Top teachers named

Three professors, all cited for their passion for teaching and learning, have been selected to receive the university's highest teaching honor.

The winners of the 2001-2002 Distinguished Teaching Awards are Kevin Clark, a member of the English Department faculty since 1988, Alyson McLamore, a Music Department faculty member since 1991, and Mark Zohns, who has taught in the BioResource and Agricultural Engineering Department since 1986. They will be recognized at Spring Commencement ceremonies June 15.

Among other attributes, the teachers were all credited with going out of their way to help students, serving as role models professionally and personally, and being well prepared for their classes.

ME dedicates lab

Mechanical Engineering Department Chair Bill Clark cut the ribbon May 10 to the university's newest laboratory facility, the Parker Hannifin Controls Laboratory.

Parker Hannifin, a leading supplier of hydraulic and pneumatic actuation systems, donated $100,000 toward the facility. Mechanical Engineering Professor Frank Owen oversaw development of the laboratory, which was two years in the making. The facility includes systems designed and built by staff members and students.

“Our undergraduates will now be working with equipment and in an environment that rivals anything they’ll see in the real world,” Owen said.

El Corral no longer repairs computers

El Corral Bookstore's computer repair and service department closed May 20. Lack of incoming repairs, high overhead and changes in service contracts for state computers contributed to the department's closing, according to Frank Cawley, bookstore director. Three full-time positions were eliminated in the closure.

Outstanding staff picked

Three employees cited for their exemplary service to the university have been chosen to receive the 2001-2002 Outstanding Staff Award. They are Margaret Booker, administrative analyst/specialist in Psychology and Child Development; Judy Drake, library assistant in Kennedy Library Access Services, Bibliographic Services and Library Systems; and Jimmy Motley, warehouse worker in Reprographics, Mailing and Shipping Services, and Warehouse Receiving.

Tax law update

California has passed legislation bringing the state tax code into compliance with the federal tax code on tax savings plans.

Retroactive to Jan. 1, 2002, the annual dollar limit was raised for the 403(b) Tax Sheltered Annuity program, the 401(k) Thrift Plan, and the 457 Deferred Compensation program. The maximum contribution for all three plans is $11,000, or 100 percent of adjusted gross income (or 100 percent of includible compensation for a 457 program), whichever is less. Participants who have reached 50 by the end of the plan year and are eligible to contribute $11,000 may defer an additional $1,000 for a total of $12,000.

In addition, contributions to a 457 plan will no longer have to be offset by contributions to a 403(b) or 401(k) plan. For example, for tax year 2002, a participant could contribute up to $11,000 to a 401(k) or 403(b) plan and up to $11,000 to a 457 plan, for a total contribution of $22,000. Employees are encouraged to consult their tax advisor or financial planner for help in understanding the new law.

To make a change to your 403(b) plan, complete a Salary Reduction Agreement, located on the Human Resources Web site at http://www.afd.calpoly.edu/hree/forms/index.html#benefits or contact Human Resources at ext 6-2237. Send the completed form to Human Resources, Adm. 110.

The 2002 tax year began with the paycheck dated Jan. 1, 2002 (for the December
Wind Orchestra invited to play at Carnegie Hall

The Cal Poly Wind Orchestra, following a performance at the Sydney Opera House in Australia, has been invited to perform in New York’s Carnegie Hall in 2003.

Under the direction of conductor and Music Professor William Johnson, the 60-member orchestra will share the stage with the University of Tennessee Wind Ensemble. The orchestras were invited to perform by World Projects Corp., an organization that produces the annual International Music Festival in Sydney, which attracts wind bands from throughout the world.

“As a result of Sept. 11, World Projects decided to begin a new festival in New York City,” Johnson said, “bringing in wind bands from throughout the United States to perform in Carnegie Hall.”

Cal Poly’s invitation came as a result of its performance at the Sydney Opera House in June 2000 as part of the International Building will fly at half staff Friday morning in memory of employees who died during the 2001-2002 academic year.

Harms’ reception set

The campus community is invited to a farewell reception for College of Architecture and Environmental Design Dean Martin Harms 2:30-4 p.m. June 12 in the Gallery (Room 105) of the Architecture and Environmental Design Building. Harms has guided the college for more than five years and will be leaving for a one-year sabbatical. Those who plan to attend are asked to call ext. 6-1414.

Scott appointed chair

Kenneth Scott, a member of the Agribusiness faculty since 1975, has been appointed chair of the department for a one-year term beginning Sept. 1.

Student projects on display

The campus community is invited to see the Spring 2002 Industrial Technology Metals Production Exhibit of student projects 3-6 p.m. today (June 5) in the IT Metals Lab, Room 135 in Engineering West.

Tax law update . . .

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pay period). For enrollment in or changes to a tax-sheltered or tax-deferred plan, forms must be received by the end of the month prior to the pay period of the deduction change (e.g., June 30 is the deadline for July pay-period changes).

Contact the Savings Plus Program directly to enroll or make a change to your 457 or 401(k) plan at (866) 566-4777, or visit its Web site at http://www.sppforum.com. Information is also available on the Department of Personnel Administrator’s Web page at http://111.dpa.ca.gov.

Detailed information of tax law changes affecting 403(b), 401(k) and 457 plan contributions can be found at http://www.calstate.edu/HRAdm/2002pages/2002benmemo.shtml.

Logging team takes first

Cal Poly’s logging team took first place at the recent annual Association of Western Forestry Clubs Conclave at the University of Montana, Missoula. The Mustang Logging Team competed against 17 teams from all of the major university forestry programs in the western U.S. to win the title. The 13-member team also won the sportsmanship award, given by the American Lumberjack Association.

Position Vacancies

STATE: The official listing of staff and management vacancies is posted at least two weeks prior to closing dates on Cal Poly’s Web site at www.calpoly.edu. Select “Employment” from the Cal Poly links drop-down box. As a courtesy to our on-campus employees, job vacancies also are published in the Cal Poly Report. Positions marked with an asterisk indicate that qualified on-campus applicants in bargaining units 2, 5, 7 and 9 will be given first consideration. Job applications must be received in Human Resources, Adm. 110, by 5 p.m. on the closing date.

#365-Temporary Emergency Administrative Support Pool, various administrative support assistant I & II and administrative support coordinator I & II* positions. All applicants from the previous emergency pools must re-apply with an updated application. Continuous hiring through June 30, 2003.

#380-Administrative Coordinator (Administrative Support Coordinator I)*, University Center for Teacher Education. $2,510-$3,641. Closing date: June 14.

#381-Administrative Support Assistant II*, Office of the Vice President University Advancement, $2,239-$3,359. Closing date: June 14.

FACULTY Candidates are asked to contact the appropriate department office at the phone number listed for more information or to request an application. Additional information and qualifications for each position may also be obtained online at http://www.academic-personnel.calpoly.edu. Please submit all application materials to the department head/chair unless otherwise specified in the ad. Rank and salary are commensurate with qualifications and experience (and time base where applicable), unless otherwise stated.

#4170: Lecturer(s), Part-Time, Liberal Studies Department (ext. 6-2935). Closing date: June 14.

English major wins award

Senior English major Jacob Cementina has been selected the winner of this year’s Cal Poly Academy of American Poets contest. English senior Sara Wolf won an honorable mention. Poet Kevin Patrick Sullivan, organizer of the annual San Luis Obispo County Poetry Festival, served as this year’s judge.

Cementina’s poem, “Turning Point,” is about the moment of anxiety that occurs when two good friends initiate the first gestures of romance. “The poem leads me to think of American artist Norman Rockwell. Not the saccharine, just the concrete, clear images of daily life that move the poem along,” Sullivan said.

In Wolf’s poem “The Farmer,” the narrator is concerned that her aging father might think of American artist Norman Rockwell. When two good friends initiate the first gestures of romance, “The poem leads me to think of American artist Norman Rockwell. Not the saccharine, just the concrete, clear images of daily life that move the poem along,” Sullivan said.

In Wolf’s poem “The Farmer,” the narrator is concerned that her aging father might have turned to the pleasures of working on the farm to avoid human intimacy. Wolf’s work “evokes . . . something akin to viewing an Edward Hopper painting, somehow real and familiar, yet something unknown, only pointed at,” Sullivan said.