Proposed state budget provides increases for CSU system

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed a $299.5 million increase for the California State University, which would fully fund the trustees’ budget request for 2007-08. The Governor's proposal continues the existing Higher Education Compact. The proposed budget provides a four percent ($108.9 million) increase for general operations, $65.5 million for enrollment growth of 2.5 percent to fund an additional 11,000 students, and $2 million to continue CSU efforts to increase the number of K-12 math and science teachers. The 2007-08 Governor’s budget also assumes nearly $123 million in student fee revenue based on the 2.5 percent enrollment growth. The CSU had requested an additional one percent funding for a multi-year plan to reduce the salary lags between CSU employees and national benchmarks; that request was not included.

New photos of students featured on Cal Poly homepage

Visit the university’s homepage at www.calpoly.edu and take a look at the new images of Poly students. Those pictured come from a variety of majors, hometowns and campus locations. Each time you refresh your browser one of 20 new images will be displayed, or you can click on a student’s image for a look at all 20. The Cal Poly homepage is a cooperative effort of ITS User Support Services and Public Affairs.

Nominations sought for Student Employee Award

Faculty and staff members can show their appreciation for student employees by nominating them for the university’s 2006-2007 Outstanding Student Employee of the Year award. Nominees must have completed at least six months part-time student employment during the academic year, June 1, 2006 to May 31, 2007. Eligible candidates include state, ASI and foundation student employees. Nominees can be Federal Work-Study and non-Federal Work-Study students. The winner of the state competition will receive a plaque and small cash award. The regional competition winner will receive a plaque, $100 and be eligible for the National Student Employee of the Year competition. The national winner will be named during National Student Employment Week in April. The nomination form is available at http://www.afd.calpoly.edu/payroll/Proced.htm. Forms are due to Luann McDonald, Financial Aid, Administration Building, Room 212, by Wednesday, Jan. 31.

Last call for Distinguished Scholarship Award nominations

Students, faculty, and alumni are encouraged to nominate Cal Poly faculty for the Distinguished Scholarship Awards. These awards recognize the scholarship and creative activity of both junior and senior faculty across all disciplines represented at Cal Poly. Nominations are due by Friday, Jan. 19. Please see the Distinguished Scholarship Award website. For more information, visit http://www.calpoly.edu/~acadsen/research_award.html.

This Week in Mustang Athletics!

- Women’s Hoops vs. UCSB! - Saturday, Jan. 20, 4 p.m. - Mott Gym
- CP Baseball Alumni Game- Saturday, Jan. 20 - 1 p.m. - FREE Admission, Baggett Stadium
Biofuels Seminar Set for Thursday
Biofuels' potential role in the response to global warming and energy challenges is the topic of a seminar to be held **Thursday, Jan. 18, at 11 a.m.** in the Business Rotunda. The event is free and open to the public. Guest speaker is John R. Benemann, director of the Institute for Environmental Management, based in Walnut Creek. The one-hour seminar, "Biofuels, Peak Oil and Global Warming: 2007-2037," will focus on the recent burst of biofuel research and its potential applications over the next three decades. The seminar is sponsored by the Cal Poly Biodiesel Club and the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department.

Professional Bull Riders CEO to speak Thursday
Orfalea College of Business Distinguished Speaker Series continues with a presentation by Randy Bernard, chief executive officer of Professional Bull Riders, Inc. **Thursday, Jan. 18, at 2 p.m.,** in the Alex and Faye Spanos Theatre. A reception will follow the event at 3:45 p.m. on the patio of the theatre. The event is free and open to the public. During his talk, "PBR: A Bullish Market That Can’t Be Corralled," Bernard will discuss professional bull riding as a sport and a business, as well as how it grew to become the 7th largest sport in the country in 13 years.

English professor to read his award-winning fiction Friday
Cal Poly English faculty member Todd J. Pierce will read his fiction at **7 p.m. Friday, Jan.19**, in Phillips Hall in the Christopher Cohan Center at Cal Poly. "Newsworld," a collection of short stories related to news and entertainment events. "I wanted to play with the type of cultural stories we all carry with us, a type of national literature of pop culture," he said. "The characters in 'Newsworld,' like many Americans, are engulfed in a life-imitating-art syndrome caused by the hyper reality presented by the media. They struggle to understand whether their own lives fall within or outside the media-defined reality," Pierce said.

Cal Poly Report is published every Wednesday. E-mail submissions to polynews@calpoly.edu by 4 p.m. on the Friday before publication.