Software security alert
The Campus Information Security Officer and the ITS Chief Information Officer issued a security alert to the campus community last week about spyware that redirects all Internet traffic through an off-campus server. Running the software on a computer can expose personal information submitted to a Web site, as well as confidential university data accessed through My Cal Poly Portal (e.g., username, password, social security numbers, credit card numbers, email, etc.), to an outside entity. Users are being advised to download free anti-spyware software to detect and remove such programs from their home computers and to work with their LAN Coordinator or ITS to remove such spyware from campus computers as soon as possible. After their computers are clean, users should change any passwords that may have been compromised. ITS started blocking network access to one such threat, MarketScore, on Tuesday, Nov. 23, and will temporarily disable access by known users if the MarketScore spyware is not removed. If you cannot access campus Web sites or other applications, your computer is probably infected. For more information, visit: http://security.calpoly.edu/spyware/sproxy.html.

Blackboard outage reminder
Access to Blackboard will be unavailable during the Thanksgiving holiday, from 6 a.m. today through 11 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 28. Send concerns or questions to blackboardsupport@calpoly.edu, or call Tonia Malone at ext. 6-6336. For more information, go to http://blackboardsupport.calpoly.edu/PPS/Bb6Project.html.

Winter parking permits on sale Dec. 6
Commuters may purchase winter quarter parking permits starting Monday, Dec. 6. The cost is $75 for the quarter or $150 for the remainder of the academic year. Commuters are encouraged to try alternative modes of transportation, such as walking, cycling, carpools and vanpools, and riding the bus. For details, go to http://www.commuteoptions.calpoly.edu.

Catastrophic leave notification
Ana Rodarte, a custodian in Housing and Business Services, has qualified for personal catastrophic leave. Eligible state employees may donate vacation credit and/or sick leave to help Ana remain in full pay status during an extended absence. Those interested may request a catastrophic leave donation form from solicitation coordinator Janis Eto in Housing and Business Services at ext. 6-1586 or by e-mail, jeto@calpoly.edu. All eligible state employees may donate up to 16 hours total, in any combination, of accrued vacation credit and/or sick leave in increments of one hour or more for all solicitations during any one fiscal year.

Dairy industry seminar Dec. 7
Siemens Energy & Automation is teaming up with the university, Tuesday, Dec. 7, to present "Making the Grade II: Turning Dairy Business Challenges Into Opportunities." The seminar will take place at the Dairy Products Technology Center and is open to dairy professionals and dairy business leaders. Featured speakers include Dairy Management Institute Vice President of Product Innovation Bill Haines; Brenda Holman, Pacific region director of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration; Ron Mong, dairy industry manager of Herbein + Co.; and Joe O'Donnell of the California Dairy Research Foundation.
Carol Brookshire retirement fete Dec. 8
Carol Brookshire is retiring after 17 years at Cal Poly. Well-wishers are asked to stop by the Research and Graduate Programs Office in Room 154, Mathematics and Science Building, during working hours on Wednesday, Dec. 8. Brookshire has been the primary administrative support employee for the Dean of Research and Graduate Programs since 1993. Prior to that (1990-1993), she worked as the administrative assistant to Bob Lucas, former associate vice president for graduate studies, research and faculty development. She also worked as the clerical services supervisor in the College of Business from 1987-1990.

Candidates sought for research awards
The Academic Senate Committee on Research and Professional Development invites nominations for the Distinguished Research, Creative Activity and Professional Development Awards. Two awards are given each year, each accompanied by a cash prize of $1,250. The awards recognize the varied scholarship of both junior and senior faculty members across a wide range of disciplines. They honor specific accomplishments, rather than general achievements, for work done primarily at Cal Poly. Nominations may be submitted by faculty members, students or alumni; candidates may also nominate themselves. Candidates must be current members of the faculty and must have completed at least three years of full-time service. Nominations may be submitted online to the Academic Senate Web site, http://www.calpoly.edu/~acadsen/research_award.html. The deadline is Jan. 10, 2005.

Time to honor outstanding staff
The deadline to submit nominations for the 2004-2005 Outstanding Staff Employee Award is Jan. 14, 2005. Any student, employee, faculty member, department or division head may nominate an eligible employee for the award. For additional information, requirements, and a form, go to http://www.aft.calpoly.edu/hrre/forms/index.html#forms. Return completed forms to Bonnie Long, chair of the Outstanding Staff Employee Award Selection Committee, in the provost's office, Administration Building, Room 305.

Artsy gifts galore at ASI craft sale
The ASI Craft Center will host its annual Winter Craft Sale Wednesday through Friday, Dec. 1-3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the UU Plaza. The sale features handcrafted works by students and local artists in time for holiday gift-giving. Shoppers will find paintings, photos, ceramics, stained glass, jewelry, handmade papers and other items. "People are always surprised at how reasonable our prices are," said sale organizer Tania Falero. Craft Center sales also offer artists an opportunity to gain exposure and sell their work, she added. Artists interested in participating should complete an application at the Craft Center by Friday, Nov. 26. For more information, call ext. 6-1266.

Cal Poly Report takes holiday in December
The final issue of Cal Poly Report for fall quarter will be published Wednesday, Dec. 8. Deadline for submissions is Friday, Dec. 3. The Report will then take a break for three weeks, with the first issue for winter quarter to be published Wednesday, Jan. 5. Deadline for that issue is Friday, Dec. 31. E-mail submissions to polynews@calpoly.edu. Happy holidays from Public Affairs.