SOAR
INTRODUCING CAL POLY
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WOW slideshow
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THE FINEST OF FIRST IMPRESSIONS

SOAR Leaders Welcome New Students to the Cal Poly Family

By Matt Lazier

When it comes to new-student orientation at Cal Poly, Week of Welcome and Open House get most of the attention.

But after new students choose to come to Cal Poly and before they arrive on campus ready to move in, make new friends, get to know their community and start their college experience, they are introduced to the inner workings of the university through SOAR.

Open House in the spring is the time when potential new students visit and we figure out whether we're a good fit for each other, said Stephen Lamb, Cal Poly's interim director of Student Life and Leadership (which includes the Orientation Programs office). But SOAR that's really the first chance we get to say to these new students, Welcome to the Cal Poly family.

And appropriately, the people charged with making this first impression on new students are Cal Poly students themselves.

There are about 70 undergraduate student leaders in SOAR who welcome incoming students and families, give tours around campus and downtown San Luis Obispo, make presentations on important issues, and try to answer any and all questions these new Cal Poly community members might pose.

Our student leaders embody the model of the bright, driven Cal Poly student, Lamb said. They come from a variety of majors and campus backgrounds. They train hard to become as familiar as they can with as much of the campus as they can, so they can give these new families the information they need.

And most importantly for SOAR, our student leaders share an enthusiasm about the Cal Poly experience and an eagerness to impart that excitement to our new students.

A Delicate Time

SOAR student leaders train for three weeks to get ready for the experience and then take part in nearly a dozen two-day SOAR events throughout the summer. With hundreds of new freshmen, transfer students and family members coming to campus for each two-day SOAR event, Lamb said, student leaders are essential to the program's success.

We depend on our undergraduate leaders, Lamb said. They have to be professional, punctual and prepared. They need to be ready to answer as many questions about Cal Poly as they can. And when they don't know the answer, they have to know how to help steer our new freshmen and their family members to someone who does.

Nonny Okoye, a fourth-year biomedical engineering student, said she and her fellow SOAR leaders are talking to new Cal Poly students and parents at a particularly delicate time.

They're getting ready to make a huge transition in their lives, Okoye said. Plus, Cal Poly starts later than a lot of other universities. So for a lot of these students, their friends have already left and they're just in a kind of limbo, waiting for their turn.

New students are largely concerned with getting oriented to campus, getting out of high-school mode and learning how to live independently.

With the students, you get some serious questions, said Parisa Crane, a fourth-year nutrition major. Mostly, they want to know about classes, campus activities, sports. With parents, it's mostly about safety. They want to make sure their child is going to be safe here.

Added fellow SOAR leader and fifth-year geography/anthropology major Scott Kjorlien, They want to make sure their student can come here, be happy and find their niche.

To that end, SOAR leaders help give presentations to parents and students on matters such as academics, time management, alcohol and hazing. And new this year, SOAR leaders are presenting new students with The Mustang Way, an ideology developed by Athletics and embraced by the university overall that details the character traits expected of a Cal Poly student.

Cal Poly Pride

Orientation Programs administrators and their student leaders agree on what it takes to be an effective SOAR leader and make that good first impression.

You need to be friendly and easy to get along with, Crane said, and you need to be able to show your enthusiasm for Cal Poly. That Cal Poly Pride can be contagious.

Callie Helms/Cal Poly Magazine
It also helps to draw out the sometimes-shy new students and get them participating and asking questions. That's important, said Kjorlien; where WOW leaders spend several days with new students and keep in touch with them throughout their first year, SOAR leaders have only two days to make an impression.

SOAR leaders must be mentally agile and prepared for all sorts of questions from new students and parents. And if they don't know the answer to a question, a good SOAR leader will know who to ask to find it.

Every student and every family is different, said Justin Bautista, a fourth-year mechanical engineering major. We just need to give them the tools to solve whatever problems they might encounter and introduce them to the resources they have on campus.

Most importantly, he added, we just need to be honest. Students and parents want to hear about our experiences at Cal Poly.

That willingness and desire to share their own stories and help ease the transition of newer students draws many SOAR leaders to the job.

Crane who transferred to Cal Poly two years ago said SOAR and WOW played a huge part in helping her settle in to campus. She tries to make sure other new students reap the same benefits.

Bautista, though, said he failed to take full advantage of the orientation process. I didn't give WOW my all when I started, and I regretted it later, he said. I missed out on the fun of it.

So I like to be involved and help newer students to not make the same mistake to make sure that they get everything out of the experience they can.

Find out more about the SOAR program online at [here](#).

+++  

THE MUSTANG WAY  
Pride Responsibility Character  

WE ARE FOCUSED ON EXCELLENCE  
Learn by Doing is the foundation of our engaged pursuit of knowledge and scholarly achievement.

WE EMBRACE ONE ANOTHER  
Mustangs strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect, celebrating the positive differences that make us unique.

WE ARE ONE COMMUNITY  
Personal commitment and participation in the Cal Poly community is the cornerstone of the Mustang experience.

WE ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY  
Mustangs support one another while also taking pride in accepting personal responsibility, thus strengthening the Cal Poly family.

WE LEAD BY EXAMPLE  
Mustangs face all actions and decisions with perseverance, honor, and character. As Mustangs, we are united under these principles, honoring those who came before us and inspiring the Mustangs who follow. The privilege of being a Cal Poly Mustang is celebrated for a lifetime.
Editor’s Note

Introducing Cal Poly

The impression made first is often the one that lasts. That’s why the student leaders who participate in Cal Poly’s SOAR summer orientation program play such an important role.

It’s up to them to be the first impression Cal Poly makes on many of its new freshmen and their parents. And as one student leader pointed out, they’re doing their work at a crucial time when incoming students are on the verge of undergoing one of the biggest transitions of their lives.

As we mark the start of a new academic year in this edition of Cal Poly Magazine, we take the opportunity to introduce you to a few of SOAR’s student leaders and get their thoughts on the important and rewarding task they undertake.

And of course, a look at the start of the new school year wouldn’t be complete without some fun and moving images from that other annual orientation rite: Week of Welcome. We also give you a glimpse of the university’s first annual Poly Days Alumni Weekend, which took place in July.

Elsewhere, we introduce you to Art Hicks, a Cal Poly alum and longtime local educator who was also one of the historic Tuskegee Airmen in World War II. And we tell you about Grinds, a company started by two Cal Poly alums that provides a coffee-based substitute for chewing tobacco—one that has been embraced by some of the biggest names in Major League Baseball.

Finally, with this edition, we introduce you to Cal Poly Magazine’s newly redesigned website. While updating the look and feel to match the newly launched Cal Poly site, we also create a new cyberspace presence for our publication that we hope you find attractive, clean and easy to use.

Thank you for reading this online-exclusive edition of Cal Poly Magazine. I hope the stories and multimedia features we present to you in this edition help you stay connected to the campus community and help you keep in mind the transformative work Cal Poly does every day in helping to produce the professionals and leaders of the future.

As always, I welcome your comments, questions and story tips for future editions. Feel free to contact me at mlazier@calpoly.edu.

Matt Lazier
Editor
B.S., Journalism, 1997
Editors Note
By Larry Kelley, vice president, Administration and Finance

Budget Update
The last five years have brought a watershed of change to state support of public higher education in California. As recently as the late 1980s, the state provided 90% of the funding for a college student. Today, that share is less than 40%—and could be headed to only 31% if the governor’s tax initiative fails in November.

Alumni in the News
The current fiscal year began July 1, 2012, and we will not know the level of state support until after the November election—nearly halfway into the year.

Looking Ahead
The budget gap without support from the November tax initiative.

Grinds
Business grads Matt Canepa and Pat Pezet have a new kind of chew for Major League Baseball players.

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Fall 2012

Week of Welcome: 2012

New Cal Poly students are excited to begin their Week of Welcome at a rally to launch the orientation period before the start of the 2012 fall quarter. (Photo by Brittany App)
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Copy comming soon.
Integer a nunc a leo pretium facilis. Cras felis diam, suscipit eu volutpat a, ultricies sed purus.

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Read More (contest.html)  Read More (wow.html)  Read More (alumninews.html)  Read More (president.html)
WOWies took part in a slew of fun get-to-know-yas games at the WOW-ee Rams event. (Photo by Laura Dickson)
WOWies help paint a wall in the Habitat for Humanity ReStore building during one of WOW's two service days. (Photo by Laura Dickson)
WOWies took part in a slew of fun get-to-know-yo games at the WOW-a-Rama event. (Photo by Laura Dickson)
President Jeffrey D. Armstrong lent a helping hand to students and family members moving into residence halls to start WOW. (Photo by Brittany App)
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WOWise march through campus on their way to a rally to be assigned to their WOW groups. (Photo by Brittany App)
WOWies took part in a slew of fun get-to-know-you games at the WOW-e-Rama event. (Photo by Laura Dickenson)
President Jeffrey D. Armstrong helps a motivational speaker get WOWies excited for their week and the new academic year. (Photo by Brittany App)
WOWies clean up Avila Beach as part of the Week of Welcome’s two service days. (Photo by Laura Dickson)
WOWies took part in a slew of fun get-to-know-you games at the WOW-a-Rama event. (Photo by Laura Dickson)
With the help of their families, new students moved into Cal Poly's residence halls in preparation for WOW and the start of the new academic year. (Photo by Brittany Aep)
New Cal Poly students are excited to begin their Week of Welcome at a rally to launch the orientation period before the start of the 2012 fall quarter. (Photo by Brittny App)
Freedom in Flight

By Stacia Momburg

The flight path of Art Hicks’ s life has been long and scenic, taking him through the turbulence of racism and prejudice to today’s heights as one of the celebrated Tuskegee Airmen.

Through 1942 — as a child in the segregated South, during World War II, through a college education that included a stop at Cal Poly, and through an entire career as a educator — Hicks has never strayed from his love for flight and his never wavered from his commitment to proving that one day he would go on to college: “He said. So he worked odd jobs for money.

A Means to a Better Life

When Hicks was 15, his mother died in childbirth, leaving his father — a chauffeur — as the sole provider for a family of seven. Hicks graduated from high school two years later, but because of their strained financial status, “it was impossible to hope that any of my family would go on to college,” he said, so he worked odd jobs for money.

Hicks left the service in 1971 and began teaching black studies courses at Cabrillo High School in lompoc. He also taught Racism in Social Institutions at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria.

Meanwhile, he married his wife, Edit h, and started a family. And he remained in the Air Force through the war — continuing to encounter racism as President Harry Truman worked to desegregate the military.

"At that time," Hicks said, "fighting in the war wasn’t terrifying, being at home was.” Still, he continued to be vocal about prejudice as he worked on and flying planes, he did what he could to earn college credits. "I took classes at the residential education centers on base," he said. And between shifts in the military — after his time in Tuskegee, he later enlisted in the Air Force — he enrolled at the University of Dayton for a short time.

He eventually landed in Lincoln, Neb., where he earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Nebraska, Omaha. While there, he cross-trained in military aviation and was part of the testing team on the EL-N Noodle Morale.

Hicks left the service in 1971 and began teaching black students in Colfax, a city in Texas. He taught in several institutions of Allen High School in Lincoln.

He taught for 13 years at Cabrillo. And during that time, he came to Cal Poly, earning his master’s degree in education (with concentration in supervision) in 1975.

"I took upper division classes during two weeks to further my classroom skills and get oriented in management," he said. "Getting my degree at Cal Poly was like every choice I made — a means, a better life. I needed to succeed as a student so that I could be successful as a black.

Now retired from education and living in lompoc with his wife, Hicks has been on his first tour; flight. He works with the Tuskegee Airmen Association to bring the love of flying to young people who don’t have the financial means or opportunity to fly.

"I want to give them the kind of opportunity that was given to me," he said, "to experience the feeling that comes with flying.”
ALUMNI IN THE NEWS
Engineering: Alarm Help Develop Mars Rover
A pair of Cal Poly grads received media recognition over the summer for their parts in developing the Mars rover Curiosity that NASA landed on the red planet in August. Kei Winters (BS, 1999, Engineering Technology), director of engineering for Alliances Space Systems, was featured in the Santa Maria Times for his work in helping design a key robotic arm on the rover. And Matthew Bush (BS, Mechanical Engineering, 2000) was featured in the Santa Maria Times for his work with a high-tech products company developing couplings and springs for the vehicle.

Economics Grad Named VP of Audio Company
Something to Chew On
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Don Bachtschuler (BS, Public Policy, 2005) was chosen as the new chief administrative officer of San Luis Obispo County in July. Bachtschuler had served as assistant chief administrator since 2009.

Business Administration Grad Named VP of Audio Company
Business grad Matthew Bush had been named an executive vice president of California United Bank.

Wine '07 Grill's Choose Company Getting Attention
Soup's Billings (BS, Wine and Viticulture, 2000) and the Winters Cheese Company were featured in the Santa Maria Times for their work on the red planet.

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Business grad William Sloan (BS, Economics, 1983) had been named executive vice president of California United Bank.

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Cal Poly’s Accreditation Extended

10 Years - the Maximum Allowed

Citing Cal Poly’s improved graduation rates and praising the faculty and staff’s focus on students despite major reductions in state funding, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) has reaffirmed Cal Poly’s accreditation for the next 10 years, the maximum allowed. In notifying the university of the 10-year extension, the accrediting association commended Cal Poly “for making significant progress in numerous areas” even as the university experienced “major turnover in the top leadership positions.” “WASC’s reaccreditation decision reaffirms Cal Poly’s reputation for excellence and acknowledges the extraordinary value of our Learn by Doing approach,” said Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong. “This decision recognizes the commitment and excellence of our students, faculty and staff, and reasserts ourslself that the value of their Cal Poly degree will continue to appreciate over time.”

More on Cal Poly’s Accreditation Extension

University of Oregon Administrator

Christine Theodoreopolous, head of the Architecture Department at the University of Oregon in Eugene, is the new dean of Cal Poly’s College of Architecture and Environmental Design. Theodoreopolous—who is also a licensed architect and registered professional civil engineer in California—assumed her new post Sept. 1. “Christina’s blend of academic and professional experience as a teacher, university administrator, architect and civil engineer make her an excellent choice to lead our College of Architecture and Environmental Design,” said Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong. “Her career has embraced the kind of multidisciplinary approaches that will enrich our Learn by Doing programs.”

Theodoreopolous has served as head of the Architecture Department in the University of Oregon’s School of Architecture and Allied Arts since 2003. This includes management and development of curriculum and research initiatives for more than 650 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in seven degree programs in Eugene and Portland, oversight of a $6.2 million annual budget, and work on fundraising for the department’s programs. She has been a faculty member in the department since 1997.

More on Theodoreopolous

Washington State University Administrator

Named New Cal Poly Liberal Arts Dean

Douglas Eppeerson, a veteran of liberal arts higher education and current dean at Washington State University, is the new dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Cal Poly. He assumed his new post Aug. 15. “Doug understands and appreciates the special niche that Cal Poly has in higher education as one of the nation’s few comprehensive polytechnic universities,” said Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong. “Doug brings to Cal Poly outstanding experience as both an administrator and a faculty member who also has created an impressive body of scholarship.”

Eppeerson has served as dean of Washington State’s College of Liberal Arts since 2009. Before Washington State, Eppeerson spent his career at Iowa State University—beginning as an assistant professor of psychology in 1979 and ending with a five-year stint as associate dean of the university’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

More on Eppeerson

Cal Poly Claims National Concrete Canoe

Championship for Third Year in a Row

For the third consecutive year, Cal Poly won gold at the National Concrete Canoe Competition, considered the America’s Cup of Civil Engineering. The team’s three-peat came in a canoe named Prospector in honor of the California Gold Rush. The American Society of Civil Engineers’ (ASCE) 25th annual National Concrete Canoe Competition was held June 14-16 at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Cal Poly was among 32 top engineering schools at the prestigious event that challenges students’ knowledge, creativity and stamina while showcasing the versatility and durability of concrete as a building material.

The competition was broken into four equally weighted categories: final product, design paper, technical presentation and races. Cal Poly placed first in three categories and third in technical presentation.

“We put in 5,250 hours on the development of Prospector,” said Project Manager Erik Bjornstrom. “We applied innovative and sustainable practices for every aspect of its construction. That included testing 160 different concrete mixes, eliminating a layer of reinforcement and incorporating more sustainable materials.”

More on the Concrete Canoe Victory

Cal Poly Appoints New Police Chief

Cal Poly has named George Hughes, current leader of the Colorado School of Mines police department, as its new chief of University Police. Hughes will assume his new role Aug. 31. He brings more than 20 years of law enforcement experience to Cal Poly. In his most recent post, he has been responsible for planning, supervising, directing and leading all administrative and operational functions of the full-time police department at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colo. At Cal Poly, Hughes will succeed Chief Bill Watton, who retired Aug. 24 after 30 years leading University Police. Hughes will oversee the police and parking departments with 45 staff members, including 18 sworn officers, and an annual budget of approximately $8 million.

More on Hughes’ Appointment

Cal Poly Grad Student Takes First with Dairy Products Research

Cal Poly Dairy Products Technology Center Master of Science candidate Lauren Collinsworth took first place in the Sensory Evaluation Division of the Rose Marie Pangborn Memorial Graduate Paper Competition. The competition was held June 25-28 at the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) annual meeting in Las Vegas.

The presentation was titled “Evaluating the Change in Emotions During the Consumption Experience of Carbonated Orange Soda, Dairy Beverages, and Convenience Cheese.” Collinsworth was one of six finalists selected to present their graduate research.

The award is presented annually by IFT’s Sensory Evaluation Division executive committee to a graduate student for exemplary research and oral presentation of research and is judged on technical merit, writing and organization. “All the presentations were phenomenal, making the competition very difficult,” said Amy Lammert, assistant professor in the Cal Poly Dairy Science Department and chair of Collinsworth’s master’s degree committee.

More on Collinsworth’s Research
Class Notes Added to Cal Poly Magazine

Want to share your stories with classmates? Want to know what others are up to? Cal Poly Magazine will be adding a "class notes" section, beginning with our upcoming Winter 2012 edition, where you can submit your stories. We may feature you in the winter magazine! [Go here to submit your class notes items online now.]

Cal Poly Mustang Daily General Manager Wins Distinguished Adviser Award

Paul Bittick, general manager of Cal Poly's Mustang Daily, has been named a 2012 College Media Association Distinguished Adviser Award winner.

The award is given to CMA members who have provided exemplary service to their institutions and the students. Bittick will receive his award at the CMA's convention in Chicago in the fall.

Bittick has been advising the Mustang Daily student staff for nearly 10 years. He came to Cal Poly after more than 25 years in the newspaper industry. He has worked for daily newspapers in Los Angeles and the San Joaquin Valley in a variety of roles, including sports writer, sports editor, managing editor and publisher.

[More on Bittick's Recognition]

Cal Poly Architecture Student Takes First in International Steel Design Competition

A Cal Poly student pursuing a Bachelor of Architecture degree won first place in an international steel competition. David Heck of Bellingham, Wash., was selected from a field of 303 entries to win one of two first-place awards in the 12th annual Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture/American Institute of Steel Construction Steel Design Student Competition. Heck’s project, “The Paris Market Lab,” won in the Culinary Arts College category.

Jurors called Heck’s submission “a wonderful architectural expression of steel, where steel is both clearly used in the background and also as infill in the foreground.”

[More on Heck’s First-Place Showing]
SOMETHING TO CHEW ON

Cal Poly Alums Pitch a Healthy Alternative to Tobacco with ‘Grinds’

By Jo Anne Lloyd

Move over Red Bull. A new energy product is making news, and it comes with a healthy bonus: the potential to get people off chewing tobacco.

Called Grinds, it’s the brainchild of Cal Poly grads Matt Canepa (B.S., Business Administration, 2009) and Pat Pezet (B.S., Business Administration, 2009). It’s a favored energy kick delivered through coffee grinds enclosed in a pouch that fits easily in the cheek, like ‘chews’.

Grinds helped Canepa and Pezet win a first-place award with $15,000 in prize money in Cal Poly’s 2009 Innovation Quest (IQ) competition, that’s created to identify and encourage innovative ideas by Cal Poly students and faculty.

“The product they brought to the competition was a solid concept. They had adapted teabags, refilled them with coffee grinds and hot chocolate granules, and answered 10 questions, which qualify them to compete. The victory gave them more than money; it provided the impetus to start their company.

Early on, they thought Grinds would appeal to professional baseball players, many of whom are known to indulge in ‘chews.’ Both Canepa and Pezet had played baseball during their days at Cal Poly, though, had been a fan of chewing tobacco.

In 2009 they were ready to take their prototype to Arizona and Florida, the two places where Major League Baseball teams hold spring training. There, the two handed out free pouches to the players, touting Grinds’ energy kick and playing it up as a healthy alternative to smokeless tobacco.

Two pouches deliver a caffeine equivalent of about one-quarter to slightly less than half a cup of coffee. Flavors include mocha, mint chocolate and cinnamon roll, with plans to add vanilla and a robust French roast flavor.

Together, Canepa and Pezet take care of all aspects of the business. Pezet is good at marketing. ‘He is forward thinking; Canepa said. ‘He knows how to develop the business. He’s an optimist.

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Stating a new kind of chew for Major League Baseball players.

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Poly Days Alumni Weekend 2012

Poly Days Alumni Weekend 2012

The event included a booth at San Luis Obispo's Thursday night downtown Farmer's Market.
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Alumni sat in on "Classes Without Quizzes" throughout the weekend.
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Alumni and university officials gathered for a reception at Poly Canyon Village.
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Poly Days Alumni Weekend 2012

Poly Days included a barbecue on O'Neill Green.
Family and friends attended a barbecue on O'Neill Green.
LOOKING AHEAD WITH PRESIDENT JEFFREY D. ARMSTRONG

Strong Momentum as We Launch a New Academic Year

The indomitable spirit of the Cal Poly family is one of this university’s most striking qualities.

Elsewhere in this edition, Larry Kelley, our talented vice president for Administration and Finance, has written about the steep cutbacks in state funding that Cal Poly has been weathering the past five years—and the benefits to Cal Poly if California voters approve Proposition 30 this fall.

Despite the harsh impact of a nearly 45 percent reduction in state funds, our faculty and staff have maintained an unwavering focus on our students’ success and an equally strong commitment to our learn by Doing approach.

It wasn’t surprising at all, then, when the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) this summer formally extended our accreditation another 10 years, the most allowed under the commission’s guidelines. In so doing, WASC praised the entire campus community “for maintaining strong faculty, staff, and student morale given the major reductions in state funding.”

But here’s what I find even more remarkable: As good as Cal Poly is, our faculty and staff believe we can make Cal Poly even better. That’s what we heard time and again this past spring when our new provost, Kathleen Enz Finken, and I met with a broad array of faculty and staff members, students and alumni.

I’m very grateful for that attitude, because the times we live in are imposing new realities on us. California’s ability to support public higher education is going to continue to be a stiff challenge. To maintain our edge, we’ll need to embrace the ideals of learn by Doing—carefully examine what’s working and what isn’t; make adjustments; constantly refine; and move forward. Excellence requires continuous improvement.

And that’s why at the beginning of this academic year, at our annual Fall Conference, I urged the faculty and staff to embrace a recommitment to the ideals of Learn by Doing. You can read the full text of my remarks at here.

In my remarks, I outlined a series of actions for addressing our future in a constructive manner, to ensure that we energetically re-examine all that we do and carefully consider what we will change to ensure that Learn by Doing not only survives but thrives in the decade to come.

You will be pleased to know that the WASC re-accreditation affirming Cal Poly’s reputation was but one of a series of good-news items providing us with considerable momentum as we enter a new academic year.

• This fall, we welcome another outstanding class of first-year students. They arrive with the highest collective set of grade-point averages and ACT scores in Cal Poly’s history.

• Last spring, our students approved a new Student Success Fee, providing us with resources to support several hundred classes and labs this year that were otherwise threatened by state budget cuts.

• Thanks to the generosity of our many supporters, we just closed the books on the 2011-12 fiscal year with a 15 percent increase in philanthropic contributions over the prior year.

• And last but not least, U.S. News and World Report, for the 20th consecutive year, declared Cal Poly the best public undergraduate university in the West.

Each of these is a testament to the enduring resiliency, resourcefulness and generosity of the Cal Poly family, and each serves as a reminder that with unity of purpose, Cal Poly has a very bright future indeed.

Grinds
Business grads Matt Canepa and Pat Pezet have a new kind of chew for Major league Baseball players.

WOW slideshow
See images from this year’s Week of Welcome, as new students got to know their university and their community.

Alumni in the News
A pair of Cal Poly Engineering grads helped build separate components of the Curiosity rover that landed on Mars in August and is currently exploring the red planet. Read about these and other accomplishments by our alumni.

Looking ahead
President Jeffrey D. Armstrong talks about the indomitable spirit of the Cal Poly family and the positive momentum that has the university starting the new academic year strong.