and Austin Dong bond.

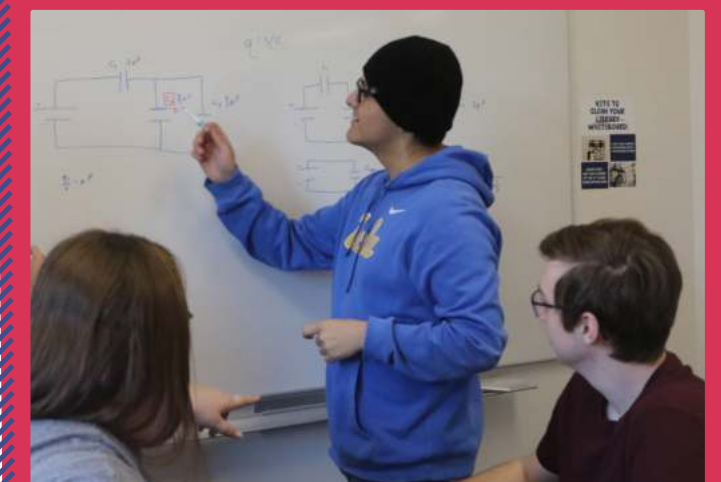


photo by BREN BELMONTE

Some CPP students like Abby Beulke, Matthew Alvarez, Justin Change and Alex Schmidt reserve rooms at the

entered post-grad and became vice president of the running club.

Carlos reflected on the time the running club participated in the Los Angeles 5k with 20 people who signed up and after they went out to Chinatown to walk around and eat food, which was a fun moment for Carlos.

"I think it was the shared experience of having good food and celebrating after such a big achievement of the 5k really cemented the memory in my mind," Carlos said.

Before joining the running club, Carlos was able to make friends in the dorms and in some of his classes. For the few friends he made, Carlos was able to deepen those relationships by checking in a lot and asked his friends to get a bite to eat on campus.

According to Carlos, the easiest way to make friends is to do things you're really interested in and pursue things that are not in your comfort zone such as climbing, running or weightlifting.

The friendships you make can create an unfotgettable college experience. Take the extra step and get involved by building your community today.



photo by BRYAN DOAN

The BRIC offers multiple opprtunities to bond, such as running the race track with your friends or using the electric bicycles.

"Even if you don't end up liking it, it's really good that you tried to begin with because when you try these new things and surround yourself with an unfamiliar atmosphere. That's when you find friends that you would never would've made previously."

- Christopher Carlos





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66



The Commute is Real

by DARREN LOO

Tips for navigating transit on campus

For many Cal Poly Pomona students, planning a commute ranging from 20 minutes to over an hour is part of their college experience.

CPP is a commuter campus with, a majority of students traveling from far distances. In the 2022 and 2023 fall semesters, 84% of students commuted to campus, according to Cal Poly Pomona's Institutional Research, Planning, and Analytics common data sheet.

"The first week that school starts, the traffic is insane," said economics student Nathan Nguyen. "All the parents are there dropping their kids off, so I'd say get there at least 30 minutes early because it takes a while, but once you get to the third or fourth week, everything starts to calm down a little bit."

CPP has numerous parking lots to accommodate the vast number of commuters on campus, but most still fill up quickly. Parking Structure 1, lots E, J and M and northwest side of campus are the lots that typically fill up first, as they are closest to most buildings on campus and the majority are a downhill walk from campus destinations.

Parking Structure 2 and lots B, E, K and U on the southern ends of campus are typically less crowded and are easier to find parking in, though are more secluded. Although CPP does offer a shuttle system, the Bronco Express Shuttle, it can be unreliable at times due to traffic and other circumstances.

“I usually have a skateboard, so I just skate around, which makes it a lot easier, but I do recommend an electric skateboard or an electric scooter or something.”

- Nathan Nguyen

“Realistically though, if you’re there 15 to 20 minutes early, you’ll make it to class, even if it’s across campus.” Housing is an option on campus, allowing students to save on commute time and gas, but dorming can be expensive. According to the common data sheet, on-campus housing and a meal plan costs about \$16,682 per year on top of tuition. Some students, like civil engineering student Victoria Alvarez, aren’t willing to pay that kind of money when they have the ability to get to campus via commuting.

“I decided early on that I was going to commute to Pomona to save on costs since my financial aid covers basically all of my tuition,” Alvarez said. “As long as I drive to campus, I don’t have to pay anything in terms of schooling.”

Although driving to campus is the most common way to commute, CPP and nearby transit agencies are attempting to find a solution. Danny Wu, the executive director of campus planning, transportation and sustainability summarized what Foothill Transit and Los Angeles Metro will soon offer when it comes to students’ commutes.

Wu talked about the Foothill Transit, which re-routed over a year ago, and the Silver Streak, which is their rapid bus line connecting downtown LA and the Montclair Transit Center. Today, there’s a stop right in front of the Student Services Building.

“(CPP) is fortunate to be served by eight separate bus routes,” Wu said.



photos by BREN BELMONTE

Multiple bikes stationed at the bike rack in front of a classroom building.



photo by DARREN LOO

Outside of Parking Structure 2 at Cal Poly Pomona.

“In totality these bus lines provide access to all parts of the region including downtown Los Angeles and a lot of destinations in the San Gabriel Valley as well as some in Orange County.”

- Danny Wu

Wu said CPP is also served by three nearby regional rail stations: City of Industry and Pomona stations, both of which are served by the Metrolink’s Riverside Line connecting Riverside to LA Union Station, and Pomona North, which is served by the San Bernardino Line running between downtown San Bernardino and LA Union Station.

LA Metro is also in the works to extend the A Line light rail train to Pomona North and, in the future, to Montclair Transit Center. The Pomona segment of the line was scheduled to open early 2025, which will make the A line run from downtown Long Beach through South Los Angeles, Downtown LA, Pasadena, the foothill cities and Pomona. Foothill Transit already has plans to add connections to the A Line to CPP and Mt. San Antonio College, according to Wu.

Students who wish to take public transportation to campus can get a Class Pass, which allows CPP students to ride Foothill Transit for free.

Transit is a great way to get to campus, and many hope to have that option, but it may not be feasible to everyone. Wu said LA Metro has plans to expand freeways near campus, including turning Highway 71 into a full-fledged freeway. They also plan to expand the Metro Express Lanes to the new San Bernardino Express Lanes at the county border. The Express Lanes could alleviate some congestion by encouraging carpooling through tolls for cars with less than two occupants.

Although there are various ways to get to campus, the majority of students will likely need to drive. As long as students plan accordingly, most will be OK, but if there are alternative ways to get to campus, give them a try.

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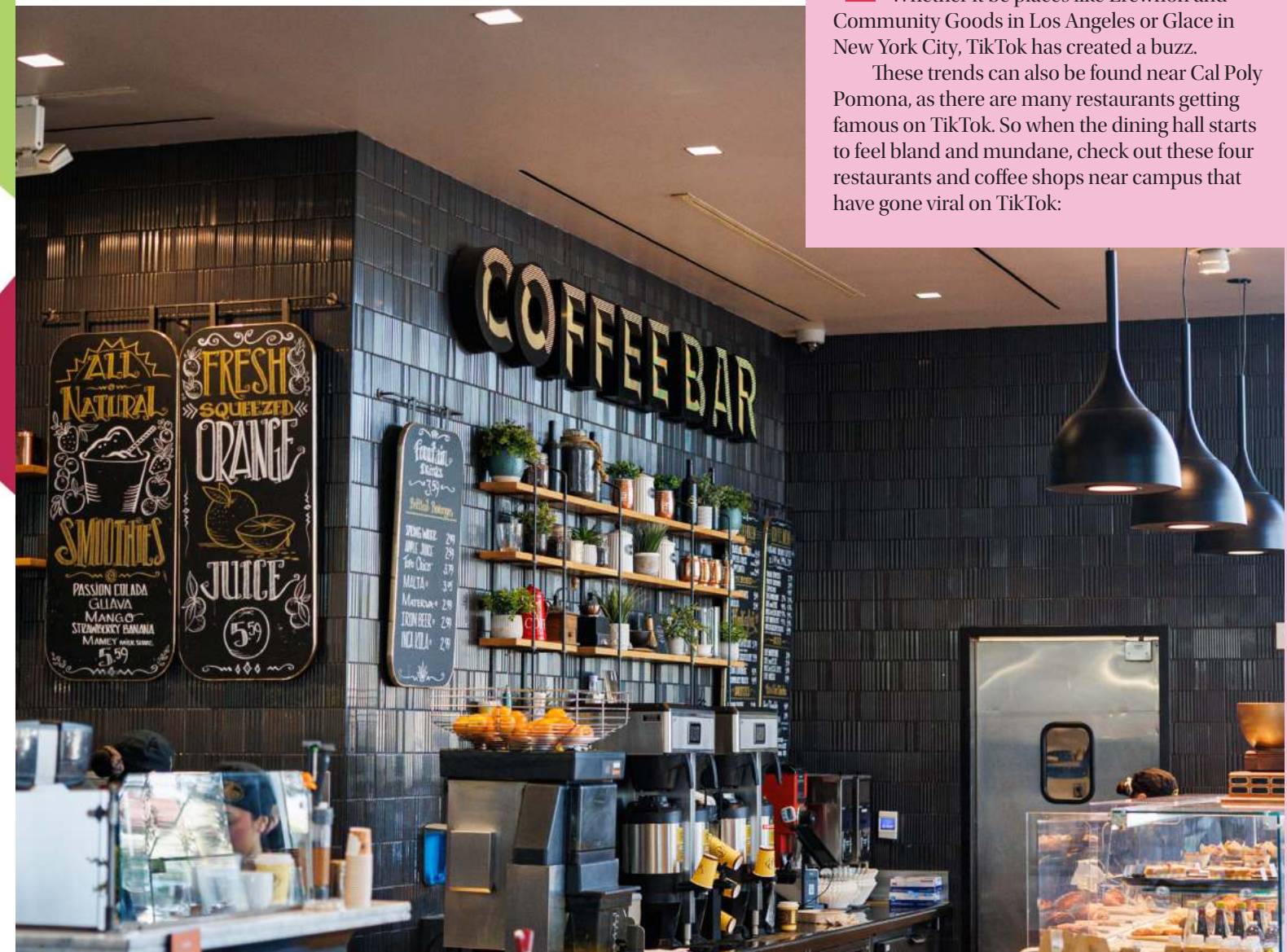
Talk of the Tok

by DENISE CALDERON

4 restaurants
on the rise
near campus

TikTok has recently become an avenue for people to find new food spots in their area. Whether it be places like Erewhon and Community Goods in Los Angeles or Glace in New York City, TikTok has created a buzz.

These trends can also be found near Cal Poly Pomona, as there are many restaurants getting famous on TikTok. So when the dining hall starts to feel bland and mundane, check out these four restaurants and coffee shops near campus that have gone viral on TikTok:



MI CAFECITO COFFEE
101 S. Main St., Pomona, CA 91766

Mi Cafecito Coffee has charmed customers with Latin-inspired coffee and pastries since its opening in 2016, but more than 100,000 posts on TikTok of people reviewing the food and drinks as well as thousands of likes have put this coffee shop on the map.

It has also made a strong presence on Instagram with more than 20,000 followers.



From left to right: An iced cafe de olla latte, iced chaga with oat milk and iced tres leches latte from Mi Cafecito Coffee

Mi Cafecito Coffee, about 4.5 miles from CPP's campus, is known for its custom Latin lattes such as tres leches, cajeta

WISH YOU WERE HERE COFFEE ROASTERS
101 E. 3rd St., Pomona, CA 91766



The interior of Wish You Were Here Coffee Roasters with open windows and multiple tables

Wish You Were Here Coffee Roasters, a coffee and brunch spot about 4.7 miles from campus, has created quite the following on social media, specifically TikTok, since opening in 2021.

Many of its videos of users posting reviews have reached more than 2,000 views. It also has received more than 6,000 followers on Instagram and 4.4 stars on Yelp with more than 200 reviews.

This spot offers everything from signature lattes, ranging from bourbon caramel to coconut lavender as well as premium brunch options that feature a variety of waffles and breakfast burritos. The range of dishes and trendy aesthetic has made this place a hit for many brunch lovers.

(Mexican caramel) and mocha mexicano. It also offers a variety of Mexican pastries that range from conchas to empanadas. Mi Cafecito Coffee is a quick and nearby place to grab a coffee and pastry on a weekend or in between classes.

Content creator @savouryseb made one of the most viral TikToks about this coffee shop. He recommended the vanilla latte and gave the shop a nine out of 10.

"I thought this place was amazing," said Juan Gomez, a political science student.

“I tried the tres leches latte, and it was incredible and tasted just like the cake. The shop was clean and everyone was very friendly. I overall really enjoyed my experience, and I will definitely be going back.”

- Juan Gomez

Prices range from \$6 to \$7 for a latte depending on what you get and if you decide to get a milk substitute, such as almond or oat milk.

"This place had an amazing selection of coffee and food, which I liked because I was able to get my coffee and breakfast all in one place," said Vanessa Rivas, a business student. "I ordered a bourbon caramel latte and avocado toast, and they were both so good. I loved that they had so many options, and the vibe of the shop was cozy and comforting. This is for sure a place that I am going to continue to go to for my weekend brunch."

The prices range from about \$7 for most lattes to about \$10 to \$15 for their food items.



photos by BRYAN DOAN

From left to right: An iced match latte, iced vanilla sage and iced bourbon caramel latte from Wish You Were Here Coffee Roasters

PORTO'S BAKERY AND CAFE
584 S. Sunset Ave., West Covina, CA 91790

Even though Porto's Bakery and Cafe, a Cuban-inspired bakery and restaurant, has been around since 1976, it has become very popular on TikTok, particularly with younger customers.

Porto's Bakery and Cafe currently has more than 15,000 followers on TikTok and more than 150,000 likes across all of their posts, excluding the multiple posts people have made reviewing its food and drinks. Some videos have garnered more than 1 million views, suggesting Porto's Bakery and Cafe a staple place to eat.

Porto's Bakery and Cafe is famous for its handmade pastries and cakes, specifically the cheese roll, guava roll and tres leches cake.



Apple strudel in Porto's box

photo by DARREN LOO

SMOKE AND FIRE SOCIAL EATERY
401 E. Foothill Blvd., Pomona, CA 91767

Smoke and Fire Social Eatery has gained a lot of attention via TikTok since opening in 2021, with more 200,000 followers and 3 million likes on its page.

The restaurant has also increased traction with 4.6 stars on Yelp, more than 4,000 reviews and thousands of likes through TikTok user video reviews.

Smoke and Fire Social Eatery specializes in all things barbecue, offering menu items like brisket grilled cheese and brisket fries. It also offers smashburgers and Nashville hot chicken sandwiches for those who do not want to eat red meat.



Three brisket tacos from Smoke and Fire Social Eatery with with freshly made tortillas, seared cheese mix, bbq brisket, curtido slaw, comeback sauce and cilantro

It is also known for Cuban-inspired foods such as the chicken Milanese sandwich, the Cuban sandwich and Plato de lechon (slow-roasted pork).

They have multiple locations, but the closest one to campus is in West Covina. It is about 8.2 miles away from campus.

"I love that place, although the lines and wait time can be very long," said Laisha Villanueva, a business administration student.

“I think it’s worth it. Before they had opened that location, the nearest Porto’s location was 45 to 50 minutes away, so we would only go once or twice a year, but now we go very often.”

- Laisha Villanueva

"I hold good memories from that location in West Covina and their pastries have also been part of memorable events in my life."

Pastries cost between \$2 to \$5, and drinks are about \$5, depending on the drink.



A texas beef brisket grilled cheese with prime brisket, three-cheese blend, dill pickles, bbq sauce and Texas toast

"I usually do not gravitate toward barbeque restaurants, but when I saw this place on TikTok, I thought I would check it out, and I am so glad that I did," said Erik Carver, a civil engineering student. "I ended up getting the brisket fires, and they were very good. They had so much flavor, and my friend got the brisket burrito, and it was also amazing. This is a great spot near campus that I like to go to when I am tired of campus food."

Smoke and Fire Social Eatery in Pomona is about 7.4 miles away from campus. It also has locations in La Habra and Riverside. Prices range from \$10 to \$20, depending on the item.

THRIFT TRIPS

HOW TO FIND KNICK KNACKS AND COMMUNITY AT LOCAL OPEN MARKETS

by KRISTINE PASCUAL



Flea markets and thrift stores have skyrocketed in popularity as spots for college students looking to furnish their living space, update their closet or find the joy in sifting and digging through a pile of hidden gems.

From vintage clothing and retro home decor to newer collectible items such as Sonny Angels or Smiskis, flea markets and thrift stores near Cal Poly Pomona offer an opportunity to dig for one-of-a-kind items for half the price. Furthermore, these markets are more than just shopping destinations; they've created a community with fellow shoppers and vendors alike.

If you're a CPP student on a budget looking to find affordable, unique clothes or if you're just looking for a fun community to check out on the weekends, here are some of the best flea markets and thrift stores just a short drive from campus:

Fontana Market

Founder Teresa Reyes got the idea to host the Fontana Market when she realized the majority of vintage markets were based in Los Angeles. Founded in 2018, with just three vendors selling in a parking lot, it has grown into much more. Reyes's goal was for creators and small businesses to have a space to meet, connect with each other and sell goods.

"After COVID, in person interactions and meeting people became harder and harder," Reyes said. "I also wanted people to know that with a consistent event, they would be able to turn their creative passion into a job."

The market features a variety of vendors including vintage items, original art, collectibles and baked goods. But more importantly, Reyes is proud of the true community that has been built between the Fontana Market vendors and customers.

"I've heard stories from customers saying they found their favorite shirt here for \$5 a year ago," Reyes said. "I've also overheard how people look forward to our events because they are always able to find something cool or interesting for a good price."



Throughout the year, the market features different themed events to draw in customers, including special sales where all items are priced at \$15 and under, as well as fun, themed markets like Peanuts or Sanrio.

Fontana Market hosts monthly events, but the location changes depending on the permits. They have hosted markets in Riverside and San Diego and hope to expand more in the future. Fontana only allows six permits per location a year, but Reyes is hoping for change. Her goal is to make Fontana Market a permanent location in the city.

"It's important for small businesses to have an outlet to sell their goods because sometimes it's better to interact in person with potential customers and vendors."

"In-person connections can help you connect with like-minded individuals. The difference between someone who is able to make their passion a full-time job or not is the group of individuals around you." —Teresa Reyes



PHOTOS BY SOFIA MARTINEZ

Hot Girl Market

Inspired by her own vintage '90s shop, Futura Fine, founder of Hot Girl Market, Lex wanted to create a physical space for "hot girls" to thrift for unique gems.

Lex grew up thrifting at the Rose Bowl Flea Market in Pasadena with her dad who became the driving force leading her to create the Hot Girl Market.

"He was pushing for me to create (a market) before I even had the idea myself," Lex said. "We have been in business for two and a half years."

Having previous experience with her vintage shop, Lex had a steady foundation for creating Hot Girl Market. She prepared by touring various venues to see what would best fit her vision before she settled on the right one and began promoting the event.

The market features female small business owners selling sustainable goods, including vintage clothing and handmade jewelry. The market typically also has food, tattoos, tarot readings and tooth gems for customers to enjoy.

"A lot of vendors rely on markets for their income, so it sustains their livelihoods and provides young people with a safe, fun event to attend, even if they are just coming to get a coffee and walk around. There are also a lot of affordable \$5 to \$10 options, so you do not need to break the bank to shop." — Lex

Lex hosted a runway show in New York in September 2024, featuring independent, handmade designers including 815.co, BODEGA BY V, Chloe Likes Pink, Sour Cherry, Sage & Saber, Infrared, Rayne and FonkyMonky. Her goal was to emphasize the importance and power of independent designers and to encourage buyers to purchase from local businesses rather than fast fashion.

The market is hosted once a month in Los Angeles and New York, offering a curated selection of vendors who specialize in Y2K clothing, retro pieces and vintage accessories. It's become a go-to destination for fashion enthusiasts looking to score unique, nostalgic items while supporting sustainable shopping practices.

"Everyone should be wearing secondhand fashion regardless of age, but it helps slow down the fast fashion economy and shows them that they will no longer participate in their detrimental practice," Lex said. "Maybe it will force them to implement eco-friendly steps in their production process or not create as much."

Lex is passionate about the impact of secondhand fashion, not only on individual style but on the environment as well. By encouraging others to shop secondhand, she hopes to challenge the fast fashion industry and inspire more sustainable practices. For her, it's about more than just offering an alternative; it's about creating a community and making a positive difference.

"I love bringing the community together as well as making a positive impact on the environment by being able to offer a sustainable alternative to shipping," Lex said. "I can be creative with it in so many ways, and it has taken me to different places, different people, and I love event production overall. I love my job and hope to continue and expand it."





909 Open Market

Christian Verdugo's wife started a small business in 2020, attending pop-up markets and events during the pandemic as a way to bring people together and support local vendors. While that particular business is no longer operating, it sparked a new idea for Verdugo. The 909 Open Market was born in 2021 as a vibrant community gathering that has since become a staple in the area.

909 Open Market is more than a place to shop; it's a family experience, Verdugo said. While food vendors are the heart of the market, visitors can also browse an array of arts, crafts and vintage clothing from small businesses.

The market's welcoming atmosphere is enhanced by live performances and special themed events, including meet-and-greets with characters for kids. In the past, themed events have ranged from seasonal celebrations to family-friendly experiences, ensuring there's always something new to look forward to.

For Verdugo, a Pomona resident, the success of 909 Open Market isn't just about the goods sold; it's about the connections made. As the market continues to thrive, Verdugo expressed his gratitude for the people who attend the event.

"I enjoy the relationships that have been formed from hosting our events," Verdugo said. "From meeting many locals and many that drive far to come to our events, we are thankful for everyone we have met along the way."

The market happens every Thursday at the Derby Room in Pomona. It also hosts events on the third Saturday of every month in downtown Pomona. In the future, Verdugo plans to open a Sunday market at The Union on Garey in addition to expanding to the Inland Empire in 2025.

"We believe our market has been a great addition to the city of Pomona and its community," Verdugo said. "We absolutely love what we do, and we feel the community that supports us feel it as well."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF 909 OPEN MARKET INSTAGRAM



We have built a community in the city of Pomona. A community of small business vendors as well as people from the community that come out to enjoy the market."

—Christian Verdugo



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4 fun things to do on campus

by ANTONIA LOPEZ

Amid the hustle of balancing academic life with extracurricular activities, it is easy to let the stress overwhelm you. Instead of lulling around for your next class, **Cal Poly Pomona has a variety of places for students to explore, relax and recharge at school.**

Between the classes, meetings and mountains of homework, it's important to take time to wind down and enjoy the time you have on campus. At CPP, there are several places and events for students to enjoy, from strolls through galleries to scuba diving:

CPP THEATER

Throughout the year, whether through Instagram posts or flyers around the University Quad, several plays and performances are hosted at the University Theatre. These performances are carefully selected, and theater and new dance Associate Professor Sarah Krainin takes pride in them. Krainin added that productions often have short and vague descriptions, not giving away the true depth of the story being told.

“The things that we want to **share with our community** are things that we really think about.”

— Sarah Krainin

“The things that we want to share with our **community are things that we really think about** when we're choosing our plays that we hope will be relevant and create new conversations, new curiosities, new openings for our audiences,” Krainin said. “If you can walk out of a room at the end of the night and be thinking about your connection to the world or how something else is being lived by other people that you hadn't thought about before, that is a valuable thing.”

Along with enjoying theater, students can also get involved in productions, no matter their major.

“Intro to theater, intro to film, intro to acting, world dance and cultures, those are some of our lower-division GE classes that engage a lot of majors and a lot of non-majors,” Krainin said. “**Dance classes always attract a lot of folks who just want to move their bodies at the end of a long day being a hospitality major or another study-heavy major.**”

Beyond performing, students can also get involved in other aspects of theater production, such as set design, costume creation, lighting and directing. It's a great way for students to gain hands-on experience and valuable skills that can be applied to careers postcollege whether it be in the arts or elsewhere.

The University Theatre at CPP is more than just a place to watch plays; **its also a welcoming and inclusive space** where students can explore their creativity, collaborate with others and experience art.

Whether you're a theater enthusiast or just looking for a fun way to express yourself, **there's a place for you in the University Theatre.**



PHOTO BY
BREN BELMONTE

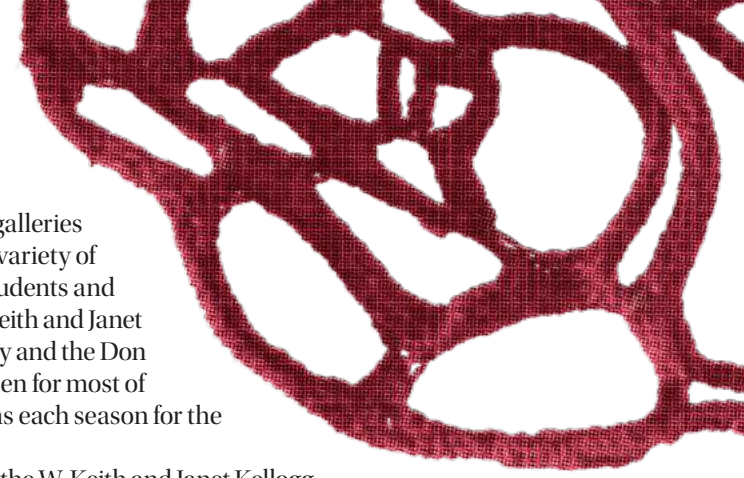
ART GALLERIES

CPP is home to two art galleries on campus that showcase a variety of artworks from professors, students and artists outside CPP. The W. Keith and Janet Kellogg University Art Gallery and the Don B. Huntley Art Gallery are open for most of the year with new exhibitions each season for the community to visit.

According to its website, the W. Keith and Janet Kellogg University Art Gallery was built in 1988 by the John L. and Helen Kellogg Foundation. **The gallery is used to present timely exhibitions of contemporary art**, such as the "Above & Below: Views from AltaSea's Blue Hour" and "Black, White & Shades of Grey." The gallery highlighted female artists from Los Angeles and was curated by Kim Abeles. The exhibition features work from Amabelle Aguiluz, Isabel Beavers, Barbara Benish, Patsy Cox, Danielle Eubank, Katherine Gray, Cynthia Minet, Ann Phong, Barbara Thomason and Minoosh Zomorodinia from a variety of themes, including pollution, immigration and ocean water.

Located on the fourth floor of the University Library, the Don B. Huntley Gallery houses pieces from Don B. Huntley's own Western Art Collection. As described in his biography on the College of Agriculture's webpage, Huntley was a student at CPP who went on to grow and sell pistachios under the Huntley-Moore Farms label. As his success grew, he gave back to CPP by funding student research, sponsoring scholarships and supporting agricultural literacy efforts.

Curated by **Michele Cairella Fillmore**, the gallery features art centered around landscapes from the "Wild West." The paintings feature works from David Jonason, Michael Stack, Kyle Sims, Lynn Wade, Jim C. Norton and Curt Walters. Each of their paintings depict wildlife, landscapes and "buckaroo art." **The gallery also features antique items from Huntley's estate, including sculptures and objects such as rugs, boots with spurs and a branding iron.**



PHOTOS BY KRISTINE PASCUAL



THE BRIC

Along with being the go-to place for students to get a good workout, **the Bronco Recreation and Intramural Complex has plenty of activities that to entice even the biggest homebodies.**

Christopher Carlos, a CPP graduate student and member services assistant at the BRIC, shared several fun activities and opportunities they offer.

"We have a very gigantic rock-climbing wall," Carlos said. "It is one of the tallest in the CSU system. The convenience of it has really opened me up to the world of climbing, and I think it's really cool and something worth trying out."

Carlos also explained several clubs meet at the BRIC for their activities, including the Bronco Lifting Club, the Running Club, the Badminton Club and the Pickleball Club. They also host classes that are open for anyone to join in.

"They're just great ways to meet people from different majors and from different years," Carlos said. "Because as a first-year, you're really surrounded in your classes by other first-years in the same major, so it helps to branch out and meet people from other clubs."

All classes are free. Some of the classes offered are Zumba, Pilates, kickboxing, and Muay Thai.

Another unique activity the BRIC offers is scuba-diving.

"We have some classes that I believe to try out scuba diving is like \$10," Carlos said. "And if you're really interested in it and you enjoy trying out scuba diving, then you can get a certification for scuba diving, which would be about \$360 compared to outside of school, which would be like \$1,000. So it'd be a lot cheaper to do it here."

"They're just great ways to meet people from different majors and from different years." — Christopher Carlos



PHOTOS BY BRYAN DOAN

FARM STORE

Located at AGRIScapes, CPP's Farm Store is one of the most unique aspects on campus, and the store is right across the street from the University Village. **The Farm Store is a great place to stop by between classes or to shop for campus-grown groceries.**

Much of the produce and novelty items sold are from the campus farm, orchards, nursery and greenhouses. These products include fresh-squeezed orange juice, cheese, meats, milk, produce and even beer and wine. The nursery has many fruit and vegetable plants for customers to purchase and grow in their very own backyard. All plants are grown for and cared for by CPP students.

The Farm Store also hosts various events throughout the school year, including the annual Pumpkin Fest, Easter Egg Hunt and Tomatozania. The community looks forward to Tomatozania each year as hundreds of tomato varieties are offered, including well-known varieties such as Better Boy, Early Girl, Green Zebra, Brandywine and many more.

Students can visit the Farm Store at 4102 S. University Drive, and it is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

HOW TO AVOID THE FRESHMAN 15

A guide to keeping the weight off your first year

by ALEXIS ALVAREZ

It's your freshman year, and you've unlocked new-found freedom: splurging on junk food you may have not been allowed to eat before when you were living under mom and dad's roof. Now it's all added up, clothes are fitting a bit snugger, and as a college student, buying a new wardrobe is not exactly in the financial picture. These are all signs of the freshman 15.

The "freshman 15" is a term commonly used in the United States — since its publication in a 1989 issue of Seventeen magazine — to describe the weight a freshman might gain during their first year of college. Avoiding the freshman 15 is much more than

just trying to get a few extra steps in to help stay fit in college, it's adapting to a new lifestyle.

Cara Astacaan, an Associated Student Inc. personal trainer at the Bronco Recreation and Intramural Complex, expressed how a healthier lifestyle can go beyond just physical activity; it's about finding ways to de-stress that can make you happy. She broke it down into three categories: creative, physical and mental. These can include drawing, sudoku, reading and going for walks.

"Something outside of being a student because they are more than just a student," Astacaan said. "They're a whole person."

Astacaan also described the BRIC, which is the gym on campus, as an

open environment with a variety of activities and resources, such as free-weights, indoor basketball and a 51-foot-tall rock-climbing wall. The BRIC also offers many different fitness classes students can join through the ASI website or app such as Pilates, Mixed Martial Arts and dance.

"Everyone has a place here that you can belong to; it's your job to find that space and just know that you're allowed to take up space anywhere in the BRIC, anywhere on campus," Astacaan said. "You only have so much time here. Might as well stop thinking and just do it."

Astacaan said training is the easy part, but there are mental

obstacles some students might face, especially being in a gym environment, which is why she likes to incorporate mental aspects to her clients' training by getting feedback on how they felt during a certain exercise.

According to Astacaan, many clients come in wanting to change how they look, with the influence of social media, and grow certain muscle groups. She understands and supports her clients' individual goals but likes to remind them there's other benefits to exercise.

"I like to promote longevity and being able to stay functional and independent throughout your entire life," Astacaan said.

Clients who have been training with Astacaan longer than two months expressed how their family and friends have noticed an increase in their confidence and physical health.

"I feel like I'm maintaining more where I want to be, and I just feel better both mentally and physically, so it's good after I work out to relieve stress from school," said Justin Arriola, a mechanical engineering student.

Arriola utilizes the BRIC, which is included with students' tuition, because of its convenience. By using the free weights and following his own exercise routine, he is able to accomplish his personal fitness goals. He recommended going to the BRIC in the morning because it's not as crowded as it would be in the afternoon.

Colin Chuang, a civil engineering student, has served as team captain for a basketball intramural team. Intramurals, commonly referred to as IMLeagues, are recreational sports organized under ASI. The sports offered change each semester but range from flag football to dodgeball.

Aside from playing basketball

as an intramural, he plays in his own down time at the gym with his friends a couple times a week. He described being involved in an intramural as the "icing on the cake" with staying fit throughout college.

"I think that it adds the extra level of competitiveness," Chuang said. "It encourages people to want to go even harder, push even harder, you know put out more effort. I think that's a good thing in terms of health because it allows for more intense exercise, more intense cardio and just gets people out of their dorms, out of their homes."

Students can find out more about intramurals on the ASI CPP app, where they can join or make a team for \$20.

Chuang encourages any student interested to join in the five-week long seasons of intramurals because it's an opportunity to get



photo by DARREN LOO
The BRIC offers free climbing lessons for students. The gear is supplied.



photo by DANZEL YAP



photo by DANZEL YAP

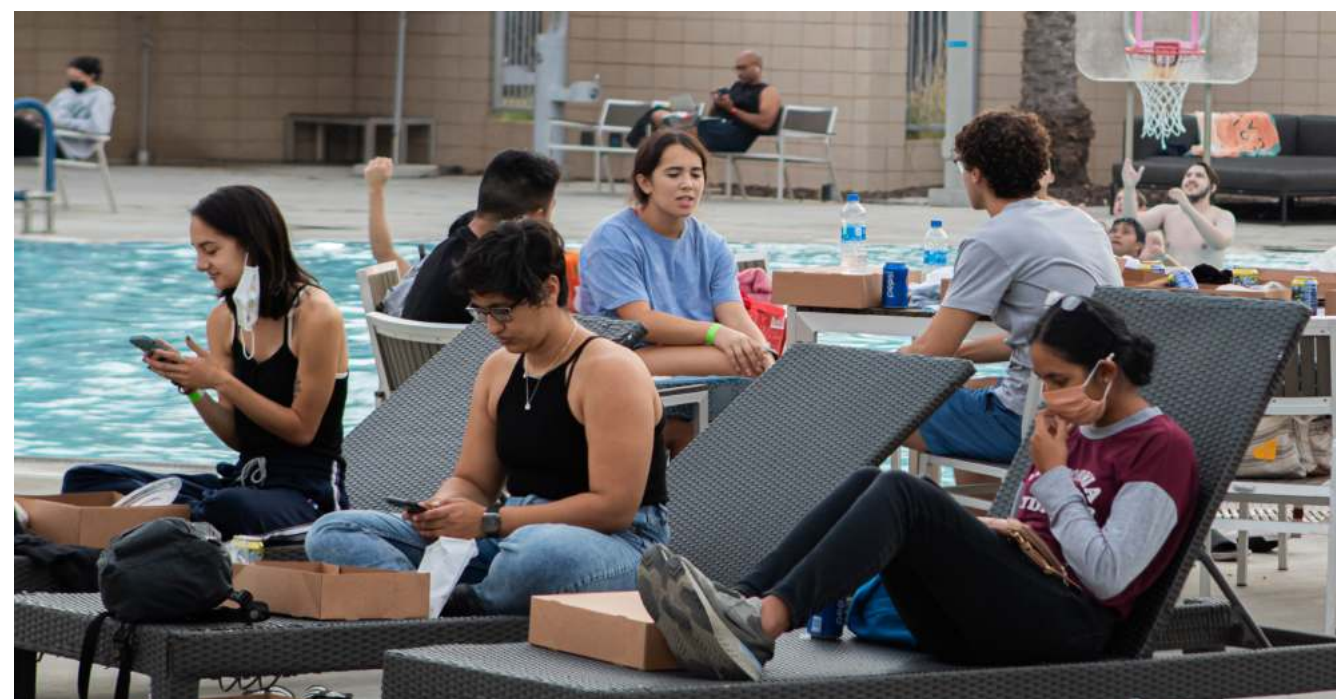


photo by DARREN LOO

involved and have fun while staying in shape.

“Being someone who stepped in for the first time, not knowing too many people and realizing that the gym, the school, the whole intramural program is full of great and amazing people,” Chuang said. “I think you have nothing to worry about, and it's going to be fun.”

Alongside CPP's resources for physical activity to stay fit, there are also healthy food options that are available on campus, including Qdoba Mexican Grill, Hibachi-San and Centerpointe Dining Commons, CPP's cafeteria. For a quick snack, there's Pony Express, Fresh Escape and Sushi Bar.

According to Centerpointe's website, there are plenty of options for different dietary needs, such as a sushi bar and salad bar that include Cal Poly Pomona Farms-grown produce. Centerpointe offers different menu items for breakfast, lunch, dinner and brunch, as well as varying food options Monday through Friday.

Fresh Escape offers many vegetables and toppings for a custom-made salad, gluten-free pita pizza and more, according to its website.

To help stay fit using the BRIC and healthy food options on campus, there are some things to keep in mind. To find healthy food options on campus, including daily menus and nutritional information, visit Centerpointe Dining's website.

To use the BRIC, first, sign up for a free membership and activate the membership through the ASI website. Then, log into the ASI app to access the barcode. You will need it to scan through the gates to enter the BRIC. If you have any trouble signing up for a BRIC membership, an ASI employee can also help you at the front desk.



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The Glass House

The Glass House proves small venues matter

by BRYAN DOAN



When you mention music venues in Southern California, big cities, such as Los Angeles, usually come to mind as the hub of live music. About 31 miles East of Downtown LA, the city of Pomona has built a music scene of its own.

Located in vibrant Downtown Pomona, venues like the Glass House, the Fox Theater and The Haven — all within walking distance of each other — have kept the local music energy alive. Each spot is uniquely different on their own, but the Glass House stands out for its diversity of music genres and authentic live-concert atmosphere.

The Glass House sits on the corner of Second and Thomas streets, and it opened its doors almost 30 years ago in the Pomona Arts Colony in 1996. It's an all-ages venue that has hosted everyone from punk legends to up-and-coming bands.

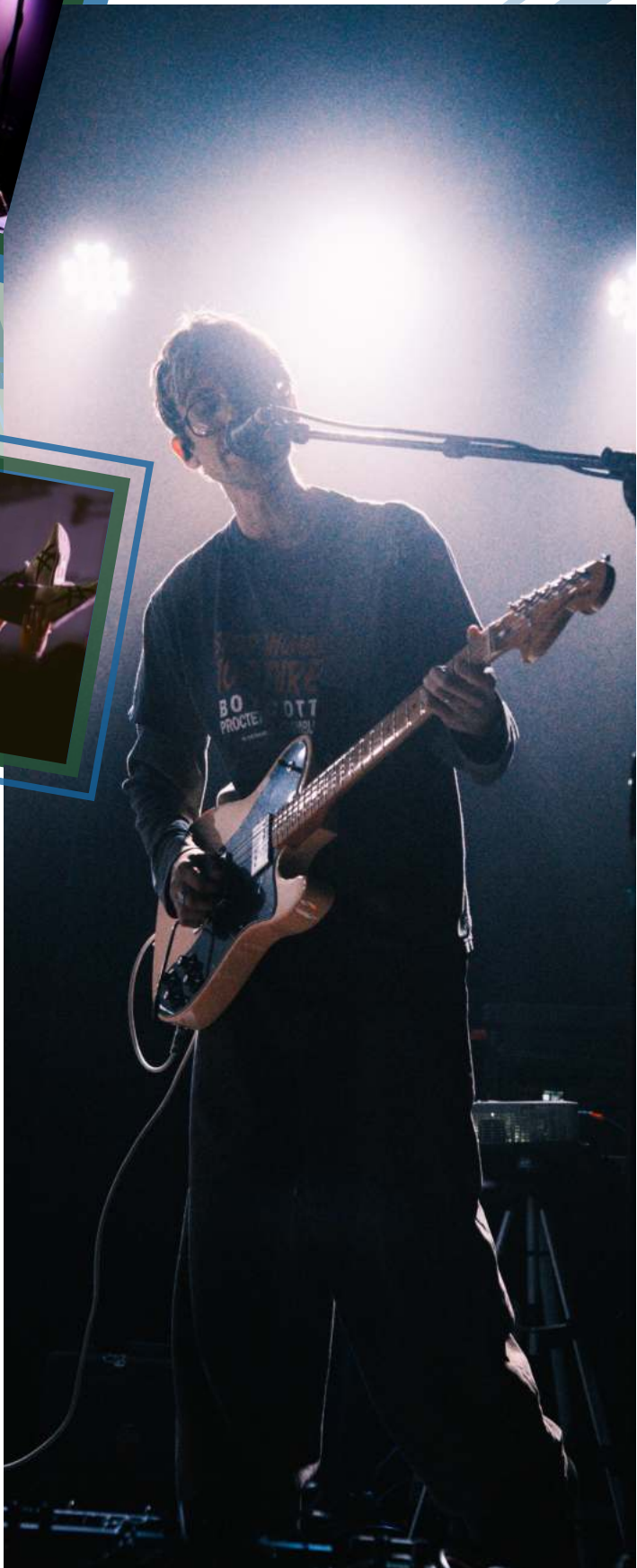
It's the kind of place where you can catch a show, then walk around to enjoy the nightlife in Downtown Pomona. It's not flashy or as huge as the Fox Theater, but that is a part of the charm with the Glass House.

Going to a show at the Glass House has its own unique experience. The venue is a standing room only, a design choice that traces back to its early roots of hosting mostly punk and alternative rock bands in the late '90s. These genres thrived on high-energy performances, packed crowds and the kind of direct connection between artist and audience a seated venue can't offer.

As soon as the lights go down and the first note hits, it feels like everyone in the room is moving all together. The crowd is packed so close to the stage that it feels like there is no gap, and sometimes stage diving and crowd surfing occur.

“When the lights really coincide with the drops, those are the best moments. When it gets really heavy and the lights flicker, it just hits you in your soul.”

-Jacob Lopez



The Glass House is not just a venue for live music performances. It is also used as a gathering space for different communities to come together. For example, the Glass House hosted an official after-party in February 2025 for Anime Impulse, a convention celebrating anime culture. People from the convention gathered at the venue for a night of EDM music and community, many of whom still dressed in their cosplay outfits.

Austin Dong, a CPP graduate and animal science student who attended the Anime Impulse after-party, shared his experience at the event.

"It was really cool seeing the venue open up for something like that," Dong said. "I saw a ton of people in cosplay, the energy was great and it felt like a big celebration of what we all enjoyed."

Many of the biggest names in the music industry have played here, with most early in their careers, such as Kendrick Lamar. Rising artists like Omar Apollo also took the stage before their breakthroughs. At every show, there is a raw and real energy that is hard to find at any other concert venue.

The Glass House is a place where music grows, for concertgoers and music artists alike, and it acts as a reminder of how important independent venues are in keeping the spirit of live music alive.

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