

The Research Scholars in Residence Program at Cal Poly  
is pleased to present a lecture for the University and Local Community

# Some Not-So-Obvious Laws That Nature Always Obeys

A presentation by John P. O'Connell, Professor Emeritus, University of Virginia

Tuesday, October 27, 4:00pm  
Cal Poly Kennedy Library,  
Bldg. 35, Room 202A

*Everyone knows some ways of Nature that always are true: gravity makes masses attract; parallel magnets repel; and burning fuel is hot and not reusable. Other elements of Nature still are mysteries to everyone: the Cosmos; subatomics; and living systems. And then there are some always-true aspects of Nature that are subtle, making it difficult to know enough about them. Among these are the possibilities and limits on converting energy and for synthesizing and purifying chemicals. This talk is intended to familiarize the audience with the Laws of Thermodynamics, which codify such natural behaviors, and help with understanding their relationships and consequences in both familiar and high-tech situations.*

*John O'Connell is Professor Emeritus of Chemical Engineering at the University of Virginia and recently retired to the Central Coast. He has specialized in thermodynamics research and education with applications to the design of chemical processes including biotechnology, hydrogen manufacture, and carbon capture.*



Light refreshments will be served

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