Alison Cone is athletic director finalist
Alison Cone is the second finalist in the search for a new athletics director. She has served as interim director of athletics for the past year and has worked in the Athletics Department since 1994 when she was hired as senior associate director. The Athletic Director Search Committee will host Cone at an open campus forum on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2-3 p.m., in University Union 220. Cone earned a master’s degree in education from Cal State Dominguez Hills and a bachelor’s degree from Washington State University. She was chosen as part of an ongoing national search that so far has drawn more than 70 applicants. Steven P. Holton, former athletics director at Northern Arizona University, was named a finalist last November. The new director will succeed John McCutcheon, who accepted a similar position at the University of Massachusetts last year after 12 years at Cal Poly.

Local relief offered for tsunami victims
There are many relief organizations collecting donations and providing funding to help those people and areas affected by the recent earthquakes and tsunami in Southeast Asia. Cal Poly has compiled a list of some of those organizations recognizing that many on campus want to help. That list can be found at http://www.calpolynews.calpoly.edu/news_releases/2005/jan_05/tsunami.html. This information is being provided out of concern for those who have suffered in this terrible tragedy. Cal Poly has not investigated, nor does it endorse, any of the listed organizations.

ITS announces calendar, e-mail changes
All current OpenTime/Oracle Calendar users will be moved to the new Oracle Collaboration Suite Calendar system during the weekend of Jan. 22-23. During this period, users will not have access to their on-line calendars. Prior to Jan. 22, faculty and staff must change their passwords using the My Cal Poly Portal PasswordManager channel (http://my.calpoly.edu). Users who have not changed their passwords will not be able to access their calendars or e-mail from their desktops. For assistance, contact the ITS Service Desk at ext. 6-7000.

Mardi Gras update
The results of the celebrations of Mardi Gras last year have led the city of San Luis Obispo to cancel public celebrations during Mardi Gras weekend this year. The university encourages all students, faculty and staff to heed the city’s call this year for an end to public Mardi Gras celebrations in San Luis Obispo and to encourage others to join in continuing the campus traditions of civility and respect for the law.

Ann Fryer named DRC interim director
Vice President of Student Affairs Cornel Morton has appointed Ann Fryer interim director of the Disability Resource Center (DRC) effective Jan. 3. Fryer succeeds William Bailey, who was recently appointed director of Employment Equity and Faculty Recruitment. Fryer has a long-standing history with the DRC, having worked in the center since 1981, and has served as assistant director for the center the past three years. She earned a master’s degree in education from Cal Poly in 1983, and served as the DRC’s first learning disabilities specialist.
CalPERS retirement planning seminars
CalPERS will present two retirement planning seminars specifically for Cal Poly employees on March 10 and 11, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., in UU 220. “Achieving Financial Security” is the topic March 10 for PERS members with 10 or more years until retirement. “Retirement and Estate Planning” will be discussed the following day at a seminar for PERS members with less than 10 years until retirement. The seminars are free to CalPERS members and their spouses. Advance registration is required. Registration forms are available in Human Resources, Admin. 110. Forms must be returned to Human Resources by Feb. 14. For specific information regarding additional upcoming seminars available to all CalPERS members, contact CalPERS toll free at (877) 720-7377.

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 cooked with a dry rub and served with assorted dipping sauces, corn on the cob, green salad, cole slaw, garlic bread, dessert, coffee and iced tea. 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 Cal Poly Foundation.

SHAC blood drive today
The Student Health Advisory Council will sponsor a blood drive today, Jan. 12, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Tri-Counties mobile blood bank on Mott Lawn. All those who donate will receive Jamba Juice, Outspoken Beverage Bistro and Metro Café gift certificates. Contact SHAC Chair Laura Brown at lsbrown@calpoly.edu for more information.

2005 limits for 403(b), 401(k) and 457 plans
Effective Jan. 1, the annual dollar limit has been raised for the 403(b) Tax Sheltered Annuity program, the 401(k) Thrift Plan, and for the 457 Deferred Compensation program.

- The maximum contribution for all three plans is $14,000, or 100 percent of adjusted gross income, whichever is less.
- Participants who have reached age 50 by the end of the plan year and are eligible to contribute $14,000 may defer an additional $4,000 (for a total of $18,000).
- Contributions to a 457 plan are not offset by contributions to a 403(b) or 401(k) plan. For example, for tax year 2005, a participant could elect to contribute up to $14,000 to a 401(k) or 403(b) plan and up to $14,000 to a 457 plan, for a total contribution of up to $28,000.

The 2005 tax year began with the paycheck dated Jan. 1 (for the December pay period). In order to enroll in or make a change to the tax sheltered/deferred plans, forms must be received by the end of the month prior to the pay period of the deduction change. For more information, contact Human Resources at ext. 6-6471.