

A CURRICULUM OF CONVERGENCE



THIS EDITION'S COVER, handsomely rendered by Cal Poly Alumni Association President Fred Sweeney, illustrates one of the core ideas animating our recently updated Strategic Plan: Success in the 21st century will

require our graduates to be exceptionally capable of working across the boundaries of individual disciplines.

With a curriculum that weds technology and the arts and encourages students and faculty to bring their disciplinary expertise together to solve real-world problems, Cal Poly is ideally positioned to develop and inspire whole-system thinkers. (For more on the Strategic Plan, please see www.academicaffairs.calpoly.edu/StrategicPlan/)

In our feature story for this edition, we look at a variety of projects and programs that exemplify this curriculum of convergence. They include: 1. the annual PolyHouse project, in which students from across campus plan and execute a home renovation for a local resident or family in need; 2. the Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies program, which lets students explore their talent for technology and passion for the humanities in equal measure; and 3. ongoing surveys through Cal Poly's STRIDE Center, in which students from several programs are working to gauge the depth and breadth of San Luis Obispo County's hunger problem.

Elsewhere, we introduce you to Quincy Freeman, who demonstrates the cross-disciplinary approach all on her own. Though still a student, Freeman has already launched her own business venture uniting her flair for fashion and love of rodeo competition.

We also tell you about alums Rebecca Mieliwocki, a nominee for national teacher of the year, and Thomas Kelsey, an award-winning photojournalist who studied with Ansel Adams and recently published a book of his scenic photography.

Finally, we introduce a new standing feature – Looking Ahead, a column by President Jeffrey D. Armstrong, who in this issue reaffirms Cal Poly's commitment to Learn by Doing.

As always, I welcome your comments. Feel free to contact me at mlazier@calpoly.edu. And for additional content and multimedia features, please visit Cal Poly Magazine online at www.magazine.calpoly.edu. □

— Matt Lazier, *Editor, B.S., Journalism, 1997*