Unit 3 joins pre-tax parking deduction plan

Effective April 1, with the deduction taken from the March pay period, all CFA Unit 3 employees who pay for parking through payroll deduction will be automatically enrolled in the CSU Pre-Tax Parking Fee Deduction plan.

Permanent staff and management employees are already eligible for the benefit. The benefit is automatic and available only through payroll deduction. Questions about eligibility for payroll deduction should be directed to Payroll Services at ext. 2605.

The CSU Pre-Tax Parking Deduction Plan has no impact on CalPERS retirement or on any other CSU paid benefit. Deductions are taken before federal, state, Social Security and Medicare taxes are calculated, so the taxable income reflected on the annual W-2 statement is reduced, which, depending on salary, could slightly reduce Social Security benefits at retirement. (For more information on that, consult a tax advisor or financial planner.)

Employees wishing to opt out of the plan and pay for parking with after-tax dollars can submit a CSU Pre-Tax parking Deduction Election Authorization form (available in Human Resources or at http://www.afd.calpoly.edu/hr/forms/index.html#benefits) to Human Resources.

Poet-activist Giovanni next ‘Provocative’ speaker

Poet and writer Nikki Giovanni, an activist on the national scene for three decades, will give the next lecture in the “Provocative Perspectives” series at a 7:30 a.m. faculty-staff breakfast April 8 at Vista Grande and will lead a public “poetry slam” that evening.

Giovanni is the author of “Racism 101,” a collection of essays on her observations as an educator, writer and scholar-activist. She is also the author of numerous volumes of poetry. “The Collected Poetry of Nikki Giovanni” was published last year. She is a professor of English and women’s studies at Virginia Tech.

Reviewers have described Giovanni’s topics as running the gamut from the environment to our reliance on manners and from sex and politics to love among blacks, with special attention to all aspects of black womanhood. She has been acclaimed as a major influence since her poems emerged during the civil-rights and black arts movements of the 1960s.

“Nikki Giovanni is nothing if not provocative, and she will be a great capstone to our series this year,” said Cornel Morton, vice president for student affairs and a sponsor of “Provocative Perspectives.”

“She is an outstanding poet and a stimulating and engaging speaker. We are indeed fortunate to have her visit our campus.”

Joining Giovanni in the poetry slam will be local poets and the 2003 Orange County Grand Poetry Slam champion, who goes by the designation RAC. The slam, a competition that emphasizes both writing and performance, will begin at 7 p.m. in the Main Lounge of Yosemite Hall.

To reserve for breakfast, contact Gabrielle Lea at ext. 7006 or glea@calpoly.edu. For more information on the slam, call the Multicultural Center at ext. 1405.

Campbell to return to Student Affairs

Denise Campbell, special assistant to the provost for university initiatives for the past four years, will resume her former position as associate vice president for student affairs April 1.

Vice President for Student Affairs Cornel Morton said that in the past four years Campbell has played a key role in moving the university forward on several priority initiatives resulting from the 2000 WASC accreditation team’s recommendations.

Campbell joined the Cal Poly staff in 1995.
Seminar set March 24 on faculty referrals

Career Services invites faculty and staff members involved with making referrals to employers, and with providing references for students, to attend an online seminar 10-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 24, in Student Services 224.

The virtual session, sponsored by the National Association for Colleges and Employers, will provide information on the legal and ethical implications of faculty referrals and will focus on the role of faculty members in the recruitment process, how equal-employment-opportunity laws can affect referrals, and guidelines for giving a written or verbal reference.

For more information, contact Shel Burrell in Career Services at ext. 5974 or sburrell@calpoly.edu.

Faculty, staff invited to answer parent questions

WOW’s student organizers are encouraging faculty and staff members to join in a “Coffee House” for parents of prospective students 8-11 p.m. on Open House Friday, April 16, in The Avenue.

The event is planned to give parents the opportunity to meet current students, other parents, faculty members and staff members in order to become more comfortable with their student’s coming transition to college life.

Refreshments will be served. Anyone interested in mingling and answering questions during the informal reception should contact student coordinator Katy Philippe at kphilipp@calpoly.edu by April 5.

Women’s Studies names scholarship winners

The Women’s Studies Program has announced recipients of four campus scholarships:

- Meghan Reerslev, journalism senior – the Robert S. Harmon Scholarship recognizing commitment to the rights of women, specifically a student considering a career as an investigative reporter.
- Erin B. Murphy, biochemistry senior – the L. Diane Ryan Scholarship for demonstrated commitment to the rights of women and potential for providing moral leadership in the workforce of the future.
- Brandi Dias, history senior, and Melissa Commuso, English senior – the Nell E. Spradlin Scholarship for the Recognition of Individuality for exceptional outlook, insight and spirit.

Health & Counseling’s Davis, Smith retiring soon

Two Health and Counseling Services employees will retire soon, and the campus is invited to call, e-mail or stop by the Health Center anytime on Tuesday, March 30, to wish them well.

Marjorie Davis, supervising clinical laboratory technologist, will retire this month after more than 27 years of service.

Brooks Smith will retire in April after more than eight years’ service as a Health Center physician.

CUNY professor named to lead Ethnic Studies

Robert Ji-Song Ku, professor of English at Hunter College of the City University of New York, has been named chair of the Ethnic Studies Department effective this fall. Dean of Liberal Arts Harry Hellenbrand appointed Ku to a term ending June 2007.

Mark appointed head of Dairy Science, DPTC

Wally Mark, director of the Swanton Pacific Ranch, has been named interim head of the Dairy Science Department and director of the Dairy Products Technology Center, effective April 1 through August 2005.

Openings in Los Osos van for 8-5 commuters

Cal Poly’s van-pool program has openings for Los Osos commuters who work an 8-5 schedule. For cost and other information, contact Deby Anderson, coordinator of commuter and access services with the University Police, at ext. 6680 or djanders@calpoly.edu.

Position Vacancy

FACULTY Candidates are asked to visit the employment Web site at www.calpolyjobs.org to apply for any of the positions shown below. Submit all requested application materials as attachments to your online application, unless otherwise specified in the ad. Rank and salary are commensurate with qualifications and experience (and time base where applicable), unless otherwise stated.

#100273: Department Chair, full-time tenure-track position, Agribusiness Department, College of Agriculture (ext. 2161). Closes April 30.

Cal Poly Report schedule

This Cal Poly Report is the last winter quarter issue.

The first spring issue will be dated March 31 (a holiday) and posted online late March 30. Articles should be e-mailed to polynews@calpoly.edu by 4 p.m. Friday, March 26. For more information, call ext. 1511.