Stadium renovation work underway

Renovation work began Tuesday, Aug. 16, to transform the aging Mustang Stadium into the gleaming Alex G. Spanos Stadium. The bleachers on the west side of the field will come down first, with temporary seating for fans constructed at the field's north end. Demolition and construction phases will not interfere with the 2005 Mustang football and soccer seasons, according to project manager Perry Judd. When the first phase of the construction is completed next August, it will add 1,500 new seats. The renovated stadium will hold a total of 10,000 fans.

Beginning Monday, Aug. 22, some changes will be made to vehicle and pedestrian traffic patterns and parking availability on campus. Vehicle and pedestrian access to the area will be restricted to residents living adjacent to the stadium near the Union Pacific railroad crossing. For all others, California Boulevard through campus will be closed to through traffic. This section will remain closed for a year. From the south, access to campus from California Boulevard will be detoured at Campus Way. Traffic and pedestrians entering campus from the north can access Lot C-7 from California Boulevard.

Eight large palm trees along California Boulevard will be relocated or replaced. Staff parking spaces on California Boulevard near the stadium will be eliminated, and Parking Lot C-1 just south of the stadium will be closed permanently.

Research takes Neuhaus to Africa

Food Science Professor Tom Neuhaus is heading to Africa this month to study whether the world's appetite for chocolate is fueling a market in child slave labor. Neuhaus, who advises the Cal Poly Chocolates enterprise project and the campus Fair Trade Club, will study the cocoa bean industry on the Ivory Coast during his one-month trip. The West African nation supplies 70 percent of America's cocoa beans and close to 100 percent of the chocolate in American candy bars. He expects to publish the results of his study by March 2006. He is paying for the research trip himself.

Professor recognized for crime work

The Criminal Justice Administrators Association on Aug. 10 recognized Professor Robert Howell for his outstanding work in extracting information from audio and video tape to help solve crimes in San Luis Obispo County. For more than five years, Howell, a professor of photography and digital imagery, has volunteered to assist several Central Coast law enforcement agencies solve crimes that involved Internet and audio and video evidence. An expert in audio and video information extraction, Howell's work has led to felony convictions, identification of suspects, and collection of evidence that might otherwise have been lost without his expertise. In 2003, Howell assisted the City of Pismo Beach in a homicide investigation when he extracted key evidence from video footage. The evidence he uncovered was presented at trial and led to a first-degree murder conviction.

Caution: campus road striping ahead

Campus road striping is happening this week through Friday. There may be minor traffic delays; pedestrians and drivers should use caution when passing work areas. Questions or concerns should be directed to the Facilities Work Center at ext. 6-5555.
Professors find link between Polynesians-Native Americans

New evidence counters cultural theory

Social Sciences Associate Professor Terry Jones and UC Berkeley lecturer Kathryn Klar say linguistic and archaeological evidence points to Polynesians landing in Southern California between 400 and 800 A.D. and sharing their boat-building skills with Chumash and Gabrieliño Indians in the region. Their research appears this week in American Antiquity, a leading peer-reviewed journal devoted to the study of American archaeology. A brief story also appeared in the April edition of Archaeology magazine. Jones and Klar say more work is needed to prove for certain their theory of contact between the Polynesians and California Indians. It runs counter to the prevailing theory dismissing cultural diffusion and favoring the concept that local conditions serve as the basis of cultural change.

Employees give big to United Way

University employees contributed more than $60,000 to the United Way of SLO County during the recent California State Employees Charitable Campaign. The money, to be given through monthly payroll deductions over the next year, is part of the total of $190,000 in monthly United Way payroll contributions pledged to United Way by all state employees in San Luis Obispo County. "It's another great example of the way Cal Poly employees help support all of the communities in our county," said University Police Chief Tony Aeilts, this year's United Way State Employee Campaign Chair for San Luis Obispo County. "This is especially true since the money raised here, stays here." Employees who contributed more than $480 during the year received "Leadership Bears." For examples of success stories, visit: http://www.unitedwayslo.org/Success/Success.html.

Employment equity facilitator training

The Employment Equity & Faculty Recruitment Office will conduct an employment equity facilitator training on Tuesday, Sept. 13, in UU 220 from 10:30 am to noon. This training session will present a complete overview of the responsibilities of the employment equity facilitator and will provide an update of the process for this position. Attendance is appropriate as a refresher for those who have not attended a recent training. Drop in or pre-register by email to jemest@calpoly.edu or call ext. 6-6770.

Professor to perform in Sarajevo

Theatre and Dance Department Assistant Professor Josh Machamer is traveling to Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, to perform his original theatrical piece, "The Scar: A Srebrenica Story." The theatrical docudrama is based on two days of actual testimony from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. The testimony, by a witness identified only as "B-1399," provides a harrowing first-person account of a chilling Srebrenica event.

Alumni Big Band to perform Aug. 27

Alumni Band members return to San Luis Obispo Saturday, Aug. 27, to entertain Central Coast music and dance lovers from 7 to 11 p.m. in the Madonna Inn Ballroom. The Cal Poly Collegians Alumni Big Band, one of the longest-running acts anywhere, has been performing on and off since the 1940s.

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