In 1947 Richard Anderson left Southern California to join the faculty of California Polytechnic School as a physical education instructor. He went on to serve Cal Poly and its students for more than 36 years.

Along the way he established successful intercollegiate programs in swimming and water polo. More than 40 of his swimmers were recognized as All-Americans, and at the 1960 Olympic Games he watched one of his athletes, Eugene C. Lenz (ARCE ’61), represent the United States in the men’s 400-meter event.

Dick Anderson went on to lead Cal Poly’s entire intercollegiate athletic program as director of athletics from 1963 to 1968. He also served as head of the Physical Education Department for two years when Robert Mott was in Africa. In 1991 Anderson was inducted into the Cal Poly Athletic Hall of Fame for his many years of dedicated service.

Over the years, Dick Anderson had a significant impact on the lives of many student athletes. According to Geoff Capell (PE ’64), "Coach Anderson was a man who cared. Coaching was his vehicle for teaching and counseling others about life. No one was left out." Coach Anderson provided everything from wise advice to job opportunities to ensure that his student athletes realized their full potential. After they graduated, he helped place many of them as teachers and coaches in high schools, community colleges, and universities.

Now, in recognition of his inspiring leadership, several of Anderson’s former student athletes are establishing the Dick Anderson Swimming Scholarship Endowment to provide ongoing support to Cal Poly swimmers, and, in conjunction with the endowment, the naming of the pool off Mott Gym as the Anderson Aquatic Center.

To contribute to the endowment or learn more about it, please contact Geoff Capell at 408/267-6103 or via e-mail at gcapell@aol.com, or Gene Lenz at 805/481-0582 or at eugenelenz@aol.com. Mike LaPlante, associate athletic director for advancement, is also available at 805/756-2155 or at mlaplant@calpoly.edu.