

Morley Builders Conference Room



One of the first companies to commit support for the new building was **Morley Builders** of Santa Monica, the firm that built the new Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral in Los Angeles. Their interest was in providing a space central to student activities that would encourage their interaction with faculty and industry leaders and promote students' professional growth and development.

Morley Builders President Mark Benjamin, son of company founder Morley Benjamin and a board member of the American Council for Construction Education, remarked, "We wanted to support the College's project by providing a space within it that would be utilized by the students, faculty and staff members." Benjamin noted that four of Morley Builders vice presidents— Mark Montoya, Charles Muttillio, Chris Forster and Jeff Simonson—are Cal Poly graduates and said, "Our firm has benefited greatly from the talent and skills of quite a few Cal Poly graduates, and we're honored to give back to the College."

XL Construction Conference Room



Mario Wijtman and Dave Beck at Cal Poly (L-R)
XL Construction Vice Presidents

San Jose-based **XL Construction** and their Cal Poly alumni are partnering to name this room to help CM students, professors and industry leaders collaborate on projects. The principal partners at XL construction, founded in 1992, are Eric Raff and two 1983 CM graduates, Mario Wijtman and Dave Beck. At the recognition event on campus on November 20, 2003, Al Hauck observed, "This is the first major gift from a company started and largely managed by Cal Poly CM alumni and it represents a new milestone in that our program started just 30 years ago, and we now have grads in significant positions in the construction industry able to support a program they experienced firsthand."

"Nearly half of our project managers and engineers are Cal Poly grads," said Beck. "We all share a solid industry-oriented background we earned through our education at Cal Poly, giving us a tremendous start to our professional careers." Wijtman added, "Cal Poly grads at XL Construction have enjoyed great success and have made a significant contribution to our company. For this reason, XL Construction and our Cal Poly alums are proud to team up for this gift to help make the College's new building a reality."

In the Next CM Facilities Update

The labs and other spaces supporting the fourth-year courses are being further defined. Several departmental supporters are actively considering proposals while we continue to seek additional potential major sponsors for a general computer lab, a project controls lab, a design/build lab, a specialty construction lab, the senior capstone lab, student presentation facilities, and others that will greatly enhance this pivotal project. The discussion with these firms, the members of the CM Industry Advisory Committee and the faculty will continue to narrow the focus of the program for the new Center.

One of the considerations will be the need to provide sufficient flexibility in the physical environment to accommodate future industry and educational developments that can only be imagined now. By the next issue of the "Update," this picture should start to become clearer, and we will highlight the senior level labs and other support spaces taking shape. We look forward to hearing your ideas and input. Send your comments to ahauck@calpoly.edu and watch your mailboxes for what's coming next!



Al Hauck
CM Department Head



Proposition 55 Passes—New CM Building is on the Way!

I am pleased to share with you the great news that on March 2 California voters passed Proposition 55 providing the funding for much-needed educational facilities across the state, including major renovations and expansion for the College of Architecture and Environmental Design (CAED). This bond issue releases \$34 million for the working drawings and construction of the new Center for Construction Excellence—the future home of the Construction Management Department—and the total upgrade of the College's three existing facilities. These funds come with some strict spending schedules, however, leading to the projected occupancy of all facilities by late 2007. Design development by Austin Veum Robbins Partners in San Diego will be completed this spring and the construction documents prepared this summer.

We are developing a partnership of both public and private funding to extend the benefits our unique educational programs offer our students. With these "Updates" I would like to regularly report the progress we are making on meeting our program and building funding goals. This issue provides an overview of vitally needed facilities and also features recognition of some of the companies and individuals whose significant financial support is helping to supplement state funding of the new Center. This private funding is helping to create essential additions to the state facilities including:

- a unique interdisciplinary Materials Demonstration Lab;
- sector-specific labs dedicated to major segments of the construction industry;
- modern conference rooms promoting interaction among our students and faculty;
- state-of-the-art facilities used for industry and student presentations; and
- new computer and project controls labs.

To date, over \$2.6 million of private support has been pledged or received for the new Center. Our overall goal is \$7.5 million to complete the specialized facilities identified in our program for the Center.

I continue to be impressed with the warm welcome extended by our friends in the industry who value the Cal Poly tradition of "hands-on," student-centered learning. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the individuals featured in this "Update" as well as our new dean, R. Thomas Jones, and other departmental faculty in planning and enabling this exciting new resource for our students. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the department that will impact not just the physical environment of the program, but also the quality of the education we can provide. Please stop by for a personal "Update" if you are in the area!

Al Hauck

Rob Rossi Initiates "Founders" Gift

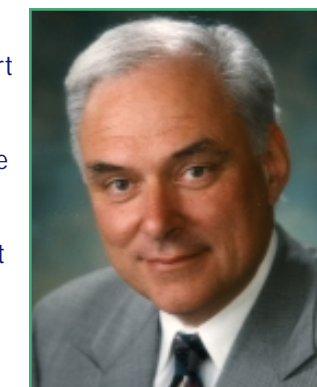
San Luis Obispo architect, developer and 1975 Cal Poly architecture graduate Rob Rossi has pledged \$1 million-plus to the university's College of Architecture and Environmental Design - the largest cash commitment ever to the College. He will be recognized in the new building as one of four "founders" whose significant contributions to the College, the capital campaign, and the industry will have a lasting impact on our students and graduates for decades to come. In addition to a Founders Hall in the new building named in honor of these individuals, there will be a special recognition of their impact on the design and construction professions in the Founders Lobby of the new facility.

"Much of what I learned at Cal Poly goes above and beyond what can be measured by a grade-point average," Rossi said. "Taking risks, working with a team, learning from mistakes, and making the most of opportunities – those were among lessons I learned that have served me well, both professionally and personally. In appreciation of the encouragement and support that I received from so many people in the College, I'm glad for the opportunity to provide a helping hand of encouragement to current and future students. I hope that students will

realize talent is hard to quantify and that success awaits each tenacious individual who has the courage to overcome difficulty and envision the possibilities."

K. Richard Zweifel, interim dean of the CAED at the time of this commitment, noted "This heartfelt gift is from someone who truly knows and cares about our College and its departments. Rob understands and appreciates the unique qualities of our programs and the special educational philosophy and advantage he himself experienced here as a student. His generous donation is in direct support of what is truly essential to sustain those qualities."

Rob Rossi was named the College's Alumnus of the Year in 2000, and his support for the department and many of the College's essential initiatives is truly appreciated.



Rob Rossi
Founder

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In This Issue

- A Unique Building & Program Take Shape
- CM Leaders Emerge
- Highlights of Labs & Conference Rooms
- A Look Ahead

A Unique Building for a Unique Program

Academic departments at university campuses get the opportunity to build new facilities about once every 50 years. We would be remiss if we didn't take this chance to really look at how construction management is being taught throughout the U.S. and try to develop a building program that can support the latest thinking in integrative curricula for professional education. Those discussions have been taking place with our faculty, students, alumni, supporters and employers, and they will continue in earnest at the first meeting of the department's new CM Industry Advisory Committee on April 23. Facilities decisions must be placed in the context of the education they will support, so a significant part of the discussion with this group will center on the curriculum that will be enabled by the Center for Construction Excellence. Cal Poly has always done an outstanding job of providing strong, interactive courses through its "learn-by-doing," hands-on approach. The question now is, what forward-thinking curricular changes are made possible by this facility? What needs to be included in this building to further expand this type of education? Described on these pages are some of the unique spaces that are planned along with the companies whose participation is making this Center possible. Your input in this process, of course, is encouraged and always welcome.

Jerry Overaa and the rest of the management team from Richmond, CA, have been long-time supporters of the CM Department. We at Cal Poly are proud to claim members of the fourth generation of the Overaa family, Erin and Kara, as alumni who are employed at **C. Overaa and Company**, and to know they are contributing to the continued success of the family business. Over the years the company has hired from our best and brightest graduates, including Larry Etcheverry, Bryan Dissman and many others. Jerry has served on the College's Advisory Council for many years.

The Overaa family has recently expanded on that commitment to the department by co-sponsoring the Fundamentals of Construction Management Lab. The introduction in this space will include overviews of the materials of construction, graphic communications, specifications, building codes, principles of quantity takeoffs, and basic scheduling techniques. The additional space made possible by Overaa's donation will make this lab accessible to students 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The department is continuing to search for an appropriate partner to co-sponsor this lab that will serve as the foundation to the CM curriculum.



Jerry Overaa
CEO & Chairman, C. Overaa
& Company



Igor Noriega
Southern California Area
President, Pulte Homes

Detroit-based **Pulte Homes**, one of the largest U.S. homebuilders, has committed to fund a new lab dedicated to professional careers in this vital market. This instruction will include the breadth of information from wood frame, masonry and light-gauge steel construction methods to the calculation of financial viability of development alternatives. The lab will include the framing models, materials, contracts, marketing documents and other essential items related to residential construction practices.

Pulte's Southern California Area President Igor Noriega was on campus to sign the agreement with the College on May 15, 2003. At the ceremony, Al Hauck noted, "We are very thankful to Pulte for the partnership commitment that this investment represents. Homebuilding is one of the key drivers of the U.S. economy and it is critical that the department prepare our students to be able to play leadership roles in the residential construction market."

"As a company," said John M. Drew, Orange County-based director of construction for Pulte Homes, "we need great people and we see a successful partnership with the students and faculty at Cal Poly. Pulte Homes recognized and selected Cal Poly because of the strength of the program and the hands-on approach that students experience in the department."



Cal Poly's Center for Construction Excellence

Preliminary rendering by

AUSTIN
VEUM
ROBBINS
PARTNERS

Simpson Strong-Tie employees Steve Lamson, president; Tom Burson, sales manager; Ricardo Arevalo, branch engineer and 1985 Cal Poly architectural engineering grad, presenting donation check to Al Hauck, CM Department head and Tanya Kiani, CAED director of advancement and alumni relations. Not pictured is Dave Bastian, branch manager for Simpson Strong-Tie, who was instrumental in securing the sponsorship. (L-R)

The **Simpson Strong-Tie Materials Demonstration Laboratory** will be the interdisciplinary "heart" of the Center for Construction Excellence. This lab will become an essential element in the education of all students of the CAED. The common thread that joins all professionals in the planning, design, engineering and construction disciplines is the critical need for understanding the availability and properties of the vast array of building materials and the components that can be fabricated from them. This lab will permit the details produced by designers to be engineered and then constructed to provide structural and constructability analyses, resulting in improved future designs. Located adjacent to the sector-specific labs described here, this lab will serve as a shared learning environment where the usage of materials can be explored across multiple disciplines.

As the premier structural connector manufacturer in the United States, Canada and Europe, Simpson Strong-Tie is known for their team-oriented approach to customer service and a continuous dedication to the pursuit of excellence. We at Cal Poly are proud of our long-standing partnership with the company. For many years, Simpson Strong-Tie has generously donated financial resources and time to the CAED, providing scholarships to the future professionals of our industry, sponsoring the annual SEAOC Forum, and holding an annual Simpson Strong-Tie Symposium on campus.

Webcor Builders of San Mateo, CA, known for its prominence in commercial high-rise buildings and innovative developments in structural concrete framing, has recently committed to sponsoring the important Webcor Commercial Building Laboratory. This lab will help Cal Poly maintain its reputation for producing outstanding leaders in this significant market segment. Students will "move into" this lab for the term, having 24/7 access to individual work-stations and team-preparation facilities surrounded by models, photos, online resources, contracts, marketing documents, plans and specs to help them prepare significant responses to major challenges facing sample projects.

Eric Horn, a 1988 Cal Poly alumnus and vice president at Webcor Builders, was very interested in developing this concept further to prepare our students for essential co-operative work-experience placements leading to significant career positions. Faculty in the department, on behalf of the student body, look forward to continued opportunities to engage representatives from the company in classroom instruction and to lead student field trips to Webcor project sites.



**Overaa
Fundamentals of
Construction
Management Lab**
(Co-sponsorship)

**Simpson
Strong-Tie Materials
Demonstration Lab**

**Pulte Homes
Residential Construction
Lab**

**Granite
Construction
Heavy / Civil Lab**

**Webcor
Commercial Building Lab**

With the essential support of **Granite Construction**, headquartered in Watsonville, CA, the CM Department will build a lab dedicated to educating our students in equipment management, heavy/civil estimating and pricing, aggregate production and plant operations, asphalt technology, and other areas of this critical segment of the construction industry. At the signing ceremony recognizing their support for this lab on September 29, 2003, Bill Dorey, president of Granite, said, "Cal Poly has emerged as one of the premier construction management programs in the country and is recognized for its program content and the quality of its students. Granite has been actively recruiting from Cal Poly for more than 20 years, and we have found that a Cal Poly graduate has the ability to take on a leadership role very quickly in our company."

"We are very proud of our partnership with Granite Construction over these last several decades," replied CAED Dean R. Thomas Jones. "They help us maintain currency, provide internship opportunities for our students and provide rewarding careers for our graduates."



CAED Dean R. Thomas Jones, CM Department Head Al Hauck and Granite Construction President Bill Dorey at Cal Poly signing ceremony (L-R)