

Monday's Message – March 29, 2010

Hello everyone and welcome to spring quarter 2010. What a great day for Cal Poly Pomona and the men's basketball program as we captured the program's first NCAA Division II Championship and the 12th in the storied history of our intercollegiate athletic program.

I hope you had a chance to see these young student-athletes compete last week on national television. They were true champions; competitive and confident on the court, humble and mature off. Each of us has great reason to be proud.

I want to congratulate Coach Greg Kamansky and his staff not only for leading the team to the championship but for recruiting young men who are outstanding representatives of this university.

And we are going to celebrate! We are pulling together the details for a campus-wide event tentatively scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday, March 30 at noon. We'll send out an announcement via e-mail, Facebook and Twitter once all of the plans are in place.

Speaking of celebration, congratulations are also in order for the Cal Poly Pomona cyber security team. These students once again captured the Western Regional Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition. Eight student teams tested their skills and abilities to manage and protect a commercial network while under threat of hackers, a role more than ably played by some of the region's top cyber-security experts.

This is a great example of how our educational model is preparing students for a real world experience. Last year, Boeing hired six graduating members of Cal Poly Pomona's team and tendered an offer to a seventh after he completes his studies. The Broncos will now compete in the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition next month in San Antonio. The real winners, of course, are the companies and government agencies that will benefit from the desperately needed talents of all the teams' members.

Last week, Cal Poly Pomona was also in the news regarding the CLA building's ability to withstand a major earthquake. The recent epidemic of seismic activity throughout the world reminds us that Southern California sits in the heart of a number of major fault zones. After the Chino quake in July 2008, many people who work in the CLA were worried so we hosted a special forum to answer their questions. But this might be a good time to review what we've learned from the Chino quake and why, I believe, the CLA is a safe place to work.

According to seismic experts, the CLA performed very well in that 5.4-magnitude earthquake. After a comprehensive review of the building, a member of the CSU Seismic Review Board had gone on the record as saying that the tower and classroom sides do not pose a major risk to its occupants and that it should hold up well in a moderate to large earthquake.

That said, our proximity to the San Jose Fault and last week's news report can leave people feeling uncertain. We are working with the Chancellor's Office to identify funding to help us retrofit the CLA and other select buildings on campus to meet today's stricter seismic requirements. While no one can accurately predict the future or the magnitude of any quake, I am confident that every office in the CLA – including mine – is safe.

But, we do need to remember what to do in case of a quake. Go to the website on your screen to review our procedures.

<http://www.csupomona.edu/~rms/pdf/eq2.pdf><http://www.csupomona.edu/~rms/pdf/eq2.pdf>

That's it for today. But I am going to leave you with some additional images of our national champion men's basketball team. Thanks for listening in and I look forward to seeing you at the championship celebration tomorrow.