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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Kellogg

Happy New Year and welcome to the winter quarter edition of the Cal Poly Faculty and Staff Association (RFSa) Newsletter. I hope you are doing well and that your year is off to a great start. As I write this article, I'm looking out the window at a lot of green grass all around. Our rainfall has been good, and it looks like spring may come early this year. There is so much happening on campus right now, and the RFSa is excited to be keeping you abreast of everything taking place.

This past fall I had the privilege of representing the Cal Poly- San Luis Obispo campus at the CSU- Emeritus Retired Faculty and Staff Association (CSU-ERFSA) meeting that took place on the campus of CSU Northridge. This was the first time in my tenure as our campus President that the meeting was held in-person. Previous meetings took place on Zoom. I enjoyed meeting many retired campus leaders from CSU campuses across the state. I was impressed by the work being done by CSU-ERFSA. If you are not a member of this association, I certainly encourage you to join. The organization works hard on behalf of all CSU retirees. More information about CSU- ERFSA can be found on their website at

<https://www.csuerfsa.org> .

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 toured the newly remodeled Cal Poly Robert E. Kennedy Library. We were able to walk throughout the building and see the many changes made to the facility. It was also a treat to have Dr. Cole McDaniel from the Architectural Engineering Department join us. Dr. McDaniel was one of our featured guest speakers from the year before. He pointed out many of the upgrades made to the library and how each one strengthened the building in the event of a large earthquake. The remodeled, state-of-the-art library, is truly a great addition to the university.

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

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RETIRED FACULTY & STAFF ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Dr. Bill Kellogg

bkellogg@calpoly.edu

VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Jeff Nadel

jnadel@calpoly.edu

TREASURER

Susan Stewart

sstewart@calpoly.edu

SECRETARY

Carolyn Jones

carolynjones123@sbcglobal.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Elaine Ramos Doyle

eramosdo@calpoly.edu

SCHOLARSHIP OFFICER

Laura Dimmitt

ldimmitt@gmail.com

UNIVERSITY TECHNOLOGY LIAISON

Dr. Joe Grimes

jgrimes@calpoly.edu

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT OFFICER

Kris Jankovitz

kjankovi@calpoly.edu

SPECIAL EVENTS OFFICER

Vacant

COFFEE HOUR OFFICER

Gail Simmons

gsimmons@calpoly.edu

WEBSITE DESIGN & IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER

Mikele Hushing

mikelehk@calpoly.edu

UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Jenny Heckendorf

jheckend@calpoly.edu

Our winter quarter luncheon will take place on Thursday, March 12. Our featured speaker will be Cal Poly's new Provost, Dr. Al Liddicoat. We will be meeting at the new Mustang Business Park (located near the San Luis Obispo Regional Airport). The park now houses the Cal Poly Partners auxiliary and many of the university offices. Details about the luncheon and an opportunity to RSVP will be forthcoming via email as the time approaches. For now, please save the date and plan to join us. We are also planning to provide a tour of the Mustang Business Park for anyone wanting to walk through the facility.

This past year many retirees contributed to the Retired Faculty and Staff Centennial Scholarship Endowment. Our endowment is managed by the Cal Poly Foundation and is sustained by market value gains and contributions from retirees. If you wish to support the Centennial Scholarship Endowment, you can do so with a gift of any amount. Retirees contributing \$250 or more will be noted as a "Legacy Donor" in the Association's membership records. Those interested in donating to the scholarship endowment can do so at the Association's website- <https://rfsa.calpoly.edu/scholarship>.

Last spring, the RFSA 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. We made the decision to have an offering box at all our meetings (i.e. Coffee Hour, luncheons, and the June Jubilee) for our members and guests to donate money to the Cal Poly Cares Program. Any contribution is deeply appreciated.

So, as we head into the new calendar year, I'm excited for the work of 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 a 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

WINTER QUARTER EVENT

When: Wednesday, March 12 at 11:30 am

Where: Mustang Business Park, 4800 Morabito Place, SLO

Please join us for our Winter Quarter luncheon.

Vice President Jeff Nadel has secured Provost Al Liddicoat as our guest speaker. The luncheon is set for March 12 and will be held at the Mustang Business Park out near the San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport off Broad Street. Please mark your calendars to attend the luncheon.

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

Happy New Year to all the Retired Faculty and Staff. The Coffee Hour in December was well attended and everyone enjoyed decorating holiday cookies. The January Coffee Hour featured personnel from the Morro Bay Flotilla, which is a U.S. Coast Guard auxiliary. February will feature Janine Stillman from the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden. We invite all to attend these coffee hours, especially those who have not joined us before!

Coffee Hour starts at 9:30 a.m. at the Poultry Science Center on campus and ends around 10:30 or 11:00 on the third Monday of the month.

CAL POLY CARES

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friends noted in passing

BY ELAINE RAMOS DOYLE

GERALD PUNCHES (REGISTRAR)

Gerry passed away October 29, 2025. He retired from the U.S. Navy after 23 years and became Cal Poly's Registrar. Gerry was advisor to the Sigma Nu fraternity and mentored many students. An avid golfer, he won several club championships. Gerry was kind, generous and had a great sense of humor.

DEBBIE ARMSTRONG (FACILITIES)

Debbie passed away November 1, 2025. She retired after serving Cal Poly for 20 years. Debbie was the first female hired as a custodian! She was very kind and easily touched many hearts in many departments.

JAMES CONWAY (COMMUNICATIONS)

Jim passed away November 4, 2025. He was curious, kind and had a quick wit and a dry sense of humor. Jim became the department head and was known for his teaching style and heartfelt mentorship. He was also a devoted supporter of the performing arts.

JAMES FLANAGAN (ANIMAL SCIENCE)

Jim passed away November 9, 2025. He taught beef cattle and equine science classes while managing the University's Commercial Cattle ranching operations for 35 years. Jim enjoyed working with cattle, training horses and dogs and mentoring many students on the Cal Poly Escuela Ranch. He was also an accomplished artist.

JAMES WEBB (PHYSICAL EDUCATION & KINESIOLOGY)

Jim passed away November 14, 2025. Upon arriving at Cal Poly, he set up the new "Human Performance Lab" which bears his name. Jim loved coaching, music, dancing, golf, camping, traveling and skiing. He was a humble man and spent his life serving others and lived his life with integrity.

RETIRED FACULTY AND STAFF CENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

By Laura Dimmitt

Happy New Year to our retiree friends!

I am pleased to announce that for the 2025-26 academic year, two scholarships @ \$3,000 have been awarded to Kiki Breshears, Animal Science major and Madison Baker, Business Administration major. Kiki graduated from San Clemente High School in Orange County. Her current plans are to work as a wildlife field biologist in animal rehabilitation. Madison graduated from Bullard High School in Fresno County. Her current plans are to earn an MBA and become an accountant for one of the Big Four firms. We look forward to meeting these excellent freshmen students at the Retired Faculty and Staff Association end of academic year June Jubilee.

The **fair market value** of the scholarship endowment at 11/30/25 is \$204,931.50. You may make your donations at Cal Poly's giving site. Use this **link** to donate (also on the forms page). As always, we are grateful for your ongoing generosity in encouraging student achievement, potential success and hope for the future!

TECHNOLOGY NOTES

By Joe Grimes

All of us encounter problems with our technology devices or their interconnection. This article will share my experiences with personal technology problems and experiences assisting others dealing with the problems that they have encountered. Some of these problems are easily fixed by turning to simple actions such as just shutting down the device and restarting it and that is often the best method for solving a problem easily. I always try that first unless it is obvious that the problem is something else. Another simple problem may be that it just got unplugged.

To solve more difficult problems, we often need to turn to the support of others. Many of us have local support services or friends we can turn to for assistance, and this will provide the support needed to solve many of the problem(s). However, more complex problems require us to go elsewhere for more advanced assistance. This can be a treacherous path. Some major support businesses are into support only to make money, but not necessarily solving our problems. For example, some companies will not help you find the appropriate web page to address your problem with their own product without your purchase of a service contract that has no guarantee of success. I consider most of these companies to just be scam artists and would never go to them for support because they are only interested in the bottom dollar. Some of these are major well-known companies.

Unfortunately, I can't provide a recommendation of an approach that you should use for these more difficult problems. If you do agree to a service agreement, I would recommend that you cancel the agreement as soon as you see that it is not going to be helpful. In the past, I have done this and received a refund of money spent on the contract that did not provide the support needed, but you need to approach this from a position of strength.

It would be nice if our technical devices didn't deteriorate or if technology companies would be able to develop software upgrades that don't cause failure of other software or the need to upgrade devices connected to your computer.

It is fortunate that we have all the sophisticated software that's available if we need it, but unfortunately it can create a lot of overhead in our lives dealing with technology problems.

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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



CAL POLY
Office of the Dean
of Students

Cal Poly Cares



Cal Poly Cares provides limited financial assistance to currently enrolled Cal Poly students who are unable to meet immediate, essential expenses because of temporary hardship related to an unexpected situation. The grant is designated to offset a short-term financial need and is not intended to replace or supplement financial aid.

To show your commitment for our fellow Mustangs in these areas, please give to a Cal Poly student today. Any contribution is deeply appreciated.

