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California Polytechnic State University

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Contact: Amy Hewes

(805) 756-3034

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Cal Poly College of Engineering Honors Outstanding Alumni**

As part of Cal Poly's recent annual Open House activities, the College of Engineering hosted an Alumni Recognition Luncheon to celebrate the professional accomplishments of its engineering and computer science graduates.

The awards presented included the Outstanding Recent Alumnus or Alumna Award, which honors graduates who have contributed significantly to their fields within 10 years of graduation, and the Professional Achievement Award, honoring graduates of 10 years or more who have attained a high level of distinction in their fields.

The three winners of the 2002 Outstanding Recent Alumnus award include 1994 aerospace engineering graduate Matt Cotton from Sunnyvale, 1992 computer science graduate Steve Jankowski from Mountain View, and 1995 materials engineering graduate Scott Miner from Hayward.

Professional Achievement Award winners were 1971 electronics engineering graduate William Gerrey from San Francisco, 1986 industrial engineering graduate Karen Bangs from Lake Forest, and 1979 aerospace engineering graduate Robert Hladek from Rolling Hills Estates.

Cotton serves as a network engineer and marketing specialist for LightSand Communications, a high-speed fiber optic communications company in Silicon Valley. As a student, Cotton received funding from NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center for his senior project on "Pilot-Induced Oscillation Investigation." Also while a student, he worked at a local aerospace company performing engineering tasks for aircraft under modification. After graduation, Cotton took a job with TRW in Sunnyvale as one of the company's youngest systems engineers and technical managers. He received two awards for excellence from TRW as an associate investigator of independent research projects. Cotton also earned a master's degree in electrical engineering from Cal Poly.

Jankowski began his career at IBM working on a prototype network document server for faxes. In 1993, he joined Sun Microsystems' technical staff and worked on a messaging framework for distributed enterprise applications. In 1995, he became one of five founding engineers of Active Software, where he designed and developed the messaging server and led the messaging server team through eight product releases. The messaging server played a vital role in Active Software's becoming a leader in the enterprise application integration market. After Active Software went public and was bought by webMethods, Jankowski became a senior architect at webMethods in Mountain View. He has spent the last six months as architect and developer of a new management server product.

Miner was recently promoted to vice president of operations for March MetalFab, one of the largest custom metal fabrication plants in the Bay Area. Miner has also worked as a project engineer at Chlorox Corp. and has taught courses in welding techniques at Las Positas College. He was then hired away by March MetalFab, which designs and makes specialized fixtures and vessels for the nuclear power and aerospace industries and research and development institutions. At March MetalFab, Miner oversaw the fabrication of two complex sculptures by Bay Area sculptor Fletcher Benton -- 30 feet and 72 feet tall respectively and installed in Cologne, Germany.

Gerrey has been an engineer for the past 30 years at the Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute in San Francisco, which is world-renowned for research on normal vision, eye diseases and sensory rehabilitation. Blind himself, Gerrey's research over the years has produced many successful assistive devices for the blind, including Talking Signs, a technology that enables portable, hand-held receivers to communicate with permanently installed transmitters to help blind people know their locations and orientation on streets, in buildings and on transportation systems in cities around the world. He also edits "The Smith-Kettlewell Technical File," a how-to magazine for blind hobbyists and professionals. One of Gerrey's current projects is a wheelchair for blind riders.

Bangs is director of manufacturing engineering for Conexant Systems in Newport Beach, where she is credited with leading ongoing enterprisewide process improvement efforts and improving factory automation resource allocation. She has also served director of supply planning for Conexant and manager for operations planning at Rockwell Semiconductor Systems.

Hladek's career spans more than 22 years, 17 of which have been with Boeing Satellite Systems, the world's largest manufacturer of commercial communications satellites. He has contributed to the execution of more than a dozen satellite programs. He also has experience in personnel development, strategic planning, facilities management and product marketing. His career accomplishments have encompassed component- to system-level electromechanical design,

analysis and manufacturing in the fields of advanced communications systems, aerospace technology and satellite production. He currently serves as the division director of product engineering for operations. Hladek earned a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Loyola Marymount University.

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### **Cal Poly Public Affairs**

California Polytechnic State University

San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

805.756.7266

[polynews@calpoly.edu](mailto:polynews@calpoly.edu)