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A Collective Vision Comes to Life

Meet the Minds Behind the New Warren J. Baker Center for Science and Mathematics

By Rachel Henry

Twenty years ago, the Warren J. Baker Center for Science and Mathematics was but a dream. This fall, dream becomes reality as the new building opens for classes in the heart of campus.

“...a unique and substantial addition to our university.” said President Jeffrey D. Armstrong. “In so many ways, it is a testament to Cal Poly’s spirit and values. And all of the building’s features were designed to reinforce and enrich our Learn by Doing approach.”

At 159,000 square feet and six levels, it's the second largest building on campus (after the Kennedy Library). Its central location is apt, given the importance of science and math to our polytechnic identity and the fact that all current and future students will take some classes there. Hundreds of Cal Poly staff and faculty and university donors and friends have contributed to the project. With this story, Cal Poly Magazine highlights four exceptional leaders whose dedication to real-world learning played immeasurable roles in making the new center the innovative educational facility it has become.

Phyllis Bailey: Putting Students First

During his 44 years at Cal Poly and 30 years as dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, Phil Bailey’s motto has always been, “It's all about the students.”

Every nook and cranny of the Center for Science and Mathematics reflects this vision, from the study areas with couches and room for up to 400 students to the terraces that boast some of the best views on campus.

“...a building for the students of Cal Poly.” Baker said. “With all the hands-on opportunities that exist in this building, it's going to be a great place.” Baker said.

Phil Bailey’s vision captured the imagination of alum Ted Hyman (B.S., Architecture, 1979), a managing partner of the architectural firm ZGF Architects LLP. His portfolio includes the first net-zero energy usage laboratory building in the U.S., the J. Craig Venter Institute in La Jolla, as well as many state-of-the-art, LEED-certified office and laboratory buildings.

“...a building for the students of Cal Poly.” Hyman said. “It's a building that will bear his name. It's a building that will be the physical and academic center of the university...” Hyman said. “Campuses should have a heart.”
Cal Poly’s Lean by Doing heart has been an important part of Hyman’s professional practice and influenced his team’s design for the center. “As an alum, you know the Lean by Doing culture — it’s embedded in how you think,” Hyman said.

The studio classrooms shaped the exterior design of the building. Studios require a unique configuration. Students sit in clusters equipped with computers connected to experimental setups, an arrangement that encourages collaboration and discovery.

The physical dimensions necessary for this format required the architects to get creative. “Every room wanted to be different, so we thought, ‘Let’s express what’s going on in the building with the facade,’” Hyman said.

The results are visible on the building’s north side, where the studio classrooms extend beyond the common walls of the other classrooms, as if they had been pushed through the building.

“Understanding how the faculty want to teach drove the design,” Hyman said. “When you get to design buildings that embrace what people do, it’s pretty exciting.”

Donor Support: Making it Possible

The center would not have been possible without the $18 million in private contributions from dedicated friends of Cal Poly. (See a list of the project’s major donors here.)

Kenneth Neil Edwards, former CEO of Dunn-Edwards Paint Co., was one of many industry leaders who recognized the transformative potential of Bailey’s vision. A nationally recognized proponent of education and a steadfast supporter of Cal Poly, Edwards served as a lifetime member of the President’s Cabinet and a founding member of the Cal Poly Foundation before he died in February.

“Ken Edwards was a perfect example of a Cal Poly advocate,” Baker said.

Edwards led the effort to establish the Kenneth N. Edwards Western Coatings Technology Center, which will be housed in the new building.

“Ken leaves a tremendous legacy in the coatings industry and for our students and university,” said Ray Hernando, who books the Arthur C. Edwards Endowed Chair in Painters and Coatings, which Edwards established in memory of his father. “He was not only a supporter, he was also the catalyst to help others understand the importance of the program. We’ll reap the benefits of what he’s done for years to come.”

Edwards and other donors not only provided monetary support, they also shared their passion for Cal Poly’s hands-on learning with others, adding like-minded professionals to the Cal Poly community.

“Donors like Ken Edwards make it possible for Cal Poly to provide transformational learning opportunities to our students,” said Deborah A.W. Read, vice president for university advancement. “Thanks to their support, the Baker Center for Science and Mathematics will completely change the way students come together at Cal Poly.”

The Grand Opening

In September, the first students will enter the galleries and the center’s studio classrooms, discover science through hands-on learning, mingle in the study spaces, and come away with an enriched foundation to their polytechnic education.

Baker, Bailey, Hyman and the project’s generous supporters will gather Nov. 5 to dedicate the center and celebrate the realization of their vision of a cutting-edge, Learn by Doing science education for all future Cal Poly students and a heart for the campus.

The Green & Gold Grove

As part of the new Warren J. Baker Center for Science and Mathematics, Cal Poly is developing a new grove that will sit at the geographical center of campus. The Green & Gold Grove will serve two purposes. It will honor members of Cal Poly’s Green & Gold Society, whose lifetime donations to Cal Poly exceed $100,000. It will also be stocked with some of the world’s most rare and interesting conifers, and will serve as a living lab for students in botany, horticulture, biology, and natural resource management.
Editor's Note

Achieving the Extraordinary

By Matt Lazier

The Cal Poly community teems with stories of extraordinary achievement. Students excel and help solve real-world problems before they have degree in hand. Professors lead cutting-edge research and enable their students — and sometimes others — to do more than they’d dreamed. And alumni leave campus and make positive changes in the world on their way to personal and professional success.

In these pages, we bring you some examples: biology students who are teaching professors about a new protein analysis technique; an engineering sophomore whose 3.82 GPA and baseball skills make him a model of our scholar-athlete model; and alums who are helping design eye-popping worlds in DreamWorks Animation’s hit films and facilitating construction projects to help some of the world’s neediest people.

And we need look no further than the campus core to see an extraordinary achievement. The new Center for Science and Mathematics will open to students this fall after years of construction, and our cover story gives you a glimpse into the minds of the men who dreamed the building into existence.

Elsewhere in this edition, learn about physics professor John Keller’s National Science Foundation-funded program that is putting telescopes in rural California towns and helping citizen scientists take part in groundbreaking research into our solar system’s farthest reaches.

Read the latest campus news, including the Orfalea College of Business’ climb up Bloomberg Businessweek’s ranking of the nation’s best business schools.

And finally, read President Jeffrey D. Armstrong’s thoughts and see some of our best images from the May campus visit by CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White. This was our new chancellor’s first visit to Cal Poly, and the campus came together to show him how Learn by Doing makes us unique. Also, see our separate photo spread on the first ever Evening of Green and Gold, an event honoring donors, volunteers and other university friends during the chancellor’s visit.

We hope this edition helps you stay connected to the university you love. Thanks for reading. And please contact me at mlazier@calpoly.edu with your comments, questions and story tips.

Matt Lazier
Editor
B.S., Journalism, 1997
The Apprentices Become the Masters

Cal Poly Biology Students are Among a Small Group of Experts on a New Protein Analysis Method

By Rachel Henry

Cal Poly biology students are among the few experts in the country on a new method of protein analysis that can help predict the results of climate change. Last December they shared their expertise by teaching the process to professors and doctoral students from other universities.

The students planned and led a National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded workshop in environmental proteomics, a method of analyzing how organisms respond to different environmental stressors.

"As a group we took over," said Lars Tomanek, professor of biological sciences. "I gave an introduction and a talk at the end, and in between I helped order pizza."

The biologists are studying how environmental conditions affect an organism's production of proteins, which predicts its reaction to climate change. "We can tell by looking at these proteins who will be the winners and who will be the losers," Tomanek said.

Tomanek’s group and many of the workshop participants focus their research on marine life as the climate changes, fish, coral, mussels and other organisms may be subjected to seawater that is hotter and more acidic but contains less oxygen and sulf.

Scientists at Northeastern University, the University of Hawaii, and CSU Monterey Bay are studying coral bleaching. The techniques they learned at Cal Poly will help them better understand what conditions are necessary for coral to survive.

"Using this method, we can predict if the Earth's temperature rises to a certain point, the coral reefs will disappear," Tomanek said.

The method’s first step, called two-dimensional gel electrophoresis, measures how much of a protein is being made and is notoriously difficult. Following the students’ instructions, nine out of 12 workshop attendees got excellent results with their own protein samples, an impressive success rate.

"Not only was it apparent that the students were skilled in the techniques, but they were also patient and supportive teachers," said Andrew Mindling, a biology professor at the University of Puget Sound. "The workshop was well-organized in every aspect — scientifically and administratively — as well as fun, instructive and inspiring."

"As a student," said Michael Garland, a graduate student in biological sciences, "it was a rewarding feeling to be regarded as an expert by people who are experienced and accomplished in their field. I think all of us presenting in the workshop realized that the work we do at Cal Poly is truly on the cutting edge."

In the second step of the analysis, the scientists identify the protein using a tandem mass spectrometer, which measures the molecular mass of unique protein identifiers called peptides. Only three environmental proteomics labs in the country currently have this spectrometer. Using the instrument as an undergrad gives Cal Poly students an unparalleled Learn-by-Doing experience.

"Our students learn the entire proteomic workflow from the experiment and preparation to the bioinformation analysis. It's really unique that an undergrad or even grad student is involved in the conduct of all the steps along the workflow," Tomanek said.

Because the spectrometer is a key instrument in biomedical and pharmaceutical research, the hands-on experience gives Cal Poly graduates exceptional career opportunities. "Our master’s students are getting jobs usually reserved for Ph.D.'s," Tomanek said.

"This workshop gave me confidence in my laboratory capabilities that will serve me well in the future," said Joshua Miller, a student who had earned his bachelor’s degree only a few months prior to being an instructor.

In the future, Cal Poly’s Environmental Proteomics Lab will run the second step of the analysis for workshop attendees who don’t have a tandem mass spectrometer on their own campuses.

"One of NSF’s grand challenges is how to share and spread technology," Tomanek said. "The NSF program director pointed to Cal Poly’s proteomics lab as the only example he’s seen of how to address this challenge."

Students, participants and the NSF are excited about the collaborative nature of the workshop. "Biology covers a wide range of possible studies, and it was great to learn about the participants’ research and the role proteomics can play in the improvement of their results," Garland said.
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A Cal Poly Welcome

Timothy P. White paid a two-day visit to Cal Poly in May, his first as the new chancellor of the 23-campus California State University system. During his visit, he got a taste of the Cal Poly Learn by Doing experience through a walking tour of campus and visits with several groups of student leaders, staff and faculty. Here are some scenes from his visit.

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During his walking tour of campus as part of a two-day visit in early May, CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White (center) visits with Dave Wehner, outgoing dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (left), and students and staff members at Cal Poly's vineyard on campus.
White mingled with student leaders during a reception in the Poly Canyon Village Plaza.
During the student reception, White received rock star treatment from a few students, including one who asked the chancellor to autograph his arm.
White met with student leaders from Cal Poly’s Associated Students Inc.
While walking across campus, White stopped an ROTC cadet for a short chat. By chance, it was cadet Noah Falck, who had recently made headlines by running in the Boston Marathon and then assisting in emergency response to the bombings near the finish line.
White met with faculty members from the Construction Management Department, who presented him with a Cal Poly hardhat.
White chatted with students in Cal Poly’s CubeSat program in the College of Engineering.
White visited with students in the Orfalea College of Business' Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic.
White and Liberal Arts Dean Douglas L. Epperson.
A CAL POLY WELCOME

White asked questions during a presentation by students in the Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies hybrid program.
College of Science and Mathematics Poly Reps helped lead White (left center) and his chief of staff, Lars Walton, on a tour of the still-under-construction Center of Science and Mathematics.
Phil Bailey, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, shows off the nearly complete Center of Science and Mathematics.
White met with students in Cal Poly's MultiCultural Center.
White addressed a crowd of Cal Poly faculty, staff, students and university alumni and friends at an open forum in Harman Hall in the Performing Arts Center.
The Cal Poly Band serenaded White during the start of An Evening of Green & Gold. (Photo by Aaron Lambert)
White addressed a crowd of Cal Poly faculty, staff, students and university alumni and friends at an open forum in Harman Hall in the Performing Arts Center.
By JoAnn Lloyd

The Apprentices Become the Masters
Chris Gibson hadn’t thought much about applying to Cal Poly’s animation program...
Cal Poly Thanks Supporters at ‘An Evening of Green & Gold’

By Larry Peña

President Jeffrey D. Armstrong and Sharon Armstrong hosted more than 600 of Cal Poly’s leading donors and volunteers at An Evening of Green & Gold, held on campus May 2.

“I couldn’t have written a better evening event,” said Scott Gauldineen, (B.S. Architecture, 1979), a longtime donor and volunteer who attended An Evening of Green & Gold. “It’s an event that should be held every year. It really captures a lot of this new spirit that I’m starting to see come onto the campus.

“We were honored to be considered a contributor to Cal Poly. It tells me that what I am doing is making a difference, even in a small way.”

This year’s gathering was the inaugural installment of what is planned to be an annual event.

The evening began with a reception in Chumash Auditorium, showcasing student work that exemplified Cal Poly’s Learn by Doing philosophy. Donors and volunteers visited exhibits where students discussed their latest research and projects, including architecture students demonstrating 3-D printing; civil engineering students displaying Cal Poly’s famed Concrete Canoe; and business students marketing innovative new products.

Students were involved throughout the evening. Music majors Kevin Capaci a, Trevor Carson and Ryan Waczek performed a three-man percussion ensemble, and recent graduate Misty Moya introduced her senior project from last year: a choreographed dance number that married her twin academic pursuits of biology and dance, performed by Cal Poly’s Orchesis Dance Company.

Two students spoke personally about their gratitude toward donors and volunteers. Natural resource management major Mario Scalzo appeared on video to describe the moral and financial support he had received from scholarship donor Sonya Woods Anderson (B.S. Home Economics, 1960), and engineering major Garrett Schwank spoke about the opportunities afforded him through the efforts of volunteer and donor Jon Monett (B.S. Industrial Engineering, 1964).

“In giving, you are feeding within us the same passion that has brought you here tonight,” Schwank said. “I aspire to follow in the footsteps of our alumni like Jon and one day devote my time and efforts toward helping future students find the passion that will drive them to succeed.”

During the program, Read and Bradshaw unveiled the Green & Gold Societies, a new recognition program to honor those who have given $100,000 or more to the university. They also announced plans to develop a grove at the center of campus, dedicated to honoring major Cal Poly supporters and providing living specimens of rare trees for biology and forestry students to study.

“Cal Poly’s donors and volunteers are so important in maintaining the excellence of the Learn by Doing education,” says Read. “It was an honor to be able to recognize their service to our students. I’m really looking forward to giving them an even greater celebration next year!”
Students from the Cal Poly chapter of Engineers Without Borders discussed their work to the reception attendees.
Cal Poly’s STRIDE Health Ambassadors explained their work providing nutrition education to kids in the community.
A physics student describes a project exploring the foundations of the universe with one reception attendee.
Donor Jean Sander hears the latest news from a member of the Cal Poly Student Life team.
An Evening of Green & Gold

Representatives from the Student Life offices.
Cal Poly supporters enjoyed hors d’oeuvres provided by University Catering.
Donor and CAFES volunteer advisor JoAnn Switzer, examining the student exhibits.
An Evening of Green & Gold

Biology students presented their latest research into human and animal embryology to supporters who had helped make it possible.
Reception attendees mingled among some of the best examples of student work, including the Cal Poly Society of Civil Engineers’ 2012 championship-winning concrete canoe.
The reception featured beautiful green and gold floral decorations in Chumash Auditorium.
An Evening of Green & Gold

Engineers Without Borders student Zoe Hinck and James Regan, (B.S., Metallurgical Engineering, 1968)
An Evening of Green & Gold

Greg Schultz (B.S., Computer Science, 1974)
An Evening of Green & Gold

Emeritus Dean Everett Chandler and Arlene Chandler (M.A., Education, 1963)
An Evening of Green & Gold

Guests at the reception were surprised by the sudden appearance of the Mustang Band and Dance Team.
President Armstrong thanked guests for their support and applauded the students for the work they had showcased at the reception.
An Evening of Green & Gold

Members of the Mustang Maniacs
The Mustang Band led attendees out of the reception in Chumash Auditorium, across the University Union Plaza to Mott Athletics Center for the evening dinner program.
An Evening of Green & Gold

Emeritus professor of architecture William Brown and his wife Joan
The Mustang Band and Dance Team continued to provide entertainment in Mott Athletics Center as guests entered and found their seats.
ASI President-Elect Jason Colombini (center) and others.
Cal Poly Mascot Musty the Mustang made an appearance and mingled with guests before the dinner program.
A short break before the dinner program gave guests a chance to continue to chat and enjoy performances from the Mustang Band and Dance Team.
Members of the Mustang Band singled out and serenaded visiting dignitary Timothy P. White (left), chancellor of the California State University system.
An Evening of Green & Gold

Guests such as President's Cabinet member Jaime Oaxaca (left) and CSM Dean Phil Bailey (right) had the opportunity to sponsor and share a table with outstanding students at the dinner.
An Evening of Green & Gold

Cal Poly President Emeritus Warren J. Baker
President Jeffrey D. Armstrong welcomed the guests and spoke about the power of Learn by Doing education.
More than 600 supporters filled a transformed Mott Athletics Center for the dinner program.
Vice President for University Advancement Deborah A.W. Read served as the program's emcee.
President's Cabinet Chair Chuck Harrington (B.S., Agricultural Engineering, 1981) spoke about the impact of volunteers at Cal Poly, describing them as guides and role models for students.
Bob Scofield (B.S., Ornamental Horticulture, 1953), a member of the CAFES Dean’s Advisory Council, and student Megan Hobbs
Garrett Schwanke, a mechanical engineering major, thanked volunteers and donors for giving him opportunities to find his passion at Cal Poly.
Music majors Kevin Capacia, Trevor Carson and Ryan Waczek performed two percussion arrangements at the dinner program.
An Evening of Green & Gold

Cal Poly President Emeritus Warren J. Baker and CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White
Cal Poly Foundation President Dick Bradshaw (B.S., Mathematics, 1970) explained why he gives toward student scholarships and thanked donors for supporting the university.
Misty Moyle (B.S., Biological Science, 2012) introduced "This Is What Science Looks Like," a number she choreographed as an interdisciplinary student for Orchesis Dance Company.
An Evening of Green & Gold

More than 600 supporters filled a transformed Mott Athletics Center for the dinner program.
Donors received small trees as gifts thanking them for their support of the university. Fred (B.S., Business Administration, 1963) and Judi Honoré showed off their tree.
An Evening of Green & Gold

Ken Stone, (B.S., Architecture, 1979/B.Arch., Architecture, 1980), Manfred (B.S., Animal Science, 1953) and Jean Sander
An Evening of Green & Gold

Guests enjoyed a dessert reception after the close of the dinner program.
Leslie (Social Sciences, 1980) and Scott Gaudineer (B.S., Architecture, 1979 and B.Arch., Architecture, 1980)
An Evening of Green & Gold

Leslie (Social Sciences, 1980) and Scott Gaudineer (B.S., Architecture, 1979 and B.Arch., Architecture, 1980)
**Citizen Science**

*Professor John Keller Unites 13 Communities in the Process of Discovery*

By Larry Pena

Beyond Neptune's orbit lies a vast swath of space called the Kuiper Belt, containing more than 100,000 large objects that have remained relatively unchanged in space for more than 4.5 billion years. Understanding these objects would shed light on the conditions that gave birth to our solar system — and with the help of a Cal Poly professor, the next discovery in this field of knowledge could be made by a high school student in a tiny California mountain town.

"Citizen science has been going on for hundreds of years — it's not new," said Cal Poly physics professor John Keller, one of the creators of a project called the Research and Education Cooperative Observation Network (RECON). "There are a lot of ways scientists engage the public, but directly involving community members is a useful way of getting the public to better understand what the process of science is."

Last fall Keller and his research partner, Marc Buie of the Southwest Research Institute in Boulder, Colorado, received a $233,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to launch RECON. The project establishes a network of telescopes in a chain of communities along the eastern edge of the state and into Nevada. Teams of local citizen scientists — mostly high school science teachers and amateur astronomy enthusiasts — will operate the telescopes, taking measurements of targeted Trans-Neptunian Objects (TNOs), and feeding data to Keller and Buie for analysis.

The concept behind the project is that when a TNO passes between Earth and a given star, observers at their telescopes can measure the precise length of time the TNO blocks out the star's light and extrapolate the object's size. From those measurements, Keller and Buie can better determine all kinds of information, such as density and composition. Since many of these objects have remained virtually unchanged throughout the solar system's history, they can be used as benchmarks to discover more about the forces that shaped our early planetary neighborhood.

"These will be original measurements that no one has ever done before, and we'll be doing this with the help of more than 50 people who are going to be doing the measurements with us," Keller said. "To me, that's a great way to engage more people in the process of discovery."

The locations — 13 small towns in a chain between Tulelake, California, and Tonopah, Nevada — were chosen because they're protected from light pollution and easily visible by the Sierra Nevada and the Cascade Range, offering some of the most consistently clear skies in the region. And Keller said there's an incidental benefit to these communities. "These are incredibly underserved communities. Tonopah, wenatchee, Pendleton, Portales, Cedarville, Susanville - they're not big cities where there are a lot of resources," he said. "We're providing each community with a telescope that they can use to look for TNOs for us, but the rest of the year they can use the telescope for their own viewing events, for their own research projects, for their own public outreach. The enthusiasm of these communities was very genuine."

For Keller, one of the most exciting things about this project is the potential for inspiring the high school students who will assist their teachers with observations — young enthusiasts he calls "proto-astronomers." The project exposes students early to hands-on experience in the STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), some of the most critical areas of study for tomorrow's leaders and innovators. More importantly, it allows students to learn by actually taking an active role in the process of discovery — a preview of Cal Poly's Lean by Doing philosophy.

"Very often in classrooms, we come up with scientific simulations of things that have been discovered in the past," Keller said. "Rarely do we do 'let's go discover something' types of activities. This is a real chance for these classrooms to be involved in an actual discovery process."

The project launched in Carson City, Nevada, in early April with a training conference for all the community teams. Coordinated observation campaigns began in May. If the project is a success — both from a scientific and a community engagement standpoint — RECON may be eligible for more funding from NASA to expand the network to 40 teams of citizen scientists and telescopes, stretching from Canada to Mexico.

"What I'm really excited about is having the entire network of people crossing the U.S. from Yuma (Ariz.) to Tonopah (Wash.), all going out at the same time on the same night to look at the same star as a coordinated effort," Keller said. "I think it's like a hands across the nation's mind. That has a lot of staying power, because once the resources are there and the network is in place we'll be in a position to mobilize for other discovery processes."
Hard Work Under Pressure

With Success in the Classroom and on the Field, Tommy Pluschkell Defines the Cal Poly Student-Athlete Model

By Larry Pena

Meeting Tommy Pluschkell, it’s easy to believe in the fantasy of the guy who has it all. This spring, the Mustang baseball first baseman and engineering major was named Cal Poly’s 2012 Big West Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year in recognition of his outstanding achievements both on the field and in the classroom.

He’s a starter as a sophomore and has been on the dean’s list seven of his eight quarters at Cal Poly. His success might be alarming, if it wasn’t so clearly the result of hard work, a great attitude, and an incredible sense of discipline.

“I’ve always had to work hard,” he said. “Baseball has never really come that easy to me, but it’s definitely my passion, so I don’t really see it as putting in a lot of hard work.”

Pluschkell is, according to his coach, “the type of player who makes everyone around him better.”

“He works hard to make the most of his abilities,” head baseball coach Larry Lee said. “He comes to practice every day and works to get better, whether it’s on the field or in the weight room.”

That all sounds great on paper, and actually discovering what it takes to maintain high performance at both sports and school inspires an even higher now level of respect for this 23-year-old. In addition to a full-time academic load, Pluschkell and his teammates endure a staggering commitment of time and effort that exceeds 25 hours a week, plus individual daily workouts to stay conditioned. He said that between time in the field, team warmups, and his own personal preparation routine, he has sport as many as nine straight hours on the field or on game days.

Pluschkell said that the pressure of the demanding schedule actually enhances his performance in the classroom. “It really forces us to stay disciplined and to stay focused, so when you’re not at practice you’re getting your homework done whenever you have that opportunity,” he said. “You really learn, not so much to cram, but to prioritize and make time whenever you have it, for being productive.”

Professors have noted that what makes Pluschkell stand out as a student is his ability to thrive under that kind of pressure. “He wasn’t just good, he was right at the top of his class,” said John Larson, a lecturer in the mechanical engineering program who has taught two of Pluschkell’s classes. “I understand how hard it is for these guys—they have to be really sharp and very organized to balance an intercollegiate sport and a tough academic major. Tommy is a very rare bird! Give some credit to his parents—they did a great job raising their son.”

It was his parents, Pluschkell said, who inspired his remarkable level of drive. As a boy he watched his father, a systems engineer, launch several successful business ventures, absorbing a lesson from the focus and determination that experience required. Both parents set the bar high for him and his siblings.

“They would always make sure we were on top of our schoolwork and our grades,” he said. “We always understood what was expected of us.”

Structural engineering professor Garrett Hall sees a connection between hard work on the field and hard work in the classroom.

“I told Tommy one time that I wish all the students in my classes had played baseball at some point in their life for a simple reason—baseball teaches mental toughness,” he said. “He seems to apply the lessons of baseball to academics: stay mentally tough, keep working hard, don’t make excuses, and continually look for ways to get better.”

Pluschkell plans to take on a concentration in mechanical engineering and eventually follow in his father’s footsteps. “I’ve always liked his career and admired that,” he said. “That’s where my goals are, to start small with an engineering firm and build my way up to opening my own company one day.”

Even as he dreams of the future, he acknowledges that great success means discipline, determination, and a lot of hard work.
College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences

1960s

1970s
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.

1980s
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 Leadership - IEGEL. This is a yearlong study course, held on-site in four different areas of Georgia (city, farm, coastal, 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, IEGEL helped him to network among his diverse classmates and to survey and study the many different environmental issues and their context in Georgia.

2000s
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 Bride's Choice Award from the WeddingWire network and is a proud member of the Central Coast Grown Program.

College of Architecture & Environmental Design

1980s
Wendy Ornelas (B.Arch., Architecture, 1980) is one of two central states regional directors elected to serve on the 52-person national board for the American Institute of Architects (AIA). She also co-chairs the AIA's national Diversity and Inclusion Council. Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback has appointed her to a second term on the Kansas State Board of Technical Professors, the licensing board for architects, engineers, landscape architects, surveyors and geologists in the state. In addition to her service to the profession of architecture, teaching and serving as associate dean at Kansas State University, Ornelas and her husband, Bob Condia (B.Arch., Architecture, 1980), like to fly fish in exotic locations.

Corby Kilmer (B.S., Landscape Architecture, 1989) received the Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG) Professional Achievement Award, becoming the first landscape architect in the organization's history to be so honored. The award recognizes a state-employed engineer or related professional who has demonstrated outstanding professional excellence. She was lauded for her "sustained and exemplary work on highway construction projects around the state." Kilmer was also chosen to attend a Korea Society workshop on the culture and history of South Korea.

1990s
John Dennis McDonald (B.Arch., Architecture, 1994) earned his California Architect's License in 2012.

2000s
Michael Cook (B.S., Landscape Architecture, 2001) was awarded the Top Real Estate Project for a single family residence in the North Bay by the North Bay Business Journal, serving Sonoma, Marin and Napa counties.

College of Engineering

1990s
James Yurich (B.S., Electrical Engineering, 1990) will retire in April 2013 for the third time, the first retired after serving 25 years as an officer in the U.S. Army. Next, he retired as accounting director with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). He returned as vice president for business and finance with College of The Albemarle. "I believe that my experience at Cal Poly was a big reason for my opportunities," he said.

2000s
Michael D. Bowman (B.S., Mechanical Engineering, 1979) was awarded the Boeing Co.'s top innovation honor, the 2012 Special Invention Award, for extraordinary accomplishments. Specifically, he was named one of the key elements in the 787 Dreamliner, the aircraft that won the 2012 Collier Trophy.

Sean Guinn (B.S., Industrial Engineering 2003) works as an industrial engineer for the Boeing Co. by day. At night, he writes under the cover of freeway overpasses and airport lounges. His recently published his first book, "Not Quite There." Featuring several alumni, including his wife, Jennifer Rhodes, and fellow alumni Ryan Ross, Jennifer Hoffman, Tom Gotch, Cory DeLacina, Jessica Tabor-Frict, Sarah Speed, and Matthew Meek. The five books are set in San Antonio, Texas, with their two daughters, Katlyn and Alyssa. Sean is now on Twitter (8512007500) and Facebook.

1991: Adrian V. Herrera (B.S., General Engineering, 1998) graduated from the Introduction to Fundamental Skills class 11-486 at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. He completed this phase of training on his way to flight training on the J-17 for the Combat Air Forces and will now go on to serve as a weapons systems officer at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina.

2010s
Nick Fabio (B.S., Mechanical Engineering, 2011) married Santa Clara University alumna Jenna Torres on July 7, 2012, in Santa Barbara, Calif. Seven fellow Mustangs were included in the wedding party: best man Mathew Adams, sister of the groom and bridesmaid Natalie Fabio, and groomsmen Anthony Cicciolo, Jacob Deboer, Scott Horn, Cory Keny and Gregory Ostrinick. The newlyweds happily settled into married life in Santa Barbara. Nick is a mechanical design and process engineer with Innovems, and Jenna is a financial advisor with the Global Wealth Management Group at Merrill Lynch.

College of Liberal Arts

1970s
Adele Quinlan (B.A., History, 1973) received two grants this past year. She was the recipient of a National Endowment of the Humanities award to study "Production and Consumption in World History from 1492-1913" at the UC Santa Cruz. She was also chosen to attend a Korea Society workshop on the culture and history of South Korea.
1980s

Robert "Bob" Starr (Social Sciences, 1980) is now chief administrative officer of Dental Technologies Inc. in Dublin, Calif.

Kathryn McKenzie (Journalism, 1981) launched a weekly radio show on KKV in Carmel, Calif. The hour-long show is called "Homegirl," and each week she interviews home and garden experts from the community on a wide variety of topics. Subject matter has ranged from rainwater capture to how to plant a winter vegetable garden. She also shares tips for sustainable living and stories about her home and gardening adventures. The show is available online, or for those in the Monterey/Carmel area, 102.1 FM or 1430 AM. It airs at 10 a.m. Sundays. She continues to write for local newspapers and magazines and has a weekly column, Living Green, in the Monterey County Herald.

1990s

Steffan Tubbs (Journalism, 1992) completed his first book, "Life, Liberty & Resilience." Tubbs spent hundreds of hours interviewing and researching this true story of Joe LaFaher, one of the first African American World War II Navy Seabees. LaFaher battled poverty, segregation, racism and hatred with true resiliency. The book follows LaFaher along with Tubbs as he travels back to his native Mississippi, to New Orleans and ultimately to Jima nearly seven decades later. The story is getting rave reviews.

2000s

Kristy Elizabeth Peterson (Speech Communication, 2001) is now director of alumni relations for The Buckley School, an independent K-12 in Sherman Oaks, Calif. She previously was the director of student outreach for UCLA Alumni Relations. Her husband, Kent Peterson (Music, 2000) is a professor at the USC Rosier School of Education.

Steven Carr (Biology, 1975) is the proud father of twin daughters, Matilda & Eowyn, born in September 2010. Carr earned a doctorate in genetics from UC Berkeley in 1983. He is a professor of biology at Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's campus, in Atlantic Canada, with cross-appointments in medicine and computer science. He is also co-president of Terra Nova Genomics Inc., which applies NextGen DNA sequencing methods to questions of forensics and environmental monitoring.

Hans Hess (B.S. Physics, 1994) Hess Hess is founder and CEO of Elevation Burger, the nation's first and largest organic "better burger" chain. Founded in 2005, the global chain now features 50 restaurants in the U.S. and seven in the Middle East. It is the only fast casual chain to serve 100 percent U.S.D.A. organic, grass-fed and free-range beef. Hess is poised to open Elevation Burger's 50th store by year's end. He lives in Virginia with his wife, April Hess, who serves as the company's CFO, and their two children.

Theresa (Herman) Lundin (Microbiology, 1999) married William Lundin on March 10, 2012 in Walnut Creek, Calif.

Orbital College of Business

Tiffany Hollands Cook (B.S., Business/Accounting, 1991) accepted a position with Cal Poly Corporation as a senior accounting analyst. Cook has more than 14 years of experience in accounting, finance and auditing. Her duties include assisting with preparation of financial statements, budgeting, supervision of the administrative support assistant, conferring with auditors, and acting as backup to the senior accounting manager.

Kristen Texiera (B.S., Business/Marketing, 1991) worked for several years at advertising agencies Ogilvy & Mather, Hal Riney & Partners and magazine publishing company Condé Nast Publications. She is currently working at a small local publishing agency in the East Bay Area. Her focus of business development is alumni magazines. She writes, "We currently produce several law school alumni mags, as well as Cal Poly's College of Agriculture alumni magazine." Texiera, her husband, three grade-school age children, and a puppy are living the "standard American dream" in Danville, Calif.

Mitchell Mark Weisel (B.S., Business/Financial Management, 1992) married his beautiful wife, Susan, in 1997. They have 9-year old twin girls and live Placentia, Calif. Weisel works as a senior principal consultant with Workday Inc., a "Software-as-a-Service" (SaaS) software company that provides human capital management (HCM), finance, and payroll solutions for companies. He has seen tremendous growth and opportunity at Workday and is proud to have many Cal Poly alumni as colleagues. He visits San Luis Obispo on occasion and keeps in touch with a number of fellow alumni. He continues to cheer for Cal Poly in athletics and is excited to see Cal Poly recognized each year in the annual Rose Parade.

Erinn Taylor (B.S., Business, 2001) was profiled in Survey Magazine's "Researchers you Should Know" edition in September 2012.

The Apprentices Become the Masters

Cal Poly Students are Among the Few Experts on a New Scientific Technique

Creating Their Worlds

Alums Make Movie Magic Thanks to Close Ties Between Cal Poly and DreamWorks Animation

An Evening of Green and Gold

Images from the Inaugural Event Thanking Donors and Volunteers

Hard Work Under Pressure

Tommy Pluschkell Defines the Cal Poly Student-Athlete Model
Through Journeyman International, Cal Poly architecture students know a chance to change the world before they even graduate.

By Matt Lazier

The Institute of Technology, Mexico, a home is being erected for orphaned and abandoned teens. A Cal Poly student, working through local nonprofit Journeyman International, designed the building, which will soon be a refuge for young men and women who have nowhere else to go but the streets.

"We connect students with projects that allow them to fill critical needs all over the world," said Wiens (B.S., Construction Management, 2013), "We're linking an uncapitalized labor force with the desire to create a real, lasting impact in the world.

"During the academic year, our students provide cultural and site research, design mock-ups for review by in-country partners, budgeting, scheduling and much more depending on the project circumstancens. Once the final design is complete, the students and I act as advisors to the construction process while the partnering organization, and community, construct the facility."

Anna Nagasugi, a fifth-year architecture student set to graduate this spring, has spent the last year designing a secondary school in Akatsi, Ghana, through Journeyman and an organization called Bruder Volunteer of Ghana (OVAG)."We've gained at Cal Poly to a real project," Nagasugi said. "It's taken me a year to apply the knowledge I've gained at Cal Poly to a real project."

For his senior project in 2009, he partnered with an architecture student and selected a project through Global Outreach Mission to build a dental clinic in Belize. While he partner designed the building, Wiens handled scheduling, estimating, purchasing, phasing, soil testing, and other management aspects. Then Wiens went to the project site for three months, hired local crews, and constructed the clinic.

"When we finished, I said 'That was great. We should do that again,'" Wiens said. "I just knew we had to keep building more facilities," Wiens explained. "I was graduating, but I knew other students would want to work on similar projects."

Journeyman International founder Daniel Wiens (second from left) and several students look over plans for a project. (Photo courtesy Journeyman International)

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In the near future, Fellows said, they hope to expand the Journeyman interdisciplinary model to universities across the nation.

"We're going to have an international model that's a sustainable model for students to gain hands-on experience and provide economically feasible, green construction for developing areas," Fellows said. "We're empowering students, professional and academically, to take small initiatives that yield huge impacts. And we are just getting started.

For more information on Journeyman International, visit http://www.journeymaninternational.org/
University News

History Professor Awarded American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship

Kathleen S. Murphy, assistant professor of history at Cal Poly, has received a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) for the 2013-14 academic year. The award supports research in the humanities and humanistic social sciences that the council considers to be particularly promising. Murphy received the fellowship to support her research into the history of science of the slave trade. "Kate Murphy is an outstanding faculty member who excels in teaching and research," said Doug Epperson, dean of Cal Poly College of Liberal Arts.

This award confirms what we have always believed: Professor Murphy is one of the top young scholars in the country within this area. In addition to advancing her research, this award will inform her teaching, benefiting countless future Cal Poly students," Cal Poly has awarded Murphy a sabbatical that, with the ACLS fellowship, will allow her to be relieved of teaching duties for next year and focus on researching and writing her book manuscript, "Slaving Science: Natural Knowledge and the British Slave Trade, 1660-1807." It will be the first book-length study to examine the intersection of the history of science and the history of the British slave trade. Murphy argues that the particularities of the Iberian slave trade shaped the knowledge produced through its networks and that scientific knowledge, in turn, influenced the development of the slave trade. "We have a tendency to think of the development of early modern science and the transatlantic slave trade as wholly unconnected," Murphy said. "My research shows that, in fact, they were deeply intertwined." Murphy joined the faculty at Cal Poly in 2007. She teaches courses in early American history and the history of science and co-directs the History Department's internship program. The ACLS is a private, nonprofit federation of 71 national scholarly organizations that seeks to advance studies in all fields of the humanities and related social sciences. The council offers fellowships and grants in more than a dozen programs. In the international competition for ACLS fellowships this year, 65 of 1,121 projects were funded (25 at the assistant professor level).

http://www.calpolynews.calpoly.edu/news_releases/2013/April/ACLS.html

Kennedy Library Wins $10K John Cotton Dana Award

Cal Poly's Kennedy Library has been awarded a John Cotton Dana Award and a grant, an honor given annually to recognize "outstanding achievement in the promotion of library services." The Kennedy Library was one of eight winners. This internationally recognized competition is jointly sponsored by EBSCO Publishing, the H. W. Wilson Foundation, and the Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). Karen Lauritzen of the Kennedy Library submitted the winning application on behalf of a team of staff and students who designed the library's 2012 Banned Books Week campaign. The campaign included an interactive website, print design system, infographic exhibit, podcast series, student video, and a live interview with author and director Stephen Chbosky. The interactive webpage has attracted more than 6,000 visitors from around the world. Dozens of libraries across the nation linked to the site, where visitors can still find out how many banned books they've read. The award will be given at a June 30 reception during the ALA annual conference in Chicago.

http://www.calpolynews.calpoly.edu/news_releases/2013/April/Library.html

Business Dean Named Provost at Baruch College in New York

Dave Christy, dean of Cal Poly's Orfalea College of Business, will leave the university in midsummer to become provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Baruch College in New York City. Christy has helmed the Orfalea College of Business since 2004. In that time, he has led efforts to recruit dozens of faculty members, refresh key programs such as economics and industrial technology, and expand outward-reaching programs such as the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program and Low Income Taxpayer Clinic. Cal Poly also initiated master's degree programs in taxation and financial accounting. During his tenure, the college has consistently been ranked in the annual Bloomberg Businessweek list of the nation's best undergraduate business schools. "Dave Christy has made enormous contributions to the success of Cal Poly and the Orfalea College of Business," said Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong. "His hard work over the last nine years has enhanced the academic quality of our business degree offerings, expanded research opportunities for our faculty, and strengthened our undergraduate programs and student-advising services. We are sad to see him leave our university but proud that he is moving on to such an outstanding opportunity at Baruch College," Doug Cerf, area chair for Accounting and Business Law in the Orfalea College since 2007, has been named interim dean. Cal Poly will conduct a national search for the next permanent dean of the college.

http://www.calpolynews.calpoly.edu/news_releases/2013/April/Dean.html

Cal Poly and California Strawberry Commission Announce Multidisciplinary Partnership

Cal Poly and the California Strawberry Commission have united to establish a first-of-its-kind Strawberry Sustainability Research and Education Center at Cal Poly. The center will engage students of various disciplines in developing creative solutions to improve all areas of production on a major state crop. "This partnership will enrich our Learn By Doing approach by providing students, faculty and staff the opportunity to work alongside experts in the industry on real-world challenges," said Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong said. Academic departments including Crop Science, Business and Mechanical Engineering are working with the California Strawberry Commission to evaluate industry needs and determine where students can get involved. Key issues facing the industry include water and labor shortages and crop diseases, and the solutions may not necessarily be agricultural in nature. In addition to research, this partnership will be just the first of many similar programs at the university seeks to more closely connect students with hands-on industry experience. In a variety of fields, said Dave Wehner, dean of the College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Science. "There will be an emphasis on these types of public-private partnerships that will allow us to deepen what we can offer students in terms of applied research," he said. "These students will be even better prepared to step into leadership roles in some of the state's largest industries."

http://calpolynews.calpoly.edu/news_releases/2013/February/strawberry.html
New Roles Announced for Two Administrators

Dave Wehner, dean of Cal Poly's College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences (CAFES) since 2002, will become the university's interim vice president for strategic initiatives. Andrew Tullin, currently head of Cal Poly's Animal Sciences Department, will serve as interim CAFES dean. A national search for a permanent successor as dean will be held near the end of these interim appointments, which are expected to last for about 12 to 18 months. The appointments are effective July 1. "Thanks to Cal Poly's past success, we have significant new opportunities to partner with donors and others in the private sector on some potentially key initiatives," President Jeffrey D. Armstrong said. "We need to make good decisions about what fits within our mission, what is fundable, and what we can successfully implement. Right now we have several opportunities before us that require immediate focus. Dave's experience in successfully forging relationships with the private sector have strengthened our Learn by Doing programs makes him the right person to explore those opportunities," Armstrong said. "Also, at a time when we are conducting a number of searches for key positions, we simply need additional senior leadership during this period. Dave and Andy both bring considerable experience and skill that will help us through this transitional period."

Orfalea College of Business Moves Up in Bloomberg Businessweek Ranking

Cal Poly's Orfalea College of Business has again been named to Bloomberg Businessweek magazine's list of the nation's top undergraduate business colleges, moving up five spots this year to be ranked No. 64. This marks the fifth consecutive year the Orfalea College of Business has been ranked in the list of 324 colleges and universities. Cal Poly was one of only three public universities in California to make the list. UC Berkeley came in at 11, and UC Riverside was ranked No. 124. "Recognition by Bloomberg Businessweek again this year is an affirmation that Learn by Doing at Cal Poly is an enduring strategy for excellence in business education," said Dave Christy, dean of the Orfalea College of Business. Bloomberg Businessweek bases its rankings on student survey scores, recruiter survey scores, median starting salaries for graduates; the number of grades admitted to the 35 highest-ranked MBA programs; and an academic quality measure that consists of SAT/ACT test scores, faculty-student ratios, average size of core classes, percentage of students with internships, and the number of hours students spend preparing for class each week. Cal Poly received “A” grades in teaching quality and job placement categories and a "B" in facilities and services.

Keith Humphrey is Cal Poly's New Vice President for Student Affairs

Former University of Arizona administrator Keith Humphrey came to Cal Poly in February as the university's new vice president for student affairs. Humphrey now leads a division that affects the lives of Cal Poly students both inside and outside the classroom. Among the varied programs within Student Affairs are Associated Students, Inc., Career Services, the Disability Resource Center, University Housing, Health and Counseling Services, the Parent Program, and Student Life and Leadership. "Keith brings a strong background in student-related services and higher education expertise that will make Cal Poly even stronger," President Jeffrey D. Armstrong said. "He shares our values that student success is the top priority, and he knows the critical role that Student Affairs programming plays in students' academic success. Keith is quickly getting involved in the San Luis Obispo community, and I am counting on him to bring sharper focus to our efforts to show students how they can benefit from excellent relationships with their neighbors in the city." Prior to Cal Poly, Humphrey served as the University of Arizona's assistant vice president for student affairs and dean of students and was an assistant professor of practice in higher education.

Administration and Finance Senior VP to Retire in June

Larry Kelley, Cal Poly's chief financial officer and senior vice president of administration and finance, will retire at the end of the current academic year in June. Kelley has been with Cal Poly since 2002 overseeing the university’s Administration and Finance division. He has served as chief executive officer and chairman of the board for the Cal Poly Corporation since 2007 and treasurer for the Cal Poly Foundation since 2011. "Larry has been an indispensable ingredient in Cal Poly's continued success over the last decade," President Jeffrey D. Armstrong said. "I am particularly thankful for Larry's astute financial management through the state's economic downturn of the last few years," Kelley and his wife, Diane, will return to Ohio to be near their children and grandchildren. "It has been a privilege for more than 11 years to play my part in supporting Learn by Doing, helping to grow Cal Poly's respected reputation, and providing a support system for the university to keep producing the next generation of industry and community leaders," Kelley said. Stan Nosek, who served UC Davis as vice chancellor for administration from 2003-10, will serve as Cal Poly's chief financial officer until Kelley's permanent successor is identified sometime later this year.
CLOSING THOUGHTS

With President Jeffrey D. Armstrong

When we invited new CSU Chancellor Timothy White to visit Cal Poly, we knew that the best people to tell him about Cal Poly and the power of Learn by Doing were our students.

During a packed two days in May, PolyReps from each of our six colleges led the chancellor on a tour across campus, exploring our vineyards, seeing our renowned CubeSat lab up close, and understanding how our Low Income Taxpayer Clinic serves the community. And those were just a few of many stops to hear about our Learn by Doing programs.

Our ASI leaders shared with the chancellor how Cal Poly is helping them prepare to be the community leaders of tomorrow. He heard the insights of students in our Multicultural Center. And at a special reception in Poly Canyon Village, the chancellor was able to mingle and meet with hundreds of student ambassadors and college committee members from around campus. There was even a late-night tour of the new ASI Rec Center.

I know that the chancellor heard our message loud and clear. At an open forum, Chancellor White told the audience of students, alumni, faculty and staff that one of Cal Poly’s “absolute distinct assets” is how effective Learn by Doing is and how well it is integrated throughout the curriculum.

The chancellor also acknowledged Cal Poly’s supporters, particularly those in the private sector who have done much to strengthen Learn by Doing over the years. Chancellor White told me that Cal Poly is fortunate to have as many relationships with industry as it does, adding that it “is vital to forge ever stronger public-private partnerships in order to preserve the public nature of Cal Poly. Strong public-private partnerships are essential for Cal Poly and the CSU to remain a vibrant public university.”

I’m grateful not only to our campus community, but also to the hundreds of Cal Poly advisory committee members, volunteers and donors who gathered for the chancellor’s visit and our first annual Evening of Green & Gold. It was, truly, thrilling to see the Cal Poly family come together and immerse the chancellor in all that is special about this great university.

Finally, I look forward to working with Chancellor White on what he so eloquently described as our sacred mission “to make sure that our students, when they leave us, are able to live and work and compete — and most importantly — to prosper in a global multicultural community.”