Gary Field, Graphic Communication Professor, Author, and Researcher Retires from Cal Poly

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Gary G. Field, a Cal Poly graphic communication professor for 20 years, retired from Cal Poly at the end of July. He has since been appointed visiting professor at the London College of Communication (formerly the London College of Printing), where he will continue his research, writing and related professional interests.

While at Cal Poly, Field received many awards honoring his research and contributions to graphic arts education. These include the Robert F. Reed Technology Medal from the Graphic Arts Technical Foundation, the Gold Medal from Britain's Institute of Printing, the Honors Award from the Technical Association of the Graphic Arts, the Education Award of Excellence from the Graphic Arts Technical Foundation, and the Fellowship distinction in both the Science and Educational categories from the Royal Photographic Society.

Field's primary areas of teaching at Cal Poly were color reproduction and production management. “Gary developed many innovative approaches to teaching these subjects, including authoring the textbooks ‘Color and Its Reproduction’ and ‘Printing Production Management,’” said Harvey Levenson, head of the Graphic Communication Department. “These texts have since been adopted by colleges around the world.” Field also authored five other books and dozens of research papers and technical articles.

He received his formal technical qualifications from the City and Guilds of London Institute, the Nottingham Trent University, and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. He also earned an MBA degree from the University of Pittsburgh and has certification as an Accredited Senior Imaging Scientist.

Field entered the printing industry as an apprentice in 1960 and progressed through a number of production, technical and administrative positions at companies in Australia and England prior to serving for six years as supervisor of the Color and Photography Research Division of
the Graphic Arts Technical Foundation in Pittsburgh. Before joining Cal Poly in 1984, he taught at Carnegie Mellon University and La Roche College, both in Pittsburgh.

He has served on standards committees, advisory boards and task forces. A frequent contributor to the work of professional societies, Field is a member of the Institute of Printing, the Technical Association of the Graphic Arts, the Royal Photographic Society, the Society for Imaging Science and Technology, and the International Graphic Arts Education Association.

Cal Poly's Graphic Communication Department, founded in 1946, is one of the largest programs of its kind in the United States. The department maintains an enrollment of 300 students and has approximately 3,000 alumni. The department has more than 33,000 square feet of modern laboratories and one of the largest industry-supported programs in graphic arts education. The department is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Collegiate Graphic Communications.

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