

Monday's Message – June 7, 2010
SPRING 2010 YEAR END MESSAGE

Hello everyone!

It's Monday, June 7. In just four days we begin our special rites of spring – commencement. And while eight ceremonies over three days require an extraordinary amount of effort, these events are truly a celebration of what we do. For many of our graduates, as well as their families and friends, this is a life-affirming moment. It is unquestionably a time they will remember forever.

When the graduates walk across that stage and shake my hand, they are beginning a new chapter in their lives. They are prepared for that journey because of you. When I meet with alumni who may have graduated decades ago, they are always clear about their extraordinary student experience and the faculty and staff that looked out for them. Without a doubt, we transform lives. I cannot imagine a more fulfilling way to make a living.

This is my end of year message, so I have a little more to say today. But before I get started, there are a couple of important things to share. I need to start with some disappointing news.

Last month, I announced that because of the savings that the university has managed to retain this year, we would be able to defer any decisions regarding layoffs of permanent faculty or staff through the 2010 calendar year. I also said barring any unforeseen changes, unfortunately, state-funded summer school was eliminated and we have some select staff who were employed on state funds to deliver specific services to summer school students. Consequently, we are going to have to implement layoffs, resulting in a reduced pay-base for lack of work. There are a small number of people involved. While according to the contract this is technically a layoff, it is actually a result of lack of work and not budgetary issues. I so regret having to make this announcement, but under the circumstances, I want each of you to understand the need for this decision for failure to do so would result in the misuse of state funds.

Now here is something I am sure you'll be glad to hear: On Friday morning, I received a special memorandum from the Chancellor's Office announcing that the California State University's 2009-10 furlough pay and time reduction program will end – effective July 1, 2010, for employees subject to furlough through June 30, 2010. For employees on academic year schedules, the furlough program will conclude at the end of the July or August 2010 pay period, dependent upon your respective pay plan category. Are those cheers that I hear?

I understand that this has been one of the most difficult years imaginable for all of our communities. The furloughs, fee increases and program closures driven by

unprecedented budget cuts have been excruciating. It's a year I will remember forever. While the current political climate in Sacramento has been positive, I don't expect to have a final budget until late this summer. Please stay tuned.

In the winter quarter, the budget crisis had risen to the point that we had to begin planning for some very painful cuts. Rumors were flying throughout campus about pending layoffs and program closures, making it clear that you needed to hear from me more frequently. So we went from a quarterly video address to a weekly message. The message may not have always been good news, but I felt it was far worse to be uninformed. Overall, I hope these messages have worked for you. Although they were not always positive, we did have some great stories to tell.

Some of those stories gave our campus a huge boost at a time we needed it the most. The NCAA men's basketball national championship was incredible. I cannot remember a greater level of excitement and emotion from every part of the university.

On January 1, "Jungle Cuts" became the first entry in the history of the Tournament of Roses Parade to win two major honors: the Bob Hope Humor Trophy and the Viewers' Choice Award. When people ask me when Cal Poly Pomona is going to bring back football, I reply that rose float is our fall sport – and unlike USC and UCLA, we ALWAYS compete on New Year's Day.

Our Greek community continues to do great things for assorted charities, and our cyber security team captured the Western Regional Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition. In national competitions across the various disciplines, our students fair extremely well. We have so many reasons to be proud.

Last Thursday, Provost denBoer and I had the opportunity to celebrate a lifetime of work by select members of our faculty. The 2010 spring faculty emeritus recognition brings to light the incredible contributions of these men and women and their efforts in providing our students with the best possible educational experience. Let me, once again, reach out and simply say, thank you!

On June 17, we will celebrate the efforts of our staff with the annual Staff Appreciation Day events. The day also allows us to recognize four individuals who are being honored as Staff of the Year. Those include **Jovito Barrantes** in I & T, **Reggie Keys** in university housing services, **Hector Maciel** in physics and **Rhonda Ostrowski** from the College of Agriculture. Congratulations to everyone and I look forward to seeing the entire campus turn out on the 17th.

Cal Poly Pomona is entering the summer with a little less drama than in 2009 – which is a good thing. Another good thing is the 4-10 workweek, which will return beginning Tuesday, July 6. University business will be conducted from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the campus will be closed on most Fridays throughout the summer. While the day is a little

longer, you will certainly enjoy the longer weekends. The 4-10 schedule has also resulted in a real cost savings on utilities while reducing the carbon impact of the commute.

With my final comments, I'd like to say bon voyage to two extraordinary people: As the longtime dean of our College of Engineering, **Ed Hohmann** has been one of the most influential leaders in Cal Poly Pomona history. During his nearly 40-year relationship with the university, Dean Hohmann has helped elevate our engineering programs to national prominence. But more importantly, he is simply an incredible human being who is willing to do whatever it takes to support this university. He and his wife, Lotte, have decided to begin a new journey – retirement. For both of you, I hope it's a long, beautiful ride.

We also bid farewell to **Don Straney**, who was named Chancellor of the University of Hawaii-Hilo. Don joined the Cal Poly Pomona family in 2002 as the dean of the College of Science and immediately established himself as one of the university's brightest minds. His efforts strengthened all of our science programs, and he played a significant role in bringing in external resources to support the college. There is no question he will make an excellent Chancellor in Hilo, and we will certainly miss his collegiality and leadership. Mahalo, Don!

In closing, I want to say thanks to all of you. Because of the work that we all continue to do, the university has made it through a difficult year and I am proud and honored to be your president. To help put you in the proper spirit for the time, let's close out my message with a terrific slide show created by our own university photographer Tom Zasadzinski... Have a wonderful summer!

http://ex-centric.csupomona.edu/campus_news/commencement2009/