

President: Dr. Joe Grimes

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CAL POLY
Strawberry Center

RETIRED FACULTY AND STAFF SPRING LUNCHEON – CAL POLY STRAWBERRY CENTER

By Bill Kellogg

Join the Cal Poly Retired Faculty and Staff Club as we learn about and tour Cal Poly's Strawberry Center at our luncheon on **Wednesday, May 15**, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Our program will include a luncheon, guest speaker, a tour of the very impressive research and growing facility, and conclude with strawberry varietal tastings. The tour of the research center and growing grounds will require some walking on uneven ground.

DATE: Wednesday, May 15
TIME: 11:30 a.m.
WHERE: Cal Poly Dairy Innovation Institute, Bldg. 18A
COST: \$16.00

Reservations are required. Please RSVP by May 7 to Gail Simmons at 805-462-9148 or gsimmons@calpoly.edu.

Parking is available adjacent to the Institute.

The Strawberry Center is led by Director Dr. Gerald Holmes and includes an entomologist, pathologist, production manager, postdoctoral researcher, farm manager, automation engineer, internship coordinator, research associate, administrative support, and students.

The Cal Poly Strawberry Center was established in 2014 as a partnership between Cal Poly and the California Strawberry Commission. This one-of-a-kind center is rooted in the hands-on learning approach that defines Cal Poly. The center focuses on applied research that integrates both teaching and learning experiences for Cal Poly undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and California strawberry farmers.

The California strawberry industry is a leader in innovation and research dedicated to reducing the impacts of farming on the environment, limiting pesticide use, conserving resources, and developing

more robust strawberry varieties. The Strawberry Center's research is closely aligned with industry needs, and focuses on high priority topics such as management of soilborne diseases, labor-saving automation, integrated pest management of lygus bug and mites, host plant screening for disease and insect resistance, water quality and nutrient management, and improved farming techniques. The Strawberry Center has access to 10 acres of prime farmland on campus for purposes of field research and demonstration, including certified organic land, all within walking distance of the main campus.

Students receive on-the-job training in laboratory and field-based research methods and industry farming practices. Many summer internships are available each year with a variety of strawberry-centered companies such as Driscolls, Naturipe, Smuckers, California Strawberry Commission, and Reiter Affiliated Companies.

The strategic vision of the Cal Poly Strawberry Center is to increase the sustainability of the California strawberry industry through research and education that addresses industry needs. Some of the key strengths of the Cal Poly Strawberry Center are: the only organization in the US dedicated solely to strawberry research and education; is uniquely positioned on California's Central Coast at the geographic center for 90% of US Strawberry production; funded through a unique partnership between Cal Poly and the California Strawberry Commission; has access to the strawberry industry as a resource for education and training of Cal Poly students, and technical expertise on strawberry production and its issues.

EXCITING ACTIVITIES AT CAL POLY

By Joe Grimes

Each college has outstanding things happening. The following are highlights for each one:

College of Architecture and Environmental Design: Cal Poly construction management students earned top honors and took home more trophies than any other university at the 2019 Associated Schools of Construction regional competition in Reno, Nevada. Five out of a dozen Cal Poly teams placed in the top three spots in their respective categories. Cal Poly students earned firsts in the Concrete, Heavy Civil and Mixed-Use categories; and third in the Commercial and Project Management categories. Concrete and Project management were national awards, while Commercial, Heavy Civil and Mixed Use were regional honors. https://calpolynews.calpoly.edu/news_releases/2019/March/CMHonors

College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences: Gouda Work: Cal Poly's Student Mad Cheeses Rank Among the Nation's Best. Cal Poly earned a third-place award for its student-produced Grand Gouda against some of the top cheesemakers in the nation at the 2019 U.S. Championship Cheese Contest. The university also placed fifth with its Smoked Gouda. <https://cafes.calpoly.edu/cal-poly-wins-medal-national-cheese-competition>

College of Science and Mathematics: The Center for Coastal Marine Sciences (CCMS) facilities on the campus in San Luis Obispo consist of research labs, faculty and student offices and a large warehouse for storing and testing oceanographic instrumentation. CCMS also has lab and classroom space at the end of its 1km long pier in Avila Beach, providing ample opportunity for students to be involved in research activities. <http://www.marine.calpoly.edu/facilities>

Orfalea College of Business: Cal Poly's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance provided Free Tax Preparation for Underserved Communities. For the 27th consecutive year, Cal Poly's Orfalea College of Business

provided free tax return preparation assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. <https://www.cob.calpoly.edu/newsevents/cal-polys-volunteer-income-tax-assistance-to-provide-free-tax-preparation-for-underserved-communities/>

College of Liberal Arts: Dr. Philip J. Williams, professor of political science and director of the Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Florida, has been named as the new dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Cal Poly. https://calpolynews.calpoly.edu/news_releases/2019/February/DeanWilliams

Mustang Media Group Wins 46 Awards: Mustang Media Group (MMG), the Cal Poly Journalism Department's student-run media organization, received national recognition from three of college media's most distinguished organizations — California College Media Association (CCMA), Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) and College Media Business and Advertising Managers (CMBAM). Every platform of MMG earned awards on behalf of the organization, and several students were recognized for their personal accomplishments. <https://cla.calpoly.edu/link/winter-2019/mmg-conference-awards>

College of Engineering: Aerospace engineering students and faculty helped build a record chasing sailplane. Towed into flight by a crop duster and controlled by a renowned, record-breaking pilot, a sailplane created by a Cal Poly aerospace engineering professor and his students soared 5,000 feet over the Castle Air Force Base near Merced this month. <https://engineering.calpoly.edu/smooth-sailing>

Across the Campus:

Cal Poly's NCAA Student-Athlete Advisory Committee raised more than \$3,300 as part of the Big West Conference's 12th annual February Coin Drive. The Mustangs collected \$3,344 for Hearst Cancer Resource Center at French Hospital during the month. The \$3,300-plus amount represents the most the Mustangs have ever raised in a single year (as well as the second-highest total among the conference's nine universities for 2019). <https://www.gopoly.com/general/2018-19/releases/20190314o366t9>

CPX Survey Launches April 9 to Gather Data to Create Actionable Change. The results will support the development and refinement of the university's programs and services to create a more equitable, inclusive campus community. Learn more at <https://diversity.calpoly.edu/cpx>. Campus community members can use #CPXperience and #CPX on social media to tell their story, share their participation in the survey, and encourage others to take it.

Cal Poly University Police Department Officer Receives CSU Life Saving Medal Officer Chad Reiley talked a suicidal student off the ledge on the top of a multi-story parking structure in November 2016 incident near Poly Canyon Village residence halls. https://calpolynews.calpoly.edu/news_releases/2019/january/reiley

JUNE JUBILEE WILL BE HERE SOON

By Joe Grimes

Sponsored by Cal Poly University Development, June Jubilee will be on **Sunday, June 2, 2019** this year. Attendees will enjoy an excellent lunch and be invited to the Cal Poly Choirs' Spring Concert "For the Beauty of the Earth" immediately following the lunch. Save this date for an opportunity to get an update on Cal Poly activities, reacquaint with old friends, and create new friendships with other retired faculty and staff.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RETIRED FACULTY AND STAFF CLUB LUNCHEON, FEBRUARY 27, 2019

By Joe Grimes

Members and guests met in the Dairy Innovation Institute on February 27, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. for a catered luncheon prepared and served by students from the Agricultural Engineering Society. Following lunch, Joe Grimes welcomed members and guests and introduced the RFSC officers.

Joe Grimes introduced Harry Sharp who provided a brief presentation on CSU's Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association (CSU-ERFSA) and announced the CSU-ERFSA sponsored social on April 4, 2019 at the Spirit of San Luis Restaurant.

Joe Grimes introduced the guest speakers Dr. Phil Bailey and Dr. Kathryn Rummell:

- Dr. Phil Bailey, Director of Frost Endowment, provided an overview of the Science and Agriculture Teaching and Research Complex;
 - The 100,000 square-foot, \$124 million building will house culinary, sensory, food safety, product development and food and nutrition labs.
 - The building will serve as a hub for students and industry to gather and share knowledge in the above areas.
 - Construction is estimated to begin in June 2019 with a completion and move-in date estimated to be August 2021.
- Dr. Kathryn Rummell, Interim Dean, College of Liberal Arts, provided highlights of the College of Liberal Arts:
 - The new Dean, Dr. Phillip Williams, will begin in August 2019.
 - College initiatives include enhancing diversity and inclusion within the university,
 - A new major in Interdisciplinary Studies, with seven tracks, will begin Spring 2019.
 - A new Department of Interdisciplinary Studies in the Liberal Arts (ISLA) will begin Fall 2019.
 - Dr. Rummell introduced speakers Matt Harsh and David Gillette.
- Matt Harsh, Director, Center for Expressive Technology, provided information on the Expressive Technology Studios (ETS). The ETS will be housed in the Science and Agriculture Teaching and Research Complex and will create an interdisciplinary space that brings together technology with the liberal arts.
- David Gillette, Co-Director of Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies Degree, provided information on this degree:
 - Hybrid B.S. degree, ½ Engineering, ½ Liberal Arts.
 - Running for 9 years. Currently 80+ students enrolled,
 - 6 months – 1 year overseas study required.
 - Project-based learning. Interdisciplinary student focused with individualized curriculum in Audio Design, Interactive Environments, Community Development and Tech/Art Innovation.
 - Identical to engineering core curriculum for first 2 years, then diverges depending on student research and learning goals.

- 100 graduates thus far, all employed in their chosen fields: Disney, Warner Brothers, Sony, Tesla, Apple, International NGOs, Microsoft, DTS, interactive game design, international community development. Some pursuing MA, MS, PhD.

Bill Kellogg summarized the meeting, thanked participants and adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

CAL POLY RETIRED FACULTY AND STAFF (RFSC) AND CSU EMERITUS AND RETIRED FACULTY AND STAFF ASSOCIATION (CSU-ERFSA) MEMBERSHIP

By Joe Grimes

Your membership in RFSC is important as RFSC works on behalf of you and the university. We are doing everything we can do to strengthen our support of the university through RFSC scholarships, efforts to actively use the talents of our retirees, and donations directly to the university. We encourage you to become a member using the form found in this newsletter with the entire lifetime membership dues going to the RFSC Centennial Scholarship fund.

We also encourage you to become a member of CSU-ERFSA. The following information from the website <https://www.csuerfsa.org/>, provides some of the important reasons why we should all be members.

The CSU-ERFSA is a statewide not-for-profit corporation devoted exclusively to addressing the concerns and protecting the rights of all retired California State University faculty and staff. We work on behalf of the more than 9,000 retired members and current CSU employees from the 23 campuses of the California State University system.

CSU-ERFSA represents the interests of its membership before the state legislature and federal government, various state and federal agencies, CalPERS, and the California State University Chancellor's Office.

Two key issues confront our membership today. In recent years the pension benefits for CSU faculty and staff members have been under attack, as they were when CSU-ERFSA was founded in 1985. Initiatives that would replace our current defined benefit retirement plans with defined contribution plans for new CSU employees would provide less security for future retirees and would weaken the existing pensions system for current retirees. Rapid increases in health care costs during the past decade have reduced the health benefit choices available to retired and current CSU employees, and have increased the out-of-pocket expenses that retired and current employees must bear. CSU-ERFSA has had a number of successes in protecting both pension and health benefits for retired CSU employees over the years. We continue to make pension and health care benefits our highest priority

RETIRED FACULTY AND STAFF CLUB (RFSC) BY-LAWS APPROVAL AND OFFICER ELECTION

By Joe Grimes

At our luncheon on May 15, we have the following important items on the agenda.

First, we need to vote on revisions to our By-Laws. The proposed revisions will be sent to all who RSVP to attend on May 15. Proposed changes include:

1. New name of CSU-ERFSA (The "Emeritus and Retired Faculty and Staff Association" for the CSU); 2. The addition of three new board positions: a. Membership Enhancement, b. Facilitator of Special Events Coordinator, and c. Membership Recruitment Facilitator; and 3. After the first term, board members may be elected to one or two year terms.

Second, we will be voting for the RFSC officers for 2019-2020.

We look forward to your consideration of these important items

RETIRED FACULTY AND STAFF SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

By Laura Dimmitt

I am pleased to provide more information about Madeleine Ciano, the 2018-19 RFS Centennial Scholarship recipient from Costa Mesa. Madeleine's early interest in classifying insects evolved into a more personal desire for cancer and genetic research. Environmental Sciences and the study of natural habitats are also a focus of interest. Madeleine was President of the Environmental Field Studies Club and a Leader in Training at the Environmental Nature Center. She also was chapter Vice President of the National Junior Classical League, one of the largest academic youth organizations in the world.

The RFS Centennial Scholarship Endowment fair market value for the month ending February 28, 2019, is \$146,698.45.

Please consider donating to our endowment by using the form included in the newsletter. One may also donate online. It is a perfect opportunity to secure lifetime dues and/or honor or memorialize someone special. We thank you for your ongoing generosity and believing in the future leaders of tomorrow.

SENIOR LIVING AT ITS BEST

By Joe Grimes

Recently, some of our retirees visited a couple of our local senior living facilities and it is clear that those facilities vary significantly in what they provide. Such a visit provides an opportunity to see what is available at such a place and to see some changes that could be made in our lives without moving to such a facility. Our happiness is important for living a good life at any age. Energetic living full of purpose, passion, love, and connection is extremely important. The Retired Faculty and Staff Club makes every effort to assist you toward this goal through our resources. This fall we are planning to have a luncheon that focuses on the theme of "Lives Well Lived" <https://www.lives-well-lived.com/> as portrayed in a movie by Sky Bergman. Please let us know if you have suggestions regarding senior living.

WHO, WHEN, WHERE

Sue Dietrick (Enrollment Support Services) is just enjoying life in her retirement.

Lezlie Labhard (Home Economics, Industrial Technology) is a volunteer with the Sheriff's Department and makes custom pens by wood turning.

Robert McIntire (Management Department) is a member of the Rotary Club, Elks, Military Officers Association, the Presbyterian Church, and board president of CoastHills Credit Union. He also golfs and travels.

Steven Mintz (Accounting) is set to publish his first commercial book in May 2019. [Beyond Happiness and Meaning: Transforming Your Life Through Ethical Behavior](#) explores how applying ethical reasoning can qualitatively enhance one's happiness, bring greater meaning to life, and advance the cause of civility in society. Through using real and assumed ethical dilemmas, readers are able to learn a seven-step ethical decision-making process. The book will be for sale on Amazon and other websites including his own: stevenmintzethics.com.

Mark Shelton (Crop Science) is in his 4th year of FERP, teaching half time in Horticulture and Crop Science and working in the Dean's Office. He's been fishing in Canada and Alaska in the past year and planned to go fly fishing in Chile in March. He is enjoying family, friends, gardening and reading.

CAL POLY MEMORIES

Lezlie Labhard (Industrial Technology) – I remember Mrs. Hearst calling the department on April 1 to invite me to apply for a grant through the Hearst Foundation to support a textile preservation internship program and I thought it was an April Fool's Joke. As a consequence of the call, I developed a Textile Preservation Internship with Hearst Castle personnel.

When I represented faculty to the Cal Poly leadership, I remember meetings with President Kennedy seated behind that big desk while I sat on that "ground level, bottomed out", sagging sofa conveying the faculty viewpoint, while looking over his shoulder at the mace I eventually had the honor to carry at Commencement.

I also represented faculty at Academic Council and Foundation Board meetings. At the first Academic Council meeting I attended there were all men dressed in gorgeous, professional suits (not like today) and I was asked if I was there to take minutes.

Joe Sabol (Agricultural Education and Communication) – I was shopping this morning at Ace Hardware, here in SLO. Not too many customers were shopping in the rain. The check-out clerk recognized my name as a "Cal Poly person" as we tried to get my credit card to work. I asked her how she could have known that. She quickly told me she was an agriculture major...back in the day...and for some reason she knew my name.

She was anxious to tell me more. She told me about an amazing professor she had, a guy named **Tom Ruehr (Soil Science)** who helped her get through chemistry. **She gave him credit for her accomplishing her goal to graduate.**

I had tears forming in both eyes.

She went on to tell me another story...about how her department head, **George Gowgani (Crop Science)**, had phoned her when she had not finished her senior project and that Dr. Gowgani told her, with authority and concern, not to let that slip away, but to come back and get it done!!

She did.

Both my eyes now flooded with tears.

Her short stories of two great people at Cal Poly who had been important to her brought back memories of so many professors, department heads, administrators, and staff who really cared about their students.

Fond memories!

FRIENDS IN PASSING

Ladd Caine (Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering) passed away in January. While serving as an equipment technician, he was well known for helping students and faculty across the college and campus. He brought 20 years of machinist experience to campus and was always ready to share his expertise.

Diane Sims Ellis (Natural Resource Management, City and Regional Planning, Mechanical Engineering) died in February surrounded by family. She worked as department secretary in several different departments during her career at Cal Poly. While working at Cal Poly, Diane earned her bachelors and master's degrees, graduating alongside her daughter, Robyn, in 1990.

H. Paul Fountain (Crop Science) passed away in February. During his 36 years as a Professor of Viticulture and Fruit Science at Cal Poly he oversaw the development of a "teaching vineyard" which enabled students to enhance their "learn by doing" education in viticulture. After retirement he and his wife, Dorothy, created an endowment that will provide funds for continued development and maintenance of the teaching vineyard for years to come on the Cal Poly campus.

Carol Freeman (Health Center) died in January. Prior to Carol's 32-year career at the Health Center, she accepted a part-time position contracting with the government to perform medical evaluations and referrals on soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. She travelled to military bases in California, Hawaii and Guam on weekends performing medical assessments

Zane Motteler (Computer Science) died in January. He was highly instrumental in the initial development of the Computer Engineering program started by Cal Poly in 1989. He was also involved in the Computer Science Accreditation Commission and played a significant role in the accreditation of the Computer Science program. After leaving Cal Poly he worked at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory before finally retiring.

DUES AND NEWS FORM

Stay up-to-date with fellow retirees by filling out the application below today.

To pay annual dues for 2018-2019, enclose your \$10 check payable to Cal Poly RF&SC. For a Life Membership, make your \$250 check payable to the Cal Poly Foundation. The entire \$250 will be added to the Retired Faculty and Staff Centennial Scholarship endowment. Dues are from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019. If you have questions about your dues, please call Gail Simmons at (805) 462-9148. Please print clearly and mention the department or unit from which you retired.

If you have any membership questions, please contact Gail Simmons at 805-462-9148 or gsimmons@calpoly.edu.

DUES AND NEWS FORM

Name _____ Spouse's name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

Check here if you do not have email and need to have the newsletter mailed to you.

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 form and check to: **Gail Simmons, 4615 San Vicente Ave., Atascadero, CA 93422**

Please help us update our files by providing your current contact information

CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Street Address

City/State

Zip Code

Email Address: _____

Year Retired from Cal Poly: _____

Dept./College: _____

Please detach and return to:

Jenny Gann

University Development

Attn: Cal Poly Retired Faculty and Staff

California Polytechnic State University

San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

Centennial Scholarship Donation Form

Please accept my donation to the Cal Poly Retired Faculty and Staff Centennial Scholarship Endowment. A \$250 donation enables you to become a life member of the Cal Poly Retired Faculty and Staff Club. You may also wish to make a donation in honor or in memory of someone.

Enclosed is my contribution of: ___\$1,000 ___ \$500 ___ \$250 ___ \$100 ___

\$50 ___ or \$ ___

Name/s _____

Street _____ Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Donation in Honor of

Donation in Memory of

Make check payable to "Cal Poly" and mail to:

Mail to: Jenny Gann, University Development, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

Enclosed is my contribution of: \$ _____

Name/s _____

Street _____ Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Donation in Honor/Memory of:

EXPLORE THE NEW WEBSITE

Members and friends are invited to explore the RFS Club website at <http://www.cpretirees.org/> Also, you may access the website by going to <http://calpoly.edu> and go to R under the A-Z index and then select Retired Faculty and Staff Club. There is an opportunity to provide direct input by filling out a brief questionnaire. We welcome your ideas and suggestions.

FROM THE EDITOR

If you have a short article, remembrance of a significant person, or event from your time at Cal Poly, please submit the article and I will include it in our next newsletter. Please email your article to: bciesielski@msn.com or you can mail it to me at: 1221 San Carlos Drive, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

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