A little more than 50 years ago, in 1949, the Cal Poly Alumni Association published its first alumni newsletter, Green and Gold Alumni Review, in an effort to keep alumni abreast of events and activities.

However, this was not the first attempt by graduates to keep in touch with fellow Mustangs. It was Cal Poly's first graduating class in 1906 that started the tradition of reuniting after commencement.

As Cal Poly celebrates its centennial anniversary in 2001—and the Cal Poly Alumni Association its golden anniversary in 1999—it is important to note that one aspect remains constant: The purpose of the alumni association is to strengthen ties between Cal Poly and its alumni and to support the university and its unique educational heritage.

As the university has changed, so has the alumni association. It was not too long ago that the association was run completely by volunteers, and the first staff member filled a half-time position. Not until Steve Riddell's arrival in 1970 did Cal Poly have its first full-time director of alumni relations—and the first

CLASS OF 1951 REUNION

A committee of 1951 graduates (Ken Savage, Jim Dowe, Kirby Robinson, Robin Baldwin, Doug Thorne, Everett Chandler, Don Coats, Tom Lennon, and Jack Evans) has planned a weekend of activities and time to reminisce for their classmates on Nov. 9-11. Plans include tours of campus, meetings with college faculty, a 50-year reunion dinner, a Homecoming parade, a tailgate barbecue, reserved seating at the Cal Poly Homecoming football game, a veterans' dedication ceremony, and much more. If you did not receive a save-the-date postcard in March, please call Jen Landers at the Alumni Office at 888/CAL-POLY to be placed on the mailing list.

continued on page 27
The Alumni Association continued from page 25

in the California State University system. Following Steve Riddell and Bob Timone, Steve Shockley took the reins in 1985, and Ben Beesley in 1998.

Although today’s alumni staff is quite a bit larger than in 1970, many aspects have remained constant. The association is still governed by a volunteer board of directors, financing for programming comes from alumni and friends, and the CPAA still serves alumni and the university.

Over the years, the Cal Poly Alumni Association has been an integral partner in Cal Poly’s history. Poly Royal, started by the Cal Poly chapter of the Future Farmers of America in 1933, thrived as a focal point for returning alumni. The organizers of the first Poly Royal were Carl “Gus” Beck, adviser of the FFA chapter, and other agriculture faculty and students. The rearing mustang that stands above Memorial Plaza was an alumni association project. And reunions over the years rekindling memories of days gone by are organized through the Alumni Relations Office.

More than 100,000 alumni are now represented by the alumni association, with more than 11,000 active members. As the university embarks on its second century, the alumni association’s goal is to continue to keep graduates in touch with Cal Poly and with San Luis Obispo.

AN INVITATION TO HOMECOMING

The alumni association invites alumni, parents, students, and other university friends to celebrate Cal Poly’s Centennial Celebration during Homecoming 2001, Friday through Sunday, Nov. 9-11. Everyone is encouraged to arrive early for San Luis Obispo’s Thursday-night Farmers’ Market, to visit the campus, and to attend student club activities.

Saturday begins with a Homecoming parade (10 a.m.) that showcases Cal Poly clubs. At 3 p.m. Cal Poly will play CSU Northridge in the Homecoming football game, preceded by a tailgate barbecue at 1 p.m. On Sunday there is a reunion breakfast in Chumash Auditorium at 8:30 a.m. for the classes of 1951 and 1976. All veterans, their families, and friends are then welcome to attend the Veterans’ Memorial Dedication, which takes place in Memorial Plaza (next to the Mustang statue) at 11 a.m. and commemorates the original Armistice Day at the end of World War I, when the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month was chosen for the cessation of hostilities.

The alumni association will soon be mailing a complete schedule of Homecoming events and registration information. For more information, call the Alumni Office at 888/CAL-POLY or visit the CPAA Web site at www.alumni.calpoly.edu.