

► HIGH MARKS

U.S. News & World Report



For the 13th straight year, *U.S. News & World Report* rated Cal Poly as the best public master's university in the West in its 2006 *America's Best Colleges* guidebook.

Cal Poly retained its No. 5 position in the list of the West's best universities of both public and private institutions that provide "a full range of undergraduate and master's-level programs but few, if any, doctoral programs."

In the rating of Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs (for schools whose highest degree is a bachelor's or master's) Cal Poly's College of Engineering tied with the U.S. Military and U.S. Naval academies for the No. 1 spot at a public school. Cal Poly's computer, electrical, mechanical, and industrial/manufacturing were each ranked as the top program at a public university in their respective categories. The civil engineering program ranked No. 2.

Cal Poly was also recognized as a leader in internships and co-ops. For all the rankings, go online to www.usnews.com.

Black Issues in Higher Education



Cal Poly was again among the "Top 100" universities in the nation in awarding degrees to minority students, according to rankings in *Black Issues in Higher Education* magazine.

Cal Poly ranked 60th overall on the list, which is compiled from data furnished by the U.S. Department of Education.

In the undergraduate agriculture degree category, Cal Poly was ranked No. 5 in degrees to all minorities, No. 2 in degrees to Native Americans, No. 3 in degrees to Hispanic students, and No. 4 in degrees to Asian Americans.

► RUTANIZING SPACE TRAVEL



Burt Rutan

'THE RUSSIANS ARE OFFERING A FLIGHT AROUND THE MOON IN 2008 FOR \$200 MILLION. THEY'RE NOW MORE CAPITALISTIC THAN WE ARE. I'M MAD AS HELL AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET THEM BEAT US.'

During Fall Convocation, President Warren J. Baker awarded the President's Medal of Excellence to aerospace innovator **Burt Rutan (AERO '65)**, chief executive officer of Scaled Composites LLC in Mojave, Calif.

Rutan has made history more than once, most recently in 2004 when he won the \$10-million Ansari X prize for building SpaceShipOne, the first private manned spacecraft to travel into space. His goal is to make space travel routine, fun and affordable.

Here are excerpts from his presentation, "Space, For the Rest of Us."

- It's no longer insane to think of a private company doing a manned space flight.
- In the early years, airplanes were invented by natural selection. The ones that didn't kill the pilot survived.
- When you are between age three and 14, you decide what you're going to do with your life. Kids need exciting times and periods of extreme technological progress to inspire them to become scientists and engineers.
- Mars was a lot more interesting to go to in 1955 than it is now. NASA ruined it for me. They sent their little probes that landed in the desert instead of downtown.
- After 1973, [the space program] collapsed. We became risk averse and lacked courage. We were chicken to fly.
- The Lunar Lander was the most impressive spacecraft ever built. But with the mentality at NASA nowadays, they would say building such a craft would be impossible to do.
- The innovation cycle doesn't occur in the government sector, only with private-sector dynamics.
- Space travel is still primitive . . . the difference between a bomb and a rocket is that the rocket has a hole in one end.
- The Russians are offering a flight around the moon in 2008 for \$200 million. They're now more capitalistic than we are. I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to let them beat us.
- A lot of people in this audience will fly into space in the next 15 to 20 years. You will play golf in zero gravity at a resort hotel in orbit in about 25 years. It will be affordable and safe. ■

► WILLIAM C. HARRIS APPOINTED PROVOST



William C. Harris, director general of Science Foundation Ireland, has been appointed the university's new provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Harris will officially join Cal Poly after completing his transition responsibilities at SFI, by July 2006 at the latest.

"I am honored by the opportunity to serve this outstanding institution and excited by the prospect of working with the faculty, staff, students and community," Harris said.

"More than ever, we need a contemporary Cal Poly – an institution that is defined by its motto, learn by doing, an institution that, through superb teaching and scholarship, provides a vital service to the citizens of California and beyond."

Harris has had a distinguished career in teaching, research and administration. His accomplishments during his 18-year career at the National Science Foundation, from 1978 to 1996, include leading the mathematical and physical sciences directorate; introducing and developing the first 25 science and technology centers in the United States to connect university research in a focused way with long-term national problems; and initiating Research Experiences for Undergraduates, a chemistry program that became an NSF-wide activity.

From 1996 to 2000, Harris served as founding president and executive director of Columbia University's Biosphere 2 Center, implementing an undergraduate education program focused on earth systems science, management and policy. He also forged partnerships with almost 30 colleges and universities, including Cal Poly.

In 2000, he served as vice president for research and professor of chemistry at the University of South Carolina, before assuming his current post at Science Foundation Ireland in 2001. The foundation funds science and engineering research.

"Bill Harris brings to Cal Poly a lifelong commitment to undergraduate education, forged in his early years as a professor in South Carolina," said Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker. "His national and international leadership roles in science and technology will serve our students and faculty well."

Harris earned a bachelor's degree from the College of William and Mary and a doctorate in chemistry from the University of South Carolina. ■

► CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN CELEBRATION DINNER



Cal Poly celebrated the end of its seven-year Centennial Campaign with a dinner to recognize the generous contributions of donors, corporate sponsors and alumni. ■

► COPY THIS!



Longtime Cal Poly supporter Paul Orfalea made Cal Poly his official Central Coast stop to promote his new book, "Copy This! Lessons from a hyperactive who turned a bright idea into one of America's best companies." Orfalea, founder of Kinko's, has donated more than \$16.2 million to the university, including more than \$15 million to the Orfalea College of Business and \$1 million to the Orfalea Family and ASI Children's Center. (Left to right:) Orfalea College of Business Dean Dave Christy; Orfalea Scholarship recipients Edgar Spickerman and Kristen Hays; Paul Orfalea; Associate Dean Doug Cerf. (Photo by Stephen Hughes) ■