Google improves search of campus Web site

The campus community’s request for a better way to search the Cal Poly Web site has resulted in the installation on campus of a new Google search engine. The changeover was completed last Thursday. The “Search” button on the Cal Poly Home Page now takes you to the Google-powered “CP Search,” which replaces the old PolySearch. You can go directly to the new search at http://cpsearch.calpoly.edu, or use any of the search boxes on other pages in the home site.

Google (the Google Enterprise Search Appliance, or Google ESA) is substantially faster, produces more highly relevant search results, provides enhanced flexibility for advanced searches, and allows more precise and timely indexing of Cal Poly Web pages, according to Steve Rutland, Web coordinator in Information Technology Services.

In addition, individual departments can place a search box on their Web site that restricts searches to their Web server, a no-cost service provided by ITS.

The Google ESA — a pizza-box-size piece of hardware in the Pilling Computer Science Building — can index up to 300,000 officially supported Cal Poly Web addresses. It automatically indexes the sites once a week.

The campus will stop using the older Verity campus search engine Oct. 15.

Managers of campus Web sites with links to that search engine need to update those links before then.

For more information, click on “CP Search FAQ” at the http://cpsearch.calpoly.edu site or contact Rutland at ext. 6-5542 or srutland@calpoly.edu.

Blackboard upgraded; access now through Portal

Blackboard, the Web-based learning management system that allows professors and students to share course content online, was upgraded in July.

Information Technology Services upgraded Blackboard so that it would integrate with the Cal Poly Portal and SIS. Among its new features:

• Users must access the program through the Cal Poly Portal at my.calpoly.edu;
• Once logged into the portal, users can easily access Blackboard courses from the Blackboard Access channel;
• On the first day of enrollment, a Blackboard course shell is automatically created for all Cal Poly courses that are listed in SIS, all course shells are automatically assigned to the instructor of record from SIS, and all students enrolled in a Cal Poly course are enrolled in the Blackboard course shell;
• Instructors can copy course content easily from one course into another from the Instructor Course Copy module.

Instructors who choose to use the Blackboard course shell will need to make it available to their students. Those instructors should review the announcement in their Blackboard course.

Blackboard allows faculty members to upload course files in Word, PowerPoint, Excel and other formats for students to access through a Web browser. Instructors do not need to know HTML or how to set UNIX permissions on the server. They can add content, set up discussion boards, create group projects, chat online, exchange files, provide student grades and more.

Only the students enrolled in a particular course can access it in Blackboard. Because the course content is protected from outside users, instructors can get valid statistics on student usage.

More information on how to use Blackboard is available at the support site at http://blackboardsupport.calpoly.edu. Users can also access the support site from within the Blackboard system via the “Support” tab.

Outstanding Staff Members to be recognized Sept. 26

The three employees who were selected as the 2001-2002 Outstanding Staff Members will be honored at the Fall Convocation Sept. 26 in the Christopher Cohen Center’s Harman Hall.

The employees 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 Ray Motley, warehouse worker in Reprographics, Mailing and Shipping Services and Warehouse Receiving.

Refreshments will be served at 10:30 a.m., before the convocation, in the Performing Arts Center plaza. The convocation will be 11 a.m.-noon, with a reception immediately following in the plaza. Spouses and partners of new employees are invited to attend.

Surplus property now sold on the Web

Contract and Procurement Services, along with Facility Services, is now selling surplus property through the Web — at www.esurplusauction.com. The survey process used to dispose of surplus property remains the same.

Before going to public auction, surplus items can be transferred to campus departments during a 14-day “internal” status. To review items available for transfer, go to www.esurplusauction.com/CA/calpolyemployee. The registration code is: wage93mann75.

To transfer any of the items to a department, call the contact person listed with that auction item.

At the end of the 14-day internal period, the auction item will automatically move to public auction for sale to anyone.

For more information, call Brenda Tesch at ext. 6-1299.

Academic calendar online

The 2002-2003 academic calendar, including fall, winter, spring and summer quarters, is online in the Sept. 16 Cal Poly Report, www.calpoly.edu/~comunic.
Cal Poly Women’s Club to hold fall reception

The Cal Poly Women’s Club invites old and new friends to its annual fall reception 2-4 p.m. Sunday (Sept. 22), at the Salisbury Gallery and Vineyard in Avila Valley. The event will be outdoors, and attendees are encouraged to dress in casual attire.

Any faculty or staff member or spouse who has not received an invitation and would like one should call Marjorie Toone at 543-6110 or Gladys Brannum, 781-8728.

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 open applications 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.

#443—Doctoral Intern (Helper Aid) two positions, Counseling Services, Student Affairs, temporary, July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004, $1,170-$2,409. Closing date: Open until filled, review of applications begins Nov. 15.

#444—Administrative Support Assistant I,* Contract and Procurement Services, Administration and Finance, $1,895-$2,746. Closing date: Sept. 27.

#446—Director, Advancement Services (Administrator II), Advancement Services, University Advancement. Salary commensurate with experience and background of selected candidate. Closing date: Friday (Sept. 20).

#447—Stage Hand (Laborer),* Cal Poly Theatre, Liberal Arts, intermittent/on-call (hourly) pool, $14.41-$17.24/hour. Closing date: Open until filled; review of applications begins Sept. 6.

#450—Analyst/Programmer, Career, Application and Information Management/ Application Services and Support, Information Technology Services, $3,915-$8,013. Closing date: Open until filled; review of applications began Sept. 13.

#455—Lead Custodian,* Housing and Residential Life, Student Affairs, $2,216-$2,880. Closing date: Friday (Sept. 20).

#458—Coordinator of Greek Affairs, (Student Services Professional II), Student Life and Leadership, Student Affairs, $3,173-$4,278. Closing date: Sept. 27.

Appointments

• Kinesiology Professor Andrea Brown has been selected chair of the department. Brown will serve through Aug. 31, 2005. She has been a member of the faculty since 1987.

• Professor Alypios Chatziioanou of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department has been appointed to a three-year term as chair of the department, effective fall quarter. Chatziioanou has been teaching at Cal Poly since 1992.

• Political Science Professor Phil Fetzer was named chair of the department beginning Sept. 1. Fetzer, who joined the faculty in 1988, will serve for three years.

Transportation alternatives available to employees

Deby Anderson, coordinator of commuter and access services with the University Police Department, reminds the faculty and staff that alternative transportation is available for employees who commute to campus.

Those who register as “ridesharers” are guaranteed a ride home in case of an emergency and can have transportation to and from medical appointments.

In addition, a few van pools have openings. Contact Anderson for more information at ext. 6-6680 or e-mail her at djanders@calpoly.edu.

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