



## MUSTANGS TO JOIN BIG SKY FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

CAL POLY WILL JOIN the Big Sky Conference for football beginning with the 2012 season, officials for the university and conference announced in September. UC Davis will also join the expanded Big Sky Conference, which is a member of the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) for football.

The Mustangs will maintain membership in the Big West Conference for the majority of their other intercollegiate sports.

“The geography of the Big Sky Conference makes perfect sense for Cal Poly. It gives us a consistently competitive schedule and a great opportunity to grow long-term, stable rivalries with well-respected teams,” Cal Poly Interim President Robert Glidden said. □

## CAL POLY APPOINTS ARCHITECT AS DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

ARCHITECT TRACEE DE HAHN is Cal Poly’s new director of Alumni Relations. She joined the alumni office Oct. 1, after serving as the assistant director of advancement for Cal Poly’s College of Architecture and Environmental Design. In her new job, de Hahn will lead and direct the work of the Alumni Relations Office and university events planning staff. She will also serve as executive director of the Cal Poly Alumni Association.

“Tracee’s blend of talents should prove invaluable in our efforts to expand engagement of our alumni and to bring a more integrated, university-wide approach to all alumni relations and fundraising efforts,” said Chip Visci, associate vice president for University Advancement.

She takes the reins from outgoing director Kim Gannon, who was appointed as the Alumni Relations director of Texas State University, San Marcos, in September. □

## TOP GUNS AGAIN: AEROSPACE STUDENTS WIN AIAA DESIGN COMPETITION

FOR THE EIGHTH TIME in the past nine years, Cal Poly aerospace seniors soared above the competitors at the national Undergraduate Team Aircraft Design competition, taking both first and second places at the contest sponsored by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Foundation (AIAA).

Designing “Alternate Fuels and Environmentally Friendly Aircraft Systems,” 34 teams from 12 universities competed in the 2010 contest. Cal Poly’s “Much Better Planes Introduces the Bearodactyl” won the \$2,500 first place award, while Cal Poly’s “GFX-50” won the \$1,500 award for second place. USC’s “Egret” team earned \$1,000 for third place.

Led by faculty adviser Bruce R. Wright, Cal Poly’s first-place team Bearodactyl included Dominic Surano, Jake Armstrong, Chris Choi, Jake Gaunt, David Guerrero, Ben Naravage, Dan Shehan, and Kyle Thoma. Cal Poly’s GFX-50 team, also led by Wright, included Kasey Johnsen, Simo Alberti, Brian Borra, Erin Hambrick, Kevin Hougen, Peter Huang and Casey Regan. □

## BUSINESS, ENGINEERING GRADS ARE BEST HIRES IN THE NATION, WALL ST. JOURNAL REPORTS

CAL POLY IS AMONG THE TOP UNIVERSITIES in the nation at producing the best graduates to hire in business and engineering, according to recruiters polled by the Wall Street Journal as part of a special report.

Cal Poly business grads are on par with Stanford, Harvard, Penn State and UC Berkeley, while engineering grads top those of UCLA, Rensselaer, Carnegie Mellon and more.

The rankings are part of a Wall Street Journal report on ‘Paths to Professions’ released earlier this fall.

In the WSJ report’s ‘Rankings by Major’ breakout, Cal Poly was named No. 22 of the ‘Top 25’ private and public universities for producing business/economics grads in the nation. Cal Poly was named No. 18 of the ‘Top 25’ best private and public engineering grad producers in the nation. □







## NASA SIGNS ON WITH CAL POLY'S PICOSATELLITE DEPLOYER

IN LATE SEPTEMBER, NASA announced a five-year contract award to Cal Poly to provide a broad range of Poly Picosatellite Orbital Deployer (P-POD) services for NASA's CubeSat program. The contract's maximum cumulative potential value is \$5 million.

THE CONTRACT ENSURES OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD, HANDS-ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAL POLY STUDENTS, WHO WILL BE INVOLVED IN ACTUAL LAUNCH CAMPAIGNS

The contract ensures out-of-this-world, hands-on opportunities for Cal Poly students, who will be involved in actual launch campaigns working with launch providers, the NASA launch team and all universities developing CubeSats.

Cal Poly and Stanford University created the CubeSat Standard to provide developers with guidelines to interface with the P-POD, which is a tubular, spring loaded mechanism easily integrated into any launch vehicle. CubeSats are research spacecrafts measuring 10 cm square with a mass of up to 1 kg. □

## FRED SWEENEY TO LEAD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

FRED SWEENEY, A CAL POLY ARCHITECTURE graduate and principal with PMSM Architects in Santa Barbara, is the new president of the 14,000-member Cal Poly Alumni Association, the voice of more than 144,000 living university alumni.

Sweeney received his bachelor's degree in architecture from Cal Poly in 1974. He is currently a member of the Dean's Leadership Council for the College of Architecture and Environmental Design. He led the \$1.5 million fundraising campaign for the George Hasslein Endowed Chair in the college.

Sweeney has more than 20 years experience designing higher education projects and is a member of the Santa Barbara Hispanic Achievement Council and the Santa Barbara Art Museum's Collectors Council. He is the founding president of the Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara and has served as past president of the Santa Barbara Chapter AIA and past director of the California Council AIA.

He will serve as the CPAA president until June 2012. □

## ATHLETIC DIRECTOR ALISON CONE TO RETIRE

ALISON CONE, CAL POLY'S DIRECTOR of athletics since 2004, announced that she will retire in December after 16 years at Cal Poly.

"This is the right time in our execution of our strategic plan for me to move on," Cone said. "We have reached a stable position within the NCAA at the Division I level; we have great coaches in place, and they have the right focus on developing our student-athletes for success on the field, in the classroom and in their professional lives.

"And with football's coming entrance into the Big Sky Conference, we will have all of our teams competing in appropriate conferences in order to give our student-athletes the best possible competitive opportunities," said Cone, 57, who came to Cal Poly in 1994 as senior associate director of athletics.

Interim President Robert Glidden said a national search will be conducted over the next few months and timed so the next Cal Poly president, expected to be named by year's end, can select Cone's successor. □



## CAL POLY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ESTABLISHES AWARD IN HONOR OF SANDRA GARDEBRING OGREN

THE CAL POLY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Leadership Award is being established in memory of its inaugural recipient Sandra (Sande) Gardebring Ogren, who memorably served the university as Vice President, Advancement.

Ogren came to Cal Poly from Minnesota, where she had worked as vice president for institutional relations for the University of Minnesota. Before her career in higher education, Ogren served on the Minnesota Supreme Court from 1991 to 1998 and on a state appeals court from 1989 to 1991. Her public service in the state also included service as a commissioner with the Minnesota Department of Human Services, director of the EPA's enforcement division, and commissioner with the state's Pollution Control Agency. Ogren personified the values and accomplishments the Alumni Association seeks to honor and celebrate.

Throughout her life as an accomplished jurist, dedicated public servant and leader of philanthropic endeavors, Ogren blended high ideals with a pragmatic focus on achieving results. □



## ENGINEERING DONOR ENDOWS PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

PAUL R. BONDERSON, JR. is such a staunch supporter of Cal Poly's learn-by-doing educational focus that he donated the money for the \$8 million Bonderson Projects Center dedicated solely to student projects. Now, the 1975 electrical engineering grad has given Cal Poly an additional \$550,000 to generate ongoing funds for those projects.

The gift establishes an endowment that will provide salary support for technicians who staff the Bonderson Projects Center, as well as grants for equipment and materials, faculty expenses and team travel to conferences and competitions such as the National Concrete Canoe Competition, the Shell Eco-Marathon, the Formula Hybrid Competition and the Solar Decathlon. Cal Poly teams consistently perform well in these contests. The Cal Poly Concrete Canoe team, for example, won a national championship in June.

"I believe students get so much out of these national contests," Bonderson said. "I love coming back to campus and seeing all the great student projects, especially the cutting-edge vehicles," Bonderson said. "And I'm especially interested in supporting club projects." □

## FIND ALUMNI IN POLYLINK, AND MAKE SURE THEY CAN FIND YOU

THERE ARE MORE THAN 66,000 ALUMNI in PolyLink ([www.calpolylink.com](http://www.calpolylink.com)), Cal Poly's free, private, online alumni directory. If you're a Cal Poly alumnus, current senior or faculty or staff member, you can find and e-mail all 66,000 alums there. You can also find additional career, contact, and personal information – including photos – from nearly 17,000 alumni who have expanded their directory profile.

Help them find you by expanding your profile in the PolyLink alumni directory. Once you've set up your profile, you can use the "Locate a Classmate" database in the directory to find one alum or a whole major or class year. You can also browse the directory's interactive Google map ([www.calpolylink.com/alumnimap](http://www.calpolylink.com/alumnimap)) to find alumni worldwide.

If you have never logged in to the PolyLink alumni directory, you can find your personalized first login code next to your name on this Cal Poly Magazine label. Take it to [www.calpolylink.com](http://www.calpolylink.com), follow the prompts and log in today.

For illustrated directions on the three-step, secure first login process, visit: [www.calpolylink.com/1stlogin](http://www.calpolylink.com/1stlogin).

For additional University News items, photos and links, check out the online edition of Cal Poly Magazine at [www.magazine.calpoly.edu](http://www.magazine.calpoly.edu). □