U.S. News Rates Cal Poly Top Western Public University for Ninth Year

U.S. News & World Report has rated Cal Poly the best public, largely undergraduate university in the West for the ninth consecutive year, and ranked the university’s College of Engineering the top public undergraduate engineering program in the nation (at a non-doctoral school).

Cal Poly remains No. 5 under “Western Universities-Master’s Top Schools,” which “provide a full range of undergraduate and master’s level programs, and few, if any, doctoral programs.” The four universities ranking higher are all private colleges.

“The U.S. News rating is a continuing tribute to our faculty, who are devoted to excellence in teaching,” President Warren J. Baker said.

“In spite of continued modest state budget support for our polytechnic curricula, faculty members have established and maintained academic programs that not only are in high demand among college applicants, but also have earned the confidence of industry and private donors.”

Cal Poly also received high marks again this year for academic reputation (third place), its freshmen retention rate, and the quality of its students.

Public Affairs Launches Cal Poly News Web Site

For the latest news about Cal Poly, visit the new Cal Poly News Web site at www.calpolynews.calpoly.edu. Public Affairs posts all Cal Poly news releases on the site as they are issued, and archives all news releases there, along with background and contact information. The site houses the Cal Poly Report, the university’s weekly newsletter for faculty and staff, and Cal Poly Update, the university’s monthly e-mail newsletter for alumni and friends. The site also contains links to the university’s individual college Web sites, as well as to other university Web pages.

Two College of Agriculture Departments Merge

Cal Poly’s Environmental Horticultural Science and Crop Science departments have merged to create the Horticulture and Crop Science Department. According to College of Agriculture Dean David Wehner, the new department not only combines resources, such as an endowed professorship in biotechnology, but also increases students’ opportunities for an expanded perspective of the production agriculture industry. The new department offers four majors – environmental horticulture, crop science, fruit science, and plant protection science – and is developing a fifth major, wine and viticulture.
New Engineering Facility To House Multiple Departments

The College of Engineering announces that ground has been broken for a new 38,000-square-foot building that will house facilities for the Aerospace Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, and Materials Engineering departments. Dubbed Engineering III, the structure will bring these College of Engineering departments together from outdated facilities around campus. Among the new building’s special features are high-technology labs for aerothermodynamics, controls and flight simulation, civil engineering semiconductor fabrication, safety, and microelectronics fabrication. Completion of the $10 million facility’s first phase is planned for September. The second phase is scheduled to begin in summer 2003.

Reich Speaks at Orfalea College of Business Career Conference

Robert Reich, candidate for governor of Massachusetts and Clinton administration secretary of labor, was the keynote speaker at Cal Poly’s 7th Annual International Career Conference (ICC) in February. He spoke on “The Politics of International Business.” More than 250 students from across the state attended the event, which was organized by students from the Orfalea College of Business to offer workshops and panels taught by leaders in government, nonprofit, and private-industry sectors. Topics included government-sector careers, world commerce trends, entrepreneurship in the global economy, global e-commerce, international finance, cultural adaptation, and women in international business. The conference also offered a recruiting session with more than 30 companies and nonprofit agencies.

Reich is currently a professor at Brandeis University. Before taking his cabinet post with President Clinton, he lectured for 12 years at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.

For more information, visit the ICC Web site at http://mulder.cob.calpoly.edu/~icc.

To become involved with, or contribute to, the ICC, e-mail faculty advisors Chris Carr (ccarr@calpoly.edu) or Terri Lituchy (tilutchy@calpoly.edu).
Cal Poly and UC Davis Team Up on Graduate Ag Studies

The McOmie Graduate Education Program, funded by a trust established in 1975 by California rancher Lorenzo McOmie and his wife, Judith, is expanding and strengthening cooperative studies between Cal Poly’s College of Agriculture and UC Davis’s College of Agricultural and Environmental Studies. The program focuses on collaborative graduate agricultural research, especially in animal husbandry and field crops. It affirms the informal relationship between the two universities established over the years in the area of agricultural sciences, with students who earn their master’s degrees at Cal Poly moving on to pursue doctoral studies at UC Davis.

Faculty at both campuses will meet periodically to coordinate specific course offerings and research guidelines.

IN MEMORIAM

George Hasslein,
CAED Founding Dean

George Hasslein, 83, founding dean of Cal Poly’s College of Architecture and Environmental Design, died in San Luis Obispo in August. Starting at Cal Poly in 1950 as an assistant architecture professor, Hasslein was named head of the new Architectural Engineering Department a year later. In 1968 he became founding dean of the new School of Architecture and Environmental Design, which he built into a college that today offers five bachelor’s and two master’s degree programs. He advocated a multidisciplinary curriculum that eventually included architecture, architectural engineering, city and regional planning, construction management, and landscape architecture. “Those who work together should be educated together,” he said.

Hasslein built the college from the ground up, said Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker. “But he’ll be remembered most for his enthusiastic dedication to his students. He followed their careers with great fondness.”

Hasslein returned to his first love – teaching – in 1983. True to his vocation, he never considered retiring. He earned numerous honors and awards, including the 1977 California Council of the American Institute of Architects Award for Excellence in Education and the 1982 Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce’s Construction Industry Achievement Award. He was a fellow in the AIA for his contribution to education, and an architecture consultant to the CSU board of trustees.

Hasslein is survived by a son, Vaughn, of Silicon Valley, and a daughter, Tracey, of Los Angeles. His family requests that any memorial donations be sent to the College of Architecture and Environmental Design Foundation to establish an endowed teaching position in his name.
Cal Poly Joins Internet2

Cal Poly has become the third California State University – along with Hayward and Pomona – to join Internet2, a new private Internet system linking 60 corporations and 180 member universities and colleges, including all nine University of California campuses.

Operating at speeds much faster than the commercial Internet, Internet2 will give Cal Poly students and faculty access to advanced software applications, graphic research databases at other member campuses, and equipment like CSU Hayward’s $4 million electron microscope and the Gemini Observatory’s twin telescopes (in Hawaii and Chile).

“Our membership in Internet2 is essential to our continuing role as one of this nation’s leading polytechnic universities,” said Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker.

As funds become available, more Cal Poly classrooms and laboratories will connect with Internet2 for in-class instruction, independent study, and lab research.

Federal funds from the Department of Defense’s Office of Naval Research provided start-up funds for Internet2.

For more information, visit the Internet2 Web site at www.internet2.edu.

Professors and Staff Publish Cal Poly Field Guide

Produced by faculty and staff from more than a dozen university departments, *Cal Poly Land: A Field Guide* documents the more than 10,000 acres of university land at Cal Poly’s San Luis Obispo campus and Swanton Pacific Ranch in photographs, maps, text, and poetry.

The full-color hardcover book is being designed as a library addition as well as a course textbook and reference for walkers by members of the Cal Poly Land Centennial Project, whose mission is “to promote care for university land and community among those who inhabit it.” The guide includes chapters on geology, vegetation, archaeology, agriculture, history, soils and water, climate, and utility infrastructure.

More information is available on the World Wide Web at http://polyland.lib.calpoly.edu/overview/ThisProject/fieldguide/pages/cover. To order a prospectus, please e-mail smarx@calpoly.edu.

Extended Studies Offers Golf Adventure in Ireland

Cal Poly’s Extended Studies is offering a special golf tour – “Why Irish Eyes Are Smiling: A Golf Journey to the Emerald Isle” – June 20-27 in Dublin and western Ireland. The tour leader is Provost Paul Zingg, who has written, “There is no place where the ensemble of a rich golfing tradition and deep spiritual dimension in the history of its land and people is more complete than Ireland” (*In Search of the Golf Gods: An Irish Journey*).

The tour includes a digital photography study course and an adjunct program for non-golfing partners.

For more information, contact Extended Studies at 805/756-7434 or e-mail vsteele@calpoly.edu.