

## CHEMISTRY ALUM A 'PRIME' EXAMPLE OF CAL POLY CAN-DO SPIRIT



**STEVEN BOONE (CHEM '84)** and a team of researchers at Central Missouri State University have found the largest known prime number –  $(2^{30,402,457})-1$ .

The team worked on the project for about nine years, using more than 700 computers, identifying the number last December. The number has 9.1 million dig-

its. It's so long, Boone said, that if it was printed in 12-point font, it would cover 2,800 pages.

A prime number is a positive number that can be divided only by itself and 1.

The number that the Central Missouri team discovered is a Mersenne prime, described by Boone as a "special type of prime number" that follows a pattern to a certain point, then the pattern breaks up, making the next such number even more elusive. Only 43 such numbers have been discovered. ■

## SYMANTEC'S BLOOM LEADS NEW CAL POLY FOUNDATION

GARNERING CRUCIAL PRIVATE SUPPORT to maintain Cal Poly's margin of excellence and to build for the future are the goals of a new nonprofit organization formed in November 2005.

Organized as an auxiliary under the California Education Code, the organization will lead campus philanthropic activity, according to Sandra Ogren, vice president for university advancement and CEO of the new Cal Poly Foundation.

**Gary Bloom (CSC '82)**, former vice chairman and president of Symantec, serves as chairman. He is joined by a number of other alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends of the university.

"To maintain the momentum of the highly successful Centennial Campaign, which raised a record \$264.4 million, we are turning to our alumni and other supporters to add vigor to our fund-raising efforts," Ogren explained.

The former Cal Poly Foundation is now named the California Polytechnic State University Corporation. ■

## NOTHING COMMON ABOUT KENNEDY LIBRARY'S LEARNING COMMONS

THREE LABS THAT DOUBLE AS CLASSROOMS, each with state-of-the-art technology and expert advice at hand, make up the new Learning Commons at the Kennedy Library.

Whatever the need – a laptop, smart computer lab, access to oversize printers, or help with technical or library resources – the Learning Commons delivers for faculty and students.

The Learning Commons is a collaboration between Instructional Technology Services, the Center for Teaching and Learning, and the Kennedy Library. It is part of the Digital Teaching Initiative, which seeks to foster creative, flexible relationships among students and professors, resources and technology.

For more information, visit [www.learningcommons.calpoly.edu](http://www.learningcommons.calpoly.edu). ■

$(2^{30,402,457})-1$

## CSU ENGINEERING FORUM FEATURES SUN V.P. KATHLEEN HOLMGREN



(John Todd Photography for Sun Microsystems Inc.)

CAL POLY ALUMNA and Sun Microsystems Vice President **Kathleen Holmgren (IE '80)** joined a panel of industry experts at the CSU Engineering Impact Forum in San Jose last fall.

The event brought together engineering stakeholders from industry and the CSU, along with several state and local officials to discuss key issues facing the engineering industry and the CSU's partnership role in preparing the future work force.

Discussion focused on concerns about the dwindling work force supply for science and technology jobs and generating ideas for attracting students to the field, especially women and minorities. ■

## CAL POLY WOMEN ENGINEERS ARE NO. 1 — AGAIN!

FOR THE FOURTH STRAIGHT YEAR, Cal Poly Society of Women Engineers was named the Outstanding Student Section in the nation from a field of 300 student chapters.

The group also won the Team Tech competition and other honors at the SWE National Conference in November. The Team Tech project involved working with Walt Disney Imagineering on the design of a maintenance vehicle for a new Disney World ride, "Expedition Everest."

In all, Cal Poly received two scholarships and six awards. ■

## NSF \$1-MILLION GRANT GOES TO MATERIALS ENGINEERING EDUCATION

THE MATERIALS ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT has received \$1 million from the National Science Foundation to redesign its materials engineering education program. The re-engineering of the degree curriculum is intended to attract and retain more women and minorities, while preparing all students to solve increasingly complex global problems, said Department Chair and Professor Linda Vanasupa. For details, visit [www.mate.calpoly.edu](http://www.mate.calpoly.edu). ■

## \$3.4 MILLION AWARDED FOR HIGH-TECH OCEAN CURRENT MONITORING

CAL POLY RECEIVED A \$3.4-MILLION GRANT from UC San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography and San Francisco State University to install a high-tech system to monitor California's near-shore currents.

The state Coastal Conservancy approved \$21 million for the project, which includes seven other institutions.

The system will help combat pollution, aid in response to natural hazards, and provide information about the state's coastal ecosystem as it monitors currents from the Mexican border to the Oregon state line.



Mark Moline (Photo by Jeff Greene/ImageWest Photography)

It will also collect hour-by-hour data, which will be made available "live" on the Internet as a resource for fishermen, marine researchers and government agencies tracking pollution spills.

Cal Poly biological sciences Professor Mark Moline heads up the effort at Cal Poly. For more information, go to [www.cocmp.org](http://www.cocmp.org). ■



## PUBLIC AFFAIRS CAPTURES CASE AWARDS

THE CAL POLY PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE recently captured two awards at the District VII regional conference of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

In competition with other public and private universities in California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah and Hawaii, the Cal Poly group received a silver award for Best Public or Government Relations Campaign.

"The Party's Over" campaign, designed to promote safety during San Luis Obispo's 2005 Mardi Gras weekend, was jointly developed with the City of San Luis Obispo and Cuesta College.

A bronze award was presented to Cal Poly for its online newsletter, *Cal Poly Update*, which is distributed monthly to over 40,000 alumni, donors and other supporters of Cal Poly. To subscribe, go to [www.calpolynews.calpoly.edu/update/archives.html](http://www.calpolynews.calpoly.edu/update/archives.html). ■

## NEW ETHNIC STUDIES MAJOR OFFERED

CAL POLY NOW OFFERS a Bachelor of Arts degree in comparative ethnic studies. The major offers students an opportunity to study the historical development and social significance of race and ethnicity in the United States.

Courses in ethnic studies survey how race and ethnicity affect access to political power and economic resources, as well as how race and racism influence cultural expression, according to Department Chair Charise Cheney. For more information, call (805) 756-1707. ■



## CAL POLY CELEBRATES FIRST CONSTITUTION DAY

WHEN CAL POLY CELEBRATED ITS FIRST Constitution Day last fall, a new tradition was born. The university each year plans to honor the signing of the U.S. Constitution with a special event highlighting the ideals of liberty, justice and equality.

Sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts, the event celebrates the birth of the U.S. government and the oldest written constitution in the world, according to College of Liberal Arts Interim Dean Linda Halisky. ■

## ENDOWMENT ESTABLISHED IN MEMORY OF WALT TRYON

AN ENDOWMENT IS BEING ESTABLISHED in honor of longtime landscape architecture Professor Walt Tryon, who passed way in October.

Tryon is remembered for his holistic teaching style, caring attitude, world perspective and genuine friendship. Hundreds of students and many colleagues were influenced by his kindness and compassion, and by his nearly 30 years in the classroom at Cal Poly.

His efforts greatly contributed to the department's "Best in the West" ranking by a national survey conducted by the publication *DesignIntelligence*. The survey ranks both the undergraduate landscape architecture program and architecture program as No. 1 West of the Mississippi.

Tryon earned Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degrees from the State University of New York at Syracuse in 1964. While working as a landscape architect, he earned a Master of Landscape Architecture degree at Syracuse University in 1974. He served as a faculty member there from 1970 to 1976.

He served in the U.S. Coast Guard aboard the USS West Wind in the North Atlantic during the Vietnam War.

Donations to the endowment should be made payable to the Cal Poly Foundation "In memory of Walt Tryon" and sent to the Landscape Architecture Department, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407-0285. For more information, call (805) 756-1319. ■

