Cal Poly Report
Jan. 6, 2016

Cal Poly Float Wins Lathrop K. Leishman Trophy at 2016 Rose Parade
Cal Poly universities’ “Sweet Shenanigans” received the Lathrop K. Leishman Trophy for the most beautiful non-commercial entry at the 127th Tournament of Roses Parade held New Year’s Day in Pasadena. It was the second consecutive year the universities’ float won the award that honors the former Tournament of Roses president and grand marshal who died in 1995. The 18- by 55-foot entry was designed and built by teams from Cal Poly and California State Polytechnic University in Pomona. “Learn by Doing is on display for all the world to see,” said Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong of the annual yearlong project. “Students from a variety of majors across our entire university use creativity, ingenuity and more than a little perspiration to produce a marriage of art and engineering covered in beautiful flowers.” The award-winner, which celebrated the 2016 parade theme, “Find Your Adventure,” had six animated elements. Its eight gummy bears, from 5- to 8-feet tall, were decorated in fetching red, yellow and orange mums. Awards were announced just hours before the start of the 5-1/2-mile New Year’s Day tradition. “We’re thrilled and overjoyed,” said Josh D’Acquisto, Cal Poly’s Rose Parade float advisor. “A year’s worth of hard work has paid off. We’ve got some super-excited students.” In addition, it was the fifth consecutive year the float earned the “California Grown” designation from the California Cut Flower Commission, which recognizes an entry decorated with at least 85 percent of cut flowers and plant materials from the Golden State. Work will soon begin on the 2017 entry.

Cal Poly Students Ride on California Milk Advisory Board Rose Parade Float
Cal Poly agriculture students were chosen for three of five positions on the California Milk Advisory Board’s inaugural Tournament of Roses Parade float. The riders represented the state’s more than 1,400 dairy families on “Adventures in Real Food,” a 60-foot-long entry featuring a flowing river of refreshing milk rapids cascading over the Golden State’s rolling hills and valleys, illustrating how the best culinary adventures begin with real milk. All five float riders are active members of youth agriculture organizations who anticipate careers in the state’s dairy industry. The Cal Poly riders were Jordan Dunn, a 21-year-old agricultural communication major; Natalie Massa, 20, who is studying agricultural business; and 21-year-old Katie Migliazzo, a dairy science major who is minoring in agribusiness.

Pianist W. Terrence Spiller to Perform Benefit Recital Jan. 8
Pianist and Music Department Chair W. Terrence Spiller will give a benefit recital at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, in the Spanos Theatre. Spiller's program will start with two sonatas by Ludwig van Beethoven: the Sonata in F Major, Op. 10 No. 2, followed by the Sonata in D major, Op. 28, also known as "The Pastorale." The second half of the program will begin with Francis Poulenc's "Les Soirées de Nazelles" and will conclude with five préludes from Sergei Rachmaninov’s Préludes Op. 23 and Op. 32. Tickets are $9 for students and $14 for the public. Proceeds will benefit the Music Department Scholarship Fund.

Musical Works by Faculty Composer Ken Habib to be Performed Jan. 10
Music faculty member Ken Habib will present a free lecture-recital on his new CD, “Child in Me,” an original composition of American art songs, at 2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 10, at Nipomo Presbyterian Church, 1235 N. Thompson Road. The album, made possible in part by Cal Poly’s College of Liberal Arts, is the culmination of two decades of work with an exploration of life, longing, relationships and passage of seasons. The CD's 16 songs comprise two eight-song cycles, or musical suites. The album was recorded at Sutton Sound Studio in Atascadero and features music faculty members Katherine Arthur, a soprano, and Susan Azaret Davies on piano. Arthur and Davies will perform the premiere of the song cycle “Freedom Songs.” Habib will discuss the poetic and musical design of the cycle, as well as “Poems of E.E. Cummings,” also on the album. The event is open to the public.