PARENT PROGRAM PROVIDES DIRECTION, SUPPORT

So you've carried all those suitcases up to that 10 x 13 dorm room and assured your son or daughter that in no time it will begin to feel like home. You've exchanged goodbyes as new friends begin to introduce themselves. Cal Poly's Week of Welcome has begun, and you're headed home.

Now what?

Like their students, parents and family members face adjustments adapting to the challenges associated with university life. Questions about how parents and family members can become involved in university life are frequent, but uncertainty about healthy and constructive levels of guidance and support for their students during the college years is not uncommon.

The Division of Student Affairs' Parent Program is Cal Poly's parent and family connection. It exists to support and serve parents and families by heightening communication between them and the university and by engaging them in Cal Poly activities and events so that, in turn, their students can be successful in their college experience.

Developed in the early 1980s under the auspices of the Cal Poly Alumni Association, the Parent Program offered, for the first time, a means for parents to stay connected with Cal Poly. In the summer of 1996, the Parent Program became a part of the Division of Student Affairs, where it continued to work effectively to raise parents' awareness about programs that can contribute to and enhance their students' years at Cal Poly. The program continues to benefit today from its history of associations with these departments, as well as with the six colleges and the university at large.

According to Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Robert Detweiler, "The real measure of student success is graduation. We're here to support and ensure student success. The rest is just details." To Cal Poly and its students, parent/family support is an essential part of ensuring this definition of success as well.

Through Cal Poly's Parent Advisory Council and other Parent Program activities, parents have a forum for discussing with the university their concerns on matters that affect their students, such as the safety of off-campus housing, class availability, and changes in majors. Under the past and current leadership of council chairs Tom Wulf, Chellie Powell, Jerry Holcombe, and Ellie Jorritsma, as well as the council's founding and current members, the council shapes the direction and scope of services provided by the Parent Program. Most important, council members and many other parent volunteers have been, and continue to be, important resources of information to other Cal Poly parents.

For more information on the Cal Poly Parent Program, please call 805/756-6700 or view its Web site at www.calpolyparent.org.

A happy graduation is the goal of all the programs supported by Student Affairs.

(Photo by Patrick Swadener)
The ongoing mission of Student Affairs has been to encourage and advance not only academic learning, but also the personal development of students by providing a broad range of opportunities in experiential learning, collective decision-making, field-based learning, community service learning, and peer instruction.

The division strives to foster, within each student, self-respect and responsibility to the greater community by embracing and expanding the learn-by-doing philosophy that is at the core of a Cal Poly education.

Student Affairs comprises the following entities:

**HEALTH AND COUNSELING SERVICES** (campus infirmary established 1934)
- 1958 - First full-time physician is hired.
- 1961 - Accreditation is received from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals. The health center remains one of a small minority of university health centers accredited by outside agencies.
- 2001 - Five physicians and more than 30 professional and support staff work in the health center. Counseling Services includes five counselors, two interns, and two administrative support staff.

**CAREER SERVICES**
- 1942 - The Cal Poly Bulletin-Catalog states: "The primary purpose of all instruction at (Cal Poly) is placement ... ."
- 1989 - Cooperative Education and Placement programs merge.
- 1991 - Career counseling function transfers to Cooperative Education and Placement to form the current Career Services.

**STUDENT LIFE AND LEADERSHIP** (begins as the Activities Planning Center 1951)
- 1964 - First Week of Welcome orientation program is held.
- 1981 - Multicultural Center opens.
- 1993 - Women's Center opens.
- Currently oversees more than 400 campus clubs and organizations.

**HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL LIFE**
- 1952 - North Mountain halls open.
- 1954 - First director under Student Affairs appointed.

- 1966 - First co-ed housing established in Santa Lucia Hall.
- 2001 - Groundbreaking held for 804-bed student apartment complex.

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS INC.** (incorporated 1964)
- 1971 - University Union construction completed.
- 2000 - Grand opening held for the 47-acre Sports Complex, including baseball and softball stadiums and soccer fields.
- 2001 - Poly Escapes new climbing wall installed.

**DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER** (opens 1975, initiating Annual Disability Awareness Day)
- 1985 - The only volunteer reading program in the CSU system is initiated, providing materials on tape for print-reading-impaired students.
- 1995 - Partners for Success created (the first DRC career-mentoring program in the CSU system).

**STUDENT ACADEMIC SERVICES** (formed in 1981 as an umbrella for the Educational Opportunity Program (1968), Disabled Student Services/Student Community Services (1969), the Learning Assistance Center (1978), and Student Affirmative Action (1980))
- 1983 - Upward Bound program begins, a college prep program for low-income or potential first-generation college students-funded by the federal government.
- 1984 - Student Support Services (designed to increase retention and graduation rates) and Summer Institute (an academic transition program) established.
- 1999 - College Bound founded as a program to motivate and prepare local middle- and high-school students from low-income, first-generation college families for application and entrance to Cal Poly or other CSU campuses.

**CAMPUS STUDENT RELATIONS AND JUDICIAL AFFAIRS** (formal office opens 1990)
- Upholds the California State University (CSU) Standards of Conduct regarding student discipline in cases such as cheating, abusive behavior, vandalism, computer systems misuse, and sexual misconduct.