A Letter to Our Friends

During the last year, education has continued to stand as one of California's and the nation's highest priorities. In order to meet the challenges of a changing world and an evolving economy, we recognize that now, more than ever, there are complex needs to which our universities must apply their knowledge and skills.

Throughout 2001-2002 I have seen a heartening continuation of support for Cal Poly's mission by alumni, industry partners, and other friends, confirming our efforts to expand the opportunities we offer our students as we educate the generations that will face new demands in the future. Your donations give us invaluable support in our teaching, research, and facilities development, as well as in the advancement of state-of-the-art instructional technology and library resources.

This past year was another unprecedented year of giving to Cal Poly. Individuals, foundations, and corporations donated 26,734 gifts totaling $44.3 million, bringing the Centennial Campaign total as of June 30 to $167.7 million - the three-quarter mark of our $225 million goal. Every gift, at every level, made a difference in moving the university closer to that goal.

In this special issue of Cal Poly Magazine, we present a Centennial Campaign update and the annual Honor Roll of donors, which includes those who gave $250 or more to the university in 2001-2002. You will also find stories that describe the important role your donations play in continuing to develop Cal Poly into one of the nation's finest educational institutions and in aiding individual students and faculty members in their quest for new and useful knowledge.

Polytechnic education encourages innovation by educating the whole person, developing and teaching practical solutions to the technical problems of today's complicated and interconnected world. It helps prepare our best and brightest students for tomorrow's world.

Thank you for your unwavering support of Cal Poly and your commitment to the future.

From the President

Cal Poly magazine

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On the Cover

Support for university friends - including alumni, parents, and industry partners - and the student fee initiative makes possible such projects as the remotely piloted gas-powered helicopter initiated by Don Stewart (M.S. AERO '02) (foreground) as part of his master's thesis under the guidance of Aerospace Engineering Chair Dan Biezad. The helicopter - which made its 90-minute maiden voyage this October - was developed with AERO students (left to right) Greg Barber, Brett Heliker, Chleang Yang, Joon Kim, and Matt McCue. Alumni who served as mentors were Pete Siebold (AERO '01) (currently working with Burt Rutan [AERO '65], designer of Voyager, the first aircraft to fly around the world without refueling) and Tim Weise (M.S. AERO '95), systems engineer at Jet Propulsion Labs. The project evolved from competition money awarded the Aero Department by Teledyne-Ryan Corporation, now Northrop-Grumman, for a second-place finish at an Autonomous Vehicle Competition at Georgia Tech. Future plans for the helicopter include low-altitude remote sensing and monitoring of targets ranging from agricultural crops to aqueducts.

Photo by Rick Smith