University receives $3.4 million grant for ocean monitoring
The university has received a $3.4 million grant from UC San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography and San Francisco State University to install a high-tech system to monitor California's near-shore currents. Professor Mark Moline, from the Biological Sciences Department, will head up the effort for Cal Poly, with operations scheduled into 2009. For more information, visit the monitoring program's Web site at: www.cocmp.org.

The ocean currents monitoring system will help combat pollution, aid in response to natural hazards, and help understand the coastal ecosystem of California. A total of $21 million was approved by the state Coastal Conservancy for the project. The funding will come from two statewide bond measures approved by voters in 2002 and will not add to California's budget deficit. Eight institutions, including Cal Poly, shared the funding and will install the system from the border of Mexico to the Oregon state line. They expect to have it up and running in two years.

Engineering IV construction celebrates by 'topping out'
Yes, there is a pine tree sitting on top of the under-construction Engineering IV building. It was part of a “topping out” ceremony held Friday, Oct. 7.

Steelworkers traditionally celebrate the topping out when the uppermost steel beam is put into place. The steel beam is often decorated with an American flag and a small pine tree. The meaning behind the flag and tree varies from project to project, but generally the flag denotes patriotism, and the evergreen represents the life and growth of the building.

College of Liberal Arts to sponsor Constitution Day
The College of Liberal Arts will sponsor the first-ever Constitution Day event with a discussion on the history of the Constitution from 11:10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Oct. 13, in the Rotunda (Room 213) in the Business Building. Constitution Day was created to honor the anniversary of the signing of America’s founding document. Music Department lecturer Katherine Arthur will sing "America the Beautiful." Linda H. Halisky, interim dean for the College of Liberal Arts, will serve as mistress of ceremonies.

Speakers include Robert C. Detweiler, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs; Ronald C. Den Otter, political science professor; and Sandra Gardebring Ogren, vice president of university advancement. A question-and-answer period will follow.

History Department to offer master's program
Beginning winter quarter 2006, the History Department will offer a new Master of Arts degree with concentrations in American, European, Asian, Latin American and African history. Many of the courses will be taught later in the day and in the evening so that people working full-time can take advantage of the program, said Department Chair Carolyn Stefancio. The program, recently approved by the CSU, is intended to fill a need for local residents to earn a master's degree in history without having to travel outside the county.

Professors take latest in graphic arts to Bahrain
Graphic Communication Department professors Malcolm Keif and Kevin Cooper traveled to the Middle East recently to teach professionals there the latest graphic arts concepts and methods. Invited by the Concise Trade Margin Group of Bahrain, the professors spent a week in Manama, Bahrain, as part of a Graphic Communication Institute project to educate printing company executives on strategic management and "lean management."
Leave provisions expanded to Hurricane Rita relief efforts
The CSU has announced that the recently implemented leave provisions for CSU employees assisting with the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts have been expanded to include ongoing relief and recovery efforts in the Gulf area due to the devastation caused by Hurricane Rita. Specific information regarding these provisions is available in Human Resources by calling ext. 6-2236, or visit the Web site at http://www.afd.calpoly.edu/HR/index.html.

Everything’s ‘Green and Gold’ for Homecoming
“Homecoming 2005: Forever Green & Gold” is the theme of this year’s annual celebration, scheduled for Nov. 3-6. Visit www.homecoming.calpoly.edu for events, times, locations and tickets, or call 1-888-CAL-POLY. The football game and wine tasting sell out every year; those interested should purchase tickets in advance.

University Police annual security report available
The university's annual security report includes statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on campus, in certain off-campus buildings, or property owned or controlled by Cal Poly. It also reports crimes on public property within, immediately adjacent to, or accessible from campus. The report includes institutional policies on campus security related to alcohol and drug use, crime prevention, the reporting of crimes, sexual assault and other matters. The Campus Security Report and additional information about police services can be found on the University Police Web site, http://police.calpoly.edu. A printed copy of this report is available by request at the University Police Department.

Want better water? Join materials engineering project
The Materials Engineering Department is seeking six or seven families in the county for a class project. Members of the community who use ground water exclusively within the county of San Luis Obispo are invited to participate in a project for Mate 110, “Introduction to Materials Engineering Design,” focused on improving their water to drinking-water standards. Participation is free. For information, contact Linda Vanasupa, lvanasup@calpoly.edu.

Professor’s book examines school leadership
Education Professor George J. Petersen has co-edited a book that examines how school leadership influences the quality of children's education. Recently published by Information Age Publishing, "The Politics of Leadership: Superintendents and School Boards in Changing Times" objectively analyzes the governance of school districts in relation to quality education for all children, said Petersen, who edited the book with Lance D. Fusarelli, a professor from North Carolina State University. "The Politics of Leadership" is a scholarly work recommended as a resource for anyone interested in becoming a superintendent, those who teach future district administrators, and those who are interested in studying district leaders.

Funding available for assistive devices
Cal Poly’s Disability Accommodation Assistance Program provides funding assistance for employees who qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The funding is provided to an employee’s department for buying assistive devices not considered to be standard office equipment. For more information about the program, visit the Employment Equity and Faculty Recruitment Web site at http://employequity.calpoly.edu/ada.html. To submit a request for funding, call the Employment Equity and Faculty Recruitment office at ext. 6-6770 or e-mail jernest@calpoly.edu.