> SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR IS A CAL POLY GRAD

Krista Beltran (B.S., Liberal Studies, 2001; Elementary Credential, 2002) was named 2010-11 Teacher of the Year in San Joaquin County. A teacher at Hawkins School, Beltran stood out among hundreds of teachers in 14 districts in the county, according to the Patterson Irrigator.

Beltran is the student council adviser at Hawkins and also runs an after-school book club for middle school girls. She also serves on several committees in the Jefferson School District, whose superintendent, Dana Eaton, describes her as “the kind of teacher that makes her classroom better, makes her grade level better, makes her school better and makes our district better.”

> ALUMNI’S START-UP HELPS AIR FORCE WITH UNMANNED FLIGHT CONTROLS

Norm Timbs (B.S., Mechanical Engineering, 1988; B.S., Engineering Technology, 1992), is partnering on a project contracted by the U.S. Air Force to develop an alert system that will prevent unmanned aircraft from flying into other droids or manned aircraft.

According to a report in the San Luis Obispo Tribune, the product could be used to help unmanned aircraft and commercial aircraft operate safely in congested areas at major airports around the world.

> ENGLISH GRAD’S WAY WITH WORDS BRINGS STATEWIDE HONOR

Chris (Weygandt) Alba (B.S., English, 1978) won first place in the California State Poetry Society’s annual contest with the poem “How an Egret Saved Me.” Alba finished atop a field of 169 entries.

A native of Paso Robles, Calif., Alba worked for 20 years as a magazine journalist and editor before returning to northern San Luis Obispo County 12 years ago, according to the San Luis Obispo Tribune.

> ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING ALUM NAMED DISPLAYLINK’S SALES VICE PRESIDENT

John Cummins (B.S., Electronic Engineering, 1994) was named DisplayLink’s vice president of worldwide sales. The company produces virtual graphic chips to peripheral markets and anticipates growth for products aimed at a new class of wireless and mobile device display applications.

According to BusinessWire, Cummins joined DisplayLink after serving as chief executive officer of chip company ZeroG Wireless Inc. Prior to that, he worked with Agere Systems, Sun Microsystems and Cypress Semiconductor.

> MECHANICAL ENGINEERING GRAD DESIGNS A PRESIDENTIAL RIDE

When President Obama and his family traversed Martha’s Vineyard on vacation in August, they did some of their touring on bikes designed by Cal Poly graduate Amber Lucas (B.S., Mechanical Engineering, 2007).

According to the Gilroy Dispatch, Lucas, who lives in Morgan Hill, Calif., is one of 20 designers working for the company Specialized bikes. She is the only one designing urban bikes and said her designs are immediately recognizable.

Lucas said she is a lifelong bicyclist who does all her commuting and errands on two wheels and doesn’t even own a car.

> PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF FOR FORMER MUSTANG BASKETBALL FORWARD

It wasn’t an auspicious start, being the manager of the team, not when he wanted to play. But Ryan Darling (B.S., Business Administration, 2010) earned a spot on the Mustangs basketball team as a walk-on and was cut twice before becoming the starting forward his senior season.

And his story didn’t end there. As ESPN reported in September, the 6-foot-8 Darling has signed a one-year contract with a pro basketball league in Germany.

> DESIGNING BIKES FOR AIR Force

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