Cal Poly Gets $300,000 Grant to Improve Desalination Technology
Chemistry Professor Shanju Zhang received a $300,000 National Science Foundation grant to use nanotechnology to improve desalination techniques by using far less energy than traditional methods. With California’s ongoing drought, this new technology could provide long-term relief for the Golden State and beyond. Coastal communities have identified the ocean as a potential water source, but for many the technology is cost-prohibitive. Seawater desalination is an energy-intensive process. Zhang and a group of students are experimenting with integrating a layer of carbon nanotubes into a desalination membrane, which would change the way the seawater flows. Because water flows through nanotubes much faster than it flows outside of them — up to a million times more quickly — the speed of the water moving through the tubes provides the necessary pressure. “These new materials will reduce the cost of water purification and improve efficiency,” Zhang said.

Top Campus Cop to Discuss Surviving Active Shooter Incident, Jan. 14
Faculty, staff and students are invited to attend Seconds to Save Lives: Surviving an Active Shooter Incident on Thursday, Jan. 14 at 1 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium in the University Union (Building 65). George Hughes, University Police chief, will present an hourlong program to discuss the proper reaction during an active-shooter situation, how law enforcement agencies respond, and what can be done to reduce injuries and save lives. Questions? Contact University Police at 756-6654 or email police@calpoly.edu.

Nine-Week Grant Writing Workshop Starts Jan. 14
A nine-week workshop on grant writing will be offered from 11 a.m. to noon Thursdays starting Jan. 14 in the Erhart Agriculture Building (No. 10), Room 203. The workshop is for faculty and staff interested in research or research administration and will be team-taught by Sue Tonik, grants analyst in CAFES, and staff from Grants Development, Sponsored Programs and University Development. The seminar will be a hands-on overview covering grant writing and research administration. Topics will include sources of funding, types of awards (grants, contracts and gifts), marketing ideas, how to approach sponsors, reading RFPs (requests for proposals), what to include and not to include, abstracts, budgets and justifications, indirect costs, payroll and purchasing, and intellectual property and review processes. For more details, contact Tonik at stonik@calpoly.edu or ext. 6-7241.

Cal Poly Vanpool Has Openings for Riders
Reduce your commute stress, make some new friends on campus and save money by signing up for Cal Poly Vanpool. There currently are openings on vans in North County and South County and Santa Maria for workers with 7:30 a.m.-to-4 p.m. schedules. If you work 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., you can get on the wait list and be contacted when a spot becomes available or as additional vans or routes are added. For more details, contact Commuter Services at commute@calpoly.edu or 756-6680.

Campus Police to Hold 5K/10K to Benefit Proposed K-9 Unit, Jan. 30
The University Police Department is hosting a 5K/10K Fun Run on Saturday, Jan. 30, at Laguna Lake Park to raise money to bring a police dog to Cal Poly. Register in advance at Eventbrite.com or on race day starting at 7:30 a.m. The run/walk begins at 8:30 a.m. The park is at 504 Madonna Road in San Luis Obispo. Registration is $45 and includes a barbecue for participants immediately following the race. For more details, contact Officer Paul Davis at padavis@calpoly.edu.