

 

May 24, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Amy Hewes  
College of Engineering  
805-756-6402  
[ahewes@calpoly.edu](mailto:ahewes@calpoly.edu)

## College of Engineering Announces Outstanding Graduating Seniors

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- College of Engineering Dean Mohammad Noori announced the recipients of the 2006 Outstanding Graduating Seniors and Outstanding M.S. and B.S./M.S. Awards at the College of Engineering Annual Awards Banquet held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Luis Obispo on May 19. The event featured keynote speaker Stephen M. Ward, Jr., former CEO for Lenovo.

Departments name honorees for academic excellence, contributions to the College of Engineering, contributions to Cal Poly State University, and service to the community. College-wide winners from each category receive special recognition, including \$200 bonds from Lockheed Martin.

Outstanding Graduating Seniors for Academic Excellence include the following:

Catherine Stevens, aerospace engineering, Redondo Beach

Jack Brewer, c ivil engineering, Reedley

Christopher Pontiga, computer engineering, Daly City

Michael Cole, computer science, Rancho Palos Verdes

Michael Klein , e lectrical engineering, Laguna Beach

Megan Snyder, environmental engineering, Spring Valley

Cassidy Levy, general engineering, Santa Cruz

Aaron Keep, industrial engineering, Poway

Matthew Kight, m anufacturing engineering, Lakeland

Abram Farris , m aterials engineering, Leona Valley

Daniel Kawano , m echanical engineering, Paso Robles

Lianne Williams, mechanical engineering, Koloa , Hawaii

Matthew Cechini, software engineering, Carmichael

Daniel Kawano and Lianne Williams were statistically tied as the topmost students for academic excellence. Both have near-perfect 4.0 GPAs and made the Dean's Honor List every quarter.

In recognition of participation in activities that further the objectives and public image of the college, departments have named the following students Outstanding Graduating Seniors for Contributions to the College of Engineering :

Erin Shaw , aerospace engineering , Merced

Betsy Sale, civil engineering, Pleasant Hill

Christopher Pontiga, computer engineering, Daly City

Rachelle Hom, computer science, Cupertino

Michael Klein, electrical engineering, Laguna Beach

Andrea Ramirez, environmental engineering, Tucson, Ariz.

Elizabeth Moore, general engineering/biomed, San Diego

James Webster, industrial engineering, Porterville

John Benzinger, manufacturing engineering, Kneeland

The college-wide Outstanding Graduating Senior for Contributions to the College of Engineering is Betsy Sale from Civil Engineering. Sale is active with the Society of Women Engineers, serving as last year's Evening with Industry director, and president this year. She is responsible for coordinating all meetings, guiding 50 officers and 400-plus members, and overseeing all events. She participated extensively in Open House, taking part in "Shadow an Engineering Student" and the Women's Engineering Panel, and providing tours of the Hydraulics Lab.

Departments have named the following Outstanding Graduating Seniors in the category of Contributions to the University:

Michael House, aerospace engineering, Cypress

Kira Bulger, civil engineering, Napa

Jonathan Joson, computer engineering, Marina

James Skorupski, computer science, Westminster

Robert Johnson, electrical engineering, San Luis Obispo

Joe Vaccaro, electrical engineering, Chico

Stephen Huang, environmental engineering, San Gabriel

Chris Gocong, general engineering/biomed, Santa Barbara

Jenny Gaunt, industrial engineering, San Luis Obispo

Max Foorman, manufacturing engineering, Piedmont

Austin Quig-Hartman, mechanical engineering, Vallejo

The college-wide Outstanding Graduating Senior for Contributions to the University is Joe Vaccaro. He serves as chair of the ASI Board of Directors and has a long list of involvement with student government, including chair of the Student Campus Computing Committee and primary sponsor of an ASI Board of Directors resolution that addressed the high cost of textbooks. Vaccaro also served on the ASI Lobby Corps charged with representing Cal Poly students to the state legislature; he worked with Student Life and Leadership on the issue of club service to the community; and he volunteered as the student representative to the Alcohol Task Force.

Students recognized for service to the community include:

Andrea Shern, civil engineering, Santa Rosa

Jennifer Overgaag, computer engineering, San Luis Obispo

Jimmy Hua, computer science, Arcadia

Alexis Hultine, industrial engineering, Tualatin , Ore.

Matthew Kight, manufacturing engineering, Lakeland

Sarah Brum, materials engineering, Irvine

Jennifer Overgaag is this year's college-wide Outstanding Senior for Community Service. Her activities include Team Tech Co-Director for the Society of Women Engineers, SWE Vice President and Academic Director, Vice President of IEEE Computer Society, a member of the Japanese Cultural Exchange, and volunteer coach for Laguna Middle School 's track team. She also participated in many of SWE's outreach activities, such as "Building an Engineer" and "High School Shadow."

he College of Engineering also presented awards to outstanding graduate students for academic excellence and service from among the 300 master's degree and 4 + 1 B.S./M.S. degree students enrolled.

Outstanding M.S. Graduates:

Agapito Diaz, civil/environmental engineering, San Luis Obispo

Deepashree Krishnamurthy, computer science, Bangalore , India

John Becker, engineering, Vail, Ariz.

Weiming Li, electrical engineering, Simi Valley

Sean Spivey, mechanical engineering, Lafayette

Outstanding B.S./M.S. Graduates:

Donald Bowles, aerospace engineering, Orangevale

Sean Kirby, civil/environmental engineering, San Luis Obispo

Roger Tiu, computer engineering/electrical engineering, Petaluma

Mark Gable, computer science, Richmond

Keith Victorine, general engineering/engineering, San Jose

Brandon Wong, industrial engineering, San Ramon

Patrick Chow, mechanical engineering, Carmel

The topmost master's and B.S./M.S. graduates are Deepashree Krishnamurthy from Bangalore, India, John Becker from Vail , Az., and Roger Tiu from Petaluma .

Outstanding B.S./M.S. and M.S. Graduates for Service:

Eileen Mick , environmental engineering, San Luis Obispo

Danielle Norris, engineering/biomedical, San Diego

David Getchel, materials engineering, Burlingame

The topmost student in the category of Service to the Community is Eileen Mick. A leader for the campus sustainability awareness movement, Mick is a co-founder and past president of Cal Poly's Engineers Without Borders and one of the pioneers of a project to improve the quality of drinking water in the village of Mae Nam Khun , Thailand .

###

---

[CP Home](#) • [CP Find It](#) [Get Adobe Reader](#) • [Microsoft Viewers](#)

**Events • Recent Releases • Cal Poly Magazine**

•

**Cal Poly Update E-newsletter • Contact Public Affairs • Alumni • Giving • Athletics**

**Cal Poly Public Affairs**

California Polytechnic State University  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407  
805.756.7266  
[polynews@calpoly.edu](mailto:polynews@calpoly.edu)