



Pictured left to right Steve Simmons, Kaaron Conwright and Jonathan Takahashi.

CAL POLY ALUMNI KEY U.S. TRACK VICTORIES

CAL POLY ALUMNI played significant roles in U.S. national and American track team victories in Paris and Athens recently.

Steve Simmons (EDUC '72), a veteran national and U.S. Olympic track coach, was tapped to coach the U.S. men's team for the DecaNation track meet in Paris on Aug. 26. The team, which included 100-meter runner **Kaaron Conwright** (ENGL '05) and pole vaulter **Jonathan Takahashi** (ENGR '04), won the event, defeating Germany, Spain, France, the Ukraine, Russia and Poland.

It was the second postgraduate international meet for Takahashi, a former All-American who now works for Science Applications International Corp. in San Diego.

Conwright, an All-American in the 100 meters in 1999 and 2000, currently runs professionally with the HSI Club, and has competed as part of five U.S. teams at international track meets.

An Olympic contender, Conwright went on to run for the American men's team at the international World Cup track championships, held Sept. 16 in Athens. He was part of the men's 400-meter relay squad, which won its event with the fifth-fastest time in team history, according to Simmons.

Simmons, currently the vice president of Accusplit Sports Timing in Pleasanton was the Mustang men's track coach from 1971-75. He went on to serve as team leader of the 1992 U.S. Olympic track and field team, and was assistant manager on the 1980 and 1984 Olympic teams. He still serves as a consulting coach to U.S. track teams and has coached 13 U.S. national track teams. Simmons is a member of the Cal Poly Athletics Hall of Fame. □

NEW CHAPTER FOR KENNEDY LIBRARY

MICHAEL D. MILLER will likely change your image of the stereotypical librarian. Ask Cal Poly's new dean of library services who his favorite author is, and he may just name a movie director.

Although Miller admits he reads every day, the veteran librarian is a man of many mediums. He's got big plans for Kennedy Library – changes principally motivated by the head-spinning evolution of learning technology.

The dawn of the digital age is greatly altering the role of the library and challenging librarians with a whole new class of student.

MILLER'S GOAL FOR KENNEDY LIBRARY IS FAIRLY SIMPLE: PROVIDE EXCELLENT SERVICE BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE BUILDING.

"Digital immigrants" are serving the needs of "digital natives," says Miller, citing author Marc Prensky's terms for older people who have had to adjust to rapid technological advances and students who have literally come of age in a digital world.

"The concept that most information isn't on a shelf anymore is a given to many university students and a relatively novel concept for many administrators," Miller explains.

Despite the complexity and high cost of digital library tools, Miller's goal for Kennedy Library is fairly simple: Provide excellent service beyond the walls of the building.

Since Miller's arrival at Cal Poly in August from the University of Michigan, he and his team have polished and expanded the digital services available to students and faculty, including a new user-friendly Web site offering round-the-clock chats with librarians.

Students may not have to leave their dorm rooms to do research anymore, but that hasn't changed Miller's other goals for Kennedy Library. How does Kennedy Koffee Shop sound?

Kennedy Library's new Web site is at www.lib.calpoly.edu. □

BATAILLE NAMED UNT PRESIDENT

GRETCHEN M. BATAILLE (ENGL '66, EDU '67) has been named president of the University of North Texas. Since 2000, she has served as the chief academic officer of the 16-campus



University of North Carolina system. In 2005-06 she served as interim chancellor of UNC's North Carolina School of the Arts.

Bataille is a tenured professor of English at UNC-Chapel Hill. Her leadership posts include provost and academic vice president

at Washington State University and provost of the College of Letters and Science at the University of California at Santa Barbara. She chaired the Iowa Civil Rights Commission and helped create the American Indian Institute at ASU, where she also chaired the President's Committee for Assessment for Quality and Diversity. Bataille currently serves as the vice chair and a trustee of the College Board. □

CAL POLY PROFESSOR PENS SEVENTH BOOK IN SERIES

CAL POLY MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES Professor Gloria Velasquez has published "Tyrone's Betrayal," her seventh novel. The new book is part of the Roosevelt High School series, which focuses on a group of multiracial teenagers confronted with a variety of social and cultural issues.

Velasquez is an award-winning poet, fiction writer and singer-songwriter. She came to Cal Poly in 1985, after earning a Ph.D. from Stanford University in Latin American and Chicano literatures.

She has received numerous awards and honors. A song she wrote, "Son in Vietnam," appeared in the PBS documentary "Soldados: Chicanos in Vietnam." Velasquez appeared in the PBS documentary "La Raza de Colorado" in May 2005. □



CAL POLY PLAYS MATCHMAKER

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A BARGAIN? If so, think about joining the hundreds of Cal Poly parents and alumni who make their personal contribution to the program of their choice, and then have that gift augmented through their employer's matching-gift program.

Companies such as Lockheed Martin, Ernst & Young, and Wells Fargo contribute thousands of dollars in matching funds every year. Many smaller companies also match employee gifts to the university.

"The matching-gift program is a no-brainer. It takes a few minutes of my time, and the school and company do the rest," said Mark Crowley, a regular program participant whose son, Thomas, is a biochemistry major.

For more information, go to www.giving.calpoly.edu/matching. If you need help or have any questions, contact Linda Stark at (805) 756-2713. □

CAL POLY SWE TOPS AGAIN

FOR THE FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR, Cal Poly's chapter of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) is tops in the nation. The group was named Best Student Chapter for "large" universities at the SWE National Convention in Kansas City on October 14.

"This is a remarkable achievement for our students and a great recognition for Cal Poly," says College of Engineering Dean Mohammad Noori. "We are proud of them."

Cal Poly, which finished ahead of second-place Colorado School of Mines and third-place Cornell University in the Best Student Chapter competition, received other awards at the convention, including:

- Membership Program Award for Large Collegiate Section
- Best Collegiate Membership Recruitment Campaign
- Collegiate Upgrade Award
- Best Collegiate Section Web site
- Boeing Multicultural Program Award
- Best Region Collegiate Newsletter Award (Region B)

In addition, Cal Poly's SWE Team Tech, which worked with Northrop Grumman on the design for a jet engine inspection system, finished second to Emory Riddle University.

"Our SWE members continue to do amazing things," says Helene Finger, who directs Cal Poly's Women's Engineering Program. "The amount of work our students put into the club is phenomenal, and it's wonderful to receive national recognition." □



HOURS OF ADRENALIN

CAL POLY'S ANDREW KEAN is rapidly making a name for himself as a mountain biker.

The assistant professor of mechanical engineering won the beginner class/age 30-35 event to earn national champion honors at the Infineon Cougar Mountain Classic, held in Sonoma last July. Kean completed the 16-mile race in one hour, 24 minutes.

Two months earlier, he and four other mechanical engineering professors competed as a team in the 24 Hours of Adrenalin, which takes place each May at Laguna Seca Raceway outside Monterey. The group finished sixth in its category (five-person, co-ed).

"It was basically a relay, so one of us was riding at all times for 24 hours straight. At night we used lights to see the trails," said Kean, adding that the team collectively climbed some 50,000 feet over the course of the race. "We hope to spur a little competition among faculty on campus, or even between universities." □

IN MEMORIAM

R.L. GRAVES JR., a founding instructor of the School of Architecture at Cal Poly who inspired many over the course of almost 40 years at the university, passed away July 11 at age 83.

Born May 12, 1923, in Baltimore, Md., Graves enlisted in the Navy at age 17 and served with the Seabees during World War II in the South Pacific.

Graves then attended the University of Kansas in Lawrence, where he met and married his wife, Dorothy, and earned a bachelor's degree in architecture. He continued his education, earning a master's degree in architecture and urban design from Cranbrook Academy in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, where he studied under Eliel Saarinen. He went on to teach in the architecture departments at Washington State University in Pullman; Auburn University in Auburn, Ala.; and the University of Florida in Gainesville. He was also in private practice in Kansas City, Mo.

In 1951, Graves and his wife moved to San Luis Obispo,

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where he became one of the original instructors at the Cal Poly School of Architecture. For a time, he served as the national president and historian of Scarab, an architecture honor society. He taught at Cal Poly until 1990.

In 1961, Graves was elected to the San Luis Obispo City Council. During his four years on the council he was instrumental in initiating the Downtown Tree Program, which provided the city with the trees that currently exist throughout the downtown core. He also garnered early planning and community support for the closure of Monterey Street in front of the Mission, leading to the creation of Mission Plaza.

In lieu of flowers, the family has established an endowment in Graves' honor. Those wishing to join the family in contributing to this fund may do so by sending donations to the "R.L. Graves Jr. Architecture Endowment," c/o College of Architecture and Environmental Design, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407-0280. □