Welcome, Mr. Alex Zappulla!  Alex is serving as the department’s graduate assistant.  His responsibilities include assisting with planning the Student Teacher Conclave, co-advising the State FFA Finals steering committee, writing the department newsletter, and co-teaching Ag Ed 220. Alex is from Mission Viejo where he was an active 4-H member and worked for the Orange County Fair.  Alex recently completed his student teaching experience at King City High School.

Welcome back, Bill!  Those who have poured concrete with Dr. Kellogg know what a formative experience it is.  Dr. Kellogg is joining the department winter quarter to extend the opportunity to more Agricultural Science students.  They are prepping the site and will pouring a slab for a new bunker at the Rodeo Unit.

Teacher Candidates Around the State. There are currently nine teacher candidates completing their student teaching. Thank you to the following high schools for their assistance with placements: Atascadero, Gustine, Nipomo, Pioneer Valley, San Luis Obispo, Santa Ynez, St. Helena, Templeton, and Tulare.

State Ag Ambassador Conference. The Cal Poly Ag Ambassadors, under the direction of Sherri Freeman, brought back the State Ag Ambassador Conference January 27 & 28. The group welcomed industry representatives and ambassadors from across the state to take part in training and fellowship. The event was made possible through the generous support of grants, donations, and many hands willing to do important work.

Masters Degree Program.  Would you like to move up on the pay scale or fill upcoming openings at the community college or in state staff?  Start planning NOW!  Call our department office (805.756.2803) to discuss plans to complete a Master of Agricultural Education (MAE) degree!  This learn by doing program will help you grow your knowledge and skills while developing relationships with your colleagues. Information about the Masters program may also be found at: http://www.aged.calpoly.edu/ and click on the Master of Agricultural Education Degree link in the menu at right. Professionals currently working on their program requirements should periodically visit with their advisors to stay on-track. Those who desire to complete their degrees during the Fall 2017 quarter, and who have not previously applied, must apply to Cal Poly through http://csumentor.edu by April 1. Graduate students currently within their leaves of absence need to notify their advisors and call the Cal Poly Registrar’s Office to be readmitted. Those graduate students currently past their leaves of absence (8 consecutive quarters without being enrolled) must complete the paper application found here: https://admissions.calpoly.edu/applicants/returning/ and submit it by July 1,

Learn by Doing continues in the late spring coursework line up!  We are pleased to offer four, two-week late spring courses for teachers seeking a Masters of Agricultural Education degree, an Agricultural Specialist teaching credential, units for pay scale advancement, or looking to refresh their knowledge and skills. Courses will run June 19-24, July 3, and July 5-7. The program now permits students to enroll in up to three courses, with each class meeting three hours daily, Classes will not be held during CATA Conference or during the AgriSkills session.  Registration will soon be live at: http://aged.calpoly.edu/content/masterdegree.  Course offerings include:

AGED 520. Program Development in Agricultural Education (Swan) 7 AM to 10 AM
AGED 538. Laboratory Integration in Agricultural Education, (De Lay) 10 AM to 1 PM
AGED 570. Leadership, (Goldenberg) 1 PM to 4 PM
AGED 570. Maximizing SAEs in Livestock, (Freeman) 4 PM to 7 PM
Skill Building. The Cal Poly Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC) hosts a series of short courses and trainings. To learn more about their offerings, visit their website: http://www.itrc.org/classes.htm.

Teach Ag. Cal Poly is ACTIVELY engaged in a variety of Teach Ag recruitment efforts. We need more teachers and we need your help! Identify students in your programs who would make GREAT agriculture teachers and send us their names and contact information. If you have students on our campus in other majors who would make great teachers, let us know! We look forward to connecting with them.

Cal Poly Open House. Open House will be held April 7–8 with New Student Day on April 7. Provisionally admitted students should follow their email instructions for reservations. Poly Royal Rodeo will be held in the Alex G. Spanos Stadium for the first time this year and there will be an Alumni Beer and Wine Garden in the Engineering Plaza. Old favorites like the Ag Pavilion and the Tractor Pull will be draw crowds. For more information: http://orientation.calpoly.edu/open-house

State FFA Finals. The student planning committee has been identified and preparations are well underway to welcome our California FFA family back to campus for the State FFA Finals on May 6. We have a talented leadership team who has already started planning the massive effort! See you soon!

Brock Center Turns 30. The Brock Center for Agricultural Communications turns 30 this year! Want to be part of the celebration? A dinner, live and silent auction, and lots of reminiscing will take place Friday, June 2\textsuperscript{nd} from 7 to 9pm in the Chumash Auditorium. Contact Megan Silcott (msilcott@calpoly.edu) to RSVP.

CATA AgriSkills Workshops. Every year, CATA hosts a professional development series following closing ceremonies for summer conference. AgriSkills begins Thursday, June 29 at 1pm and runs through Friday, July 1 at noon. There may be a Saturday morning session (7/1 8am to noon) if required for any certification workshops. To receive 1 semester unit of credit, you must attend three, four-hour sessions. Workshops are offered for every pathway and management challenge. Check out the listing and do yourself and your program a favor by signing up and attending this year! Visit: http://calagteachers.org/Conference.html. If you would like a specific topic to be addressed, or wish to be a presenter, complete the survey recently distributed by Ann De Lay, or send your ideas to: adelay@calpoly.edu.

Come for a visit. The Cal Poly Agriculture Ambassadors welcome you to schedule college and campus tours for your classes and officer teams. To make an appointment, submit an email to: agambassadors@calpoly.edu


Brock Center Associates, Mary Allen and Emma Morris, present the Agricultural Communication program’s scope of work to the Arroyo Grande Rotary Club as part of their community outreach program.