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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Cal Poly Continuing Education Presents Professor Richard Smart Teaching "College in a Coach: Intensive Viticulture" Course**

SAN LUIS OBISPO - Cal Poly Continuing Education announces the return of Professor Richard Smart's "College in a Coach: Intensive Viticulture" program. On May 9, 10 and 11, Smart will be joined by fellow Cal Poly viticulture professor Keith Patterson for three days of intensive on-site viticulture instruction.

Designed for those interested in entering the wine industry, this course will offer participants a combination of classroom and hands-on instruction on topics ranging from site selection to vineyard management techniques to harvest. The \$750 fee includes instructional materials, vineyard tours, 2 lunches, 1 dinner with wines, break refreshments and coach/bus transportation from the classroom site in Paso Robles to select vineyards.

Participants can enroll by calling Cal Poly Continuing Education at (805) 756-2053 or visiting the website at [www.continuing-ed.calpoly.edu](http://www.continuing-ed.calpoly.edu). Course enrollment is limited to ensure close interaction between the instructors and participants. Pre-registration is required.

The course meets at the J. Lohr Wine Education Center, in Paso Robles, where participants will benefit from on-site interaction with lectures. In addition, on-site tours of select area vineyards are planned. You must be 21 years or older to attend.

Smart has been running the same course in Australia for the last ten

years. "About 10 years ago, I saw that most people entering the wine industry were older working adults. These people don't really have the time to go back to school, but they still need intensive instruction in viticulture to ensure the success of their new business or business investment," explains Smart.

"The program is designed to make learning fun by the combination of lecture and field visits. The classroom activities are not just lectures, they consist of open interaction and discussion between instructors and participants and between the participants and each other."

"This will be the second year that we are offering this program," explains Keith Patterson, "The response we got last year from the participants was tremendous, and I am excited that Smart is here this spring to share his worldwide perspective with the residents of the central coast."

The following topics will be covered: How grapevines work; Selecting the vineyard site, variety, clone and rootstock; Vineyard design, choice of spacing and trellis system; Vineyard tour: focus on design and planting; Planting, training, leaf removal, summer and winter pruning; Pest, disease and weed control; Vineyard tour: focus on management and machinery; Vineyard nutrition and irrigation; and Grape sampling, records, costs and returns.

Smart is a member of Cal Poly's College of Agriculture faculty each spring quarter and has been involved with viticulture since the mid 1960s, and has conducted research in viticulture in the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, and France. In addition, he has spent the last 12 years as a viticulture consultant, with clients in 20 countries around the world and in most of the wine growing states in the United States.

He graduated from Sydney University with Honors in Agricultural Science in 1966. He received a M.Sc Honors degree from Macquarie University, and a Ph.D. from Cornell University in New York State, where he studied under the famous Professor Nelson Shaulis, the instigator of canopy management.

In 1995, he was awarded a doctorate from the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa, in recognition of research into canopy management effects on vineyard yield and quality. In addition to "College in a Coach," Smart conducts several viticulture and wine tour courses throughout the world, including one in France this August, and an intensive course on Pinot Noir in Australia and New Zealand next February.

Keith Patterson is a member of the Cal Poly College of Agriculture faculty. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri and teaches viticulture courses, as well as integrated pest management in coastal wine grapes. He has been involved in viticulture research and teaching for almost

20 years. Patterson is a member of the American Society for Horticulture Science and the American Society of Enology and Viticulture. Additionally, he is a technical advisor for Paso Robles Vintners and Growers Association, as well as the Central Coast Vineyard Team.

Cal Poly Continuing Education is a nonprofit, self-supporting entity that provides lifelong learning opportunities and services to San Luis Obispo County and beyond. The organization offers a variety of courses and certificate programs, as well as credit-bearing programs, which assist working professionals in upgrading their skills, meeting their career goals, obtaining personal enrichment, and building skills. Course descriptions and schedules can be found at: [www.continuing-ed.calpoly.edu](http://www.continuing-ed.calpoly.edu).

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