

Submit your class notes items online at [www.calpolynews.calpoly.edu/class\\_notes\\_form.html](http://www.calpolynews.calpoly.edu/class_notes_form.html) and read the latest submissions in each new edition of *Cal Poly Magazine*.

## College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences

**60s James (Jim) Claude Hart** (B.S., Poultry Husbandry, 1960; M.A., Education and Agriculture, 1965) began 22 years of teaching high school vocational agriculture in 1961, becoming state president of the California Agricultural Teachers Association in 1979-80. He was active for 20 years in production agriculture. In the winter of 1983, at age 45 and without any formal education or experience in the field, he began a 30-year career as a weekly and daily newspaper journalist. He recently retired at age 75 and is now devoting time to travel, physical activity, genealogy research and photography.

**Michael C. Nicholls** (B.S., Food Science, 1963) was appointed a member of the Sonoma County Economic Development board in January 2013. He also co-founded Access Sonoma Broadband, a group dedicated to improving broadband infrastructure and adoption rates in Sonoma County. He collaborates across county lines with associates in Mendocino County planning and developing a robust, affordable middle- and last-mile fiber project for rural residents in both counties.

**Mike Sommers** (B.S., Animal Science, 1967), a retired Texas agriculture science teacher, and **Jack Hamm Jr.** (B.S., Dairy Science, 1977) and **Patricia (Lima) Hamm** (B.S., Dairy Science, 1978), who

operate a dairy in Lodi, Calif., completed a 10-day farm tour of the Southern Brazilian state of Paraná. They visited dairies, livestock and crop farmers, agricultural research institutes, and the Iguazu-Itaipu Dam, which generates 17 percent of Brazil's electrical energy. They also received an extensive briefing from Paraná's State Federation of Agriculture.

**80s Jeff Sean Gater** (B.S., Natural Resources Management-Forestry, 1986) was recently promoted to the position of deputy fire chief of the San Luis Obispo City Fire Department, managing operations and training. He has been with the department since 1987 and has served as firefighter/paramedic, fire engineer, fire captain and battalion chief. Gater also served on the SLO County Urban Search & Rescue team. He lives in San Luis Obispo with his wife, Cindy, and two sons, Taylor and Andrew.

## College of Architecture & Environmental Design

**80s Charles J. McClain, AIA,** (B.ARCH., 1985) has a newly released book, "Property Condition Assessment Handbook," intended to help real estate investors, property owners and building professionals establish engineering assessment programs so they can make informed investment decisions and determine the financial and operational viability of properties. McClain, a pioneer of the building evaluation field, runs McClain Consulting Services Inc. with his wife and son, Matthew. They reside in Altadena, Calif.

**00s Thomas D. Will** (B.S., Construction Management, 2009) married **Jennifer L. Hudson** (B.S., Biological Sciences, 2010), in March 2014. They met at Cal Poly in

2005. Will was active in the Associated Students of Construction Management Club and was vice president of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Hudson was a member of the Cal Poly Cheer Team and coached gymnastics at Performance Athletics in San Luis Obispo. They moved to San Francisco, where Will is working for Rosendin Electric, currently building two new high-rises. Hudson is getting her master's in gerontology while working as an emergency medical technician on a 911 ambulance and volunteering as a fitness instructor for a senior citizen center.

## College of Engineering

**70s David Caneer** (B.S., Transportation Engineering, 1977), a senior supervising civil engineer with Parsons Brinckerhoff in San Francisco, was recognized as an American Society of Civil Engineers Fellow (F.ASCE). His election to F.ASCE is based on more than 36 years of service to the public and the civil engineering profession on more than 200 site development, transportation, and public works projects in California, Idaho, Washington, Utah, Oregon, Hawaii and Delaware.

**Lori A. Blanc** (B.S., Computer Science, 1993; M.S., Computer Science, 1995), a research scientist in the Department of Biological Sciences in the College of Science at Virginia Tech, received the university's 2014 Diggs Teaching Scholars Award, presented annually to up to three faculty members in recognition of exceptional contributions to the teaching program and learning environment.

## College of Liberal Arts

**70s Annette Lutnesky Perry** (B.S., History, 1977) owns Le Librarian College Scholarship Resources & Coaching Services, which prepares high school

and college students to compete for scholarships. Students receive personalized reference services that find opportunities based on a variety of factors. She then coaches them through mock interviews, drills, practices and appearance. Her students have received as much as \$81,000. A professional librarian, she earned her master's in library and information science from San Jose State University in 1991.

**90s Steffan Tubbs** (B.S., Journalism, 1992) produced and directed the film "Life, Liberty & Resilience," accepted at this year's San Luis Obispo International Film Festival. Based on Tubbs' book by the same name, the film has also screened at the Unspoken Human Rights Film Festival, the Boston Film Festival, and the St. Louis International Film Festival. View the trailer and information about the accompanying book at [www.steffantubbs.com](http://www.steffantubbs.com).

**Tim Williams** (B.A., Journalism, 1996) is founder and CEO of Digital West Networks Inc. in San Luis Obispo. Digital West ([www.digitalwest.net](http://www.digitalwest.net)) is a data services provider, offering connectivity, colocation and cloud services to about 1,000 clients with customized infrastructure needs. Recently the San Luis Obispo City Council approved a partnership with Digital West to give downtown businesses access to high-speed fiber optic Internet offerings and provide redundant services to five public safety facilities. The partnership will benefit the city, Digital West and local businesses which will get better access to fast, reliable broadband service.

**00s Karen Webb** (B.S., Psychology, 2004) was elected equity partner at Fenwick & West LLP, providers of compre-

hensive legal services to technology and life sciences companies. Webb specializes in helping companies create, select, protect, expand and enforce brands and trademarks worldwide. A recognized expert in the social media space, her clients include Twitter, Facebook, Google, NVIDIA and Pinterest. She is active in the International Trademark Association and is a member of the Young Practitioners Committee. Webb holds a J.D. from Santa Clara University and an MBA from Santa Clara University's Leavey School of Business.

**Ali Grant** (B.S., Journalism, 2009) launched Be Social Public Relations, a full-service San Diego-based public relations and blogger management agency. She has been featured in national publications for her agency's campaigns. She was nominated as San Diego's Woman of the Year. Be Social has taken traditional public relations approaches with a strong focus on blogger relations, online influencers and digital initiatives. The firm recently opened a second office in Chicago to serve a growing East Coast clientele.

## College of Science and Mathematics

**60s Margaret J. Hartman** (B.S., Biological Sciences, 1966), though retired, does part-time consulting. She is now living in Cambodia, serving as the first vice president for academic and student affairs at the American University of Phnom Penh on a one-year assignment.

**Steven Dennis** (B.S., Physics, 1968) worked for 44 years in the U.S. defense industry, including stints with the federal government, Hughes Aircraft Co. and Raytheon Co. His focus was in technical

interface with customers and business development, ending his career as vice president of business development for Thales-Raytheon Systems. Dennis is now retired with two grown kids and a beautiful wife of 33 years.

## Orfalea College of Business

**70s Frank DeJohn** (B.S., Business Administration, 1971) was a winner in the 2013 Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting competition, sponsored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. He co-wrote the screenplay "Legion." Winners of the Nicholl Fellowship receive a \$35,000 prize.

**80s Rick Sample** (B.S., Economics, 1981) and his wife of 30 years, **Julie (Archer) Sample** (B.S., Journalism, 1981), "returned to live the SLO life" when he accepted a position with Morgan Stanley as a financial advisor in San Luis Obispo. Rick is focusing on wealth management, wealth transfer and legacy planning. He is also mentoring young companies as a lead consultant at the SLO Hothouse and Cal Poly's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Julie is a professional artist "creating beautiful pieces with the picturesque Central Coast as a new palette in which to pursue."

**00s Chad Taylor Neuschafer** (B.S., Industrial Technology, 2009) competed on the Cal Poly Triathlon Team from 2006-09. He recently completed his first Ironman Triathlon in Cozumel, Mexico, with a finish time of 10:30. Neuschafer has been working at Rantec Power Systems Inc. since graduation.