Position Vacancies

STATE: The official listing of staff and management vacancies is posted at least two weeks prior to closing dates on Cal Poly's Web site at www.calpoly.edu. (Select “Employment” from the Cal Poly links drop-down box.) As a courtesy to our on-campus employees, job vacancies are also published in the Cal Poly Report. Positions marked with an asterisk indicate that qualified on-campus applicants in bargaining units 2, 5, 7 and 9 will be given first consideration. Job applications must be received in Human Resources, Adm. 138, by 5 p.m. on the closing date.

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••• #225-Associate Director, Alumni Relations (Administrator I), Alumni Relations, University Advancement, $40,000-$55,000. Closing date: Open until filled; review of applications begins Jan. 11.

••• #226-Nurse Practitioner*, Health Services, $6,946-$7,221, temporary to June 30. Closing date: Dec. 14.


••• #230-Transfer Credit Coordinator (Administrative Support Coordinator III), Academic Records, $2,694-$4,045. Closing date: Open until filled.

FACULTY Candidates are asked to contact the appropriate department office at the number listed for more information or to request an application. Additional information and qualifications for each position may also be obtained online at http://www.academic-personnel.calpoly.edu. Please submit all application materials to the appropriate head/department head/office specified in the ad. Rank and salary are commensurate with qualifications and experience (and time base where applicable), unless otherwise stated.

#3965: Tenure-Track Assistant/Associate Professor (Nutrition), Food Science and Nutrition Department (ext. 6-2555). Closing date: March 1.

#3966: Tenure-Track Assistant/Associate Professor (Food Science), Food Science and Nutrition Department (ext. 6-2852). Closing date: March 1.

#3970: RP Assistant (SSP AR III), half-time, temporary, Office of Campus Relations (ext. 6-5425). Closing date: Dec. 13.

Riders in the Sky to give holiday show Dec. 20

In the Sky, known for its comical Western musical entertainment, will perform “Christmas the Cowboy Way,” a holiday show at 7 p.m. Dec. 20 in Harris Hall in the Christopher Cohen Center. Cal Poly Arts presents the “darling of public radio” in a concert filled with classic and original Western folk songs, smooth harmonies and slapstick comedy. Combining comedy with sharp acoustic music in a wide musical repertoire, the group has entertained audiences for almost three decades.

Riders in the Sky will perform “Christmas the Cowboy Way” in the Christopher Cohen Center’s Harris Hall on Dec. 20. See story on page 4.

Ticket Information

Tickets to the performances listed in today’s Cal Poly Report are on sale at the Performing Arts Ticket Office 10 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays. Call ext. 6-2778, or fax your order to ext. 6-0868.

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Datemine of a Western Christmas

On Mars life still remains in the realm of science fiction, not solids science, according to Physics Professor Richard Frankel and his co-authors in an article published recently in The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Frankel and other members of his research team challenge NASA scientists’ much-publicized announcement in 1996 that a Martian meteorite found in Antarctica contains evidence of fossils and thus life on Mars at some point in the planet’s history.

The announcement brought a storm of excitement, publicity and controversy. In the last five years, since other scientists have shown that nonbiological contamination could explain many of the “bacterium-shaped objects” and supposedly organic chemicals found in the meteorite and cited by NASA as evidence for life. Now Frankel and the other members of his research team have assailed the final NASA contention: that the meteorite crystals found in the Martian meteorite have three-dimensional shapes identical to certain Earth bacteria, and different from all of those produced by any inorganic forces.

In their paper, “Magnetite Morphology and Life on Mars,” Frankel and co-authors Peter Busek and Martha McCartney, Arizona State University; Rafal Dunin-Borkowski, Paul Midgley and Matthew Devouard, Blaise Pascal University in France and Milhady Poulard of the University of Vesprem, Hungary, argue that the evidence for bacterial magnetite crystals on the Martian meteorite is at best ambiguous and, at worst, mistaken. They used comparisons with bacterial magnetite crystals from Moon rocks to help explain why. The magnetite crystals in the NASA Martian meteorite are tiny, even by the standards of an electron microscope, Frankel explains. They are only 40 to 100 millimeters of a meter wide. The only microscope powerful enough to produce clear images of the magnetite crystals found in the meteorite is a relatively new piece of equipment called a transmission electron microscope (TEM), which allows researchers to see objects smaller than one billionth of a meter wide, but only in two dimensions.

Recently, scientists have coupled TEM technology with computer imaging to make experiments more precise. Frankel and his co-authors used it to examine the evidence in the NASA study and contrast it with biological magnetite crystals from Earth.

Their results call into question whether the shapes of all crystals originating in the Martian meteorite found in Antarctica are accurately known. In their research, Frankel and his team demonstrate that the shapes of bacterial magnetite grains found on Earth vary more than previously thought. According to their research, the shapes and sizes differ among bacterial strains, and even within individual bacteria. The broadened variety makes it more likely that bacterial and meteoric magnetite grains could match by simple chance, Frankel’s team concluded.

However, the team did not eliminate the possibility that the Martian crystals could have a biological origin. With the advanced TEM technology now on hand, Frankel and his team plan more extensive studies of the magnetite crystals from the Martian meteorite and several more strains of terrestrial bacteria.
**Parkin fees can be paid with pre-tax dollars**

Effective January 2002, the CSU Pre-Tax Parking Deduction Plan will allow eligible employee groups to pay for qualified parking expenses on a pre-tax basis - before federal, state, Social Security and Medicare taxes are calculated.

Non-represented employees, including management and confidential employees, and employees represented by Collective Bargaining Unit 1 (physicians), Unit 4 (academic professionals), Unit 6 (skilled crafts) and Unit 8 (police) who are now paying for parking via payroll deduction will automatically be enrolled in the plan on a pre-tax basis - no action is necessary.

Employees who do not want to participate must complete a declaration and employees form available in Human Resources.

Elections costing this on a pre-tax basis will affect taxable income and may slightly affect Social Security benefits at retirement, but will not have an impact on CalPERS retirement or any other CSU benefit.

Employees represented by CSEA units 2, 5, 7 and 9 and CPA (Unit 3) are not eligible at this time because of pending contract negotiations. Employees in those bargaining contracts will be informed if they become eligible at a later date.

Eligible employees not currently paying for parking via payroll deduction who wish to enroll should contact Payroll Services at ext. 6-6505 to sign up for payroll deduction.

For more information, call Human Resources at ext. 6-2326.

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**Obituaries**

Louis Harper, 65

Crop Science Professor Louis Harper died in San Luis Obispo Nov. 21 after a long illness.

A celebration of his life will be held at 5 p.m. Jan. 19 at the Congregational Church, 12415 Los Osos Valley Road, in East Los Osos.

Before coming to Cal Poly in 1977, he worked as an agronomist at Montana State College, Iowa State University, the University of Kentucky and the Near East Foundation in Morocco, Africa.

Kenneth Watson, 64

Kenneth Watson, former percussion instructor and lecturer in the Music Department Act. 20. Watson was active in percussion-in-service in films and television, in concert and opera, and in chamber-music ensembles in Los Angeles.

He taught from 1994 until 2000.

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**Weekend volunteers needed at gift collection sites**

Cal Poly's Center for Community Volunteerism and Service Learning is seeking volunteers to work weekends at gift collection sites throughout the county.

Volunteers will help to efficiently sort individual, elderly and families who have given you so much."

The theme for the program is "Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Impact." Anyone knows an inspiring woman is invited to participate in the program, which will celebrate women who have changed our lives.

"The goal is to give recognition to the women who have made an impact on their lives," said Susan Stewart, director of the Center for Community Volunteerism.

"We want to spotlight some of the wonderful teachers, faculty and administrators that have made an impact on our campus.

"The faculty and staff of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences are the backbone of the university," said Stewart.

"We hope to celebrate the diversity of the campus community and the work that the women who make up this community do.

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Eligible employees not currently paying for parking via payroll deduction who wish to enroll should contact Payroll Services at ext. 6-2055 to sign up for payroll deduction. For more information, call Human Resources at ext. 6-2236.

Leave solicitation

Tirza Darg, a custodian in Facility Services, has qualified for personal catastrophic leave.

Eligible state employees may donate vacation credit and sick leave to help her remain in full-pay status during an extended absence.

Those interested in donating leave should contact Edie Griffin-Shaw in Facility Services at ext. 6-2055 via e-mail.

CSEA employees in units 2, 5, 7 and 9, Unit 4 (academic professionals), C99 (confidential), E99 (excluded) management personnel and M98 (executive) may donate up to 32 hours total.

All other state employees may donate up to 16 hours of sick leave and/or vacation credits per fiscal year in increments of one hour or more.

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Weekend volunteers needed at gift collection sites

Cal Poly’s Center for Community Volunteerism and Service Learning is seeking volunteers to work weekends at gift collection sites throughout the county.

The goal is to help critically ill individuals, elderly people and families whose medical costs for caring for a disabled child put them in a position of difficulty," said Maya Andlig, coordinator of community volunteerism, "Volunteers are needed on weekends through Dec. 16 outside of Ross Dress for Less and Sears in San Luis Obispo, Spencer's Market in Morro Bay, Albertson's in Atascadero, Arroyo Grande and at 1314 Madonna Road in San Luis Obispo, and Wal-Mart in Paso Robles and Arroyo Grande.

"Every year, the giving spirit of the holiday season tends to be concentrated on children," said Stephan Lamb, director of the Center for Community Volunteerism. "Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army are just two of the organizations hosting toy drives. Cal Poly and the United Way of San Luis Obispo County are raising funds and staff members to help spread the holiday cheer to the hundreds of people throughout the county who have urgent needs that only the Salvation Army could fill," Lamb said.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help during the collection period should contact Andlig at ext. 6-6749 or mandlig@calpoly.edu.

Weekend volunteers will be formed into teams of four. Weekend gifts will be delivered to the Central Coast Children’s Hospital, Unites Mary's, the Central Coast Children's Center, the Social Services Agency, the Red Cross, the St. Joseph Women’s Center, the Cal Poly Student Employee Association, the Salvation Army, Planned Parenthood, the Hospice of San Luis Obispo, the Redwood Valley Health Clinic and the San Luis Obispo County Medical Society.

"The exhibit provides an opportunity for community members and Cal Poly students, faculty and staff members of all ages to pay tribute to her by submitting an essay, poem or photograph for inclusion in the program," said Susan Stewart, Student Academic Services, "This is part of a campus-wide awareness effort on the issue of "Web accessibility," said Steve Rutland of Information Technology Services. "Web-page authors across the campus should be aware of the need to provide accessible Web pages by adhering to certain regulations of the Americans with Disability Act."

For more information, contact Susan Stewart at 6-5123 or sstewart@calpoly.edu.

‘Web accessibility’ to be topic of Dec. 7 seminar

Laurne Foste of Information Technology Services, Professor Suzanne Stemler and Student Susan Academic, will discuss how to make Web sites usable for people who use different learning styles in a seminar noon-1 p.m. Friday (Dec. 7).

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"There is a poor understanding of how many people who are disabled and different learning styles can benefit from the Web," said Suzanne Stemler, "We will discuss handouts for the seminar, and different learning styles in a seminar noon-1 p.m. Friday (Dec. 7).

"We will also provide electronic communication and information technology for everyone. The program, part of the Brown Bag Technology Seminar series, will be in English 2019.

"This seminar is part of a campus-wide awareness effort on the issue of ‘Web accessibility,’ said Steve Rutland of Information Technology Services. "Web-page authors across the campus should be aware of the need to provide accessible Web pages by adhering to certain regulations of the Americans with Disability Act."

For more information, contact Susan Stewart at 6-5123 or sstewart@calpoly.edu.

Learn-at-lunch session to focus on holiday stress

"Handling Holiday Stress," a Learn-at-lunch session sponsored by the Employee Assistance Program, will be noon-1 p.m. Thursday (Dec. 6) in UU 172.

"The holidays can be a time of fun and family gatherings -- and stress," said Anne Goshen of the Employee Assistance Program. "Financial pressures, time pressures and family pressures can all affect us. Often we don't know exactly how our family doesn't match our expectations."

"This year, more than ever, many of us want to make the season a special one. Join us to learn ways to keep the meaning in the holiday season while minimizing the stress of the season.

Learn-at-lunch programs are open to employees and their families. For more information, call Goshen at ext. 6-0327.

Craft fair set for Dec. 4-6

The Asi Craft Center will hold a Winter Craft Fair 10 a.m.-4 p.m. today and Thursday (Dec. 5-6) and 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday (Dec. 7). Student artists will be selling their handmade crafts and holiday gifts. Four of the featured artists are also selling their work in galleries on the Central Coast.

For more information, call Dan Winner, craft fair coordinator, at ext. 6-6379.

Retirement receptions set

Betsy Bazzani

A retirement reception for Betsy Bazzani, class scheduling coordinator in the University Scheduling Office since 1984, will be 2-4 p.m. Dec. 12 in Fisher Science 209.

Bazzani will retire at the end of December after 27 years of service. During her tenure, she served in various capacities, including accountant and accounting officer.

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CPR schedule

The Cal Poly Report is published every Wednesday during the academic year. The final fall quarter issue will be the Dec. 12. Articles for that issue are due to Public Affairs by 10 a.m. today (Dec. 5). Items can be e-mailed to polnews@polmail, faxed to ext. 6-6533, or mailed to Public Affairs, Heron Hall. For more information, call ext. 6-1511.

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Continued from page 1

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Combining comedy with sharp acoustic music in a wide repertoire, the group has entertained audiences for almost three decades.

Riders to the Sky has logged more than 4,000 performances, national television appearances, 200 radio public shows, three television series, dozens of albums and 2.3 million miles on the road. In 1999, the group's rendition of "Woody's Roundup" was recorded for Walt Disney/Pixar's "Toy Story 2." A companion album, "Woody's Roundup, Featuring Riders in the Sky," won a 2001 Grammy Award for Best Children's Album.

Tickets range from $22 to $34, with student discounts available.

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Dateline

Friday, December 14

Brown Bag Tech Seminar: James Feld (ITS Network Administration). "Internet 2: Advanced Applications for Research and Development." Kennedy Library 510, noon. Workshops: Basketball; Fresno Pacific; Mott Gym, 7 p.m. ($)

Saturday, December 15

Commencements: The colleges of Business and the student and University Center for Teacher Education. 8 a.m. Architecture and Environmental Design and Liberal Arts, 1 p.m. Agriculture, Science and Mathematics and the University Center for Teacher Education, 3:30 p.m. Recreational. 0

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Student projects displayed today in ITM Metals Lab

The campus community is invited to view the Fall 2001 Industrial Technology Metals Production Exhibit of student projects 2-6:30 p.m. today (Dec. 5) in the ITM Metals Lab, Room 135 in Engineering West. 0

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Physics professor Frankel and colleagues continue to push the boundaries of what we know about the shape of small crystals. The microscopes have become more powerful, and the shapes of the crystals are beginning to tell us more about the way things form in nature. 0

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Dreamin' of a Western Christmas

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