Welcome faculty and staff

A new academic year began Monday for faculty and staff with the traditional Fall Conference welcome. It’s the 26th year President Warren J. Baker has opened the event.

Baker outlined some of the university’s financial challenges due to state budget cuts and praised the success of the Centennial Campaign, which has raised $245 million in private money to augment state funding and provide for continued improvements on campus.

An important area the state needs to address is improving compensation for university employees, he said. “I want to reward faculty and staff for outstanding work.” Lack of adequate funding from the state for teacher salaries and other basic needs forces the university to seek private resources in order to compete. Looking to the future, the university will continue to rely on what Baker called “the three-legged stool” for financial resources. “We will work hard to convince the public, governor and state legislature that higher education is an investment in the future, not just an expense.”

With the number of senior faculty retirements increasing, the university is working hard to recruit and retain new colleagues. He has recently signed 100 faculty and staff emeritus letters, Baker said, while some 40 new full-time faculty members have been hired this year.

“As new faculty and staff join us, we are reminded of the critical role faculty and staff play. Our achievements are the result of the quality of our faculty and staff. Reach out and make the new ones feel welcome.”

Baker urged faculty to remain committed to teaching and learning and to continue to pursue professional development in order to inspire students toward excellence. “Students who are engaged are students who will be successful,” he said.

The Fall Conference keynote speaker was veteran policy leader Bill Hauck who discussed the CSU’s critical role in fostering a healthy state economy.

Fall Conference continues through Friday. For a schedule of events, go to http://academics.calpoly.edu/ctl/flyers/all%20Booklet%208.30.pdf.

Foothill Boulevard remains closed

Work by the City of San Luis Obispo to replace a bridge on Foothill Boulevard will continue to detour campus commuters for the next several months.

The city closed Foothill Boulevard east of Santa Rosa Street to through traffic between Casa and Santa Rosa streets so that crews could work on the bridge, and the road will likely remain closed until March.

There is a way to get around it. A detour at Murray Street loops traffic east to Casa Street and then to Foothill Boulevard east of the bridge work. Drivers may then continue to California Street and go north to enter campus. For a map of the area, see the City of San Luis Obispo Public Works web site: http://www.ci.san-luis-obispo.ca.us/publicworks/foothillfaqs.asp.

Driveways to Stenner Glen and medical offices in the area remain open. Pedestrian traffic is allowed on the south side of Foothill Boulevard.

The city anticipates traffic will return to normal in March when the first phase of the project is set for completion. The second phase is scheduled to start next July, but should not impact traffic because the work will be done below street level.

Heavy rainfall two years ago caused two culverts to fail, forcing the city to build the new bridge. Federal Highway funds will pay 80 percent of the $4.2 million project.

Cal Poly People

President Warren J. Baker honored distinguished faculty and outstanding staff for the 2003-2004 academic year Monday at the General Session of Fall Conference. Matthew Moelter (Physics), Robert Smidt (Statistics) and Nanine Van Draanen (Chemistry) were recognized as distinguished faculty. A new award for research, creative activity and professional development went to Charles Burt (Bioresource and Ag engineering) and Joanne Ruggles (Art and Design). William Preston (Social Sciences) earned the outstanding faculty advisor award. Honored as outstanding staff were Carol Erickson (Statistics Department coordinator) Lori La Vine (Chemistry and Biochemistry Department technician and a California State Employees Association steward) and Bob Pinkin (Graphic Communication Department technician).

A reception to honor Bill Boldt, vice president for university advancement, will be held Thursday, Sept. 23, 4-6 p.m., in the Grand Lobby of the Christopher Coohan Center. Boldt is leaving Cal Poly on Sept. 27 to become vice president for university advancement at UC Riverside.

Members of the Consultative Committee for Selection of the Dean, College of Liberal Arts have been chosen. They are George Cotkin (History), Bernard Duffy (Speech Communication), Manzar Foroorah (History) and William Martinez (Modern Languages and Literatures). The Academic Senate Executive Committee selected Luann McDonald (Financial Aid) and Saeed Niku (Mechanical Engineering). Interim Provost Bob Detweiler named Carolyn Stefanco (History), and Science and Mathematics Dean Philip Bailey will represent the Deans’ Council. Druci Reese (Music) is the CLA staff representative and Michael Suess, associate vice president for academic personnel, is an ex-officio, non-voting member.

The first meeting is Friday, Sept. 17, 9-10 a.m., Adm. 409.
Applications open for athletics director post

Nominations and applications are open for the position of director of intercollegiate athletics. The university seeks a dynamic and experienced leader with a strong commitment to Division I athletics and to the integration of the athletic and academic experience of the student athlete.

Applicants must demonstrate leadership experience, significant athletic program administration experience, preferably at NCAA Division I level, and the ability to manage and maintain effective fund-raising and marketing programs. Each applicant must also show strong commitments to the academic success of student athletes, as well as to Title IX and diversity.

Coaching experience is desired, bachelor’s degree required and master’s degree preferred.

Review of nominations and applications begins Sept. 30 and will continue until the position is filled. Go to: http://www.calpolyjobs.org to complete the on-line employment application; apply to Requisition Number 100254.

Nominations and other correspondence should be addressed to: Search Committee for Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, c/o Kathy Cook, Administration and Finance Division, Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407; e-mail kacook@calpoly.edu; fax (805) 756-7560; phone: (805) 756-2171.

Tour the conservatory

Take a guided tour or just wander around and look at the rare and endangered plants Friday from 2 - 5 p.m. at the Biological Sciences Conservancy Open House. The extensive collection of succulents, bromeliads, orchids and other plants is located adjacent to Science North. Call ext. 6-7520 for details.

Towel service changes

The Kinesiology Center, previously known as the Pro Shop, in the Recreation Center is the new location for towel service and locker sign-ups. The new towel fee is $25 for the academic year. Payments are by Campus Express Card.

Reserve materials due

It’s time for faculty to submit course reserve materials to avoid delays in making materials available for students. The faculty submission station is in the circulation area of the Kennedy Library. Submission forms are available online at http://discover.lib.calpoly.edu/forms/reserve/ and must be attached to the materials.

Go to the course reserves web page at http://poetry.lib.calpoly.edu/screens/reserves.html for Faculty FAQ and Policies. To assist with Americans With Disabilities Act compliance, submit materials as paper copies, not electronic files.

All non-print course reserves are handled by Donna Lister, first floor, circulation area. Contact her at 6-5789 or dlister@calpoly.edu.

Open enrollment begins

The benefits open enrollment period, Sept. 15 - Oct. 15, offers a window of opportunity for eligible employees to enroll in health and dental plans. It is also the time for employees to change carriers, enroll in or cancel Flex Cash and add eligible dependents, as well as enroll in health care reimbursement and dependent care reimbursement account plans. All changes made during open enrollment will be effective Jan. 1, 2005. Office hours for Human Resources are 9 a.m. to noon and 1 - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, go to http://www.afd.calpoly.edu/hr/benefits/index.html.

Apply to teach abroad

Faculty members interested in teaching overseas may pick up applications in all deans’ offices and in the International Education and Programs Office, Room 145 in the Math and Science Building. Openings are available for the London Study Program in fall 2005 and spring 2006, Cal Poly At Sea Program in spring 2006, and the Thailand Study Program in spring 2006.

Online applications are at http://www.calpoly.edu/~iep/Faculty/facultyteaching.html. The deadline to submit applications is Oct. 29.

Use new risk report forms

New forms and procedures are on the Risk Management web site: http://www.afd.calpoly.edu/risk/forms.html and http://www.afd.calpoly.edu/risk/procedures.html. For more information, call ext. 6-6755.