Campus bustles with students’ arrival

No surprise here. Traffic is brisk this week as students arrive on campus for fall quarter. “It’s really busy, but that’s to be expected,” said Cindy Campbell, associate director for university police. “So far, we’ve had no major problems.”

Campus road work continues on schedule. Paving on Highland Drive was completed last week. Construction crews will be striping the road this week, and cars will be detoured around the work as needed, Campbell said.

The northbound lane of the California Boulevard extension is open, but traffic must turn right at Highland Drive. That will continue until the City of San Luis Obispo completes its bridge replacement project on Foothill Boulevard, most likely by next March.

When Foothill Boulevard reopens, both Highland traffic lanes will be open and will connect California Boulevard with the campus entrance at Highland Drive and Highway 1. For now, travel is limited to discourage through-traffic to destinations off-campus, Campbell said.

“This is a great time to try alternative transportation,” she said. For information about options, go to http://www.commuteoptions.calpoly.edu.

Conservation projects receive CPUC grant

The California Public Utilities Commission has awarded a $300,000 matching grant to Facility Services to perform energy efficiency retrofit projects on campus. Cal Poly is one of only six CSU campuses approved for funding in this program and received the second largest award, said Larry Kelley, vice president of administration and finance. Cal Poly’s retrofit projects will save an estimated $190,000 per year in utilities’ costs. Mark Hunter, facilities services director, credited his staff for the hard work involved in preparing and submitting a winning proposal.

This grant is part of an innovative $15 million Energy Efficiency Partnership Program between the CSU, UC and California’s investor-owned utilities: Pacific Gas and Electric, San Diego Gas and Electric, Southern California Edison and the Southern California Gas Company. Cal Poly’s energy conservation projects funded by the grant include energy-efficient lighting fixtures and controls, vending machine “energy misers,” variable-frequency drives for pumps and fans, and HVAC retrofits. Design and planning are already under way, and work is scheduled to be completed by Dec. 31, 2005.

These retrofit projects constitute the first of three phases of the partnership program. Cal Poly also hopes to receive funding for monitoring-based commissioning and for training and education.

Facility Services is always looking for ways to conserve energy, improve systems and support a more sustainable environment. Since June 2000, the Engineering Services Shop has completed over 50 in-house energy conservation projects and HVAC-control upgrades, saving about $100,000 per year. The Electric Shop is continually replacing old light fixtures with energy efficient fluorescent fixtures and ballasts. In the new Cerro Vista housing complex alone, the Electric Shop retrofitted and improved the lighting fixtures and controls for more than 300 fixtures, generating $5,500 per year in savings.

For more information about ongoing programs for energy conservation, sustainability, and recycling, go to: http://www.facilities.calpoly.edu.
Committee to review campus sustainability

The Sustainability Advisory Committee is forming to review and recommend measures related to university policies and practices dealing with sustainable land use, physical projects and campus spaces.

The committee, formerly called the Campus Committee on Sustainability, reports to the vice president of administration and finance.

Members will include one representative appointed by the president or the president’s designee and faculty members from the College of Architecture and Environmental Design, College of Engineering and College of Agriculture, each nominated by the dean of their college.

Also on the committee will be a faculty member nominated by the Academic Senate, two students, two representatives of the university auxiliaries and the directors of Facilities Planning & Capital Projects and Facility Services, or their designees. All nominations will be approved by the president.

The committee will meet once monthly during the academic year and at other times as needed.

For a detailed description of the committee, visit the Building for Sustainability web site at: http://www.facilities.calpoly.edu/ and click on the sustainability icon.

Campus sustainability coordinator is Mary-Alice Avila. She is the project manager for Facilities Planning & Capital Projects and recently received certification as a LEED TM Accredited Professional. Avila will assist in implementing and communicating sustainable measures on campus with students, faculty and staff.

Excellence achieved

Cal Poly has been recognized with an Achievement of Excellence in Procurement award. The university scored high marks for purchasing management, centralized procurement authority based in law, and use of term contracts for at least 25 percent of total commodity and services’ purchases.

Top scores were also given in several other areas, such as environmental purchasing, including “reuse, reduce and recycle” provisions, and for staff education, including degrees from four-year colleges or universities earned by the chief procurement official and at least half the professional staff.

What is sustainable ag?

The Sustainable Agriculture Resources Consortium (SARC) will present the first in a year-long series of lectures and discussions on Thursday, Sept. 30, 5-6:30 p.m., in Chumash Auditorium, to introduce and explore sustainable agriculture.

The first lecture, “What is Sustainability?” will focus on the general idea of sustainability and show how it is addressed and implemented in architecture and city planning, engineering and agriculture.

Neal MacDougall, faculty director of SARC and a professor in the Agribusiness Department, will introduce the panelists, which include Deanna Richards of the College of Engineering and John Phillips of the College of Agriculture, as well as a faculty member from the College of Architecture and Environmental Design.

A question-and-answer session will follow. The event is open to the public.

Train now for cancer walks

For the fifth year, the Women’s Center is co-sponsoring training walks for The Avon Breast Cancer Walks. Additionally, there is a quilt raffle to benefit breast cancer walker Val Barboza.

For information, call Barboza at ext. 6-5877, or visit her Web page at www.calpoly.edu/~vbarboza.

Proceeds are used for research, medical care and other support for breast cancer patients. Visit www.avonwalk.org for more information.

Volleyball Challenge

Team sign-ups for the Mark S. Reuling Memorial Annual Volleyball Challenge will begin Monday, Sept. 27, at the Recreation Center. The cost per six-member team is $60, with the proceeds going to fund mental health education and depression-prevention programs on campus.

Faculty, staff and student employees will play mid-day, with playoffs scheduled in the afternoon. Co-ed members of fraternities, sororities and student clubs will play in the late afternoon with evening playoffs.

Players will receive free T-shirts, and trophies will be awarded to the winning teams. For more information, contact Joe Long at ext. 6-5845 or Bob Negrant at ext. 6-5428.

Vanpool openings

There are vacancies in vanpools serving Atascadero, Los Osos and Paso Robles. Anyone interested in joining one of these vanpool should contact the University Police Department, Commuter and Access Services, at ext. 6-6680.

‘American Dream’ tryouts

Auditions begin September 30, for Edward Albee’s critically hailed black comedy “The American Dream.” Auditions begin at 7 p.m., in Building 45, Room 212, with call-backs on October 1.

Opening date is Dec. 2, 2004, in the Blackbox Theatre and presented by the Theatre and Dance Department.

Plan now for luncheon

State, Foundation and ASI employees with milestone service anniversaries in 2004 should mark their calendars now for the annual Service Awards Luncheon to be held March 3, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium. The theme for this popular event is “Best in the West.”

Watch for ticket information in future issues of the Cal Poly Report.