Leaning Pine Arboretum Receives $1 Million Donation
Kathleen Enz Finken, Cal Poly’s provost from 2012-19, and her husband, Gerald Finken, both longtime supporters of Cal Poly, have donated $1 million to the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science’s Leaning Pine Arboretum. The gift was made in honor of Andrew J. Thulin, the college’s dean since 2013 and former head of the Animal Science Department. Nestled on five acres, the Leaning Pine Arboretum is Cal Poly’s living classroom for students, faculty and the community. An extension of the Horticulture and Crop Science Department’s Environmental Horticulture Science facility, the arboretum’s foremost goal remains education: a resource for independent study, research and workshops that promote horticulture best practices for students and faculty spanning numerous areas of study. The gift will help fund the further integration of the arboretum into the fabric of the Cal Poly community through increased access, improved directional signage, programming and opportunities for education, while serving as a regional draw for visitors to the Central Coast and those within the horticulture industry.

Cal Poly to Open New Latinx Center in Fall 2022
Cal Poly plans to open a new Latinx Center during fall quarter 2022, with a tentative grand opening ceremony and celebration slated as part of Latinx Heritage Month in September. The new center is intended to create an environment that fosters belonging, empowers Latinx students to thrive, and provides them holistic support. In turn, the center will offer Latinx students the opportunity to gather and build community while exploring their cultures, histories and traditions. Open to all students, the center will feature an accessible computer lab, lounge space and culturally relevant workshops and collaborative programming. The Latinx Center will be the newest addition to Student Diversity and Belonging (SDAB), a collective of campus resource centers within Student Affairs that aim to provide a home away from home for underrepresented students at Cal Poly.

WSCUC Accreditation Team to Visit Campus April 27-29
The university has been in the process of reaffirming its accreditation by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) since late 2018. As the next step in this process, a five-member WSCUC team will visit the campus April 27-29. Earlier this year, Cal Poly submitted its institutional report, documenting the university’s self-study, to WSCUC. Its visit, the team will hold open forums for students, staff and faculty members. These three meetings will all take place in person from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Thursday, April 28. Locations for each meeting are:

- Student Open Forum: Engineering IV (No. 192), Room 106.
- Staff Open Forum: Kennedy Library (No. 35), Room 209.
- Faculty Open Forum: Architecture (No. 5), Room 105.

In addition, WSCUC has created an email account, calpolyso@wascuc.org, for community members to share their thoughts with the team confidentially. For more information about the campus visit, visit https://wasc.calpoly.edu/visit.
Join Campus Dining for ‘Grate-Ful’ Event April 27
On Wednesday, April 27, Cal Poly will join 300 college campuses participating in a national “Grate-Ful” event celebrating gratitude for the Earth. Coinciding with Stop Food Waste Day, Campus Dining will celebrate Grate-Ful at Vista Grande from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. with sustainability-focused activities, including plant-based menu takeovers, a reduced-waste teaching kitchen, climate-pledge opportunities, Zero Waste information, free samples and much more. Check out all of Cal Poly’s activities at https://bit.ly/Grate-Ful-2022.

Safer Hosts Annual Take Back the Night on Thursday
Join Safer from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, April 28, in the UU Plaza for an empowering evening to recognize the strength and resilience of survivors. Take Back the Night is an international movement against sexual violence, with its roots in the 1980s in San Luis Obispo. The event will include live music by Couch Dog, free food for the first 100 attendees, a local resource fair, survivor healing corners, community art installations, a survivor speak out, a solidarity march and a candlelight vigil. Learn more at https://safer.calpoly.edu/saam.

Panel Discussion April 28 to Focus on ‘Addressing Racism and Diversity in Music Institutions’
The Music Department will present a free panel discussion webinar, “Addressing Racism and Diversity in Music Institutions,” at 11:10 a.m. Thursday, April 28. This is the third in a series of presentations with guest panelists Stephanie Shonekan, associate dean of the College of Arts and Science and professor of music at the University of Missouri, and Keith Jackson, dean of the College of Creative Arts at West Virginia University. Cal Poly Director of Jazz Studies Arthur White will moderate the discussion. “This discussion continues because racism in the music academy continues,” White said. “Open, frank and honest dialogue about this topic is necessary.” Registration for the webinar is available at https://music.calpoly.edu/calendar/special.

Cal Poly Foundation Board of Directors to Meet May 7
The board of directors of the Cal Poly Foundation will hold the annual public meeting in a hybrid format at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 7. Board members and presenters are encouraged to participate in person on campus. Additional participants, including staff and members of the public, may join via Zoom webinar. In compliance with Cal Poly Foundation Policy 122, public comments for this meeting must be submitted in writing by 5 p.m. Friday, April 30, via email to calpolyfoundation@calpoly.edu. Obtain a copy of the agenda after May 1 by emailing calpolyfoundation@calpoly.edu. Registration as a non-speaking guest for electronic or telephonic meetings is required prior to the meeting. Once registered, login details will be provided to each registrant to join as an attendee. Registration requests should be emailed to calpolyfoundation@calpoly.edu a minimum of 72 hours prior to the meeting. For more information, contact the Cal Poly Foundation office at ext. 6-7147 or calpolyfoundation@calpoly.edu.

Annual Service Awards Set for May 20
State, Corporation and ASI employees with milestone service anniversaries in 2021 will be honored at the Annual Service Awards ceremony from 2:30-4 p.m. Friday, May 20, in Miossi Hall of the Performing Arts Center, followed by a reception in the Performing Arts Center Main Lobby from 4-5 p.m. For a complete listing of awardees, view the program at https://serviceawards.calpoly.edu. Complimentary tickets are available to reserve online at https://tickets.calpoly.edu/Online/seatSelect.asp and mailed or picked up at Will Call at the Performing Arts Center Ticket Office. Tickets are required to attend. All award recipients received an email with a link to RSVP to the event; RSVP by May 5 to participate. A slideshow of the awardees will be shown at the event. Anyone with photos to contribute should email them to serviceawards@calpoly.edu by May 5.

Sign Up to Volunteer at Spring Commencement June 11 and 12
The Cal Poly Commencement team seeks help from faculty and staff who want to volunteer to help create amazing memories for graduates at Spring Commencement ceremonies in Spanos Stadium on Saturday and Sunday, June 11-12. Volunteer tasks may include greeting graduates and guests; ensuring guests have access to shuttles, wheelchairs and first aid; helping with stadium logistics and more. Volunteers will receive food, drinks and a $50 gift card to the University Store for each shift completed. Sign up for a volunteer shift at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0844adafe2caaf85-spring. For additional details on faculty and staff shifts at Spring Commencement ceremonies, visit https://studentaffairs.calpoly.edu/employee-engagement.