

**Special Interest
Articles:**

Luncheon Speaker
Dean David J.
Wehner

Swanton Pacific
Steam Railroad

Nisei to be
Honored at
Tsunami Benefit
Concert

CSU-EFRA

President: Dr. Joe Sabol
Newsletter Editor: Valerie Barboza | val_barboza@yahoo.com

March Luncheon and Program | March 21

11:30 a.m. at the Performing Arts Center Main Lobby

Featuring Dr. David J. Wehner
Dean, College of Agriculture, Food and
Environmental Sciences



An Update from the Dean

Dr. David J. Wehner was named dean of Cal Poly's College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences on April 15, 2002.

As dean, he is responsible for one of the largest agriculture colleges in the United States with more than 3,700 students, approximately 10,000 acres of agricultural land between the San Luis Obispo campus and Swanton Pacific Ranch, and \$3 million in product sales.

Prior to his appointment as dean, he served as interim dean for nine months. He became associate dean for the college in 1997 with primary responsibility for the operation of the undergraduate program, including curriculum development, student progress, advising and outreach.

Before his appointment as associate dean, Wehner served a year in a half-time position as assistant dean, coordinating the college's graduate program and aiding faculty members with research and public service programs.

Prior to coming to Cal Poly, Wehner held a research/teaching appointment in the Horticulture Department at the University of Illinois for 14 years. He joined the Cal Poly faculty in 1994 as head of the Environmental Horticultural Science Department and a professor of turfgrass science.

He holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Notre Dame and a master's and doctorate in agronomy from Pennsylvania State University.

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences offers 17 programs of study and is responsible for more than 40 percent of all research expenditures at the university.

Cost: \$16 at the door

Reservations required by noon on Tuesday, March 13

RSVP to Gail Simmons at gsimmons@calpoly.edu or 805-462-9148

Who, What, When and Where

Leverne Bucy (Animal Science) keeps house, gardens and plays golf while caring for his wife Lurline.

Dale Federer (Human Development) spent last year traveling from the Atlantic to the Pacific, including his wife's family reunion over Labor Day.

Bill Langworthy (Science & Mathematics) enjoys time with his grandchildren, as well as biking and hiking. He also makes time for digital photography, genealogy and figuring out what makes people tick.

James Murphy (Industrial Technology) serves as president of the Marine Corp Engineering Association, a business counselor with SCORE and enjoys his church and occasional travel. He has also been commander of his chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars.

James Neelands (Science & Mathematics) is remodeling his home but had time for two fishing trips in Wyoming, as well as travel to Las Vegas, Reno and Coursegold, Nev.

Gary Reif (Dairy Science) took a family trip to Ireland with the SLO Chamber and visited **Max Darnielle (English)** and his wife, Sandy, in England.

Claudia Tantum (Financial Aid) visited friends in Hawaii. She also gardens, volunteers, works on cleaning the garage and has fun with her grandchildren.

Friends Noted in Passing

Joyce A. Kalicki (Education) passed away in January. Joyce worked both in Academic Records and later as a credential analyst for the College of Education, for which she was awarded the Cal Poly Outstanding Staff Award for 1994-95.

Barbara Mori (Social Sciences) died in February. Dr. Mori taught at Cal Poly from 1986 to 2010 when she retired. She was instrumental in the development of the Women and Gender Studies Department.

John C. Rogers III (Business) passed away in February after a brief illness. Dr. Rogers taught from 1986 until he retired in 2006.

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JANUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Dean Linda Halisky shown here with Dr. Art DeKlein and Frank Lebens after her insightful program about linking the past to the future in the College of Liberal Arts.



Past Cal Poly Retired Faculty and Staff club presidents took time after the program for a photo. Can you name them all? (Answers on page 5)

Dues and News Forms

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

To pay annual dues for 2011-2012, 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 put into our scholarship endowment. Dues are from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012.

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.

Name _____ Spouse's name _____

Phone _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address (if you use one) _____

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 _____ Date today _____

Please share some of what you are doing in retirement.

Mail this form and your check to Gail Simmons, 4615 San Vicente Ave., Atascadero, CA 93422.

News items may be sent to Valerie Barboza at: val_barboza@yahoo.com or to 2485 Elm Ave., Morro Bay, CA 93442

Steam Railroad

Did you know that Cal Poly has a fully operational 1/3-scale steam railroad?

By Ed Carnegie

It is the Swanton Pacific Railroad (SPRR), located on the Swanton Pacific Ranch property -- about three miles north of the town of Davenport on Hwy 1, near Santa Cruz. The railroad is operated and maintained by about 140 volunteers that come from all over; about 30 are Cal Poly alumni. Many students have had a rewarding experience, if only for a single day, by visiting the ranch, taking part in various ranch activities, and in riding or even participating in the actual operations of the train. All of which provide a most unique public relations activity for the university.

As an SPRR volunteer, a wide array of projects are offered for all, from landscape design, track maintenance, rail car construction, and steam locomotive operations, to retrieving and archiving SPRR's history. SPRR has a strong historical background -- located on part of the old right-of-way of the Ocean Shore Railroad that once ran from Santa Cruz to Swanton. Most of the locomotives and cars were built for the Pan-American International Exposition of 1915 in San Francisco. Cal Poly is the only university with its very own railroad.

After a year's hiatus of not being able to offer train rides, this past month, a project that required several governmental agency approvals, was finally approved and completed. So once again, Cal Poly's railroad is back on track and ready for all to come aboard. To learn more about Swanton Pacific Railroad and see pictures of various activities, go to:

<http://sprr.calpoly.edu/>. The next public event will be Al Smith Day, on Sunday, April 22, in honor of the Cal Poly alumnus who donated the ranch. Come on by and see for yourself what a great crown jewel Cal Poly has.



Double steam header at Swanton Pacific



Cal Poly - built crane car, next to the 1914 and 1913 steam locomotives -- in front of Swanton Pacific Railroad's Roundhouse

Nisei Concert

Special Video Screening of the CSU Nisei Diploma Project and Benefit Piano Performance

Cal Poly will host a video screening and benefit piano concert to honor California State University Nisei degree recipients and to support relief efforts for Japanese communities affected by last year's tsunami.

The screening and concert are set for 2 p.m., Sunday, March 11 in Harman Hall of the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center. The event is free and open to the public. Parking is also free.

Members of the Cal Poly student chapter of the American Red Cross will be on hand to accept donations to the tsunami relief effort. In June 2010, the California Nisei Diploma Project was established to honor Japanese-American students who were forced to discontinue their educations in 1942 due to the United States' World War II internment policies. As part of the project, Cal Poly bestowed 20 honorary degrees to students from that era.

CSU-ERFA

Looking Out for Retirees

In my role as treasurer of the **California State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association (CSU-ERFA)**, I serve on the organization's executive committee. We meet twice a year, once in the winter and again in summer.

When the committee gathered in Torrance on Feb. 15, it played a key role in resolving an issue of vital concern to a member who continues to engage in research as a retiree. His work requires use of SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences), a tool that researchers in various fields have used for decades. The CSU buys a site license that enables employees on all our campuses to use this expensive package without additional charge. Historically, the site license was extended to emeriti, but the most recent renewal of the contract (written by the company) did not extend access to retirees. Oops! Our association pursued that issue with the Chancellor's Office. The involved executives prevailed upon IBM, which had acquired SPSS recently, to make the program available to emeriti for their academic work. Problem solved!

That incident is one small example of the service CSU-ERFA performs for retirees. Regularly dedicated members who live in Sacramento represent the interests of retirees before PERS, state agencies and the legislature. In the last year, the association has also helped secure health insurance benefits (initially denied) to members on a couple of campuses. Now for a modest membership fee CSU-ERFA members (and non-member retirees as well) receive real, occasionally life-saving assistance.

From the dues paid by Cal Poly retirees, 15 percent of CSU-ERFA dues are returned to the local club, our number one source of income. This income funds mailing one newsletter a year, as well as other operating expenses. If you are not a member of CSU-ERFA (more than 100 of us are), I encourage you to join. Dues vary from \$3 to \$10 based on your retirement check from PERS and are paid via payroll deduction. Contact me or come to our next club meeting to obtain an application.

Twice each year, the CSU-ERFA's State Council meetings bring together representatives from each campus affiliate, including our Cal Poly Retired Faculty and Staff Club. The council sets association policy, elects officers, etc. The next state council meeting will be at CSU Long Beach on Saturday, April 21. We need a retired faculty member to represent Cal Poly at this meeting. Travel expenses for each voting member are reimbursed by the association. If you are interested in being that representative, kindly contact Joe Sabol or me by phone or email.

To learn more and keep up on news that impacts CSU retirees, visit our website: <http://csuerfa.org/>

Harry Sharp

Note from the Editor

Look for new articles contributed by our diverse membership, such as Ed Carnegie's about the Cal Poly Swanton Pacific Railroad. If you have a short article, please submit it to me at: val_barboza@yahoo.com or 2485 Elm Ave., Morro Bay, CA 93442.

And Those Nine Club Presidents Are:

BACK ROW: JOE SABOL (2011-13); LARK CARTER, (2005-07); DON MORRIS (2007-09); EDLAND DETTLOFF (2001-2003); HARRY SHARP (2009-11).

FRONT ROW: BERNIE TROY (2005-07); GENE STARKEY (1999-2000); STARR JENKINS (1997-99); BILL STANSFIELD

Centennial Scholarship

Please accept my donation to the Cal Poly Retired Faculty and Staff Scholarship Fund. Remember 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.

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.cpretirees.org

Enclosed is my contribution of:

___\$1,000 ___\$500 ___\$250 ___\$100 ___\$50 ___\$___

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:
Jenny H. Gann
Advancement Programs, University Advancement, Cal Poly
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407-0444

RETIRED FACULTY AND STAFF CENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Fair Market Value (FMV) of the Centennial Scholarship has rebounded somewhat from the decline it experienced between the June-November, 2011 time period. As mentioned at our luncheon gatherings and in previous newsletters, the Centennial Scholarship Endowment mirrors economic market conditions and is subject to wide swings in FMV. In spite of the fluctuations, the endowment remains in good hands and strong enough to support an annual scholarship to a promising incoming freshman. We are pleased that Lauren Kelly, 2011-'12 scholarship recipient, is planning to join us at the June Jubilee, June 3.

Fair Market Value (December 31, 2011): \$87,850

Please keep in mind that your designated contributions and lifetime membership fees go directly into the endowment's principal balance and provide the anchor needed for continued scholarship funding. Thank you to all who continue to support this effort.

Richard Equinoa, Scholarship Coordinator, March 2012



CAL POLY
SAN LUIS OBISPO

RETIRED FACULTY & STAFF

