

MUSIC PROFESSOR CRAIG RUSSELL NAMED CSU WANG AWARD WINNER



CRAIG RUSSELL, a composer, music historian, and master of guitar and lute, has been named as one of the five recipients of the prestigious California State University Wang Family Excellence Award.

Russell has long been recognized at Cal Poly and throughout the CSU system as an outstanding teacher. Almost legendary, his teaching spans the musical field from introductory survey classes, to Mozart and 60s pop, creating new appreciation and inspiring students to take music seriously.

Trained in classical guitar at the University of New Mexico, Russell earned his doctorate in musicology from the University of North Carolina before his groundbreaking work highlighting the forgotten musical heritage of 17th and 18th century Mexican and Californian culture. His original compositions have been recorded and performed nationally as well as at international festivals.

The Wang award, which includes \$20,000 for each annual winner, was established in fall 1998, when former CSU Trustee Stanley T. Wang provided \$1 million to reward outstanding faculty and administrators. □

STUDENTS REAP NATIONAL RECOGNITION

CAL POLY JOURNALISM STUDENTS are garnering national and statewide awards for exceptional work.

The *Mustang Daily* was recognized by the California Collegiate Media Association, winning two first-place awards for advertising and third place for its online addition in the Best Use of Multimedia category.

Mustang Daily reporter Ryan Chartrand won second place for the Best Arts and Entertainment Story. Frank Stranzl took second for Best Sports Column. James Glenn placed second for Best Cartoon, while Caitlin Donnell placed third for Best News Page Design.

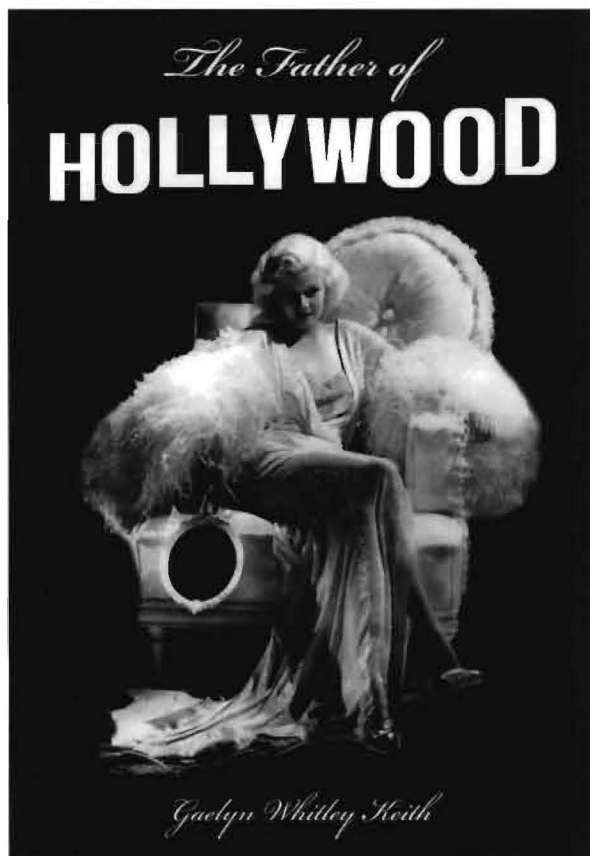
In addition, the *Mustang Daily* won several awards at the recent College Newspaper Business and Advertising Managers national convention in Portland, Ore.

Cal Poly business senior Elizabeth Carmo was named Advertising Sales Representative of the Year for newspapers with a combined weekly circulation of less than 40,000. Shay Swetech, an art and design major, was named Designer of the Year for the same circulation category.

The paper also won first place for Best Sales Incentive Plan and third place awards for Best Training Program and Best Special Section.

Cal Poly journalism students are not the only ones getting attention. The following students have brought honor to their colleges and departments.

- College of Education graduate student Heather Iwata has received the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the American College Personnel Association's Commission for Student Involvement.
- Cal Poly's American Society of Mechanical Engineers continued their winning streak as the nation's leading student chapter at the recent American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Ingersoll-Rand Regional Conference in Reno, Nev. The group was named top chapter for the 10th straight year and placed second in the Student Design Competition.
- A team of Cal Poly construction management students earned first place in the Mechanical Contractors Association of America's annual competition held in Orlando, Florida. Team members include Derrick Fellows, Randy Ayures, Frank Ormonde, Ross Fenton and team captain Mya Krikorian. □



FATHER OF HOLLYWOOD

TRAVEL THE WORLD, and it's unlikely you will escape its influence. It's been loved, hated and everything in between. Hollywood is more of an idea for most people, but the physical place had a colorful beginning. You can read about it in a new book, "The Father of Hollywood," by **Gaelyn Whitley Keith (OCB '74)**. The author is the great-granddaughter of HJ Whitley, a developer and businessman credited as the main driving force behind the creation of one of the world's most famous communities. □

NEW ALUMNI ONLINE COMMUNITY TO ROLL OUT THIS FALL

THE CAL POLY ALUMNI ONLINE COMMUNITY is almost a virtual reality, heading for a fall roll out!

Then you will be only a click away from looking up that WOW team leader who introduced you to the SLO Farmers Market, viewing photos of your old roommate's kids, or networking with your former lab partner to find a new job.

Want to reconnect with the buddies who worked on the Rose Parade float with you? Or how about checking out how the rugby team is doing this year?

Sign up for an alumni event in your area?

Know about job openings at your company or business and want to give fellow alums an inside line on career prospects?

Finally take that trip to Italy, as part of a group tour with your fellow Mustangs?

The community will also allow you to receive customized updates about your old department, club, or activity. That news will be waiting for you every time you log on.

THE COMMUNITY WILL BE FREE AND OPEN TO ALL MUSTANG ALUMNI

Members can also create their own interest group pages and bulletin boards – all within the protected security of the community.

And, of course, you will be able to do all this and more with full control over how much – or how little – of your personal information is displayed.

The community will be free and open to all Mustang alumni.

Future plans also call for special guest memberships for faculty, staff and retirees – so alumni can stay in touch with favorite professors and former Cal Poly mentors.

Watch the Alumni Web site at www.alumni.calpoly.edu for more details on the alumni online community and its coming launch.

The University will be sending user IDs and one-time passwords to alumni via e-mail later this year. To be among the first to get your User ID and password, make sure we have your current contact information. Update your information on the Alumni Web site at http://www.alumni.calpoly.edu/network/update_address.html. □

ENGINEERING PROFESSORS AWARDED NSF GRANTS

CAL POLY ENGINEERING PROFESSORS working on two separate projects have received grants from the prestigious National Science Foundation.

Materials engineering Associate Professor Trevor Harding and his colleagues from the University of Michigan and Lawrence Technological University received an \$850,000 grant for their project entitled "A Holistic Assessment of the Ethical Development of Engineering Undergraduates."

Harding and his partners will survey more than 4,000 engineering students from 20 universities over the next four years to gauge what curricular and extra-curricular activities have the greatest influence on ethical development.

Jianbiao Pan, an assistant professor in industrial engineering, and electrical engineering professors Albert Liddicoat and James Harris were awarded \$199,030 for their proposal entitled "Enhancing Student Learning Through State-of-the-Art Systems Level Design and Implementation."

The award is designated an NSF course, curriculum, and laboratory improvement grant. They will build a "pipeline" in the computer engineering curriculum at Cal Poly to engage students in project-based learning. □

GEORGE SOARES NAMED ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR



CAL POLY has named alumnus **George Soares (AGB '66)**, a well-known attorney and agriculturalist, as its 2007 Advocate of the Year. Soares was honored at a California State University ceremony in Sacramento March 19.

A former Cal Poly student body president, he earned his law degree at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law. A Sacramento resident, he

owns and operates a dairy and farming business in Hanford and is the founder and managing partner in the law firm of Kahn, Soares & Conway.

Before entering private practice, Soares served as principal consultant to the California State Assembly from 1972 to 1978.

"George has been a longtime friend of Cal Poly and the CSU and has been a strong advocate of many issues related to support of the university, the system, higher education and his true passion – agriculture," said Sandra Gardebring Ogren, Cal Poly's vice president for University Advancement.

Born in the tiny San Luis Obispo County town of Harmony, Soares was raised in the California Central Valley. He has successfully built his legal and lobbying practice into the dominant force in the realm of agriculture. He has engineered the creation of 20 state commissions to govern commodities from avocados to walnuts – groups which help determine the shape, size and quantity of fruits and vegetables sold throughout the state.

Currently, Soares serves on the Cal Poly Foundation Board of Directors and is the chair of the CSU Commission on Agriculture. He is the recipient of numerous honors. In 1986 he was named an honorary lifetime member of the California Agricultural Aircraft Association. In 1987, he was named the Honored Alumnus from the Cal Poly's College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.

He served on the Board of Directors of the Agricultural Education Foundation from 1990 through 1999 and has served on the San Joaquin College of Law Agricultural Advisory Board since 1996. He is an honorary lifetime member of the Western Crop Protection Association and received the Outstanding Service Award from the American Crop Protection Association in 2000. □



CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE NEEDS DISCUSSED

A HIGHLY SKILLED science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce is critical to California's continued economic vitality.

In many quarters there is concern that California will not be able to meet its future STEM workforce needs if the state continues to enroll and graduate college and university students at present rates.

For that reason, Cal Poly and the California State University System have made it a priority to support efforts to expand participation by K-University students in STEM disciplines.

President Warren Baker shared an update on the CSU's efforts to help address this challenge at a May 19, 2007, California Space Authority forum in Los Angeles, convened to further the development of a regional STEM Collaborative Action Plan (STEMCAP).

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell and Boeing Company Senior Vice President for Internal Services Rick Stephens were other featured speakers at the CSA forum.

In his remarks Baker reviewed two major CSU STEM education initiatives: the CSU Math and Science Teacher Initiative, which has a goal of doubling the number of teachers prepared annually by the CSU in math and science fields, and the CSU Professional Science Master's Initiative, which prepares students to assume leadership roles in California high tech industries.

Baker emphasized that the CSU's STEM initiatives are a major priority of the system. They seek to identify best practices that are "scalable, forge collaborative initiatives with the K-12, community college and private sectors, and prepare more graduates for work as educators, practitioners and managers in STEM fields."

The STEMCAP initiative is supported by a WIRED (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. □

PLAN YOUR GIVING ONLINE

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS have a new place to learn the many ways to support Cal Poly through thoughtful estate planning.

The Planned Giving and Endowments office has created a new web site, www.plannedgiving.calpoly.edu, which contains examples and descriptions of how making a gift to Cal Poly can be easier than imagined.

From naming Cal Poly in your will to designating the University as a retirement plan beneficiary, making a future gift can be a simple way of supporting your department, creating a scholarship or honoring a mentor.

Other planned gifts can actually provide income. The easy-to-use online calculator can show how to turn an underperforming asset into a reliable income stream, also allowing you to also make a gift to Cal Poly.

The Planned Giving Web site can help you consider your charitable priorities. For more information, call the Planned Giving and Endowments office at 1-800-549-2666. □

RECORD AMOUNT RAISED FOR WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION

THE CAL POLY WHEELCHAIR FOUNDATION recently raised \$48,000 at its Sixth Annual Gift of Mobility Benefit. Proceeds from the event brought the team's annual fundraising total to more than \$80,000, exceeding their original goal of \$66,000.

The group will deliver more than 1,000 wheelchairs to Argentina in early September.

They chose Argentina because according to estimates, only 45 percent of the population has adequate healthcare. This

THE GROUP WILL DELIVER MORE THAN 1,000 WHEELCHAIRS TO ARGENTINA IN EARLY SEPTEMBER

year's distribution will include a large delivery in Buenos Aires and personal distributions to homes in rural areas. The team also plans to deliver personal items such as toothbrushes, shoes, socks and blankets to area orphanages.

The Cal Poly Chapter of the Wheelchair Foundation was founded in April 2001 to provide students with an opportunity to apply their education to a beneficial cause. The first student chapter of the Wheelchair Foundation in the nation, it has received four President's Community-Based Learning and Service Awards. □