

**Monday's Message** – April 8, 2013

Good afternoon, everyone.

It is impossible to follow the news lately without feeling deeply mortal. Recent events, like the bombing in Boston, earthquakes in China and Mexico, and political unrest across the world leave me humbled. I think we all ache for the victims and survivors, who are sorting through immense pain and loss.

As I said in Friday's email, I am heartened to see that in difficult times everyday-heroes emerge. They are those who bravely confront the situation unfolding before them, help their neighbors, provide solutions, and are kind without prejudice.

I hope you all agree Cal Poly Pomona is that kind of supportive community. We are among the most diverse campuses in the nation. But despite our numerous differences, we are at heart people who believe in positive change. You cannot put yourself through years of higher education or devote your life's work to a university if you did not believe at your core that higher education improves lives.

While we rarely have a choice when it comes to crises and natural disasters, we each have a choice in how we behave and how we respond. I trust that no matter the challenge, our campus community will come together to adapt and thrive.

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I was encouraged to see hundreds of people took part in Traffic Safety Forums on Vehicle, Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety last Thursday.

Improving our roadways and pathways is a complex task, so ASI president Chris Osuala and I expanded our regular Pizza with the Presidents event to include two campus forums and one online forum.

We were heartened to see so many students, faculty and staff come to the forums to share their concerns and offer up potential solutions.

Our table facilitators are analyzing the data they received. Next month, we expect to have summaries of key findings. We will make them available to you when we do.

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If you ever wonder whether participating in these forums really make a difference, I assure you they do.

The most recent example will be visible next month when a water dispenser is installed in the Library's 24-hour computer lab. At the winter quarter Pizza with the Presidents event, a student pointed out that people had to go into the restrooms to fill their water bottles.

Our Annual Fund provided the solution. The program and its student-callers raised more than \$5,000 for the Senior Gift Program. As a gift, the Class of 2012 is funding the installation of a water dispenser.

I am grateful to – and so proud of – our new graduates for their willingness to immediately give back and support future generations of students.

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We have plenty of good news from our students this week.

The American Society of Civil Engineers hosted a regional conference, featuring the Concrete Canoe and Steel Bridge competitions.

Overall, our teams placed second in the region, ahead of universities like UCLA, USC and University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

In addition, the concrete canoe team earned a trip to the national competition in June. Our concrete canoe team has a history of success. Last year it placed seventh in the nation. The year before that, it placed fourth. Stay tuned at the end of this video to see highlights from the competition.

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Also making a bid for nationals are members of the men's and women's track teams. The Broncos competed in the Mt. SAC Relays and Brian Clay Invitational last week, working to increase the chances of a spot at the national championships.

The Broncos performed incredibly at the meets, setting new personal records and notching "B" provisional qualifications.

Tiffany Dinh, our two-time cross country All-American, set another school first. She ran the best 10,000-meter race in the program's history, shattering the previous record by more than 10 seconds. Her time was 45 seconds faster than her personal best, which earned her a spot to nationals last year.

Congratulations, Broncos! I am looking forward to cheering you on at nationals this May.

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We have got important events in the horizon as well.

The Career Center will host its largest career fair of the year on Tuesday from 10:30 to 2:30 in the University Quad. The event is an excellent opportunity for students and alumni to network with 170 potential employers. The dedicated Career Center staff has spent weeks preparing students for the fair, offering resume assistance and even gently-used business attire to students in need.

For more information, visit the link on your screen. (<http://dsa.csupomona.edu/career/>)

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If you have not seen it yet, I urge you to visit the W. Keith & Janet Kellogg University Art Gallery. The university partnered with the Getty on an exhibit that was more than a year in the making. "Technology and Environment: The postwar house in Southern California" explores our region's contributions to modernist architecture. The exhibit delves into the advances in construction technology and material science that made the pioneering design possible.

It is a world-class exhibit and it is right here on our campus. Learn more by following the link below ([http://www.csupomona.edu/~kellogg\\_gallery/](http://www.csupomona.edu/~kellogg_gallery/)).

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Make it a great week Broncos!

(CUE CONCRETE CANOE VIDEO:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s8g5CxvmyyQ&feature=share&list=UUABOf9BkPAgOXURrFXqvgg>)

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