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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Kellogg

Happy New Year! Well, it may not be the start of a new calendar year, but it is the start of a new academic year for the university and for the Retired Faculty and Staff Association (RFSA). The same emotions for the start of any new year run high for me. I anticipate this to be an outstanding year for the RFSA and our membership. We already have many plans for the upcoming year, and I truly hope you will join us for all or most of them. Although the university will begin the semester system this Fall, the RFSA still plans on hosting Fall, Winter, and Spring luncheons each year.

Looking back, last year we had three great luncheon programs. In the Fall, we were able to tour the newly remodeled Robert E. Kennedy Library. It was wonderful to see a "state-of-the-art" university library. In the Winter, our luncheon speaker was Provost Al Liddicoat. We learned about Cal Poly initiatives including the transition from quarters to the semester system, and the integration of the Cal Maritime Academy into the Cal Poly family. In the Spring, our luncheon speaker was Dr. Eric Mehiel, Department Head of the Aerospace Engineering Department. We received an overview of the department's goals, expectations, and challenges going forward. We toured the AERO labs and facilities.

The RFSA also had a special outing in June. Under the very capable leadership of our Interim Special Events coordinator, Dr. Robert Flores, 50 retirees and guests were able to tour the Port San Luis Obispo Lighthouse. It was a beautiful day, and we learned a lot about our coastal history. We culminated the RFSA programmatic year with the annual June Jubilee that was sponsored by President Jeff Armstrong and his wife Sharon.

Our monthly Coffee Hours have been extremely well received. We meet at 9:30 a.m. on the third Monday of each month. Our Coffee Hour Coordinator, Gail Simmons has done a wonderful job of hosting the Coffee Hours, and acquiring wonderful guest speakers who have addressed interesting topics on the Central Coast. We host Coffee Hours to provide members and friends a chance to gather and engage with one another.

Plans for the 2026-2027 academic year are well underway. Our Fall luncheon will hopefully feature a tour of the newly completed Animal Health Center. We are currently selecting the date and making plans for the meal. Be on the lookout for the Fall luncheon invitation and

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make plans to attend.

As you probably already know, the California State University Maritime Academy and Cal Poly have become one university with two campuses. Both campuses have been working hard on the integration process. We are pleased to also integrate Cal Poly's RFSA with the faculty and staff retirees from the Maritime Academy. To begin the process of uniting both groups together, we will be taking a charter bus trip to the Solano campus to tour the Maritime Academy and meet retired faculty and staff personnel. Travel and hotel housing for the two-day event is being provided by Cal Poly. Plans are to drive north to the Solano area on Thursday, November 5, and then spend Friday touring the Golden Bear (the Maritime Academy ship), touring the campus, and having a luncheon with retirees and site administrators before heading home to the Cal Poly campus. Be on the lookout for an invitation to join us for the trip as we seek to unite both groups of retirees. Seating will be limited, so RSVP quickly.

As we head into this academic year, I'm excited for the work being done by our Association, the chance to stay connected with each other, and to keep informed of the good work being done by the University. I'm looking forward to getting VIP tours of the new facilities that will be opening this year on the campus. Besides the new Animal Health Center, we will also explore the new John Madden Football Center and other newly constructed facilities that support Cal Poly students.

If you have not participated with us recently, please allow me to encourage you to do so. We want you to stay engaged with the university and with each other. If you have any recommendations for our Association, I encourage you to share them with me. I can be reached at bkellogg@calpoly.edu. I'm continually thankful for our Board members who believe strongly in our Association, and for the great service they are providing you.

FALL SEMESTER EVENT

Please join the Cal Poly Retired Faculty and Staff Association for our Fall Semester Luncheon. Dr. Kim Sprayberry, Associate Department Head will speak on the newly completed Animal Health Center and the current and future plans and activities of the Animal Science Department. Details are still being arranged. So, be looking for an email invitation arriving in your inbox shortly and RSVP quickly. You will not want to miss this event.

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from the editor

If you have a short article, remembrance of a significant person, or event from your time at Cal Poly, submit the article and I will include it in our next newsletter.

Please email your article to:
eramosdo@calpoly.edu

Or you can mail it to me at:

Elaine Ramos Doyle
2381 Claranita Avenue
Los Osos, CA 93402

INVITATION FROM THE CAL POLY WOMEN'S CLUB

The RFSA and the CPWC are inviting members to each other's events hoping to enjoy new opportunities and camaraderie. Many members of the CPWC are also members of the RFSA. The Cal Poly Women's Club will be holding a Holiday Dinner Party for its members and their significant others at the Madonna Inn. All members of the RFSA are being invited to this year's event. The event will be held Thursday, December 10, 2026, beginning with a Social Hour at 6pm and dinner being served at 7pm. If you are interested, please contact 1st Vice President Andrea Moudakis at amoudakis@gmail.com, President Heather Hurley at hh.nontutuesest7@hotmail.com or 2nd Vice President BettyAnn Clark aclark88@calpoly.edu for more details. Hope to see you all there!

TECHNOLOGY NOTES

By Joe Grimes

I just recently became aware of a new scam where an identity theft called "slamming" occurs. The person's landline is transferred illegally without their knowledge and approval to a cell phone company, thus becoming a cell phone number. The scammers are then able to gain access to several of the person's credit card or bank account numbers that the person provided over what they thought was their secure landline phone number but were intercepted by the scammers. It is nice not to have to changeover from a landline to a cell phone, but unfortunately money is not being put into updating the landlines or their technology.

It is important to continue to be alert because the scammers are getting increasingly clever and with AI are able to make scams look more legitimate. US citizens lost **\$2.1 billion** directly to technology and customer support scams in 2025, according to the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) Annual Report. Some top scam experts themselves have been scammed. If you receive a scam e-mail through the Cal Poly e-mail system, please report it by email to abuse@calpoly.edu

There are several applications such as Microsoft Office, Zoom, and ChatGPT that are being used by a significant number of our retirees. Microsoft Office is available to all emeritus retirees online through the Cal Poly portal. Versions of Zoom and ChatGPT are available free at their company website. As we have advertised in the past, desktop Microsoft Office, the full version of Zoom and ChatGPT are available to retirees who are still involved with the university in some way and have a person who would support them.

The AI full version of ChatGPT is available to all Cal Poly students and employees. The following is a website that has a tutorial for beginner

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friends noted in passing

BY ELAINE RAMOS DOYLE

JAMES MURPHY (INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY)

Jim passed away in April 2026. He was 93 years old. Jim was a very proud veteran having serviced with the U.S. Marines. Jim also provided his talents to the Board of the Retired Faculty & Staff Association.

ANITA WEST (INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES)

Anita passed away May 31, 2026. She was 72 years old. During her 32-year career, Anita became a trusted resource for generations of Mustangs. She volunteered for C.A.S.A. and Achievement House. Anita had a beautiful voice and shared it with her church. She loved nature, road trips and live music.

RUDY WOOTEN (FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION)

Rudy passed away August 5, 2026. He was 79 years old. Rudy was a dedicated educator and mentor whose leadership and commitment left a lasting impact on his students and colleagues. He served as a professor as well as Department Head. Rudy loved working the land on his ranch and riding horses. He gave generously of himself and used every drop of what he had to serve others.

and seniors regarding ChatGPT. If you're curious about this tool and want to learn more about how to get started with it, I recommend this website that will introduce you to the free version and how to make it available on your computer. I also recommend that you start out with this website before you decide to go to the full version. The free version is pretty good. I would recommend that you be cautious and probably not do a search regarding ChatGPT because there are websites out there that are nefarious in nature that will be listed if you do such a search.

ChatGPT Tutorial 2025 for Seniors and Beginners Learning AI

www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJL9K3xscRo

RETIRED FACULTY AND STAFF CENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

By Laura Dimmitt

Selections for the Retired Faculty and Staff Centennial Scholarships for the 2026-27 academic year will be taking place during fall semester. We look forward to meeting these excellent freshmen students at the 2027 Retired Faculty and Staff Association June Jubilee.

I am pleased to announce the fiscal year end **fair market value** of the Retired Faculty and Staff Centennial Scholarship Endowment is \$227,434.60. You may make your donations at Cal Poly's giving site.

For those interested in learning how scholarships assist freshmen (and other) students, please click on this [link](#). There are varying costs of attendance for each student, depending on the major and whether a student lives on or off campus.

Use the link on the forms page to donate. As always, we are grateful for your ongoing generosity in encouraging student achievement, potential success and hope for the future!

CAL POLY CARES

Every month, at our coffee hours and luncheons, we have been collecting funds for the Cal Poly Cares program. The Cares program, run by the Dean of Students, supports struggling students by providing emergency grants to help offset core expenses.

Due to your generosity, we have been able to provide limited assistance to students who are unable to meet immediate, essential expenses. The grant to students is designated to offset a short-term financial need.

We will continue to collect funds for this program and if you would like more information, please visit <https://deanofstudents.calpoly.edu/cal-poly-cares-grant>

If you would like to donate directly to the program, please visit <https://giving.calpoly.edu/student-affairs>

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COFFEE HOUR

By Gail Simmons

We have had some excellent speakers at the monthly coffee hour. In June, we enjoyed Stanley Yukicas and Craig Russell displaying their collection of guitars and telling us about each one of them. In July, we had Janine Stillman explain about her hobby/business of glass art. It was amazing to see what she could make! August brought our first ever mobile coffee hour. We met at the San Luis Obispo botanical gardens and were treated to a leisurely walk, as well as history of the gardens. (See pictures below) This was so successful that we may try some field trips in the future. As a bonus, we had Scott Smith-Cooke present a short talk on our upcoming medical insurance open enrollment period.

We would love for more people to join us. You won't want to miss September's presentation by Mike Jones. He will be telling his story about raising homing pigeons with a live demonstration!



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news

Complete the news form to the right and mail to:

Susan Stewart
1584 Populas Ave.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Let Cal Poly know if your contact info needs updating. Please use the form on the right so that your university records stay current.

endowment

The Retired Faculty and Staff Centennial Scholarship Endowment is a way for us to give back and collectively make a greater impact on deserving students. Please consider donating to the endowment. Use this [link](#) to donate. Select "Other Funds" from dropdown and type in "#2016 Retired Faculty and Staff Centennial Scholarship Endowment". It is a perfect opportunity to honor or memorialize someone special.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity and believing in the future leaders of tomorrow.

Interested in creating a personal endowment?

Please contact the Office of Gift Planning at 805-756-7125 or plannedgiving@calpoly.edu.

Retired Faculty & Staff

NEWS FORM

Name_____

Spouse's Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ ZIP_____

Phone_____ Email_____

Year you began at Cal Poly_____ Position/Department_____

____ Faculty ____ Staff Year retired_____ Today's Date_____

Please share some of what you are doing in retirement: _____

Mail the above to:

Susan Stewart
1584 Populas Ave.
San Luis Obispo, CA