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Cal Poly's Accreditation Extended  
10 Years - the Maximum Allowed

Citing Cal Poly’s improved graduation rates and praising the faculty and staff’s focus on students despite major reductions in state funding, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) has reaffirmed Cal Poly’s accreditation for the next 10 years, the maximum allowed. In notifying the university of the 10-year extension, the accrediting association commended Cal Poly “for making significant progress in numerous areas” even as the university experienced “major turnover in the top leadership positions.” “WASC’s reaccreditation decision reaffirms Cal Poly’s reputation for excellence and acknowledges the extraordinary value of our Learn by Doing approach,” said Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong. “This decision recognizes the commitment and excellence of our students, faculty and staff, and reassures our alumni that the value of their Cal Poly degree will continue to appreciate over time.”

[More on Cal Poly's Accreditation Extension](#)



University of Oregon Administrator  
Named New Cal Poly Architecture Dean

Christine Theodoropoulos, head of the Architecture Department at the University of Oregon in Eugene, is the new dean of Cal Poly’s College of Architecture and Environmental Design. Theodoropoulos – who is also a licensed architect and registered professional civil engineer in California – assumed her new post Sept. 1. “Christine’s blend of academic and professional experience as a teacher, university administrator, architect and civil engineer make her an excellent choice to lead our College of Architecture and Environmental Design,” said Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong. “Her career has embraced the kind of multidisciplinary approaches that will enrich our Learn by Doing programs.”



Theodoropoulos has served as head of the Architecture Department in the University of Oregon’s School of Architecture and Allied Arts since 2003. This includes management and development of curriculum and research initiatives for more than 650 undergraduate and grad students enrolled in seven degree programs in Eugene and Portland, oversight of a \$6.2 million annual budget, and work on fundraising for the department’s programs. She has been a faculty member in the department since 1997.

[More on Theodoropoulos](#)

Washington State University Administrator  
Named New Cal Poly Liberal Arts Dean

Douglas Epperson, a veteran of liberal arts higher education and current dean at Washington State University, is the new dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Cal Poly. He assumed his new post Aug. 15. “Doug understands and appreciates the special niche that Cal Poly has in higher education as one of the nation’s few comprehensive polytechnic universities,” said Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong. “Doug brings to Cal Poly outstanding experience as both an administrator and a faculty member who also has created an impressive body of scholarship.”



Epperson has served as dean of Washington State’s College of Liberal Arts since 2009. Before Washington State, Epperson spent his career at Iowa State University – beginning as an assistant professor of psychology in 1979 and ending with a five-year stint as associate dean of the university’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

[More on Epperson](#)

Cal Poly Claims National Concrete Canoe  
Championship for Third Year in a Row

For the third consecutive year, Cal Poly won gold at the National Concrete Canoe Competition, considered the America’s Cup of Civil Engineering. The team’s three-peat came in a canoe named Prospector in honor of the California Gold Rush. The American Society of Civil Engineers’ (ASCE) 25th annual National Concrete Canoe Competition was held June 14-16 at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Cal Poly was among 22 top engineering schools at the prestigious event that challenges students’ knowledge, creativity and stamina while showcasing the versatility and durability of concrete as a building material.

The competition was broken into four equally weighted categories: final product, design paper, technical presentation and races. Cal Poly placed first in three categories and third in technical presentation.

“We put in 5,250 hours on the development of Prospector,” said Project Manager Erik Bjornstrom. “We applied innovative and sustainable practices to every aspect of its construction. That included testing 160 different concrete mixes, eliminating a layer of reinforcement and incorporating more sustainable materials.”

[More on the Concrete Canoe Victory](#)

Cal Poly Appoints New Police Chief

Cal Poly has named George Hughes, current leader of the Colorado School of Mines police department, as its new chief of University Police. Hughes will assume his new role Aug. 31. He brings more than 20 years of law enforcement experience to Cal Poly. In his most recent post, he has been responsible for planning, supervising, directing and leading all administrative and operational functions of the full-time police department at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colo. At Cal Poly, Hughes will succeed Chief Bill Watton, who is retiring Aug. 24 after 10 years leading University Police. Hughes will oversee the police and parking departments with 45 staff members, including 18 sworn officers, and an annual budget of approximately \$8 million.



[More on Hughes' Appointment](#)

Cal Poly Grad Student Takes First  
with Dairy Products Research

Cal Poly Dairy Products Technology Center Master of Science candidate Lauren Collinsworth took first place in the Sensory Evaluation Division of the Rose Marie Pangborn Memorial Graduate Paper Competition. The competition was held June 25-28 at the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) annual meeting in Las Vegas. The presentation was titled “Evaluating the Change in Emotions During the Consumption Experience of Carbonated Orange Soda, Dairy Beverages, and Convenience Cheese.” Collinsworth was one of six finalists selected to present their graduate research.

The award is presented annually by IFT’s Sensory Evaluation Division executive committee to a graduate student for exemplary research and oral presentation of research and is judged on technical merit, writing and organization. “All the presentations were phenomenal, making the competition very difficult,” said Amy Lammert, assistant professor in the Cal Poly Dairy Science Department and chair of Collinsworth’s master’s degree committee.

[More on Collinsworth’s Research](#)



**Class Notes Added to Cal Poly Magazine**

Want to share your stories with classmates? Want to know what others are up to? Cal Poly Magazine will be adding a "class notes" section, beginning with our upcoming Winter 2012 edition, where you can submit your stories. We may feature you in the winter magazine! [Go here to submit](#) your class notes items online now.

**Cal Poly Mustang Daily General Manager Wins Distinguished Adviser Award**

Paul Bittick, general manager of Cal Poly’s Mustang Daily, has been named a 2012 College Media Association Distinguished Adviser Award winner.

The award is given to CMA members who have provided exemplary service to their institutions and the students. Bittick will receive his award at the CMA’s convention in Chicago in the fall.

Bittick has been advising the Mustang Daily student staff for nearly 10 years. He came to Cal Poly after more than 25 years in the newspaper industry. He has worked for daily newspapers in Los Angeles and the San Joaquin Valley in a variety of roles, including sports writer, sports editor, managing editor and publisher.

[More on Bittick’s Recognition](#)

**Cal Poly Architecture Student Takes First in International Steel Design Competition**

A Cal Poly student pursuing a Bachelor of Architecture degree won first place in an international steel competition. David Heck of Bellingham, Wash., was selected from a field of 303 entries to win one of two first-place awards in the 12th annual Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture/American Institute of Steel Construction Steel Design Student Competition. Heck’s project, “The Paris Market Lab,” won in the Culinary Arts College category.

Jurors called Heck’s submission “a wonderful architectural expression of steel, where steel is both clearly used in the background and also as infill in the foreground.”

[More on Heck’s First-Place Showing](#)



**Grinds**

Buisness grads Matt Canepa and Pat Pezet have a new kind of chew for Major League Baseball players.

[Read More](#)



**WOW slideshow**

See images from this year's Week of Welcome, as new students got to know their university and their community.

[Read More](#)



**Alumni in the News**

A pair of Cal Poly Engineering grads helped build separate components of the Curiosity rover that landed on Mars in August and is currently exploring the red planet. Read about these and other accomplishments by our alumni.

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**Looking ahead**

President Jeffrey D. Armstrong talks about the indomitable spirit of the Cal Poly family and the positive momentum that has the university starting the new academic year strong.

[Read More](#)

