Work by Physics professor in ‘Nature’

Cal Poly Physics Professor Kenneth Hoffman, a pioneer in the study of reversals of Earth’s magnetic field, has co-authored an article in the Sept. 30 issue of Nature. It is the ninth time his work has been published in the prestigious weekly science magazine. Hoffman, who has taught physics at Cal Poly for 30 years, co-wrote the article, “New evidence on the earliest human presence at high northern latitudes in northeast Asia,” with colleagues at several universities in China. Their research, as reported in Nature, dates the northern migration of early humans from equatorial Africa to Asia back nearly 1.7 million years. “This is the earliest find anywhere near this area,” Hoffman said. “It helps us understand the migration of people over time.”

Campus crime statistics, security report

The university’s annual security report has been released and 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; and on public property within, or immediately adjacent to and accessible from campus. The report also includes institutional policies concerning campus security, such as policies about alcohol and drug use, crime prevention, the reporting of crimes, sexual assault and other matters. To view the Campus Security Report and receive more information about services, go to the University Police Web site: http://Police.calpoly.edu. A copy of the report is available by request at the University Police Department.

New degree program approved

CSU Chancellor Charles Reed has approved the university’s proposal for a new bachelor of arts degree program in interdisciplinary studies. The program will be offered through special sessions in Cal Poly Continuing Education beginning fall 2005. The program is also known as “an adult degree program” and is intended for someone who graduated from high school at least six years prior to entering the program. Students seeking admission will have completed at least 90 quarter units. They will not be able to transfer to another Cal Poly major, but could apply for other majors through the standard admissions process. Contact Mary Whiteford at ext. 6-5475 for more information.

Don't stand in line for a parking permit

General quarterly parking permits for winter quarter are available online through Nov. 19 at http://www.afd.calpoly.edu/Student_Accounts/online_payments.htm. Credit cards and e-checks are accepted as methods of payment online, and permits will be mailed by Dec. 15. For more information, e-mail parking@calpoly.edu.

Auction to benefit business students

A hot-air-balloon ride over Napa, a whale-watching trip and tickets to A’s and Dodgers games are just a few of the items valued at $25,000 to be on the block Friday, Oct. 8, during the Seventh Annual International Career Conference Auction. The event at the Embassy Suites Hotel is sponsored by Orfalea College of Business students to raise money for the spring International Career Conference. A silent auction begins at 6 p.m. and the live auction starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are $5 at the door. Hors d’oeuvres and a no-host bar will be available. For details, go to www.icc.calpoly.edu or e-mail iccauction@yahoo.com.
Professor Emeritus Frost deceased

Professor Emeritus Robert H. Frost died Sept. 28, 2004, at a retirement home in Morro Bay. He was a member of the Physics Department faculty from 1953 to 1983 and served as department head. Services will be Saturday, Nov. 6, 2004, at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 1344 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo. The time will be announced later.

Technology open house

Faculty members are invited to an open house Thursday, Oct. 7, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in the new ITS offices in Room 102, Bldg. 14. ITS Technology and Learning Services supports faculty in Blackboard courseware development by providing expertise in learning styles, pedagogy, instructional design, learner-center environments, ADA compliance and multimedia. For more information, contact Marsha Epstein ext. 6-6541 or mepstein@calpoly.edu.

CPAA call for nominations

The Cal Poly Alumni Association (CPAA) is seeking recommendations for the new position of faculty director of the alumni association board of directors. This position is appointed by President Baker. Individuals must be current members of the faculty, and priority may be given to faculty who are alumni. The faculty director also serves as a member of the CPAA executive committee. This is a voting position for a one-year term, which may be extended for three additional, successive terms. To nominate an individual, send his or her name, along with contact information (phone and e-mail) and department, to Kim Gannon at kgannon@calpoly.edu:
fax to her attention at ext. 6-5413: or send via campus mail to Alumni Relations, Bldg. 28. Recommendations are due Friday, Oct. 8.

National Depression Screening Day

Employees, students and their families may learn about the signs and symptoms of depression and participate in a free, confidential screening on campus Thursday, Oct. 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., in the UU Plaza, as part of National Depression Screening Day. For information, contact Counseling Services at ext. 6-2511. In conjunction, the Mark S. Reuling Memorial Annual Volleyball Challenge takes place on Friday, Oct. 8, at the Recreation Center. For more information on the Volleyball Challenge, contact Joe Long at ext. 6-5845 or Bob Negranti at ext. 6-5428.

Library offers PolySearch service

Find out what is available at the library research and information help desk or on our library Web site. A new service, PolySearch at http://www.lib.calpoly.edu/polysearch, allows you to search multiple databases and library catalogs simultaneously to find articles and books. Another new Web site, Find It, http://www.lib.calpoly.edu/sfx/FAQ.html#1, may be used to check citations and to see if articles are available online or in the library. If you need help, and the library is closed, try AskNow, http://www.lib.calpoly.edu/asknow/, a live online research service, available to you 24/7. Come to the research and information help desk, or phone ext. 6-2649 for information.

Cal Poly Report is a newsletter for University employees and is prepared by the Cal Poly Public Affairs Office. Employees wishing to submit items for Cal Poly Report should e-mail them to polynews@calpoly.edu no later than 4 p.m. the Friday before desired publication. Items should be 200 words or less. Brevity is appreciated. Cal Poly Report is published every Wednesday during the academic year, except for holidays and quarter breaks.