

Monday's Message – February 28, 2011

Hello everyone...

I want to start today with some terrific news from the comprehensive campaign. On Friday, longtime university friends and Panda Restaurant Group co-founders [Andrew and Peggy Cherng finalized a major gift to the Collins College](#). They pledged \$2.5 million for construction of a \$10 million educational complex that will include classrooms and study spaces specifically for the college's new masters program. This gift will be matched by Jim and Carol Collins, making it a \$5 million day for the Collins College. When you include the gifts from Eugene Park and the Marriott Foundation, the Collins College has now reached its \$10 million capital project goal. Congratulations to Dean Andy Feinstein!

And as they say on TV, "but wait – there's more!" Also on Friday, university alumnus Dr. Doug Ramsey pledged \$1 million to support lab space in the new College of Business Administration building. We also learned that Dina Perry, the sister of the late chemistry Professor Chevy Goldstein, pledged \$100,000 to the Goldstein endowment. And last but not least, National Development Council member and Parker Aerospace vice president Joel Benkie has pledged \$35,000. Those dollars will then be matched by parent company Parker Hannifin for a total of \$70,000. All in all, it was a phenomenal week for our development efforts.

After learning that our chief information officer, [Stephanie Doda](#), was planning on retiring in July, I took some time to think through our next steps in I&IT. Late last week, I shared with the President's Cabinet, the deans and the chair of the Academic Senate where we would be moving.

The most important thing I realized over the past few weeks is that our technology-based campus-wide programs require leadership that reports directly to me. With that in mind, I have initiated a process to begin a [national search for a new chief information officer](#), one that will manage the day-to-day operations of I&IT. It's my intent to have someone identified by the end of this academic year.

I also made a decision that I believe will better serve our academic mission. After consulting with Provost denBoer, we are [moving the eLearning unit from I&IT to Academic Affairs](#). We absolutely needed to create a new model to strengthen our online instruction opportunities. A search for a new director of eLearning had been launched, but I suspended that process to give the provost an opportunity to structure the position accordingly.

[Super Sunday](#) is a CSU program designed to connect with and inform African American students and their families about what it takes to get into college.

On Sundays each February since 2005, CSU leaders, including the chancellor, trustees, presidents and other higher education ambassadors, speak at various churches across the state. They are there to share information about preparing for college, applying to a CSU campus, and qualifying for financial aid.

Yesterday, Deborah Brandon, Executive Director of Outreach and Admissions, Cal Poly Pomona student Matt Bennett and I were hosted by Pastor Charles Lee Johnson and the congregation of the Corona Community Church. I spoke about the power of higher education and opportunities that might await them in the CSU and at Cal Poly Pomona. I want to thank the members of the church for sharing part of their Sunday service with me. My message was well received and reiterated by Pastor Johnson in his sermon. Our Super Sunday efforts have resulted in increased applications and admissions. I hope that this will be the situation at the Corona Community Church.

[Postseason basketball](#) is one of Cal Poly Pomona's rites of winter. The 2011 California Collegiate Athletic Association begins its postseason tournament tomorrow, Tuesday, March 1. The 2010 National Champion Bronco men play at San Francisco State at 7 p.m., while the Cal Poly Pomona women will be home in Kellogg Gym to take on Cal State Stanislaus at 7 p.m. Please come out and support the team on Tuesday. The women's team enters tomorrow night with a 22-4 record and have returned to a place of prominence in the CCAA and the region.

Should both teams win on Tuesday, they will play the remainder of the CCAA Championships at Cal State East Bay, this Friday and Saturday, March 4th and 5th. The CCAA Tournament championship teams each earn an automatic berth to the NCAA Tournament. Let's go Broncos!

In my message last week, I spoke about the importance of advocacy, so I want to thank the ASI Lobby Corps, including Shelley Bruce and Phil Sales. Last Friday we met with [State Assemblymember Norma Torres](#) in her new Chino office to stress the impact of higher education and the affect of cuts on the CSU.

This Wednesday, March 2, the chancellor and all CSU presidents will take our message to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., to meet with our local representatives. The newly proposed budget and the negative impact that it will have on Pell Grants, as well as the reduction in Title V which provides support to Hispanic Serving Institutions, will be at the top of my list as I meet with our congressional delegation.

Stimulus funds and other federal support have had a demonstrative impact on Cal Poly Pomona. With outstanding support from Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, the College of Engineering has [received \\$5 million dollars over six years](#) to continue upgrading its aerospace

engineering laboratories and equipment. Specific funding supported work on the supersonic and subsonic wind tunnels.

We have also benefited from federal earmarks to repair Kellogg Drive, [construct CTTI](#) and fund the Agricultural Research Initiative.

This Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 3rd, 4th and 5th, are your final days to see our theatre department's production of the musical "[Cabaret.](#)" For those of you who are most familiar with the movie version, which was set in the dawn of Nazi Germany, our revised edition will take place in modern day Berlin – with a few new twists. Betty and I attended on Saturday and found it most entertaining. Congratulations to all of the students and faculty involved in the production especially C. Julian White, director and the newly named chair of the theatre arts department.

Special discounts are available for students, faculty and staff, so I hope you get an opportunity to see the work of some very talented performers. For more information, visit the website on your screen. (<http://www.class.csupomona.edu/th/events.html>)

In closing, I want to congratulate a group of [business administration students](#) who garnered national recognition. The team created a \$20 million dollar marketing plan that encourages recent retirees to play and buy video games.

The plan, which includes primary research, advanced financial calculations and some creativity, received an honorable mention from the American Marketing Association's annual case competition. They were the only students from California to be so honored and will be recognized for their work in March at the association's International Collegiate Conference in New Orleans.

And that's all for today. My travel plans require that I take a one-week video sabbatical – but I'll be back on your screens on Monday, March 14. In the meantime, Go Broncos!