What's Happening

Comedy troupe April 2
Four members of the renowned Groundlings Improvisational Comedy Troupe will be joined on stage by student performers for "An Evening of Improv, Act II" on Saturday, April 2, 8 p.m., in the Spanos Theatre. Performing will be television and film actors Mindy Sterling, Michael Hitchcock, Patrick Bristow and Brian Paiermo plus about 40 students who earlier in the day are slated to participate in an improvisational workshop with the actors.

"Living Room Dialogue"
A panel of Jews and Palestinians will gather on Sunday, April 10, for a "Living Room Dialogue" concerning peace in the Middle East. The group will meet from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in the Pavilion of the Christopher Cohan Center. Panelists, facilitated by husband-and-wife team Len and Libby Traubman, will share personal narratives in this free public forum. The Traubmans are founders of the Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue Group, which Len Traubman calls the "oldest sustained dialogue group of its kind in North America."

UU Gallery to display photos
ASI Events will display art and design student Mike Krautter's collection of photographs of Northern India April 7-22, in the UU Gallery. The exhibit is free, and the gallery is open 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday. A reception will be held Thursday, April 7 from 6-8 p.m.

Construction begins on new facilities
University officials and a major donor put on hard hats and wielded shovels last week to mark the start of construction of two new engineering buildings. President Baker, College of Engineering Dean Peter Y. Lee, and alumnus donor Paul Bonderson symbolically broke ground on the Bonderson Engineering Projects Center and the Engineering IV building - new state-of-the-art facilities that will change the face of engineering at Cal Poly. The Bonderson Engineering Projects Center will provide almost 19,000 square feet of specialized space for individual and collaborative student projects, including group work and assembly areas, laboratories and supporting shop areas. Cal Poly alumni Bonderson (EE '75) and his wife Sandy funded the facility with a $5 million gift in 2001. They recently announced a pledge of an additional $3.2 million to secure their vision for the center. Also underway is the Engineering IV building, a 104,000-square-foot facility with a construction budget of $28 million. Engineering IV will concentrate much of the university's engineering programs in one area and was made possible by passage of Proposition 47.

CSU approves faculty/staff housing project
CSU trustees gave final approval last week for a 69-unit housing development for faculty and staff. The approval means the Cal Poly Housing Corporation can now proceed with the project, named "Bella Montaña." The homes will be located on a 5.3-acre parcel of land at the corner of Highland Drive and Highway 1, across from the Highland Drive entrance to campus. The university already owns the land and will offer the homes at below-market cost to faculty and staff. The project will feature distinctively styled attached homes with 10 different floor plans. The homes will be clustered within 21 buildings. Construction is scheduled to start in April, and the first phase of homes should be available for sale in early 2007.

Cal Poly celebrates Cesar Chavez
The campus community and the public are invited to celebrate the life of Cesar Chavez during a memorial march, rally and film showing on campus Tuesday, April 5. The march will begin at 11 a.m. on Dexter Lawn. It will end at the UU Plaza with a few moments of open microphone comments. Chavez events will continue at 6 p.m. in the Veranda Café, where a panel of speakers will discuss the influence Chavez had on their lives. Video clips of Chavez's life and work will be shown; refreshments will be served. The free events are sponsored by the university's Hispanic Business Student Association. For more information, contact Daisy Cisneros at Cisneros @calpoly.edu. The public is also invited to visit the Kennedy Library to view a biographical and historical display on Chavez. For questions or contributions to the display, contact Joan Kennedy at jkennedy@ calpoly.edu. Cal Poly will be closed March 31 in observance of the state's Cesar Chavez Day holiday.

Symposium for California policymakers
Dynamic presentations and networking opportunities will be key parts of the California Agriculture Symposium March 23-24 in Sacramento -- an event aided by Cal Poly's Institute for the Study of Specialty Crops. California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary A.G. Kawamura is scheduled to deliver the keynote address.
Gar Ding, CAED dean emeritus

Gar Day Ding, 75, of Midlothian, Va., died peacefully at home Thursday, Feb. 24, 2005, surrounded by family after a courageous battle with cancer. A private memorial service will be held later. Mr. Ding was born in the Fah-Yuen Province, China, Nov. 14, 1929. He had a distinguished 50-year career in architecture and civil engineering. He obtained bachelor's degrees from the University of Auckland, New Zealand and from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, and a master's degree from the University of New South Wales, Australia. He was a lecturer in architectural science at the University of Sydney, Australia, taught architecture at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, the University of Cincinnati, Miami University and the University of Illinois of Urbana-Champaign. He was a research professor emeritus of architecture at UIUC and a professor and dean emeritus of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design at Cal Poly from 1984-1993.

Interim Associate VP appointed

Mike McCall has been named Interim Associate Vice President for Advancement. McCall will succeed Rick Ellison, who will depart in April to become the Vice President for Advancement at Chico State. McCall has served as the Director of Planned Giving at the university since 1999. Ellison, who has served as Associate Vice President for Advancement since 1998, helped captain the seven-year, $264 million Centennial Campaign, which concluded in December.

Local winemakers donate to program

Leaders at five Paso Robles wineries have joined forces to raise money for the wine and viticulture degree program. The five recently donated $4,000 and have pledged to raise $10,000 more. Grey Wolf Winery owner and winemaker Joe Barton, Peachy Canyon Winery Director of Sales and Marketing Peter Price, Midnight Cellars Winemaker Rich Hartenberg, Martin and Weyrich Winery Winemaker Craig Reed, and Silver Horse Winery Winemaker Steve Kroener donated $4,000 to the department this month. Barton is a 1999 Cal Poly fruit science grad, and Price is a 1986 Cal Poly political science grad. The five raised the $4,000 through a private golf tournament. The four wineries already provide internships and are eager to hire Cal Poly graduates.

Deadline reminders for spring quarter

Academic Records reminds faculty and staff of the following deadlines for spring quarter:

Thursday, March 24 - Last night wait lists will automatically enroll students; POWER available from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. for add/drop and viewing class schedules.
Friday, March 25 - ePermits, class lists, and frozen wait lists available.
Saturday & Sunday, March 26 and 27 - Seat availability can be viewed via POWER's "Plan a Schedule."
Monday, March 28 - ePermits required for all adds; students can obtain e Permit numbers from instructors; e Permit numbers can be entered via POWER.
Wednesday, April 6 - Last day for faculty to issue e Permit numbers; last day for students to enter e Permit numbers via POWER.
Thursday, April 7 - Last day to add courses via pending e Permit, last day to drop courses via POWER.

Questions? E-mail registration@calpoly.edu.