Celebrating a century of achievement

by Polly Harrigan
Centennial Celebration Coordinator

Throughout 2001 and the first half of 2002, Cal Poly will be celebrating its many achievements during 100 years of teaching, research, and service to California and the nation. We encourage each of Cal Poly's constituencies—students, faculty, staff, alumni, volunteers, parents, friends, and community members—to come and celebrate with us at concerts, exhibits, lectures, colloquia, and myriad other events.

The Centennial Celebration Web site, www.centennial.calpoly.edu, designed by alumni and students, explores campus history, announces upcoming events, and provides a glimpse into the university's future. Check it often for the latest information on more than 100 on- and off-campus centennial showcase events from now until June 2002, including events planned by the colleges, ASI, Student Affairs, the alumni association, and other campus organizations.

If your travels don't bring you to San Luis Obispo, watch for special regional events that Cal Poly, the alumni association, and the colleges will be hosting in your area. For more information you may also call the Cal Poly alumni association office at 888/Cal-Poly.

Cal Poly baseball team, c. 1908
(Photo courtesy University Archives, Robert E. Kennedy Library)
Save the Dates for Major Campus Events
2001-2002 Academic Year

Centennial Celebration at the Performing Arts Center, Sept. 8, 2001

The Performing Arts Center’s Christopher Cohan Center will celebrate its five-year anniversary this September. The community celebration will include a dedication of the landscaping, commemoration of the center’s founding, and a free concert featuring community performing arts organizations.

Founders Convocation and Centennial Celebration, Sept. 27-28, 2001

Cal Poly will host alumni, friends, and distinguished visitors to mark 100 years of teaching, research, and public service to the state and the nation. Presidents from California colleges and universities, student body presidents and representatives from each class, and other notable guests will be invited to join in the festivities. A colloquium on higher education in service of the nation’s needs in science and technology will be held Thursday, Sept. 27. The Friday morning convocation will include an academic procession and ceremony featuring a keynote address, music, and proclamations. Afternoon festivities will include refreshments, entertainment, and exhibits highlighting the university’s past and future.

Homecoming, Nov. 9-11, 2001

Activities will include the annual downtown parade, banquets and barbecues, the football game, college receptions, tours, and special centennial events and displays.

Wall of Honor Unveiling Homecoming Weekend 2001

A consortium of individuals and groups, including the alumni association, Cal Poly faculty and staff members, alumni veterans, ROTC, and local veterans’ organizations, is working this centennial year to restore and design new plaques in memory of Cal Poly student veterans of the wars of the last century. An unveiling ceremony is planned for Homecoming Weekend, in conjunction with Veterans’ Day, Nov. 11.

The campus wishes to extend a special invitation to all Cal Poly veterans and their families to attend.

The ROTC office is seeking assistance in identifying students who are veterans or lost their lives serving their country, to be included in a permanent and complete Cal Poly Veterans Directory.

Donations to this project are welcome. You may make a check payable to the Cal Poly Foundation for the ROTC Plaque Placement Fund. Please send the names of Cal Poly veterans or your donations to ROTC Major Paul Buechner, Military Science Department, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407, or call 805/756-7690.

The Baker Forum, April 5-7, 2002

The Baker Forum, “The Future of the Polytechnic University,” is expected to attract national and international leaders, presidents, provosts, and other representatives of major national and overseas polytechnic institutions. This event, created and funded primarily by the President’s Cabinet—a group of 40 industry and community leaders who provide advice and counsel to the university—honors two decades of service to Cal Poly by President Warren J. Baker and his wife, Carly. The Baker Forum will focus on the role of higher education in addressing public policy issues.

The Baker Forum promises to become an important annual event on the nation’s higher education calendar. Its focus on polytechnic institutions both provides a unique perspective and underscores the critical role that these universities play in defining issues and addressing critical national needs in the areas of science, technology, and the development of an informed citizenry on these and related matters.

Call for Cal Poly Memorabilia

Do you have memorabilia from your college years? The University Archives collections help ensure that your days at Cal Poly are not forgotten. Help us preserve Cal Poly history by contributing to the support of the University Archives and by donating your photos, scrapbooks, Cal Poly apparel, and other items. Call us at 805/756-2305 for more information.
Kennedy Library offers centennial volume

The rich holdings of the University Archives have been captured in Cal Poly's first published history, *Cal Poly: The First Hundred Years*. Featuring more than 300 illustrations, this 178-page work chronicles the university's academic progress, campus customs, student life, and other elements that make Cal Poly unique.

The book relates Cal Poly's learn-by-doing story, from the university's beginnings as a co-educational vocational high school during the Progressive Era to its present standing as one of the country's leading undergraduate polytechnic universities.

The first of five chapters begins in 1894, when local journalist Myron Angel gathered a group of citizens to lobby for a state school in San Luis Obispo, and outlines the precarious early years of the institution and how it coped with the Great Depression.

Subsequent chapters describe Cal Poly's "Rosie the Riveter" training programs and the advent of the university's naval pre-flight training during World War II, the years of tremendous campus change and growth following the war as thousands of veterans enrolled, the achievements of students and faculty during the 1950s and 1960s, and the last three decades of the 20th century.

Cal Poly's darkest hours are recounted in a special section devoted to the 1960 crash of the aircraft carrying the Mustang football team. Other sections highlight the lore and legend of Cal Poly's hillside P; athletics (the original school colors were green and orange); the Rose Float tradition; and Poly Royal and Open House and their forerunner, the Farmers' Picnic.

Special sections are also devoted to Cal Poly's six colleges, the University Center for Teacher Education, and the Kennedy Library. The book concludes with an afterword on Cal Poly's future from President Warren J. Baker, a bibliography, and an index.

*Cal Poly: The First Hundred Years* was launched on March 8, Cal Poly's 100th birthday, and is available at El Corral, Cal Poly Downtown, and via mail, fax, and Web orders. Reserve your high-quality trade paperback copy today by calling 805/756-1161 or 800/367-0771.

— Nancy Loe, assistant dean, Kennedy Library Special Collections

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