Crops institute organizing ag symposium
Dynamic presentations and networking opportunities will be key parts of the California Agriculture Symposium, **Wednesday and Thursday, March 23-24**, in Sacramento – an event aided by Cal Poly’s Institute for the Study of Specialty Crops. The forum aims to foster lively, informed discussions on how to sustain California agriculture’s competitive edge in the face of new challenges and opportunities. Speakers from academia, industry and government will offer their perspectives on issues related to policy, technology, marketing and management. California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary A.G. Kawamura is scheduled to deliver the keynote address. A “California Tasting,” featuring the best of the state’s agricultural products, will cap off the first day of the symposium. The summit is being organized by the Institute for the Study of Specialty Crops, the University of California Agricultural Issues Center and Specialty Crops Research Program, and Fresno State University’s Center for Agricultural Business. Space is limited and early registration is encouraged. For registration and program information, visit www.calagsymposium.org or call (530) 752-2320 or (530) 752-1748.

Funding is available for assistive devices
The Disability Accommodation Assistance Program provides funding assistance for employees who qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The funding is provided to departments for buying assistive devices not considered to be standard office equipment. More information about the program is available by calling the Employment Equity Office at ext. 6-6770 or email jernest@calpoly.edu.

Float your ideas for the 2006 Rose Parade
The Rose Float Program is holding a concept contest to gather design ideas for Cal Poly's 2006 Rose Parade float entry. Concepts may be submitted as written ideas or sketched designs. Each concept should include the entrant’s name, phone number and e-mail address written neatly on the back of the submission. Entries with identifying marks on the front won’t be accepted. The maximum concept entry size is 18 inches x 24 inches. Entries are due by **5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4**. Submit them to the Cal Poly Rose Float Program, Attn: Concept Contest, UU Epicenter. All entries become property of the Cal Poly Rose Float Program and will not be returned. Entries may also be submitted to the Rose Float office located in UU 209. The concept contest is open to everyone, and the winning entry will be used for the 2006 Cal Poly float. The contest winner will receive two tickets to the 2006 Rose Bowl Game in Pasadena or cash equivalent. In the event of multiple winners, the cash value will be split equally. More information is available at www.asi.calpoly.edu/rosefloat.

Professor to speak on white slavery
Thomas Trice, assistant professor of history, will talk about “Pimps, Procurers and Innocent Maidens: White Slavery in Imperial Russia,” **noon to 1 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 26**. The free presentation, part of the Women Studies Program Faculty Lecture Series, will be in Science North 202. Trice has been teaching at Cal Poly since 2002. His research interests include modern Russian history, with a special emphasis on death and dying, sexuality and crime. For more information, call the Women's Studies office at ext. 6-1525 or e-mail womst@polymail.calpoly.edu.
Employment

Foundation: Cal Poly Foundation is a separate corporation operating in concert with the university to provide a diverse range of services and resources to students, faculty and staff. For an application, visit Human Resources in the Foundation Administration Building, check the Web site at www.cpfoundation.org or call ext. 6-7107.

Administrative Assistant, Graphic Communication Institute, $14.11-$20.48/hour. Review begins Jan. 28.

Programmer/Analyst 1, Biological Sciences, $37,471-$54,310/year. Open until filled.

Housing Corp. to meet
The Board of Directors of the Cal Poly Housing Corporation (CPHC) will hold its next public meeting on Friday, Feb. 4, 9 a.m., in the Foundation Administration Building, Room 124. A copy of the agenda will be available for public review at the Foundation. the week of January 31. For further information, contact Jim Reinhart, managing director, Cal Poly Housing Corporation, at ext. 6-1131.

International Printing Week
The Graphic Communication Department this week is celebrating International Printing Week with a series of lectures, a banquet and a career day. International Printing Week commemorates the Jan. 17 birth of Benjamin Franklin and is held each year by the International Association of Printing House Craftsmen and its members. For event details, contact the Graphic Communication Department at ext. 6-1108.

‘Maps of City and Body' on campus tonight
Acclaimed performance artist Denise Uyehara will perform “Big Head,” "Maps of City and Body," and other works tonight, Wednesday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m. in a free show in the east wing of Chumash Auditorium in the UU. The event is part of WITT (We’re In This Together) Week, Jan. 18-21. Uyehara is an interdisciplinary performance artist, writer and playwright whose work was described as a "coup d’ theatre" by the Los Angeles Times. She has described her overarching theme as "just being able to make sense of who we are." Uyehara’s performances incorporate movement, narrative and clay animation, as well as other visual elements.

Get in the swim with masters course
There’s still room for swimmers in the masters swim course at the Recreation Center. Taught by world-recognized triathlon and swim coach Roger Warnes, the course is designed to motivate and help refine swim strokes. ASI Recreational Sports is offering the class all winter quarter on a variety of days and times for $60. Swim times are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 6 – 7:30 a.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, noon – 1:30 p.m.; and Monday and Wednesday, 5:30-7 p.m. The fee is $40 for swimmers who are not members of the Recreation Center; non-members may attend the Monday/Wednesday evening course held at Mott Pool. Contact the Recreation Center Service Desk at ext. 6-1366 or the ASI Recreational Sports Web site at www.asi.calpoly.edu/recsports for more information.

Women's weight lifting series
Recreational Sports’ nationally certified personal trainers will teach proper techniques for women's weight lifting during a series of Saturday classes, Jan. 22, 29 and Feb. 5. The series is for all levels of weight lifters. Participants will be actively lifting and will get immediate feedback from the personal trainers. For more information, contact Nicole at ext. 6-1366.

Service Awards lunch tickets on sale Feb. 9
Tickets to the annual Service Awards Luncheon, set for Thursday, March 3, in Chumash Auditorium, will go on sale Wednesday, Feb. 9, for $10. The luncheon recognizes state, Foundation and ASI employees with 10 to 40 years of service. The luncheon’s theme is “Best in the West.” The menu will include BBQ chicken with all the fixings. A vegetarian entrée will also be available. Tickets may be purchased from Dawn Annoni, ASI, ext. 6-0299, Geri Bolivar, Facility Services, ext. 6-2321; Carol Leong, College of Architecture and Environmental Design, ext. 6-1313; Kristina Peña, BioResource and Agricultural Engineering, ext. 6-2378; and Colleen Rodriguez, Payroll Services, ext. 6-2606. The deadline to buy tickets is Friday, Feb. 25. Make checks payable to the Foundation.

Stanford professor to talk on ancient Peru
Stanford Social Sciences Professor John Rick will examine the rituals of ancient Peruvian priests and a possible link to early cults in a multimedia presentation from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2, in the Rotunda (Room 213) in the Business Building. His talk, titled "Foundations of Ancient Authority: The Temples of Chavin de Huantar, Peru," will explore the 3,000-year-old monumental temple site high in the Peruvian Andes.

Cal Poly Report is published every Wednesday. E-mail submissions to polynews@calpoly.edu by 4 p.m. on the Friday before publication.