Nothing common about the Learning Commons

The Learning Commons, Kennedy Library's newest teaching resource, brings the university closer to the goal of providing a Digital Teaching Library. Campus administrators, deans, faculty and students were on hand Monday, Nov. 7, to celebrate the new resource with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The DTL seeks to create an environment that fosters creative, flexible relationships among students and professors, resources and technology, says Dean of Library Services Hiram L. Davis. To form the infrastructure of the Learning Commons, a number of labs across campus were upgraded. Three smart labs include the most up-to-date technology and cutting-edge equipment to allow students to complete homework assignments, do online research, and attend classes. The Learning Commons is a collaboration between the Kennedy Library, Information Technology Services, and the Center for Teaching and Learning. For more information, visit the DTL Learning Commons Web site at http://learningcommons.calpoly.edu/.

Degree option developed to address teacher shortage

California is facing a severe shortage of K-12 teachers. Estimates suggest that 300,000 new teachers will be needed in the next 10 years. Recognizing that need, Cal Poly has developed a new option for working adults who are considering changing careers and entering the teaching profession. The alternative route has been formed through a partnership between Continuing Education and College of Education. For information, contact Lisbeth Ceaser at ext. 6-2079. Information on the Adult Degree Program's Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies can be obtained from Erik D. Long, ADP coordinator, at ext. 6-2062 or by visiting www.adultdegreeprogram.calpoly.edu.

Happy Holidays

Take your pick of poinsettias at the Poly Plant Shop

The annual poinsettia sale, featuring more than 2,500 poinsettias in 29 different varieties and colors, begins Monday, Nov. 28, at the Poly Plant Shop and continues through mid-December. The holiday flowers are grown by students involved in the university's Poinsettia Enterprise Project, which begins in May every year. Plant sizes range from four inches to four feet tall, and include "trees" trained and trimmed to form a trunk with poinsettia blooms at the top. Price ranges from $5-$55. The annual Poinsettia Project Open House sales will be Fridays and Saturdays Dec. 2 and 3 and Dec. 9 and 10 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

And check out the Plant Shop's Holiday Open House

Student employees of the Poly Plant Shop, along with students of the Horticulture and Crop Science Department, will hold the plant shop's annual Holiday Open House Friday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. There will be holiday refreshments and music, including live wind-instrument duets from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. On sale will be poinsettias, candle arrangements, garlands, swags, wreaths, potted paperwhites, mini lavender and rosemary standards, and much more. The Poly Plant Shop will be open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through Saturday, Dec. 10 for your holiday shopping needs. SPECIAL NOTE: Staff may be available after Dec. 10 for last-minute shoppers. Call ext. 6-1106 or check out www.polyplantshop.com for more information. The Poly Plant Shop is located at Bldg. 48, Via Carta Road, up the hill from the Campus Market and across the street from the equine center.
Employment

State: The official listing of staff and management vacancies is posted on www.calpolyjobs.org. To apply, go online and complete the application form. Applicants needing assistance may contact Human Resources at ext. 6-2236.

#100733-Information Technology Consultant, career, Student Affairs-Health & Counseling Services, $3,915-$6,013/month. Closes Dec. 5.

#100762-Network Analyst, Foundation, career, Academic Affairs-Enrollment Support Services, temporary through Dec. 31. One position available; level will be determined by experience and background of selected candidate. Foundation Level: $3,172-$5,063/month; Career Level: $3,996-$8,179/month. Closes Dec. 16.

Faculty: Candidates are asked to visit our online employment Web site at www.calpolyjobs.org to complete an application and apply for any of the positions shown below. Submit all requested materials as attachments to your online application, unless otherwise specified in the ad.


#100752-Tenure-Track Structural & Transportation Engineering, Civil & Environmental Engineering Department, College of Engineering (ext. 6-2137). Closes Feb. 1, 2006.


Solicitations of vacation credit or sick leave
- Carol LaRiviera, administrative support coordinator in the dean's office of the College of Liberal Arts, has qualified for personal catastrophic leave. Eligible state employees may donate vacation credit and/or sick leave to help her remain in full pay status during an extended absence. To request a catastrophic leave donation form, please contact Carson Crain at ext. 6-5755 or e-mail ccrain@calpoly.edu.
- Rachel Roberts, administrative support assistant, Physics Department, has qualified for personal catastrophic leave. Eligible state employees may donate vacation credit and/or sick leave to help her remain in full pay status during an extended absence. To request a catastrophic leave donation form, please contact Alice Gold at ext. 6-1752 or email, agold@calpoly.edu.

Review guidelines before organizing charity campaigns
The holidays are a time of generosity, and with that holiday spirit comes an increased interest in conducting university wide charitable fund-raising activities. Organizations wishing to conduct fund-raising activities should review the guidelines and complete a request approval form. Go to http://www.afd.calpoly.edu/AFD/forms/Procedure_Fundraising.pdf for details. Charitable fund-raising activities proposed by student organizations must be scheduled and submitted for approval through the E-Plan process.

Hours extended for the holidays at the Recreation Center
Don't let the holidays weigh you down. Keep those holiday pounds off by working out at the Recreation Center. The Recreation Center has extended its holiday break hours and will be open Dec. 12-23 and Dec. 27-30, during regular hours (Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-midnight, Saturday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m., and Sunday, 8 a.m.-midnight). New this year: Winter Break Recreation Center Passes are available for family members. For just $10, visiting relatives can use the Recreation Center during winter break.

Nominations sought for student employee award
Faculty and staff members can show their appreciation for student employees by nominating them for the university's 2005-2006 Outstanding Student Employee of the Year award. Nominees must have completed at least six months part-time student employment during the academic year, June 1, 2005 to May 31, 2006. Eligible candidates include state, ASI and Foundation student employees. Nominees can be federal work-study and non-federal work-study students. The state winner will receive a plaque and a $50 savings bond. The regional winner will receive a plaque and a $100 savings bond and will be eligible for the National Student Employee of the Year competition. The national winner will be named during National Student Employment Week in April. For a nomination form, go to: http://www.afd.calpoly.edu/payroll/Proced.htm.

Vaccinate your pets on campus Dec. 2
The Vet Science Club will host a pet vaccine clinic for Cal Poly pet owners Friday, Dec. 2, from 3-5 p.m. at the campus Vet Clinic, Bldg. 57. For more information, e-mail cpvaccineclinic@hotmail.com.

Announcement of Cal Poly Foundation board meeting
The Board of Directors of the Cal Poly Foundation will hold a regular meeting on Friday, Dec. 2, at 8:30 a.m. in the Foundation Administration Building, Conference Room 124. This is a public meeting. For further information, or to obtain a copy of the meeting agenda, contact Frank Mumford, foundation executive director, at ext. 6-1131.

Cal Poly Report is published every Wednesday. E-mail submissions to polynews@calpoly.edu by 4 p.m. on the Friday before publication.