Morley Builders Conference Room
One of the companies that committed 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 Muttillo, 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
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 alumni and it represents a new milestone in that our program started 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, and we are passionate about the quality of our work for our students and faculty. The new facilities and state-of-the-art laboratories will enable our students to gain the hands-on experience they need to be successful in their careers.”

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 the general computer lab, a project controls lab, a design/build lab, a specialty construction lab, the senior capstone lab, student presentation facilities, and other facilities that will greatly enhance this pivotal project. The discussions 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 environment to accommodate future industry and educational developments that can only be imagined now. By the next issue of the “Updates,” 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 your feedback and input. Send your comments to alhauck@calpoly.edu and watch our mailboxes for what’s coming next!

CM Facilities Update
From The Construction Management Department
College of Architecture and Environmental Design • Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
Spring 2004

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 Auld Team 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 to our unique educational programs for 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 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.

In This Issue
• A Unique Building & Program Take Shape
• CM Leaders Emerge
• Highlights of Labs & Conference Rooms
• A Look Ahead

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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 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 partnership commitment that this investment represents. Homebuilding is one of the key drivers 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. 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, 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)