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University News

History Professor Awarded American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship

Kathleen S. Murphy, assistant professor of history at Cal Poly, has received a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) for the 2013-14 academic year. The award supports research in the humanities and humanistic social sciences that the council considers to be particularly promising. Murphy received the fellowship to support her research into the history of science of the slave trade. "Kate Murphy is an outstanding faculty member who excels in teaching and research" said Doug Epperson, dean of Cal Poly College of Liberal Arts. "This award confirms what we have always believed: Professor Murphy is one of the top young scholars in the country within this area. In addition to advancing her research, this award will inform her teaching, benefitting countless future Cal Poly students." Cal Poly has awarded Murphy a sabbatical that, with the ACLS fellowship, will allow her to be relieved of teaching duties for next year and focus on researching and writing her book manuscript, “Slaving Science: Natural Knowledge and the British Slave Trade, 1660-1807.” It will be the first book-length study to examine the intersection of the history of science and the history of the British slave trade. Murphy argues that the particularities of the British slave trade shaped the knowledge produced through its networks and that scientific knowledge, in turn, influenced the development of the slave trade. “We have a tendency to think of the development of early modern science and the transatlantic slave trade as wholly unconnected,” Murphy said. “My research shows that, in fact, they were deeply intertwined.” Murphy joined the faculty at Cal Poly in 2007. She teaches courses in early American history and the history of science and co-directs the History Department’s internship program. The ACLS is a private, nonprofit federation of 71 national scholarly organizations that seeks to advance studies in all fields of learning in the humanities and related social sciences. The council offers fellowships and grants in more than a dozen programs. In the international competition for ACLS fellowships this year, 65 of 1,121 projects were funded (25 at the assistant professor level).

http://www.calpolynews.calpoly.edu/news_releases/2013/April/ACLS.html

Kennedy Library Wins \$10K John Cotton Dana Award

Cal Poly’s Kennedy Library has been awarded a John Cotton Dana Award and a grant, an honor given annually to recognize “outstanding achievement in the promotion of library services.” The Kennedy Library was one of eight winners. This internationally recognized competition is jointly sponsored by EBSCO Publishing, the H. W. Wilson Foundation, and the Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). Karen Lauritsen of the Kennedy Library submitted the winning application on behalf of a team of staff and students who designed the library's [2012 Banned Books Week campaign](#). The campaign included an interactive website, print design system, infographic exhibit, podcast series, student video, and a live interview with author and director Stephen Chbosky. The interactive webpage has attracted more than 6,000 visitors from around the world. Dozens of libraries across the nation linked to the site, where visitors can still find out how many banned books they’ve read. The award will be given at a June 30 reception during the ALA annual conference in Chicago.

http://www.calpolynews.calpoly.edu/news_releases/2013/April/Library.html

Business Dean Named Provost at Baruch College in New York

Dave Christy, dean of Cal Poly’s Orfalea College of Business, will leave the university in midsummer to become provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Baruch College in New York City. Christy has helmed the Orfalea College of Business since 2004. In that time, he has led efforts to recruit dozens of faculty members, refresh key programs such as economics and industrial technology, and expand outward-reaching programs such as the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program and Low Income Taxpayer Clinic. Cal Poly also initiated master's degree programs in taxation and financial accounting. During his tenure, the college has consistently been ranked in the annual Bloomberg Businessweek list of the nation’s best undergraduate business schools. “Dave Christy has made enormous contributions to the success of Cal Poly and the Orfalea College of Business,” said Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong. “His hard work over the last nine years has enhanced the academic quality of our business degree offerings, expanded research opportunities for our faculty, and strengthened our undergraduate programs and student-advising services. “We are sad to see him leave our university but proud that he is moving on to such an outstanding opportunity at Baruch College.” Doug Cerf, area chair for Accounting and Business Law in the Orfalea College since 2007, has been named interim dean. Cal Poly will conduct a national search for the next permanent dean of the college.

http://www.calpolynews.calpoly.edu/news_releases/2013/April/Dean.html

Cal Poly and California Strawberry Commission Announce Multidisciplinary Partnership

Cal Poly and the California Strawberry Commission have united to establish a first-of-its-kind Strawberry Sustainability Research and Education Center at Cal Poly. The center will engage students of various disciplines in developing creative solutions to improve all areas of production on a major state crop. "This partnership will enrich our Learn by Doing approach by providing students, faculty and staff the opportunity to work alongside experts in the industry on real-world challenges," said Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong said. Academic departments including Crop Science, Business and Mechanical Engineering are working with the California Strawberry Commission to evaluate industry needs and determine where students can get involved. Key issues facing the industry include water and labor shortages and crop diseases, and the solutions may not necessarily be agricultural in nature. This partnership will be just the first of many similar programs as the university seeks to more closely connect students with hands-on industry experience in a variety of fields, said Dave Wehner, dean the College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Science. "There will be an emphasis on these types of public-private partnerships that will allow us to deepen what we can offer students in terms of applied research," he said. "These students will be even better prepared to step into leadership roles in some of the state's largest industries."

http://calpolynews.calpoly.edu/news_releases/2013/February/strawberry.html



History Professor Kathleen S. Murphy (Photo by Brittany App)



Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong (second from left) joins California Strawberry Commission representatives, state legislators and other leaders for a signing ceremony in February celebrating the commission's \$1 million partnership with the university.

New Roles Announced for Two Administrators

Dave Wehner, dean of Cal Poly's College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences (CAFES) since 2002, will become the university's interim vice president for strategic initiatives. Andrew Thulin, currently head of Cal Poly's Animal Sciences Department, will serve as interim CAFES dean. A national search for a permanent successor as dean will be held near the end of these interim appointments, which are expected to last for about 12 to 18 months. The appointments are effective July 1. "Thanks to Cal Poly's past success, we have significant new opportunities to partner with donors and others in the private sector on some potentially key initiatives," President Jeffrey D. Armstrong said. "We need to make good decisions about what fits within our mission, what is fundable, and what we can successfully implement. Right now we have several opportunities before us that require immediate focus. Dave's experience in successfully forging relationships with the private sector that have strengthened our Learn by Doing programs makes him the right person to explore these opportunities," Armstrong said. "Also, at a time when we are conducting a number of searches for key positions, we simply need additional senior leadership during this period. Dave and Andy both bring considerable experience and skill that will help us through this transitional period."

Orfalea College of Business Moves Up in Bloomberg Businessweek Ranking

Cal Poly's Orfalea College of Business has again been named to Bloomberg Businessweek magazine's list of the nation's top undergraduate business colleges, moving up five spots this year to be ranked No. 64. This marks the fifth consecutive year the Orfalea College of Business has been ranked in the list of 124 colleges and universities. Cal Poly was one of only three public universities in California to make the list. UC Berkeley came in at 11, and UC Riverside was ranked No. 124. "Recognition by Bloomberg Businessweek again this year is an affirmation that Learn by Doing at Cal Poly is an enduring strategy for excellence in business education," said Dave Christy, dean of the Orfalea College of Business. Bloomberg Businessweek bases its rankings on student survey scores; recruiter survey scores; median starting salaries for graduates; the number of grads admitted to the 35 highest-ranked MBA programs; and an academic quality measure that consists of SAT/ACT test scores, faculty-student ratios, average size of core classes, percentage of students with internships, and the number of hours students spend preparing for class each week. Cal Poly received "A" grades in teaching quality and job placement categories and a "B" in facilities and services.



http://www.calpolynews.calpoly.edu/news_releases/2013/March/Bloomberg.html

Keith Humphrey is Cal Poly's New Vice President for Student Affairs

Former University of Arizona administrator Keith Humphrey came to Cal Poly in February as the university's new vice president for student affairs. Humphrey now leads a division that affects the lives of Cal Poly students both inside and outside the classroom. Among the varied programs within Student Affairs are Associated Students, Inc., Career Services, the Disability Resource Center, University Housing, Health and Counseling Services, the Parent Program, and Student Life and Leadership. "Keith brings a strong background in student-related services and higher education expertise that will make Cal Poly even stronger," President Jeffrey D. Armstrong said. "He shares our value that student success is the top priority, and he knows the critical role that Student Affairs programming plays in students' academic success. Keith is quickly getting involved in the San Luis Obispo community, and I am counting on him to bring sharper focus to our efforts to show students how they can benefit from excellent relationships with their neighbors in the city." Prior to Cal Poly, Humphrey served as the University of Arizona's assistant vice president for student affairs and dean of students and was an assistant professor of practice in higher education.

http://calpolynews.calpoly.edu/news_releases/2012/November/student-affairs.html

Administration and Finance Senior VP to Retire in June

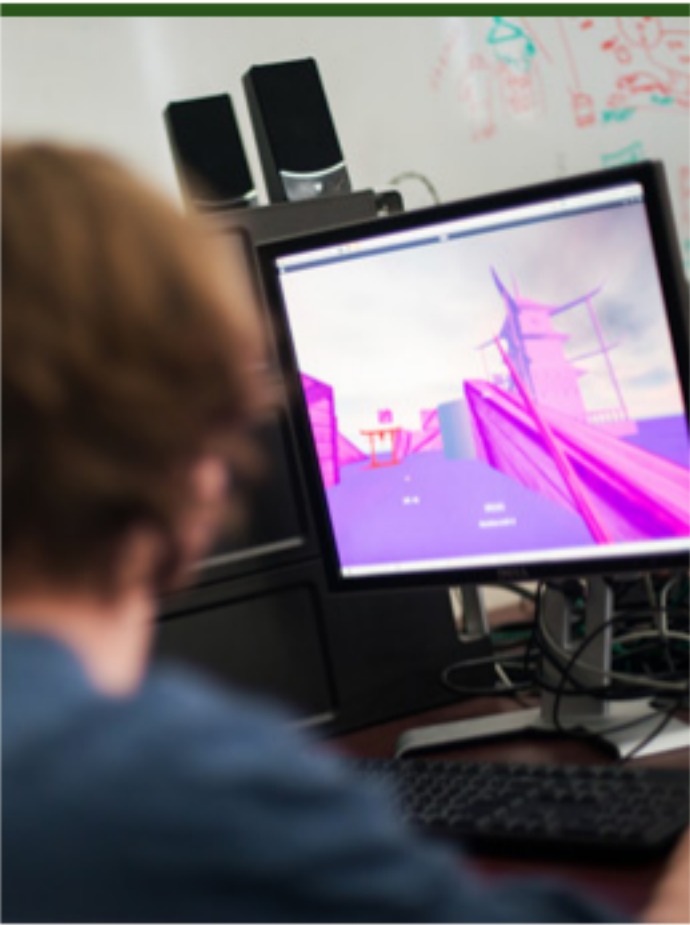
Larry Kelley, Cal Poly's chief financial officer and senior vice president of administration and finance, will retire at the end of the current academic year in June. Kelley has been with Cal Poly since 2002 overseeing the university's Administration and Finance division. He has served as chief executive officer and chairman of the board for the Cal Poly Corporation since 2007 and treasurer for the Cal Poly Foundation since 2011. "Larry has been an indispensable ingredient in Cal Poly's continued success over the last decade," President Jeffrey D. Armstrong said. "I am particularly thankful for Larry's astute financial management through the state's economic downturn of the last few years." Kelley and his wife, Diane, will return to Ohio to be near their children and grandchildren. "It has been a privilege for more than 11 years to play my part in supporting Learn by Doing, helping to grow Cal Poly's respected reputation, and providing a support system for the university to keep producing the next generation of industry and community leaders," Kelley said. Stan Nosek, who served UC Davis as vice chancellor for administration from 2003-10, will serve as Cal Poly's chief financial officer until Kelley's permanent successor is identified sometime later this year.



The Apprentices Become the Masters

Cal Poly Students are Among the Few Experts on a New Scientific Technique

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Alums Make Movie Magic Thanks to Close Ties Between Cal Poly and DreamWorks Animation

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An Evening of Green and Gold

Images from the Inaugural Event Thanking Donors and Volunteers

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