

## YOUNG AT HEART

THE CHARACTERISTICS that keep humans young – curiosity, wonder, play, acting silly – get subverted as we age, writes Ronda Beaman, Cal Poly speech communication adjunct professor and author of “You’re Only Young Twice: 10 Do-Overs to Reawaken

BEAMAN AND HER WORK WERE  
RECENTLY PROFILED  
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

Your Spirit.” Inspiration for the 53-year-old author and mother of two came from anthropologist Ashley Montagu’s 1988 book, “Growing Young.” Montagu introduced Beaman to neoteny, the idea that human beings are built to grow and develop their childhood traits rather than minimize them. Beaman and her work were recently profiled in numerous papers throughout the country. □

## PREPARING FOR THE WORST

NO COMMUNITY IS IMMUNE to natural disaster, but things can be done to make them safer.

That fact drove the creation of California’s Hazard Mitigation Plan, currently being revised by a team in Cal Poly’s City and Regional Planning Department.

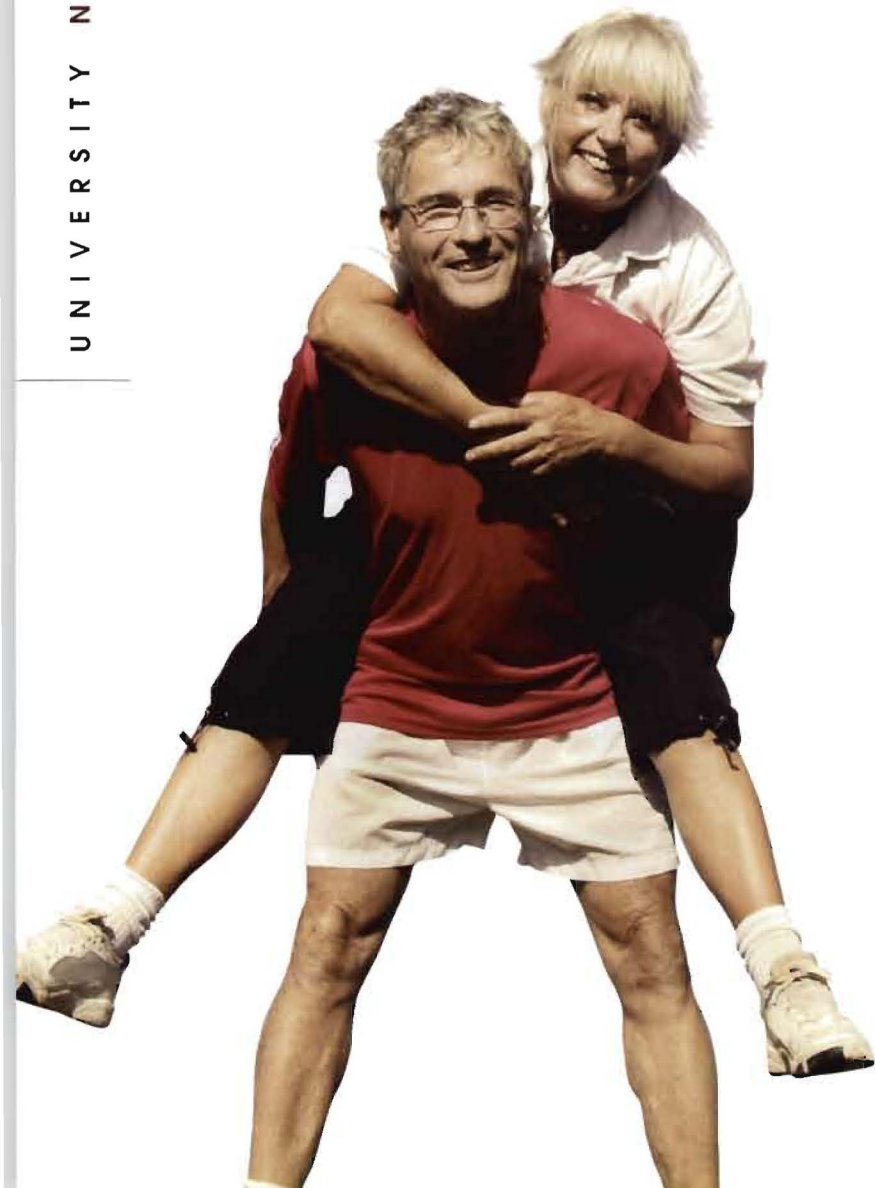
The Hazard Mitigation Plan is crucial to how the state deals with disasters such as quakes, floods, fires, landslides and levee failure.

“The challenge is to reduce losses with better planning. We must address safety issues before, not after, a catastrophic event,” explains Ken Topping, team leader and lecturer in the City and Regional Planning Department. The department was awarded a state grant of more than \$750,000 specifically to update the plan.

California is required to adopt a Hazard Mitigation Plan to qualify for federal funds before and after a disaster. Money for mitigation projects such as earthquake retrofitting of old buildings and reinforcement of aging levees is only available to states with a federally-approved plan.

Topping and his co-directors, City and Regional Planning Department Head Bill Siembieda and Professor Michael Boswell, are midway through the yearlong process of updating the plan. In addition, they’ll elevate the state to an “enhanced” status, which potentially means millions more in federal funding.

The City and Regional Planning Department’s role of think tank for the California Office of Emergency Services will likely continue past the October 2007 deadline for the mitigation plan. According to Siembieda, the depth of faculty expertise and clear willingness to be involved in real world projects will hopefully propel the department into another future contract with the state. □



## CAL POLY PRESIDENT WARREN J. BAKER RECEIVES UNM RODEY AWARD

CAL POLY PRESIDENT WARREN J. BAKER recently received the University of New Mexico's Bernard S. Rodey Award for his lifelong contributions in the field of higher education.

Baker, who earned his Ph.D. in geotechnical engineering from UNM in 1966, received the award during a dinner and awards ceremony at the Hotel Albuquerque. He was honored for his efforts to further science and mathematics education in the United States and for his achievements as president of Cal Poly over the past 28 years.

In presenting the award, UNM Alumni Association President Roberto Ortega referred to Baker as "a man whose knowledge, experience, and style command attention and respect."

He also praised Baker's efforts "to restore our country's leadership position in science, technology, and innovation."

"The UNM Alumni Association is pleased to recognize Warren Baker for his leadership in the progress that Cal Poly has made through the years and for his involvement in the critical area of national science-education policy," said Karen Abraham, executive director of the UNM Alumni Association.

The Rodey Award is one of four annual awards given to outstanding alumni and faculty by the UNM Alumni Association. The award is given to an individual in recognition of significant leadership and contributions in the field of education. □

## KUDOS FOR CANO

CAL POLY MICROBIOLOGY PROFESSOR Raul Cano appears in the 2007 edition of "Hispanic Legends." The glossy photo calendar is published by State Farm Insurance and includes photos and biographies of prominent Hispanic Americans. In 1995, Cano and colleagues stunned the world with the news that they had revived 30-million-year-old bacteria from spores taken from the belly of an ancient bee entombed in amber. Cano has received several awards for his outstanding teaching skills and is recognized for his laboratory training of undergraduate students. □



## ALUMNI ONLINE ON THE WAY

IT'S COMING: The Cal Poly Alumni Online Community is almost here. GOLD alumni – Graduates Of the Last Decade – are already asking when they can sign in. Other alumni are asking what it is. No matter which group you're in, read on.

The Cal Poly Alumni Online Community is a secure, private, protected university Web site open only to alumni – and free.

Cal Poly alumni of all decades will be able to sign in, look up fellow alums, send private e-mails to catch up with old friends, view friends' online photo galleries, and network online with other Mustangs.

Alumni will also be able to post their own class notes, photos and professional updates on the Web – with full control over how much (or how little) information is displayed. The community will allow users to receive Cal Poly-specific news and information as well as provide a location to easily register for events.

The secure and private university Web site will also allow alumni to sign up to mentor current Cal Poly students. And alumni will also be able to post information about job openings at their companies and businesses – giving current students and fellow alums an inside line on career prospects.

The Cal Poly Alumni Online Community will be free and open to all Mustang alumni – regardless of whether they are members of the Cal Poly Alumni Association. Plans also call for special guest memberships for faculty, retired faculty and staff members – so alumni can stay in touch with favorite professors and Cal Poly mentors.

Watch the Alumni Web site at [www.alumni.calpoly.edu](http://www.alumni.calpoly.edu) for more details on the Alumni Online Community and its launch in late spring.

Can't wait? Want a sneak preview? If you'd like to be one of the first to try out the Cal Poly Alumni Online Community, to help test it and give us feedback, sign up to be in the "preview" group. Watch the Alumni Web site for details and sign-ups at [www.alumni.calpoly.edu](http://www.alumni.calpoly.edu). □



## FACULTY MEMBERS AWARDED FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR GRANTS

TWO CAL POLY FACULTY MEMBERS are currently studying abroad as part of the Fulbright Scholars Program.

Mei-Ling Liu, a computer science professor, and Robert P. Rice Jr., a professor of integrated pest management in the Horticulture and Crop Science Department, are among more than 800 individuals who will travel to some 150 countries to lecture or conduct research as part of the 2006-2007 Fulbright Scholar Program.

Liu has departed for a five-month stint in the Republic of Macedonia, where she is teaching a graduate seminar in distributed computing, as well as conducting research at the South East European University.

Rice is teaching for a year at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon, both on the main campus and at the university farm in the Bekaa Valley. He also is working with a plant pathologist to learn lab techniques that can be shared with students in his integrated pest management class at Cal Poly.

The Fulbright Program is an international educational exchange activity established in 1946 to build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries. The program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Fulbright Scholars are selected for their academic or professional achievements and for demonstrating extraordinary leadership potential in their fields. □

## PROFESSOR'S RESEARCH ON CHILDREN PUBLISHED IN LANCET

THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL *The Lancet* has published a three-part Child Development Series that documents the reasons more than 200 million children in emerging countries are underdeveloped and how intervention programs and strategies can help them reach their full potential. A lead researcher in the groundbreaking study was Patrice Engle, Cal Poly professor of psychology and child development. Engle, who earned a Ph.D. in child development from Stanford University, has been teaching at Cal Poly since 1980. She spent the past seven years at UNICEF as senior advisor for early childhood development, living both in India and New York. She returned to the Central Coast and her teaching post at Cal Poly in September. □

## CAL POLY STUDENTS PLAY KEY ROLE IN FIRST U.S. LAUNCH OF CUBESATS

WHEN A U.S. AIR FORCE Minotaur rocket blasted off from the Wallops Mid-Atlantic Flight Facility in Virginia on Dec. 17, it launched an exciting new relationship between Cal Poly and NASA.

The rocket carried Cal Poly's P-Pod CubeSat orbital delivery system, designed and built by a team of aerospace engineering students.

Cal Poly aero students Roland Coelho, Lori Brooks, Jonathan Brown and Wenshel Lan worked with NASA Ames Research Center, the Center for Robotic Exploration and Space Technologies, and engineering students from Santa Clara University on GeneSat-1, a 10-pound satellite carrying bacteria that researchers will analyze to determine the effects of space flight on microscopic life. Cal Poly's P-Pod deployed the 10 x 10 x 30-centimeter GeneSat-1.

The NASA Ames-designed GeneSat-1 is a fully automated, miniaturized spaceflight system that contains a micro-laboratory, including sensors and optical systems to detect protein development and specific genetic growth in bacteria. It's the first CubeSat to carry a biological payload into space. □

## DEAN TO HEAD NATIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION ORGANIZATION

DENNIS "SKIP" PARKS, dean of Cal Poly Continuing Education and University Outreach, has been elected president of the Association for Continuing Higher Education. ACHE is one of the country's oldest and largest organizations dedicated to promoting lifelong learning and continuing education.

Parks was named president at ACHE's 68th Annual Meeting and Conference in Los Angeles. Previously, he had served as the organization's regional chair, director at large and vice president. Parks has been dean of Continuing Education and University Outreach at Cal Poly since 2000. □

## PASSINGS: CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR BILL RIFE

WILLIAM C. RIFE, Cal Poly professor emeritus since 1998, passed away Jan. 3, 2007. He came to Cal Poly in 1977 as head of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department and served in that capacity for over a decade. During his tenure, he also led curriculum development for the university as interim associate vice president for academic programs, before returning full time to the classroom.

He is remembered and respected for his "Renaissance man" persona. A colleague remarked: "I was always very impressed with his intelligence, clarity of thought and incredibly dry sense of humor and irony."

Generations of students were impressed with his exceedingly well-organized courses and phenomenal ability to present chemistry in an intriguing and understandable manner, no matter the major or interests of the students, according to his colleagues in the department.

In 1992 and 1993, Saunders College Publishing released "Essentials of Chemistry," a textbook authored by Rice. He wrote in his preface: "The motto of my university is 'learn by doing,' and this book uses that method. A student who sees chemistry as isolated scraps of information to be memorized will be defeated by it; to be learned effectively, chemistry must make sense."

After spending a year in the Faculty Early Retirement Program, Rife and his wife, Anne D'Arcy, retired to Santa Rosa in 1999. □

## DOCTORAL GRADUATES MAKE HISTORY

FIVE CAL POLY ALUMS who made history last year as the university's first doctoral graduates are making history again – as contributors to the inaugural issue of the Central California

THE FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND JOURNAL IS A PERIODIC COMPILATION OF THE LATEST RESEARCH SPECIFICALLY RELEVANT TO LEADERS IN THE REGION.

Instructional Leadership Forum. The first-of-its-kind journal is a periodic compilation of the latest research specifically relevant to education leaders in the region. In the first issue, doctoral grads Patty Grady, Kevin Bontenbal, James Brescia, Holly Edds and Janice Wellman explore issues ranging from intervention programs for high-risk junior high students to accreditation standards in community colleges. Elizabeth Truesdell of Cal Poly's College of Education is the editor. □

(L-R) Holly Edds, Jim Brescia, Patty Grady and Janice Wellman (Kevin Bontenbal not pictured)

