

November Luncheon and Program

Thursday, November 18, 11:30 a.m. (Lunch at 11:45)

→ New location: Sage Restaurant (formerly Vista Grande)

Cost: \$16 at the door

Speaker: Jack O'Connell

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Reservations required by noon on Monday, November 15

E-mail Gail Simmons (gsimmons@calpoly.edu) or call her (462-9148)

(If you send an e-mail or leave a message, please provide names for name tags.)

JACK O'CONNELL, STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Jack O'Connell was elected to a second four-year term as State Superintendent of Public Instruction on June 6, 2006. He was the only statewide official to be elected in the June primary election, after earning more than half of all votes cast in a field of five candidates. He was first elected to serve as California's 26th State Superintendent on November 5, 2002, earning more votes than any other contested candidate in the country. As chief of California's public school system and leader of the California Department of Education, Superintendent O'Connell has focused on closing the achievement gap and preparing students for a rapidly changing global economy by holding high standards for all students. He is a strong supporter and facilitator of partnerships between schools, businesses, communities, and philanthropies in order to engage students with challenging, real-world education experiences.



He has worked to smooth the transitions between all segments of education, from preschool to college or the workplace. As a former high school teacher and author of the legislation creating the California High School Exit Exam, he has led a comprehensive effort to increase rigor and improve student achievement in California high schools. Superintendent O'Connell is a proven team builder with the ability to forge consensus on contentious issues, especially where challenges are strongest. He has worked to fortify California's world-class academic standards, strengthen California's school accountability and assessment systems and bolster state funding for public school classrooms. He also has been a leader among state school chiefs nationwide in an effort to increase flexibility and fairness in the federal No Child Left Behind school accountability system. He is a long-time advocate for smaller class sizes, improved teacher recruitment and retention, comprehensive testing, and up-to-date school facilities.

Superintendent O'Connell was born in 1951 in Glen Cove, New York. In 1958, his family moved to Southern California, where he attended local public schools. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from California State University (CSU), Fullerton and earned his secondary teaching credential from CSU, Long Beach in 1975. He returned to his high school alma mater to teach for several years and later served on the Santa Barbara County School Board.

He was elected to the 35th State Assembly District in 1982 and was reelected by wide margins thereafter, once garnering both the Republican and the Democratic nominations. In 1994, O'Connell was elected to the 18th State Senate District on California's Central Coast and easily won reelection in 1998.

Throughout his career, Superintendent O'Connell has worked to improve public education in California. As the author of numerous landmark education bills in both the California Assembly and the State Senate, he made quality education his number one priority. This commitment to the children of California earned Superintendent O'Connell the praise and the respect of colleagues and educators statewide.

Superintendent O'Connell and his wife, Doree, have been married for more than 30 years and have a daughter, Jennifer, who is 23. *(From the State Department of Education Website)*

Hard Times Bring Great People

Today millions of Americans owe more on their mortgage than their homes are worth; they are "underwater." Tens of thousands of public school teachers - including one in my family - have lost their jobs and there will be more of that same prospect next year.

- Nationally, millions are unemployed.
- Not since the Great Depression have Americans had to cope with a worse economy.
- Not since then has the Nation witnessed the low birthrate we've had the last two years.
- At Cal Poly budget cuts and fee increases put a serious strain on everyone.

We know all this, but we carry on. Amid adversity I am impressed by how many rise to the challenge, those who lend a helping hand to people in need. For example, donations to the Food Bank in our County are up even as contributions to many charities are down.

I am encouraged by friends and colleagues who are "do the right thing" folks. I am comforted by people who see the bright side. Let me remind you of three:

- Don Morris, my predecessor as RF&SC President, is always smiling, always promoting good causes and cheering us on. Don is chair of the club's nominating committee and they will be presenting us with an outstanding slate of proposed officers at our next meeting.
- Joe Sabol, my successor, is peerless; he may surpass even Don Morris in his optimism and energy. It was, of course, Joe's relentless efforts that secured our speaker for November State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell. I fancy myself to be an "upside" kind of guy but between Don and Joe, I could be Mr. Gloom or Dr. Doom.
- Finally our current newsletter editor and former treasurer and membership chair, Barbara Ciesielski, has worked harder and longer on behalf of the club than anyone in memory. She has set a standard of service we can admire, but not hope to emulate. Barbara shuns the limelight, but she glows in the dark. Thank you, Barbara, for all you did for us in your many years at Cal Poly and since then with our club.

In subsequent newsletters I will be reporting on the excellent work and personal excellence of other retirees who have made my time as a member and officer of the Retired Faculty and Staff Club so rewarding. I look forward to seeing a whole bunch of you at Sage (a.k.a. Vista Grande) on November 18. Don't miss this chance to hear a local guy who made (and did so much) good: Jack O'Connell.

Harry Sharp, President

50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF 1960 CAL POLY FOOTBALL TEAM

On October 29, 1960, eighteen members of the Cal Poly family lost their lives in a fatal plane crash in Toledo, Ohio. On September 29, 2006, Cal Poly dedicated Mustang Memorial Plaza as a permanent memorial to the sixteen players, one team manager, and one Mustang Booster who perished that evening. Family members of the victims as well as survivors of the crash returned to campus that day, some for the first time since that fatal evening, to pay their respects and to reunite once again as a team.

This October 30, 2010, one day following the actual 50-year anniversary date of the plane crash, team members and their families once again returned to the Cal Poly campus, this time for a 50-Year Reunion. Players and their families were welcomed by President Emeritus Warren J. Baker and Interim President Robert B. Glidden and then hosted for a pre-game barbeque before being escorted to Alex G. Spanos Stadium for introductions. Those Retired Faculty and Staff members who were on campus that fateful evening 50 years ago will forever remember the great loss suffered by the Cal Poly community. The 1960 Cal Poly Football Team holds a unique and memorable place in the history of the University as do those Retired Faculty and Staff members who reached out to the families with great care and compassion.

Article by Richard Equinoa, Scholarship Chair

CAL POLY MEMORIES

Memories written by our Retired Faculty and Staff members are posted on our website www.cpretirees.com.

Here are some of the memories which have been posted on our Memories page: "The Julian McPhee I Knew," Norma Henderson; "SESLOC in the Desk Drawer," George Mach; "Panty Raid on Heron Hall" and "World War II Veterans' Plaques," Don Morris; "Cal Poly Doctors and Health Center," Bill Mounts; "Buzzing Sheep on the Runway," Jack Jones; "Cal Poly Health Center Corpsmen," Bob Olds; "Cal Poly in the 1960s," Bud Barnes; "Hands-on Learning in the 1950s," Tom Brannum; "Memories of President McPhee" and "How Did Cal Poly Get A Political Science Major?," William Alexander; "1960 Crash Memory," Loren Nicholson; "Memories of Ornamental Horticulture," Howard Brown; "Rich Heritage of the Cal Poly Science Program," Gene Starkey; and "Cal Poly's 1960 Mustang Football Team," George R. Mach.

If you have a remembrance of your years at Cal Poly which you would like to share, please type it out and email it to jhgann@calpoly.edu. If you do not have access to a computer, you may mail a hard copy to Don Morris, 2251 Shell Beach Road, #12, Pismo Beach, CA 93449 or your newsletter editor, Barbara Ciesielski, 1221 San Carlos Drive, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

We had an informative and enthusiastic presentation at our September luncheon by Interim President Robert Glidden. He stated that his goals during his tenure at Cal Poly would be to do no harm; to make decisions supported by the campus community, well rooted in the culture of Cal Poly; and to leave the campus and position a little better than when he came.



Vice President Joe Sabol and President Harry Sharp presented Dr. Glidden with a membership in the Cal Poly Retired Faculty and Staff Club. If you would like to see photos from the luncheon, please go to our new photo website at

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/53629151@N06/>

Secretary Carolyn Jones and Newsletter Editor Barbara Ciesielski

WHO, WHAT, WHEN & WHERE

Enrico Bongio (Welding, Engineering Technology) is still playing the accordion, but not much. He is taking care of his wife who is ill.

Lois Brown (Foundation Business Office) is living life to the fullest with God's help! She has made two trips to Washington this year and is always looking forward to her family's annual July barbeque in their backyard.

Dee (Delores) Carlson (El Corral Bookstore) has cruised the Baltic, Western Europe and Alaska. She travels a lot visiting family. She has five grandsons and one great grandson that keep her busy going to their sport activities.

John Connely (Computer Science) and his wife, **Judy**, traveled to Machu Pichu, Buenos Aires, and Rio de Janeiro in October.

Jim Conway (Communication Studies) is participating in the FERP program teaching both fall and winter quarters and will be finishing up some grievance work with CFA.

Dale Federer (Psychology) is seeing doctors, etc., and attended a family reunion in Wyoming. He also spends his time working in the yard.

Pat Haberkern (Kennedy Library) and her husband, **Bob Schoknecht**, are trying to sell their house so they can move to Ohio to be near family. In the meantime they are enjoying all that San Luis Obispo County has to offer.

Esther Iglesias (Graphic Communications/Philosophy) spends her time keeping track of grandchildren and great grandchildren. She enjoys them all and makes jam for them. She is still selling Avon products and trying to catch up on her reading.

William (Bill) Johnson (Music/Band Director) is a busy grandfather to seven grandchildren. He is a fundraiser for the Cal Poly Music Department, Musical Director and Conductor for the San Luis Obispo Wind Orchestra and Artistic Director for the annual New York Wind Band Festival at Carnegie Hall. He is a member of the Rotary Club of San Luis Obispo, the Past President and Chairman of the Foundation for the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, a guest conductor at numerous music festivals and honor bands throughout the nation and several other countries, a member of the American Bandmasters Association, a consultant for the World Projects International Festivals, a member of the College Band Directors National Association, a member of the California Band Directors Association and attends numerous conferences throughout the year including the Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago. He also found time to travel with his wife, **Pamela**, to Australia, Spain, the Caribbean, Tennessee, and Florida.

Martin Lang (Mathematics) and his wife, **Barbara**, are spending time with their children and six grandchildren (all of whom are in California); visiting family in Illinois and Florida; touring China, Thailand, and the Caribbean; and celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary.

Betty Lindsay (School of Architecture and Environmental Design) spends her time gardening and keeping up with her cats.

Tim O'Keefe (Natural Resources Management) enjoys volunteer work with CFA at Cal Poly and the State; Retired Public Employees Association; the Boards for Area Aging in Santa Maria, Cachuma RCD in Santa Maria; and the North County Humane Society; and membership on the Cambria Forest Committee; and the San Luis Obispo County Tree Committee.

John Peterson (Engineering Technology) spends time playing golf and bridge and traveling.

Charles Quinlan (Architecture) spends his time reading the books that he used to make the students buy.

Bill Stansfield (Biological Sciences) enjoys writing articles whether they are published or not. A list of his articles available on line is at <http://works.bepress.com/wstansfi/doctype.html#article>.

Claudia Tantum (Financial Aid Office) says that "life changes." Her grandchildren (ages 5 and 7) and their dad moved in just before school started. Their mom will join them as soon as she finishes with the Navy. In the meantime, Claudia is spending time running back and forth to elementary school and all that goes with it. She's gone from empty nest to crazy and loving it. Her son and his wife do have plans to rent a place of their own.

Jennifer Thoma (Records) has been doing PeopleSoft consulting since retiring in October of 2007 and recently joined Oracle. She is currently on assignment in Manhattan.

Sandra Tuttle (Industrial Technology) made a trip to Oregon this year and is still busy quilting.

Barbara Weber (Home Economics) who is the second-oldest of seven cousins is working on a family medical history to assist the younger family members in their quest to achieve/maintain optimal health.

Donley Winger (Electrical Engineering) spends his time traveling, doing home projects and playing golf and tennis.

FRIENDS NOTED IN PASSING

Jane Anderson (spouse of Dick Anderson, Physical Education) passed away on October 2 in San Jose. She and Dick came to San Luis Obispo in 1947 when Dick accepted a position at Cal Poly. She was active and volunteered in many areas including the Cal Poly Wives Club, International Students Organization, Mission Mothers Club, the Children's Home Society and San Luis Dance Club. She was a Eucharistic Minister

at the Old Mission Church for several years and spent hours with the Cal Poly Newman Center as a Lady Ambassador

Jean Culbertson (spouse of Jim Culbertson, Mathematics) passed away on August 31. She moved to San Luis Obispo in 1953 when her husband began teaching at Cal Poly. Jean had a green thumb and could make almost anything grow. She learned to cut stones and make semi-precious jewelry and loved to read.

Cornelius Michael "Neil" Deasy (Architecture) passed away on August 14. He came to Cal Poly as an adjunct professor after selling his interest in his architectural firm and moving to San Luis Obispo. He was active in the RAMs.

Curtis Gerald (Mathematics) passed away on September 11. He was well known for teaching mathematical principles so that his students could solve difficult problems with understanding. He authored several text books dealing with computers.

Gerry Mueller (President's Office) passed away on September 26. Gerry worked at Cuesta College prior to joining the staff at Cal Poly. She was a dedicated employee and friend to all. During retirement she volunteered at the Los Osos Library and studied art with the Cuesta Emeritus program and the San Luis Obispo Adult School.

Walter Schroeder (Education) passed away on September 15. Walter grew up and did chores on a working farm during the Great Depression. He and his wife moved to San Luis Obispo in 1957. During retirement he and his wife enjoyed many years of summer travel with the family and camped in tents and later traveled in an RV. Their travels spanned all 50 states and included two trips to Alaska and one to the Arctic Circle, as well as trips to Germany and Greece. Walter was long-time supporter and fundraiser for the Boy Scouts and was honored by them with the Silver Beaver award. He was also actively involved in the Farm Bureau among other organizations.

Clara West (spouse of John, College of Agriculture) passed away October 9 in Las Vegas. Clara and John settled in San Luis Obispo in 1968. Clara worked part-time at the Cal Poly and Cuesta College bookstores. She served as PTA president and was active in the First Presbyterian Church and Cal Poly Women's Club.

OFFICERS 2009-2011

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**SAVE THESE
2011 LUNCHEON DATES
Thursday, March 17, 2011
Friday, May 13, 2011**

RF&SC Dues & News Form

Stay up-to-date with fellow retirees by filling out this application today. **To pay annual dues for 2010-2011, enclose your \$10.00 check payable to the Cal Poly RF&SC.** (Dues are from July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011.) For a **Life Membership**, make your \$250 check payable to the Cal Poly Foundation. The entire \$250 will be put into our scholarship endowment. Please print clearly and mention the department or unit from which you retired.

Name _____ Spouse's name _____

Phone _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address (if you use one) _____

Check this box if you do not have e-mail 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 Avenue, Atascadero, CA 93422.

News items may be e-mailed directly to bciesielski@msn.com or mailed to her at 1221 San Carlos Drive, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. Colleagues want to hear from you!
