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Class Notes College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences


Kathryn (Emmel) Holcomb (B.S., Animal Science, 1978) recently earned a doctorate in animal biology with an emphasis in animal welfare from UC Davis. Her research focused on horses. She is now in a post-doctoral position at UC Davis, working on a welfare assessment program for wild horse management.

Beth Ann Casey (B.S., Recreation Administration, 1979) has started a Women Winemakers series, "Calendar Girls" at Insalata's restaurant in San Anselmo, Calif. The club features a woman winemaker each month who makes a "celebrity" appearance at the restaurant. For more information, go to www.insalatas.com.

Janice (Rubin) Baker (B.S., Nutrition Science, 1981). Baker's middle son, David, is a freshman mechanical engineering major at Cal Poly. She and husband, Mark (Architecture 1984), visited at the end of May, when Baker was a guest speaker for the Food Science and Nutrition Department.

Roger Bowman (B.S., Ag Engineering, 1989) was named a recent Distinguished Graduate of the Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadershi - IGEL This is a yearlong study course, held on-site in four different areas of Georgia (city, farm, coast, mountains) with each session focusing on environmental issues in each area. In his role as corporate sustainability manager for Gulfstream Aerospace and a recent transplant to Georgia from California, IGEL helped him to network among his diverse classmates and to survey and study the many different environmental issues and their context in Georgia.

Russell Thomas (B.S., Recreation, Parks and Tourism Administration, 2006) is celebrating the seventh anniversary of his business, Two Cooks Catering, based in San Luis Obispo. Thomas graduated from Cal Poly with an emphasis in event planning. Two Cooks catering makes "global cuisine with a conscience," focusing on unique dishes cooked with global flair, using fresh, seasonal ingredients from the Central Coast. Two Cooks just won its fourth Bridal's Choice Award from the WeddingWire network and is a proud member of the Central Coast Grown Program.

College of Architecture & Environmental Design

Wendy Ornelas (B.Arch., Architecture, 1980) is one of two central states regional directors elected to the American Institute of Architects in Boise, Idaho. She has demonstrated outstanding professional excellence. She was lauded for her "sustained and exemplary work -- and especially her work toward improving the Safety Roadside Rest Area System." The Shandon Safety Roadside Area is located off Interstate 5 near the UC Santa Cruz. She was also chosen to attend a Korea Society workshop on the culture and history of South Korea.
In the 1980s, Robert "Bob" Starr (Social Sciences, 1980) is now chief administrative officer of Dental Technologies Inc. in... Navy Seabees. LaNier battled poverty, segregation, racism, and hatred with true resilience. The book follows LaNier along with Tubbs as he travels back to his native Mississippi, to New Orleans and eventually to New York nearly seven decades later.

Ralph S. Brown (Chemical Engineering, 1980) was issued a second distinguished doctorate by the Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) at the University of Florida. He earned his first doctorate as professor at the University of Florida.

Rebecca Golden (Chemical Engineering, 2001) was awarded the Bonnington C&O Innovations honor for her 2012 Special Innovations in the Laboratory award. She has been an associate and managing director of the DeNiro Co. in New York since the company was founded in 2002.

LaNier Battle (Social Sciences, 1990) graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1961. He later served as mayor of New Orleans, LaNier was a son of the late civil rights leader Medgar Evers.

Cal Poly students are among the few experts on a new scientific technique. Read more...