Computer Science Chair Kearns is new CIO
President Warren J. Baker has announced the appointment of Timothy J. Kearns, an associate professor and current chair of the Computer Science Department, as the university's new vice provost for information technology and chief information officer. Interim Provost Robert Detweiler said that Kearns will provide leadership and strategic direction for the delivery of technology services to meet the teaching and learning mission of the university. Kearns will begin his duties on Aug. 1.

State budget allows employee pay raises
The state budget agreement between Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the Legislature provides $134 million in new revenue for the CSU system, which is the first increase after three consecutive years of budget reductions. The agreement honors the governor's compact on funding higher education. "With a 2.5 percent increase for enrollment growth, we will now be able to offer a Cal Poly education to more of the state's brightest students. We will also be able to provide our faculty and staff with salary increases - the first such increases since July 2002," said Vice President for Administration and Finance Larry Kelley. Additionally, there is some funding for increased operating costs. While this budget does not restore the former cuts, he stressed, it is a move in a more positive direction.

Ag textbooks donated to Afghan university
What started as a Rotary Club volunteer assignment for Associate Dean Mark Shelton of the College of Agriculture has turned into a donation of more than 200 textbooks to Nangarhar University in Afghanistan. The books, ranging in subject from human nutrition to weed science, and from animal physiology to entomology, were given to Professor Mohammed Tahir Torakay, the department head of Agronomy at Nangarhar University. Torakay was on campus as a Rotary group study/exchange participant.

College of Liberal Arts announces awards
The College of Liberal Arts recognized outstanding faculty and staff at its recent annual reception. The faculty awards were renamed the College of Liberal Arts Richard K. Simon Faculty Awards in honor of the popular and innovative English professor who died of cancer in April. He had initiated the awards in 1997. The college presented faculty awards to Mark Roberts, English Department lecturer; Michael Miller, Art and Design Department professor; and Don Ryujin, a professor in the Psychology and Child Development Department.

Fall is just around the corner
Fall term begins for faculty on Monday, Sept. 12. WOW (Week of Welcome) for new students begins the same day, and classes start Monday, Sept. 19. For the complete 2005-2006 academic calendar, go to: http://www.calpoly.edu/~acadprog/acad_cal/2005_06cal.htm.

Campus e-mail upgrade continues
ITS will continue to upgrade student, faculty and staff e-mail accounts over the summer as part of the "migration" to the new Oracle system. ITS will notify individuals prior to making any changes. For more information, contact the ITS Service Desk at ext. 6-7000.
John Battenburg named IEP director

English Professor John Battenburg has been chosen to succeed Linda Halisky as director of International Education and Programs. The three-year position incorporates that of director of London Studies. The search process included input from IEP council members and staff and the London Study Advisory Board. Battenburg, served as interim IEP director during the past year. Biographical information about Battenburg, who served as interim IEP director during the past year, is available on his Web site at http://www.cla.calpoly.edu/~jbattenb/.

Standing committees need members

State, Foundation and ASI permanent or probationary employees are still needed to fill vacancies on the following standing committees: Campus Fee Advisory Committee (2005-2006), Committee on University Citizenship (2005-2007) and University Committee on Committees (2005-2006). For information and an application form, go to http://www.aff.calpoly.edu/hr/index.html. Interested staff employees must complete the application and fax it to ext. 6-5483, email it to humanresources@calpoly.edu, or deliver it to Human Resources, Adm., 110. The application deadline date has been extended to June 27. For more information, contact Darcy Adams at ext. 6-2472.

M.E. 'Gene' Smith memorial July 30

Dean Emeritus M.E. “Gene” Smith passed away in San Luis Obispo on May 8, 2005. A service celebrating his life will take place Saturday, July 30, 3 p.m., at United Methodist Church in San Luis Obispo. Smith was born Feb. 16, 1912, in Nagasaki, Japan. He and his family came to the United States in 1926. He came to Cal Poly to teach history in 1946 and retired in 1974. He volunteered to coach the tennis team for seven years and later served four years as faculty athletic advisor. He earned a doctorate in 1958, was Social Sciences Department head for six years and History Department head from 1971-1974. Smith is survived by his wife, Elinor Smith of San Luis Obispo, two stepdaughters and numerous nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to the Central Coast Memorial Society and Hospice Partners of the Central Coast.

Sign up for Children's Center programs

The Orfalea Family and ASI Children’s Center is now enrolling 4- and 5-year-olds for upcoming fall preschool and kindergarten programs. For information, contact the Children’s Center at ext. 6-1267.

Crop Science auction this week

The Horticulture and Crop Science Department will hold a public auction of surplus property — more than 200 items — on campus Thursday-Saturday, July 21-23 at the Horticulture and Crop Science Horticulture Unit, Building 48. All items will be on display between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Successful bidders will be notified July 25. A full list of items up for auction can be found on the Poly Plant Shop Web site at www.polyplantshop.com.

Give 'Polly Troutnic' a home

The university is looking for a home for one of its newest alumna: Polly Troutnic. Anyone interested in living with Polly, a 5-foot, copper trout sculpture, is encouraged to make a bid for her Saturday, Aug. 27, 4 p.m., in Mission Plaza as part of San Luis Obispo's "Trout About Downtown" public art fund-raiser. Proceeds from the auction of the trout will go to the Prado Day Center.