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SPRING 2026 edition

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are spoiled! Yes, that's right. Cal Poly's Retired Faculty and Staff Association is spoiled thanks to the support we receive from the university.

FROM THE EDITOR

SPRING QUARTER EVENT

As our association President, I represent Cal Poly's Retired Faculty and Staff Association at the state level. I attend the statewide CSU-Emeritus Retired Faculty and Staff Association (CSU-ERFSA) meetings. I also participate in surveys originating from CSU campuses seeking to determine the level of support each university in the CSU system is providing their retirees. I truly believe Cal Poly is thankful for the past work of the faculty and staff and supports us strongly in retirement. I dare say we receive many more benefits than retirees from other CSU campuses.

COFFEE HOUR

SPECIAL EVENT

FRIENDS NOTED IN PASSING

TECHNOLOGY NOTES

NEWS FORM

The Cal Poly RFSA is directly supported by personnel from the University Development and Alumni Engagement group. I want to publicly thank Meaghan Smeehuyzen, Allie Burnett, Jenny Heckendorf, and BettyAnn Clark for their excellent support to our Association all year long.

CENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP
DONATION INFORMATION

President Jeff Armstong is a very strong supporter of our Association. He is genuinely concerned with the well-being of our retirees. He honors the retirees each year with a wonderful appreciation luncheon. The "June Jubilee" will take place on May 31 this year from 12:30 to 1:00 for the welcome reception, and 1:00 for the meal and program. Invitations have already been sent out. Please reply as soon as possible since the event will likely fill up quickly.

The Cal Poly Retired Faculty and Staff Association continues to be active keeping our retirees engaged with each other and the University. Last quarter we heard from Cal Poly's new Provost, Dr. Al Liddicoat, about new 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.

On the third Monday of each month, we host "Coffee Hour" to provide members and friends a chance to gather and engage with one another. Every Coffee Hour has a brief program featuring a topic relative to life here on the Central Coast. Previous speakers

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UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Jenny Heckendorf
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have been excellent. A special thank you to Gail Simmons for serving faithfully as our Coffee Hour Coordinator.

Our Spring Quarter luncheon will take place on Thursday, May 21. Our featured speaker will be the department head of the Aerospace Engineering Department, Dr. Eric Mehiel. We will receive an overview of the department's goals, expectations, and challenges going forward. Highlights of faculty research, student projects, industry relationships with AERO, and ongoing projects such as CubeSat will be discussed. Mentions of the Artemus II space program and Alumnus Victor Glover will be shared. A tour of the AERO labs and facilities will take place after the meal and an oral presentation for those wanting to learn more about the Aerospace Engineering program. We will be meeting at the Dairy Innovation Center conference room for the meal and presentation, then be transported by Cal Poly bus to the departments' lab facilities. For now, please save the date and plan to join us.

Last spring, the RFSB Board became aware of the Cal Poly Cares Program. Cal Poly Cares provides limited financial assistance to currently enrolled Cal Poly students who are unable to meet immediate and essential expenses, because of temporary hardship, related to an unexpected situation. The grant is designed to offset a short-term financial need and is not intended to replace or supplement financial aid. The Board made the decision to have an offering box at all our meetings (i.e. Coffee Hours, luncheons, and the June Jubilee) for our members and guests to donate money to the Cal Poly Cares Program. In less than two quarters, I'm pleased to report that our members have already donated over \$300 to the program. Thank you everyone!

As we head into the home stretch of 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. Please join us for the quarterly luncheon, a monthly Coffee Hour, or for our annual June Jubilee this year. 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.

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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

SPRING QUARTER EVENT

When: Thursday, May 21, 11:30 am

Where: Dairy Innovation Center Conference Room

Please join us for our Spring Quarter Luncheon. There is ample parking at this location on campus.

Our featured speaker will be the department head of the Aerospace Engineering Department, Dr. Eric Mehiel. A tour of the AERO labs and facilities and an oral presentation for those wanting to learn more about the Aerospace Engineering program will take place after lunch.

More information about the luncheon and the opportunity to RSVP will be sent out via email as the time approaches. We hope to see you then.

COFFEE HOUR

By Gail Simmons

Coffee Hour is alive and well. The April Coffee Hour hosted Michael Auriemma who described the Mediterranean Diet as more of a lifestyle than a diet. In May, we welcome Christine Dawson who will speak on the Community Foundation of San Luis Obispo. In June, we will have Colleen Bojorquez, CEO of the California Mid State Fair to speak about our own county fair. As you can see, we have great speakers lined up and we invite you to join us in the coming months and learn new things about our county!

SPECIAL EVENT

Dr. Bob Flores has secured approval for the Retired Faculty and Staff Association members to receive a tour of the Port San Luis Lighthouse in Avila Beach on Tuesday, June 9th. A formal invitation will be sent out as we get closer to the date.

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friends noted in passing

BY ELAINE RAMOS DOYLE

CATHERINE KRUPP (LIBRARY)

Katie passed away December 14, 2025. She spent many years in the Serials Department where her care, precision and respect for shared knowledge made her a valued colleague. Katie was kind, principled and quietly brave, as well as caring deeply about social justice and a strong advocate for the unhoused.

ANA HARTIG FERRER (WORLD LANGUAGES & CULTURES)

Ana passed away January 1, 2026. She thoroughly enjoyed teaching college students and sharing the cultural norms of Spain. Ana was witty, vivacious and learned with a strong sense of humor.

DENNIS BASHAW (CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING)

Dennis passed away March 30, 2026. He was excited to be able to teach a new generation of students and his position at Cal Poly fulfilled his dream. Dennis loved dogs, the LA Dodgers, Star Trek and gardening.

PAUL ZINGG (OFFICE OF THE PROVOST)

Paul passed away April 9, 2026. He was a former Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs as well as the Dean of Liberal Arts. Paul was a historian and athlete and specialized in sports history. He was a teacher, a scholar and a leader who brought intellectual rigor and a passion for student success. He spent a year in minor league baseball and was a 6-handicap golfer. Paul had a characteristic warmth and genuine care for students and staff.

TECHNOLOGY NOTES

By Joe Grimes

If you are no longer receiving emails regarding RFSA, you have been unsubscribed from the RFSA e-mail list, and this would have happened if you accidentally clicked or touched unsubscribe on one of the RFSA emails. Unfortunately, if you do touch the unsubscribe word in RFSA email, you will not be asked for confirmation like they do on advertising emails. To get back on the e-mail list, please contact Joe Grimes at jgrimes@calpoly.edu. I recently discovered that this had happened to me.

Scams continue to create problems for us and this one is not involved with technology but it's important to know about if you own a lot that doesn't have a residence on it. The scammer sells the property to someone who doesn't know that it is being done illegally. The scammer forges owner signatures on sales documents and doesn't involve the owner because there is no residence to be shown to the buyer. The owner isn't involved until they try to do something with the property later and then they face a major headache. There are companies that will provide security support for such owners. The number of these scams has increased significantly recently and predominantly occur in California where the value of property is so high.

Anthropic is an AI safety and research company founded in 2021 by former OpenAI executives Dario and Daniela Amodei, aiming to prioritize safe AI development. Anthropic has developed two AI products, one with the firm ethical constraints embodied in its constitution and the second available to do just about anything the Pentagon says it should do. The concern is that the extensive AI product may get in the hands of scammers. The latest version that is the more extensive of their products has the capability to easily find flaws in software products. It is likely that this company isn't the only one in the world that is developing such capabilities. The big concern is that scammers will get this software and access flaws in software and gain access to secure information about companies and individuals.

Most scams have flaws that can be recognized if the people involved keep their alerts up when using technology. If a scam occurs, it is important to quickly act and notify authorities in order to possibly find a resolution that is favorable to the person being scammed and possibly apprehend the scammer.

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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. 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 93401