Few would argue that art improves the quality of life. And for the citizens of the Central Coast - and beyond - the quality of life will continue to improve, thanks to the generosity of two Cal Poly alumni, Clifford Chapman and Gene Shidler. The longtime Shell Beach residents, known for their extensive support of the arts, have established three endowments at the university totaling $4 million.

Chapman and Shidler’s gift includes a $2 million endowment to support the College of Liberal Arts, a $1 million endowment to benefit Cal Poly Arts, and a $1 million endowment to sustain the Baker Forum, an annual event begun this year to honor Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker and his wife, Carly.

“This generous gift will greatly benefit our performing arts program,” said Harry Hellenbrand, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. “Students flock to our music and theater classes because of the hands-on experiences there, and these programs will be enhanced by this support. The gift will provide them with a great legacy.”

Ralph Hoskins, director of Cal Poly Arts, said that the $1 million Chapman-Shidler gift “will assure that non-commercial programming like classical music, dance, and theater will always be a part of the university’s performing arts series. This support will help broaden the community’s appreciation of these types of arts programs.”

The other $1 million endowment will provide ongoing support for the Baker Forum, which was inaugurated this year to foster discussion among educators, industry leaders, and public policy-makers on issues of science and technology ranging from student preparation to the social and ethical dimensions related to the impact of technology on society.

President Baker recognized Chapman and Shidler’s continued contributions of “resources, time, energy, and keen insight” to the university and to the larger community.

“Clifford and Gene have made a significant and lasting impact on the arts in our community,” Baker said, “and they have been equally supportive of Cal Poly’s programs. Their commitment to both the arts to foster discussion among educators, industry leaders, and public policy-makers on issues of science and technology ranging from student preparation to the social and ethical dimensions related to the impact of technology on society.

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**Gifts**

- **James Keefe** and **Lorna Lee** recently donated 22 acres in the Ragged Point area of San Luis Obispo County’s North Coast for the benefit of the College of Science and Mathematics. They have also provided the university with an additional gift of $100,000 and have committed to a pledge of $252,000 to benefit the College of Science and Mathematics.

- **Peter (ARCE ’56) and Ida Mae Berg** have established a charitable remainder trust funded with real estate valued at $700,000 to provide future support for the George Hasslein Chair for Interdisciplinary Studies in Environmental Design.

- **James (ME ’59) and Betty Mae Locke** have established a charitable remainder trust with real estate valued at $430,000 that will provide future support for the Mechanical Engineering Department.

- **Harlan W. Beck (IT ’60)** created a charitable remainder trust valued at $393,550 to provide future support to programs in the College of Agriculture and the College of Engineering.

- **Omer (SS ’56) and Claudia King** have established five new scholarships with gifts totaling $125,000 to benefit the College of Agriculture, College of Liberal Arts, and College of Engineering.

- **Richard (SOCS ’56) and Joyce Andrews** added an additional $90,825 to their charitable remainder trust to provide future support for the Intercollegiate Athletics Department.

- **Helga R. Carden** created a $50,000 charitable gift annuity to provide future support to the Materials Engineering Department.

- **Everett (Faculty Emeritus) and Arlene Chandler** added an additional $39,234 to their charitable remainder trust to provide future support to the Ethnic Studies Department and to the Intercollegiate Athletics Department.

- **Stan (Staff Emeritus) and Elaine Rosenfield** donated stock valued at $10,600 to establish a campuswide scholarship endowment.

- **Robert Rivers (DSCI ’49)** created a charitable gift annuity with stock valued at $10,000 to provide future support for the Mechanical Engineering Department.

**Arts**

and education runs very, very deep, as these gifts attest. We are grateful for their trust in Cal Poly.”

Chapman and Shidler are widely known in the community for their significant contributions to enhance the cultural richness of San Luis Obispo. Chapman, who studied electronic engineering at the university, and Shidler, a 1966 English alumnus, view their bequests as a way to continue strengthening the arts community and the Cal Poly educational experience.

“We feel fortunate to have studied at Cal Poly and to have watched its reputation grow to a national level under the guidance of President Baker and his wife, Carly,” Chapman and Shidler said. “The future of the world, we believe, is in the hands of educators. We’re happy to invest in tomorrow’s students and leaders.”

Chapman, a sixth-generation resident of San Luis Obispo County, was given the Cal Poly President’s Arts Award in 1999 in recognition of his philanthropic service to the arts community. He and Shidler are self-described music lovers and longtime supporters of the local arts scene. They are founders of the San Luis Obispo Performing Arts Center, and Chapman serves on the board of directors of the Foundation for the Performing Arts Center. Throughout the years, the San Luis Obispo Symphony, the Mozart Festival, the Pacific Repertory Opera, and the SLO Little Theater have all benefited from these patrons of the arts.