

## CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT BUILDING TO BE DEDICATED

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT changes ever to impact Cal Poly's nationally recognized Construction Management Department is the completion of its new building – the Construction Innovations Center.

The state-of-the-art facility opened this summer. “This landmark building is the culmination of 12 years of planning, design and construction dedicated to the modern education of professionals in our field,” said Construction Management Department Chair Al Hauck.

To celebrate, everyone is invited to a building dedication and open house, scheduled Saturday, Oct. 4, at 2:30 p.m. The dedication ceremony will include the official groundbreaking for the new Simpson Strong-Tie Materials Demonstration Lab, scheduled to begin construction this fall.

For more information, contact the Construction Management Department at 805-756-1323. □

(Below) The new Construction Innovations Center (photo courtesy of Jessica Robbins)



## CAL POLY RANKED IN NATIONAL COMPENSATION STUDY

CAL POLY HAS RANKED THIRD NATIONALLY among public universities in a *Forbes.com* ranking of college campuses, based on a recent study that looks at earnings of alumni at colleges around the country.

*Forbes.com* says it bases its ratings on the salaries of college degree holders who have 10 to 20 years of work experience. Cal Poly followed only Berkeley and University of Virginia in the public rankings, tying for the third spot with UCLA and UC San Diego.

According to the study, compiled by PayScale.com, Cal Poly alumni with 10 to 20 years of experience earn a median salary of \$101,000, with 10 percent of the graduates at this experience level making more than \$178,000.

“Cal Poly’s standing in this study tracks with what we are hearing from our alumni,” said President Warren J. Baker. “Many of them are commanding top salaries across a broad spectrum of industries, which demonstrates the value of our learn-by-doing educational approach.”

Cal Poly’s own placement studies show that over the past few years 92 to 96 percent of new alumni have become employed full time or have attended graduate school within one year of graduation, according to Provost William W. Durgin.

“Cal Poly’s fees are considerably less than those charged by the University of California campuses, making it an outstanding value for a superb technological education,” he said. □

## KENNEDY LIBRARY LAUNCHES DIGITAL ARCHIVE

The Kennedy Library has launched the DigitalCommons@Cal Poly, an online initiative that provides a centralized place to preserve and provide unlimited access to the rich variety of intellectual and scholarly work produced at Cal Poly.

The DigitalCommons@Cal Poly contains research from a variety of disciplines, including agriculture, architecture, business, education, engineering, liberal arts, science and mathematics.

It also serves as the digital archive for campus-hosted events, including the UC/CSU/CCC Sustainability Conference 2008, and campus journals, such as Moebius (College of Liberal Arts) and Focus (Department of City and Regional Planning).

By collecting scholarship in one central online location, Cal Poly brings faculty research to new audiences, including potential students, fellow faculty, funding agencies and other universities. Every item is assigned a unique, persistent URL so users can cite work freely without worry or inconvenience of broken links. Authors receive auto-generated monthly download statistics of their work, allowing them to quantify the use of their research.

And because DigitalCommons@Cal Poly is optimized for fast and accurate indexing by Google and other Internet search engines, more people will find and download content.

For authors who don't have time to contribute digital copies of their research, the Kennedy Library is prepared to scan documents and create PDFs, contact publishers for copyright permissions, prepare data to enhance search and retrieval, and upload and create entries.

Individuals representing any Cal Poly college, department, center or other campus unit may contribute content that they have authored. Examples of eligible materials include journal articles, conference proceedings, presentations, white papers, essays, technical reports and campus publications.

Visit the digital archive online at <http://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu>. For additional information or to contribute content, contact Marisa Ramirez, digital repository librarian at [mramir14@calpoly.edu](mailto:mramir14@calpoly.edu). □



(Above, L-R) Brothers Jonathan and Christian Rodriguez construct a rocket at the Cal Poly 2008 Engineering Days program

## COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING HOSTS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

THE SECOND ANNUAL 2008 Engineering Days program for high school students was a huge success. The weeklong program was tailored for underrepresented students to increase diversity on campus and in the workplace, encouraging more students to pursue an engineering career.

During the week, students participated in hands-on engineering labs taught by Cal Poly professors. Projects included various engineering applications such as building solid-fuel rockets, solar water heaters, water filtration systems, printed circuit boards and tissue engineering bio-reactors. At the end of the week, students showcased their projects to friends and family.

Students also had tours of the College of Engineering, Diablo Canyon power plant and local companies, and interacted with a collegiate panel, providing them an opportunity to ask questions about college life and engineering.

Of the 93 students who attended, 63 percent were from underrepresented groups, including 28 females. Students were primarily from local counties but the program also included 11 students from non-local counties and three students from out of state.

The program received \$75,000 in donations, including a platinum sponsorship from Cisco, Edwards Air Force Base and Fluor. More than \$9,000 was used to provide scholarships directly to the attending high school students. □



## RICK STURCKOW TO PILOT ANOTHER SHUTTLE MISSION



THE SIGHT OF THE International Space Station out of a cockpit window is starting to become a familiar one for **Frederick W. “Rick” Sturckow (ME ’84)**. He is scheduled to command Space Shuttle Atlantis on the STS-128 mission, targeted for launch July 30, 2009.

This will be the fourth shuttle mission for Sturckow, who flew as commander of STS-117 in 2007 and pilot of STS-105

## STURCKOW’S UPCOMING FLIGHT WILL CARRY SCIENCE PROJECTS AND STORAGE RACKS TO THE SPACE STATION

in 2001. His first flight was STS-88 in 1998, when he piloted the Shuttle Endeavour, carrying the first two modules of the International Space Station into orbit.

Sturckow’s upcoming flight will carry science projects and storage racks to the space station. It also will deliver a new station crew member, Nicole Stott, to the complex and return Tim Kopra to Earth.

A former marine pilot, Sturckow was selected as an astronaut in 1994. □

## ERLING SMITH WELCOMED AS VICE PROVOST

CAL POLY HAS STRENGTHENED its leadership team once again, naming Erling Smith as vice provost for strategic initiatives and planning.

Smith comes to Cal Poly from the University of Connecticut, bringing 12 years of leadership and administration experience and more than 30 years of teaching experience to the vice provost position.

According to Cal Poly Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs William W. Durgin, Smith will be a welcome addition as Cal Poly builds on its work in support of the CSU strategic plan, Access to Excellence, to create its strategic plan and update its master plan. “Erling Smith will provide leadership to strengthen data-driven decision making as we identify and pursue the major initiatives that we will focus on during the next 10 years. I am delighted to have such an accomplished academic leader join our team” said Durgin.

As vice provost, Smith will be responsible for providing leadership in supporting major academic initiatives, coordinating strategic planning and related activities, and implementing the university’s master plan. He will supervise the office of institutional planning and analysis and report directly to the provost and vice president for academic affairs.

While at the University of Connecticut, Smith served as interim dean for the School of Engineering and as the head of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. He also served on the University Senate and the Graduate Faculty Council Executive Committee.

Smith has also held accreditation coordinator and associate dean positions with the University of Connecticut.

He earned his Ph.D. in engineering science from the University of Durham and his B.Sc. in civil engineering from the University of Leeds, both in the United Kingdom. □

## PARENTS' WEEKEND SCHEDULED OCT. 25-26

CAL POLY'S ANNUAL PARENTS' WEEKEND event is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 25-26. It's the perfect time to return to the Central Coast, visit your student and enjoy college life.

The weekend begins with tours of Cal Poly's newest residential community – Poly Canyon Village. On Saturday afternoon, families are welcome to join fellow Mustang fans for the traditional Santa Maria style tri-tip barbecue followed by the Cal Poly football game at the Spanos Stadium.

A performing arts event featuring the work of Lar Lubovitch, one of the nation's premier choreographers, is scheduled Saturday evening.

On Sunday, the Parent Program will provide transportation downtown to Cal Poly's 11th annual Culturefest, where more than 25 Cal Poly student and local cultural organizations will showcase their rich heritages with displays, music, entertainment, hands-on activities and food. The event is a short walk from downtown shopping and restaurants.

The event is hosted by the Parent Program and planned in conjunction with Cal Poly Athletics, University Housing, the MultiCultural Center, Cal Poly Arts and San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce.

For more information, go to [www.parent.calpoly.edu/parentsweekend.asp](http://www.parent.calpoly.edu/parentsweekend.asp). Advance registration is required. □

## BILL SWANSON APPOINTED VICE CHAIRMAN OF BUSINESS-HIGHER EDUCATION FORUM



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING ALUMNUS **William H. "Bill" Swanson (IE '73)**, chairman and CEO of Raytheon Co., has been named vice chairman of the Washington-based Business-Higher Education Forum (BHEF).

BHEF is a national organization of Fortune 500 CEOs and senior executives, prominent college and university presidents, and foundation leaders seeking innovative solutions to education challenges in the United States.

Swanson joins David J. Skorton, president of Cornell University, who will lead the organization as its new chairman, and Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker, who serves on the executive committee. □

