Completing the Circle of Giving

Meaningful “connections” formed while at Cal Poly become a driving force in promoting the “Stay Connected” motto of the Cal Poly Alumni Association (CPAA). Dedicated CPAA chapter leaders, members, and friends complete the circle of giving back to Cal Poly both in time and financial support.

Northern California chapters sponsor the Nor Cal Golf Tournament to raise funds for student scholarships distributed to Cal Poly students from the East Bay and to student athletes. John Furtado (NRM ‘82), past CPAA president, has established a funding match agreement with his employer, Bank of America.

Central Valley chapters have also supported students from their region attending Cal Poly. The Modesto chapter’s golf tournament has raised funds for 14 consecutive years, sponsoring scholarships and making donations to various campus programs. The San Joaquin Valley Fun Day Golf Tournament, held every spring since 1993, raises funds for merit-based scholarships. In May 2002, the tournament was renamed in memory of Rita B. Hill (SaCS ‘71), and fundraising efforts far surpassed the expectations of the organizers.

Alumni in Southern California gather each year to raise funds supporting the CPAA and Cal Poly Athletics by hosting the South Coast Golf Classic.

Cal Poly alumni convene for other wide-ranging events as well.

Scores of Cal Poly rugby alumni return to San Luis Obispo each spring for the Cal Poly Rugby Alumni Gathering. The Kevin Higgins Rugby Alumni Association Endowment was established in 1998 to help purchase the equipment that keeps the Cal Poly Student Rugby Club competitive. (The team has been ranked one of the top university rugby clubs in the nation due in part to the continued support of Cal Poly alumni.)

The Cal Poly Mustang Alumni Band established the Mustang Marching Band Equipment Fund in 2001 in order to purchase much-needed equipment and help the band maintain its competitive edge.

At their annual scholarship dinner, FANS (The Friends and Alumni Network of Supporters) of the Cal Poly theater program awards the Kathleen Fisher Memorial Scholarship to a current theater student. FANS also secures student internships and brings entertainment industry professionals (including alumni) to campus for lectures, hands-on workshops, and career days.

And each August the CPAA works with regional chapters and the Cal Poly Parent Program to sponsor statewide new student welcome events, this year with more than 900 incoming Cal Poly students and parents participating. The Orange County chapter, aided by local Parent Program volunteers, awarded student gift certificates through funds raised at the “Viva Cal Poly” alumni gathering.

For additional information on alumni events or programs, please contact the Alumni Relations office at 888/CAL-POLY (225-7659).