

CAL POLY

REPORT

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo 93407

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Microbiologist Cano revives ancient bacteria

Microbiology professor Raul Cano has discovered that bacteria millions of years old can be brought back to life.

Cano, some of his students, and a private company, Ambergene Corp. of San Carlos, have revived more than 1,200 types of bacteria and other one-celled organisms as old as 135 million years.

Their work marks the first proof that any organism approaching such antiquity can be brought back to life. The achievement opens a new avenue of discovery in biology and a completely new area of potential applications.

"We have discovered a brand new source of organisms that could produce life-saving pharmaceuticals or be used in valuable industrial processes," Cano said.

The accomplishment is to be published today in *Science*, the weekly international research journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in a paper authored by Cano and former Cal Poly graduate student Monica Borucki.

There have been claims before of reviving ancient microorganisms, but none have been conclusively proved.

While not identical to modern organisms, the bacteria revived by Cano are similar to "good" bacteria that aid digestion and help fight disease in bees today. All of the ancient bacteria were revived from bacterial spores trapped in amber.

Cano and his students have meticulously followed biological safety procedures set by the National Institutes of Health. All work has been done painstakingly to ensure the validity of the science as well as to prevent the release of material.

Cano and several students are studying many of the microorganisms. Using DNA analysis, he hopes

to develop a "genetic tag" to help classify each one. He also hopes to get a better idea of what applications they might have.

Ambergene was founded solely for the purpose of pursuing commercial applications of Cano's discovery. It became a sponsor of the research, contributing money, materials and ideas to further develop and validate the basic discovery. At the moment, the company is sponsoring four research projects in the Biological Sciences Department.

Ambergene bought the 16 original bacteria cultures revived by Cano and his students and all rights to the discovery. A contract between Cal Poly and Ambergene provides for royalties to be paid to the university if any of the bacteria or other microorganisms discovered through Cano's method are found to have commercial uses.

Associate VP picked for Student Affairs

A UC San Diego director has been selected associate vice president for student development at Cal Poly.

Denise Campbell will begin her duties July 1. She will help Vice President for Student Affairs Juan Gonzalez lead and manage the division and will supervise the areas of Student Life and Activities, Health and Psychological Services, Campus Student Relations and Judicial Affairs, Housing and Residential Life, and Career Services.

Campbell was director of policy development and quality of work-life at the San Diego campus.

She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from UC Irvine and a master's degree in international communication and student development from the American University in Washington, D.C.

Open forums scheduled for director candidates

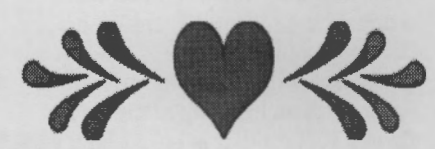
Five finalists for the position of director of health and psychological services will meet with interested faculty and staff members at open forums set for:

- ♦ Monday, May 22 - Kathryn Thomas, director of health and psychological services and adjunct professor at San Diego State University.
- ♦ Wednesday, May 24 - Barry Reister, director of the Student Counseling Center at Illinois State University.
- ♦ Friday, May 26 - Althea Smith, director of social services for Pierce County in Bremerton, Wash.
- ♦ Wednesday, May 31 - John Flora-Tostado, assistant administrative psychologist at Southern California

Permanent Medical Center in Los Angeles.

♦ Friday, June 2 - Martin Bragg, chief executive officer at Memorial Center Inc. (formerly Kern View Hospital) in Bakersfield.

All forums will be from 1:15 to 2:15 pm and are scheduled in UU 219. During the hour, candidates will speak on a topic of their choice and answer questions from the audience.



Springboard Job Fair set for May 23

Current students and alumni can learn about employment opportunities at this year's Springboard Job Fair, set for 9 am to 1 pm Tuesday, May 23, in Chumash Auditorium.

This year's theme is "Gear Up For the Future." The event is coordinated by Career Services and sponsored by the MBA Association.

Representatives from a wide range of public and private companies will be on hand to talk with majors from all six colleges. Companies attending will have one or more employment opportunities available.

Students are invited to bring resumes and meet with company representatives. Employers will either conduct on-the-spot interviews or schedule individual appointments for the afternoon.

A Job Fair Bulletin publicizing the list of employers and the job opportunities available for career, summer and co-op positions can be picked up in Career Services.

Two workshops, Making the Most of a Job Fair, will be held in Career Services on Tuesday and Thursday, May 16 and 18, from 11 am to noon. Students may attend either of these workshops.

Gender and science topic of May 24 talk at

Mathematical physicist Mary Beth Ruskai will speak on "Gender and Science: Myths, Facts and Paradoxes" at 7 pm Wednesday, May 24, in the Education Building, Room 213.

The talk, presented by the 1994-95 Women, Science and Technology Forum, will explore the topic of gender and science from a practicing scientist's perspective – a point of view that has been excluded from much of the recent discussion on gender and science.

Ruskai will talk about how this point of view has helped create a flawed picture that is based on a supposed dichotomy between a subjective, creative, intuitive, nurturing,

feminine perspective and an objective, scientific, abstract, analytical masculine one.

She will explain how this skewed image perpetuates problems – not only because it is inaccurate, but also because it doesn't allow for the kind of constructive criticism that could result in an improved scientific climate for women.

Ruskai will discuss myths about gender and science that tend to discourage women and many men from becoming scientists, and she will discuss some of the important contributions women are making in science.

Ruskai is a professor of mathematics at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. She has been actively involved in research on atoms, electrons and molecules.

For more information, call Deborah Brasket of the Women's Studies Program office at ext.1525.

Safety health fair scheduled in UU May 25

Faculty, staff and family members are invited to a Health and Wellness Fair designed to promote summer safety.

The event, sponsored by the Employee Assistance Program with help from other campus departments, is planned for noon Thursday, May 25, in UU 220.

The fair's format will be open and unstructured so that participants can browse and join in any activities they choose. A variety of materials related to safety issues will be available, such as information and handouts:

- From the American Cancer Society.
- On the prevention of head and spine injuries.
- On body fluid and electrolyte replacement.
- On water safety and safe summer traveling.

Participants can also get personalized computer printouts from Health Net on home safety and personalized skin screenings.

For more information, call the Employee Assistance Program at ext. 0327 (O-EAP).

Trombonist, pianist to team up in recital

A trombone and piano recital that combines music ranging from polkas to sonatas is planned as a benefit performance at 8 pm Wednesday, May 24, in Room 218 in the Davidson Music Building.

Music professors Andy Malloy on the trombone and Terry Spiller on piano will perform Sonatina for Trombone and Piano by Kazimierz Serocki, "Three Romances" by Robert Schumann, Sonate by Paul Hindemith, Sonatine for Trombone and Piano by Jacques Castere, "La Femme a Barbe" by Jose Berghmans, and "Fantastic Polka" by Arthur Pryor.

Malloy, who teaches part time, performs with the Santa Barbara and Pasadena symphonies, as well as the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Los Angeles Opera Company, Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, Pacific Symphony and the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival.

Spiller is an active soloist and chamber musician. He earned a doctorate in piano performance in 1991 from USC. A member of the Music Department faculty for four years, Spiller is head of the department's piano program.

Tickets for the recital are \$3 for students and senior citizens and \$5 for the public. They will be on sale at the door before the performance or can be reserved by calling the Music Department at ext. 2406. Seating is limited.

Proceeds from the concert will benefit the Music Department Scholarship Fund.

Velasquez to address alma mater's graduates

Gloria Velasquez, professor of foreign languages and literatures, has been invited to deliver the commencement address to the graduating class of Roosevelt High School in Johnstown, Colo., her alma mater.

She will be the first person of color since the founding of that institution to serve as a commencement speaker.

Ride the rails, tour the trails at Swanton Pacific Ranch June 3

Employees and their families are invited to the annual Swanton Pacific Ranch Railroad Day in Davenport, just north of Santa Cruz, on Saturday, June 3.

The event, sponsored by the College of Agriculture, will include "roundhouse railroading" at 10 am to fire up the steam locomotive, train rides at 11 am, a barbecue at 12:30 pm, and van tours of the ranch.

Ranch Supervisor Kevin Piper, on-site Instructional Coordinator Brenda Smith, and Associate Dean of Agriculture Walter Mark will give an update on activities at the ranch.

Visitors can ride the train and see its steam engines, diesel engine, crane

car, roundhouse, turntable, machine shop and the beautifully laid-out one-and-a-half miles of track.

Van tours will offer riders spectacular views of the ranch as well as the cattle in Cal Poly's beef program and forests and crop land used for instruction by different College of Agriculture departments.

Reservations must be made by Wednesday, May 25. Tickets cost \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. Checks should be made payable to Swanton Pacific Railroad.

For more information, call Ed Carnegie, head of the Agricultural Engineering Department, at ext. 2378.

Rockman appointed interim Library dean

Ilene Rockman, a 20-year veteran of the Kennedy Library, has been appointed interim dean of library services, effective July 1.

She will succeed David Walch, who is stepping down to teach full time.

Rockman will oversee a staff of 62 and a collection of approximately 700,000 volumes.

Associate dean of library services since 1991, Rockman has also served as department head for the circulation, reserve, and system units.

She led the library's automation efforts, including the upgrade to the online catalog, Polycat and the systems design of the electronic reserve room. She also manages the library's Gopher and Worldwide Web servers.

Rockman developed the library's collections in the social sciences, ethnic studies and women's studies areas.

She earned a bachelor's degree from UCLA, masters' degrees from USC and Cal Poly, and a doctorate from UC Santa Barbara.

Award-winning violinist to give recital May 25

A program of solo violin works from the 17th, 18th and 20th centuries will be performed by award-winning musician Michelle Makarski in a benefit recital at 8 pm Thursday, May 25, at Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church in San Luis Obispo.

Sponsored by the Music Department and College of Liberal Arts, the program will include "Passacaglia" by Heinrich von Biber, "Caprice Variations" (1970) by George Rochberg, "Chaconne," Op. 91, by Max Reger, "Caoine" by Stephen Hartke, and Partita No. 1 in B minor by Bach.

A concert soloist, recitalist and chamber musician, Makarski is a member of the Music Department faculty.

She won first prize in the 1989 Carnegie Hall International American Music Competition. She also won the 1981 Concorso Internazionale Alberto Curci in Naples and in 1982 became the first American prize-winner in the history of the Carl Flesch International Competition in London.

She has appeared at Carnegie Hall as a soloist with the American Symphony and the American Composers Orchestra. She has also performed

with the Atlanta Symphony, the Scarlatti Orchestra, and the Royal Philharmonic.

Tickets to the chamber recital are \$3 for students and senior citizens and \$5 for the public. Proceeds will benefit the the Music Department Scholarship Fund. Tickets will be on sale at the door before the performance or can be reserved by calling the Music Department at ext. 2406. Seating is limited.

Professor Hendricks honored by park rangers

Bill Hendricks, the newest recreation administration faculty member, has received the Honorary Lifetime Membership Award from the Park Rangers Association of California.

Hendricks was unanimously chosen by the group's board of directors for his distinguished service devoted to meeting the goals of the association.

Pam Helmke, president of the association, praised Hendricks' dedication, enthusiasm and leadership.

Montecalvo named to national board

Food science and nutrition professor Joe Montecalvo has been named Cal Poly's delegate to the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges' Board on Oceans and Atmosphere.

His nomination, by Dean of Research and Graduate Programs Susan Opava, was approved by President Baker.

The Board on Oceans and Atmosphere represents the interests and sets the direction of the marine, ocean and atmospheric science community among federal policymakers and helps develop the board's federal relations program.

Board delegates meet once a year, and Montecalvo is expected to attend the group's November meeting in Orlando, Fla.

New center created for assessment, testing

A new Assessment and Testing Center has been established, under the auspices of Student Academic Services, and includes the university's Test Office, formerly part of Health and Psychological Services.

The formation of the center was announced by Vice President for Student Affairs Juan Gonzalez.

The center has two distinct program areas: one service-oriented to meet the needs of Cal Poly and local communities and one that will concentrate on program effectiveness in terms of educational objectives and student outcomes.

The center will also be responsible for administering systemwide and universitywide assessments such as the CSU Student Needs and Priorities Survey and the Cal Poly Campus Climate Survey.

The center is located in the Student Services Building. The phone number is ext. 1551.

Dance the night away with Ballroom Dance Club

Employees and family members are invited to dance the night away at 8 pm Tuesdays, May 23 and 30, in Mott Gym.

The Ballroom Dance Club, the ASI's newest club, is holding weekly meetings and fox trot and waltz dance lessons for beginners.

More experienced dancers are also welcome and will have an opportunity to work on their technique.

Moon Ja Minn Suhr, a member of the theatre and dance faculty and director of the campus dance troupe Orchesis, will serve as faculty advisor and primary teacher. Classes will also be taught by local professional dancers.

No experience and no partners are needed. Lessons are free for club members and \$2 for all others.

For more information, call Heidi Bradley, club president, at 545-7978.

Ag marketing students win national competition

A team of students in Cal Poly's chapter of the National Agri-Marketing Association took first place for an unprecedented sixth time in the association's national annual competition.

The group of five students competed against teams from 29 universities including Cal Poly Pomona, UC Davis, Texas A&M, Purdue, Ohio State, Kansas State, and Michigan State universities. No other university has won the competition more than once.

The students won for their campaign to market seedless watermelons, grown by George Perry & Sons of Manteca. The competition includes a 20-minute presentation and question-and-answer session.

The team's adviser is agribusiness professor Phil Doub.

Dateline

Admission Charged — \$

FRIDAY, MAY 19

WriterSpeak: Amy Gerstler (poet, fiction writer) will read from her work. San Luis Lounge, 7 pm.

SATURDAY, MAY 20

Fun Run-Walk: "Muirathon," benefit 5-K fun run-walk. Begins behind Muir Residence Hall, Klamath Road. Registration begins at 8 am, race starts at 10. For details, call ext. 6134. (\$)

TUESDAY, MAY 23

Dance Lessons: Learn to fox trot and waltz. Mott Gym, 8 pm. (\$)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

Meeting: The Cal Poly Retired Faculty and Staff Club's May luncheon meeting. Elks Lodge, SLO, 11:45 am.

Speaker: Mary Beth Ruskai (University of Massachusetts, Lowell) will speak on "Gender and Science: Myths, Facts, and Paradoxes." Business Bldg. 213, 7 pm.

Recital: Trombonist Andy Malloy and pianist Terry Spiller (both Music) will give a benefit recital. Davidson Music Building, Room 218. 8 pm. (\$)

THURSDAY, MAY 25

Wellness Fair: Summer Safety Health and Wellness Fair. UU 220, noon.

Recital: Violinist Michelle Makarski will perform a benefit recital. Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church, SLO, 8 pm. (\$)

TUESDAY, MAY 30

Speaker: Psychologist Steve Brody will talk about "Making Relationships Work: Necessary Steps," as part of the Employee Assistance Learn-at-Lunch series. Staff Dining Room, noon.

Dance Lessons: Learn to fox trot and waltz. Mott Gym, 8 pm. (\$)

Position vacancies

More information and applications for the following staff positions are available from the appropriate human resources office. Faxed applications and resumes will not be accepted in lieu of official application.

STATE (Adm. 110, ext. 2236 or job line at ext. 1533). Official application forms must be received by 4 pm of the closing date or be postmarked by the closing date.

CLOSING DATE: June 2

Custodian: Facility Services (Unit 5), \$9.75-\$11.94/hour, temporary, one year intermittent on-call appointments; work hours approximately 3-11:30 am.

CLOSING DATE: June 9

Readvertisement

Evaluator I, Academic Records, \$2261-\$2700/month.

FOUNDATION (Foundation Adm. Building, ext. 1533). All Foundation applications must be received (not just postmarked) by 5 pm of the closing date. (No faxes)

CLOSING DATE: May 26

Records Specialist, \$1743-\$2055/ month through 6-30-96. Continuation subject to funding. Advancement Records and Systems.

CPR schedule

The *Cal Poly Report* is published on Fridays (except quarter breaks) by the Communications office.

News items must be submitted to Jo Ann Lloyd, Heron Hall, by 1 pm on Friday for the next week's issue. Letters for the Campus Forum section must be received by 1 pm Monday for the same week's issue.

Please send typewritten, double-spaced paper copies if time allows. Last-minute submittals can be faxed to ext. 6533 or e-mailed to du539@oasis.

Articles submitted will be edited for clarity, brevity and journalistic style.