Debbie came to Cal Poly in October of 1982, the same year that Michael Jackson released his album “Thriller”, the Epcot theme park at Disneyworld opened, the average cost of gasoline, was $0.91/gallon, and Time Magazine’s Man of the Year was given for the first time to a non-human, the computer.

She was hired by Don Coates in Educational Services and was single-handedly responsible for class scheduling. At that time, a card catalog system was used for scheduling classes in rooms. In long drawers that extended further than your arm, there was a card for every classroom and they were organized chronologically by building and room number. There were four cabinets of cards – a cabinet for each quarter. Debbie would hand-write every single class scheduled in a room on its respective card. This was done in pencil because, well, as we all know, things change. Changes to the class schedule were sent to the computer center on campus where data operators would key the classes into a computer, which would then spawn a giant report printed on hundreds of pages of green-bar computer paper to be reviewed by Debbie.

To prepare the printed class schedule, Debbie took scissors to the report and cut it into different sections. Using rubber cement, she painstakingly and precisely pasted the sections, along with cut-outs of images, onto large, over-sized pieces of paper to create a master class schedule. She then hopped in her car and drove the class schedule to Casey Printing in King City, where they typeset the schedule. After Debbie reviewed it, they printed fifteen to seventeen thousand copies on newsprint. Students purchased the printed class schedule at the El Corral Bookstore, now known as the University Store.

For the Fall quarter schedule, Debbie had to make sure the class schedules were given to the bookstore after Poly Royal, but before the end of the spring quarter. This was because Cal Poly wanted to make sure students had the fall schedule in hand before they left for the summer. If the schedules were in the bookstore before Poly Royal, parents liked to purchase them while visiting and there weren’t enough left for the students.

In the late 1980’s, Cal Poly implemented its first student information system, known as SIS. There was no conversion or migration of data. It had to be hand-entered and Debbie spent countless weekends in the office, with her infant daughter lying on a blanket on the floor beside her, entering class schedule information. In recognition, she received Cal Poly’s Outstanding Staff Award for 1988-89.
With the implementation of SIS, there was no longer a need to send files to the computer center for data entry. Instead, Debbie could enter everything into her own computer, which fed data to the mainframe system. Also, she no longer had to drive to King City. With SIS, she was able to submit electronic files to University Graphic Systems for printing the class schedule, right here on campus.

A few years later, Debbie implemented Schedule25, a software for assigning rooms to classes, continuing to move Cal Poly into the future. Then in the late 1990’s and because Debbie had such a handle on scheduling at Cal Poly, she was asked to implement the university’s first master calendar application. This project came about when a televised basketball game at Mott Gym and performances at Spanos Theatre and at the Performing Arts Center, resulted in an unanticipated traffic jam on campus. She worked with various campus partners, including Athletics and the Performing Arts Center, and implemented Resource25.

With Debbie’s strong work ethic, software expertise, and experience with implementations, she was asked in 2004 to join the team implementing PeopleSoft, which was replacing the legacy SIS-plus system. She became the Student Records Lead on the project, an immense area of responsibility at which most individuals - individuals of a less hearty nature - would have balked. Who would want to take on a challenge of that magnitude? Thankfully, Debbie did.

She worked relentlessly with a team of other hearty individuals in trailers that were temporarily installed next to the Crop Science building at the corner of Highland Drive and Mt. Bishop Road and, in 2006, Cal Poly went live on PeopleSoft. Few people know this, but Debbie worked all through the night before registration opened for the Fall 2006 quarter, coding prerequisites to be enforced. The next morning, without pause or sleep, she stepped out of the trailers and headed to the Office of Academic Records in the Administration building and worked with Records Associates that day to support them and students in navigating the new registration system. It was also the end of an era as there was no longer a printed class schedule and PASS was introduced.

PASS is just one of the many applications and initiatives that Debbie has been instrumental in implementing at Cal Poly as she has risen to the rank of Associate Registrar for Systems Management. Each time she has been asked to help deliver a new idea or a new technology, she has stepped up to the plate. In more recent years, this has included:

- Block scheduling first-time freshmen into Fall quarter classes
• Delivering the capability for students to submit requests and receive transcripts online
• Implementing PolyPlanner and then integrating it with PASS
• Integrating PASS with PeopleSoft student registration
• Creating enrollment appointments based upon academic progress
• Uploading grades from PolyLearn to PeopleSoft
• Year-round block scheduling for first-time freshmen

Debbie is fearless, committed, intelligent, hard-working, funny, and well-spoken. She’s everything anyone of us would ever want in a colleague and teammate.

Thank you, Debbie. Thank you, thank you, thank you for all you’ve done for Cal Poly as an institution and for those around you who have watched, learned, and been inspired.