

President's Weekly Video
May 5, 2014

Hello, everyone!

Lately, Title 9 has been in the news for all the wrong reasons. The federal government released a list of 55 schools under investigation for their handling of sexual assaults. Of course, Cal Poly Pomona was nowhere near that list.

As you know, Cal Poly Pomona is proud of its safe, diverse and inclusive environment. In fact, last Thursday, more than 250 men and women took part in "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes." Our community came together to raise awareness about sexual violence and the role men AND women play in developing a safe and respectful community. Men even took to wearing pumps during the march to symbolize their support.

Catherine Lhamon, assistant secretary of civil rights in the U.S. Department of Education, attended the event and lauded our campus commitment to promoting awareness and safety.

I'd like to thank Mayra Lewis from the Violence Prevention and Women's Resource Center, as well as all the participants and organizers of the event for showcasing this campus's inclusiveness and supportive community.

On Saturday, the College of Agriculture hosted its 75th anniversary celebration. More than 250 people converged at the event, some from as far away as Idaho. It was a spectacular program. KCET's Val Zavala served as emcee and Karen Ross, secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, was keynote speaker.

Today, Cal Poly Pomona is a cutting-edge, polytechnic university. But, as the university celebrates its diamond anniversary, it's important to remember our roots. When our campus opened on September 15th, 1938, as the southern branch of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, we offered five majors in agriculture to a class of 80 male students.

It was in those classes and fields that our learn-by-doing method of education was cultivated. Today, hands-on learning remains a potent way for our graduates to separate

themselves in the workplace. They understand theory as well as its application in real-world scenarios.

On Sunday, we hosted a record-breaking audience at our 7th annual Southern California Tasting and Auction. We are thrilled so many people joined us to raise money to support our students and academic enrichment.

The food was mouth-watering. The wine and beer were delicious. And the auctions were lively. Most of all, the event supports a cause that is near and dear to our hearts – our students' education.

My thanks go out to the guests who joined us as well as the Special Events office for their months of hard work.

This week a number of our current and past faculty have marked significant professional accomplishments.

A Cal Poly Pomona biology professor contributed to research that is currently on the cover of Science magazine. Dr. Peter Arensburger was part of a consortium of researchers that sequenced the genome of the fly responsible for spreading African sleeping sickness. This baseline research forms a foundation upon which future researchers may combat the spread of the disease.

Theater professor Bernardo Solano wrote a play called 'Dreams Without Borders' that is being produced by the Cornerstone Theater Company's Teatro Jornalero Sin Fronteras. The community-based play is being performed by day laborers from Los Angeles. The play runs through May 11th at East L.A. Rep in Los Angeles.

Merrily Murray Walsh, who teaches Costume Design in the Department of Theater and New Dance, has just won the Helen Hayes award in Costume Design. This is the theater equivalent of winning a Tony! Merrily won the prestigious award for her design in the production of "Mary T. and Lizzy K."

Finally, the CCAA created a Hall of Fame as a part of its 75th anniversary celebrations. They just announced the six members of its inaugural class.

Among them are our legendary coaches, Darlene May and John Scolinos. Coach May served as head women's basketball coach from 1974 to 1994 and led the Broncos to three national titles. Coach Scolinos retired in 1991 as the winningest coach in Division II history. He led the Broncos baseball team to three national championships in the 70s and 80s. They were beloved, and their legacies live on in generations of students.

Today's coaches and student-athletes are building their own legacies.

Congratulations to the men's and women's track and field teams, led by head coach Octavious Gillespie-Bennett.

They represented Cal Poly Pomona incredibly well at the CCAA Championships last Thursday through Saturday. Pole vaulters Justin Ellerbee and Austin Allen have already secured a spot at nationals later this month. Several other Broncos are in contention to advance as well.

The baseball team will also start playoffs this week. Let's root for our Bronco student athletes as they enter the post season.

To learn more, visit the Bronco Athletics website.

If you are a graduating senior, the Alumni Association has a treat for you. On Thursday, May 8th, they are hosting our Senior Sendoff. The event features a free barbeque dinner, games and more. You'll also be able to pick up a Grad Box stuffed with a license plate holder, t-shirt, picture frame, commencement DVD, alumni association membership and more.

Learn about this event, and others, by visiting the campus calendar.

Have a great week, everyone!