Extra Credit

CAL POLY
• According to U.S. Department of Education data, Cal Poly is among the "Top 100" colleges and universities cited in Black Issues in Higher Education that conferred the most bachelor's degrees on minority students in 2001-2002. In rankings for awarding bachelor's degrees in specific disciplines, Cal Poly was sixth in engineering.
• The Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation awarded the Cal Poly Foundation and Kinesiology Professor Kevin Taylor a $10,780 Quality of Life Grant to develop a "solo quad-conversion" project. As part of Cal Poly's Adapted Paddling Program, Taylor and Mechanical Engineering Professor Frank Owen and their students will modify a canoe and kayak for individuals with quadriplegia to use "sip and puff" controls.
• At the inaugural Cal Poly Entrepreneurial Leadership Awards ceremony, Congresswoman Lois Capps presented a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition to the Orfalea College of Business for its "outstanding and invaluable service to the community" in creating the awards. Students in a "Profiles in Entrepreneurship" course taught by Business Professor William Pendergast researched local companies and organized the awards for 12 Central Coast entrepreneurs.
• A Cal Poly elementary schools art education outreach program has received national recognition and will become a partner in a three-year program to assess the influence of the arts on the academic achievement of 818 students from third through fifth grade.

Alumnus "Hoot" Gibson Named to Astronaut Hall of Fame

Cal Poly alum Robert "Hoot" Gibson (AERO '69) was recently named to the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame and U.S. Space Camp Training Center is operated by the Mercury Seven Foundation and the U.S. Space Camp Foundation. It opened in 1990, and features personal mementos and equipment donated by the Mercury and Gemini astronauts. The Astronaut Hall of Fame showcases each of the seven Mercury astronauts and 13 Gemini astronauts, features an honor roll of all astronauts who have flown missions, and devotes a section to flights that followed the Mercury and Gemini missions.

Gibson was named to the Hall of Fame in a June 21 ceremony along with Daniel Brandenstein, Story Musgrave and Sally Ride (the first American woman in space). Earlier this year, Gibson delivered the keynote address at the annual CSU Alumni Legislative Day in Sacramento. He was selected to speak in recognition of his distinguished career, national service and commitment to higher education.

His aerospace engineering education at Cal Poly enabled him to later design and build a new airplane which set a world altitude record. During the Vietnam conflict he flew Navy fighter jets and provided air cover for the evacuation of Saigon.

His first NASA flight was in 1984 on the 10th space shuttle launch. His final mission came in 1995, when he served as commander at the first docking with the Russian space station Mir.

"There I was, a former American fighter pilot, opening the hatch and offering my hand to a former Russian MiG pilot," said Gibson. "It has been suggested that this gesture of cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union marked the end of the Cold War."

"So," he smiled, "I tell people that it was my Cal Poly education that prepared me to go out and help end the Cold War."
• Horticulture and Crop Science Department Head Jennifer Ryder Fox and three colleagues received The Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award from the Environmental Protection Agency for developing Serenade, a biofungicide that combats crop mildew but is harmless to beneficial insects and can be used in organic and traditional farming.

• Associate Engineering Dean Paul E. Rainey was named a Fellow Member of the American Society for Engineering Education and recognized for outstanding contributions to the society. "Because the ASEE allows engineering educators from all over the country to share ideas on current teaching methods and learn about new equipment," said Rainey, "the work of the society fits in perfectly with what we do here at Cal Poly."

• The California State Grange Association named a scholarship in honor of recently retired Cal Poly Agricultural Education and Communication Professor Joe Sabol. Sabol served as director of outreach for the College of Agriculture, developed the National Agricultural Ambassadors Conference to convene students from 45 universities in 20 states, and helped build international agricultural programs in Mexico, Nigeria and Costa Rica. UC Davis recognized his efforts with its 2002 Award of Distinction.

Imagination Takes Wing in Aerospace Engineering Classes

‘Ultimately what separated the Wrights from their more illustrious rivals was their particular aptitude for learning how to do a difficult thing.’

—from To Conquer the Air: The Wright Brothers and the Great Race for Flight

One hundred years after the Wright Brothers soared over the North Carolina sand dunes in a powered flying machine, 13 Cal Poly aerospace engineering students are sharing the same spirit of discovery by building an aircraft of their own.

The students are enrolled in AERO 565 and 571, courses funded by $15,000 from student academic fees. The courses focus on the construction of an RAV-7 single-engine airplane in a shop near the San Luis Obispo airport. Unlike the Wrights, who flew their wooden, cloth-covered aircraft up to 852 feet on December 17, 1903, the students’ plane, made of state-of-the-art metals and plastic composites, will never get off the ground.

“To get the course started, we had to state it was strictly ‘not for flight,’” says AERO Chair Dan Biezard. “The plan is to have at least one formal class section per year, with students working year-round on senior projects related to the aircraft.”

Biezard, who says the RAV-7 may never be finished, adds, “The class was offered at student request to provide a ‘hands-on’ experience in the best tradition of the Aerospace Engineering Department.”

This is not the first time Cal Poly students have emulated the Wrights. Students built a six-passenger replica of Charles Lindbergh’s Spirit of St. Louis in 1928, only a year after the Cal Poly Aeronautical Engineering Department took flight. It was believed to be the first aircraft ever constructed by students in the United States.

— Dennis Steers
College of Engineering

Extra Credit

• Dairy Science Professors Rafael Jimenez-Flores and Ed Jaster were honored at the American Dairy Science Association’s 2003 Annual Meeting. Jimenez-Flores won the 2003 Milk Industry Teaching Award for his classroom teaching, his coaching of university dairy products judging teams and his mentoring of senior undergraduate students and their research projects. Jaster, nationally known for his research in dairy cattle nutrition, was elected National Advisor to the Student Affiliate Division of ADSA.

• The American Society of Agricultural Engineers presented Cal Poly professor emeritus John L. Merrlam with the 2003 Kishida International Award for his contributions to the irrigation industry, with special recognition for his work with developing nations, including designing and supervising construction of flexible supply pipeline demonstrations and production projects in Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan and Egypt. Merrlam and his family established a variety of irrigation management and education endowments and founded the Merriam Irrigation Education Foundation.

STUDENTS

• Anthony L. DeFont, a Cal Poly mechanical engineering student, is among six students who received The California State University’s 2003-2004 William R. Hearst/CSU Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement. Selection for the award is based on financial need, superior academic performance, outstanding volunteer service and character to overcome profound personal challenges.

• Jesse Segura won the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association’s 2003 National All-Around Cowboy title during the June finals in Casper, Wyo. He was awarded a $6,500 scholarship and a $35,000 sponsorship for competition next year on the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association circuit. He was one of 12 Cal Poly Rodeo Team members to make the final competition.

• Graphic Communication students won six out of seven prizes in the 2003 Bookbuilders West book design competition in San Francisco. Awards were given based on layout, typography and cover designs of a classic book. Industry professionals judged entries on creativity, success in meeting design objectives, and presentation.

• A Cal Poly team of four students took third place in Walt Disney Imagineering’s 2003 Imaginations Design Competition. The group was one of only four student teams from around the world selected to make a final presentation of their creative proposal for a “cutting-edge entertainment center” and “state-of-the-art musical extravaganza” on San Francisco Bay. The Cal Poly competitors each received a $1,000 prize, and their proposal is now on display at Disney Imagineering headquarters in Burbank.

• A team of Cal Poly engineering students drove off with two awards from Future-Truck 2003, a national student competition sponsored by the Ford Motor Co. Competing against 14 other university teams, Cal Poly won second place and $750 in the category Most Innovative Use of Virtual Instrumentation and was named Most Improved Team.
Cal Poly Presents Seventh Annual President's Diversity Awards

The annual President's Diversity Awards recognize contributions to creating and supporting campus diversity. At this year's ceremony, President Warren J. Baker commented that the growing number and quality of nominations signify Cal Poly's increasing commitment to diversity.

Through the continued good work of the University Diversity Enhancement Council, chaired by College of Liberal Arts Dean Harry Hellenbrand, diversity issues are assuming a place of growing prominence in the university's ongoing conversation about goals and values, Baker said.

Two winners share this year's award, which includes $1,000 for each program:

• Connections for Academic Success, a program that has partnered with colleges, Admissions and the University Diversity Enhancement Council to advise and help retain hundreds of diverse students
• The Minority International Research Access Program, which has brought over $1.1 million to campus to underwrite the international research experience of 10 students annually.

The outstanding contributions of these two programs will be memorialized on a perpetual plaque that honors their contributions and those of past and future awardees.

Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker presents the President's Diversity Award plaque to Donna Davis, coordinator of the Connections for Academic Success program. Photo by Jeff Greene

Cal Poly College of Agriculture, Canada's University of Guelph Establish Agricultural Exchange Program

Cal Poly's College of Agriculture and the Ontario Agricultural College of the University of Guelph in Canada have teamed up to offer an exchange program for students and faculty.

The University of Guelph is the premier agricultural research university of Canada, said Cal Poly Agribusiness Professor Wayne Howard, who taught there for 12 years. The historic university outside Toronto was originally founded as an agricultural college in 1874, and includes a school of veterinary medicine.

Beginning this fall, up to six students per term from each campus can participate in the exchange, taking courses for credit toward their degrees. The universities are also participating in a faculty exchange program for agriculture professors.

The exchange program will strengthen agricultural programs at both colleges, said Howard. Cal Poly students can take any Guelph courses, including organic agriculture and food science — two areas in which the University of Guelph is a North American leader — and students from Guelph will be able to take advantage of Cal Poly's strong programs in agribusiness management, dairy management, irrigation and pest management, and viticulture.

Cal Poly's Landscape Architecture Department in the College of Architecture and Environmental Design already has an exchange program with Guelph's Ontario Agricultural College.

For more information about Guelph and Cal Poly, visit www.uoguelph.ca or www.calpoly.edu, or contact Wayne Howard at whhoward@calpoly.edu.

Extra Credit

FACULTY
• Landscape architecture lecturer Joseph Ragsdale was named one of 31 winners of the 107th annual Rome Prize Competition of the American Academy in Rome. He won the prestigious design and arts award for a proposal to study the relationship between the material surfaces that make up the city of Rome and the "source landscapes" of those materials — industrial sites, quarries and working communities.

• Spring commencement ceremonies honored three Cal Poly professors with the Distinguished Teaching Award, the university's highest teaching honor. Biological Sciences Professor Alvin De Jong, Speech Communication Professor Bernard Duffy, and Materials Engineering Department Chair Linda Vanasupa were commended for exceeding students' expectations and building confidence with challenging courses and caring attitudes.

• Accounting Professor Jack Robison was selected to receive the 2003 Faculty Advisor Award for outstanding achievement by a faculty member in the area of student advising.

• Construction Management Professor Barry Jones has been named a Fellow in the American Society of Civil Engineers and the United Kingdom's Chartered Institute of Building. He was also admitted to the Americas Registry of Outstanding Professionals.

• Agribusiness Professor David Schaffner has been appointed to the National Food and Agribusiness Management Education Commission, created by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to conduct a comprehensive review of food and agribusiness management programs, examine the human resource needs of agribusiness, and propose recommendations to aid colleges and universities in meeting the changing needs of the marketplace.