Wine + Women = WineSense

A recent gift of nearly $2,000 from the San Luis Obispo chapter of Women for WineSense put the final touch on the creation of a $10,000 endowment to increase the wine studies resources at the Kennedy Library.

Dubbed Education for WineSense, the project brings together the Kennedy Library and the local chapter of Women for WineSense in a collaboration that aims to increase the print, electronic and historical collections of wine resources at Cal Poly. In addition to enhancing student learning and fostering faculty research, the information will also be made available to members of the local wine community.

"The gift from Women for WineSense will enable us to catalogue the unique history of the Central Coast wine industry through the collections of personal family papers, histories and other related material," says Vivian Steele, chair of the local chapter of the nonprofit, educational organization.

"The gift from Women for WineSense will enable us to catalogue the unique history of the Central Coast wine industry." - Vivian Steele, San Luis Obispo chapter chair

The San Luis Obispo group was founded in January 1999 under the direction of Vicki Carroll, whose vision initiated the fundamental idea of Education for WineSense.

The national Women for WineSense group tracks key medical findings on wine, disseminates information on public policy issues, and sponsors wine tastings, viticulture seminars and national conferences.

Campaigning for a New CAED Building

A campaign for a new building for the College of Architecture and Environmental Design (CAED) has generated several commitments, including $500,000 from a $1 million pledge by alumnus Rob Rossi (ARCH '75). The largely state-funded building is scheduled to be built within the next few years.

The pledge from Rossi, a San Luis Obispo architect and developer, is the largest cash commitment ever to the college. The donation earmarks $500,000 to help build and equip the new facility, $250,000 to fund grants to students who have a special need or show exceptional talent, and $100,000 to begin a program that would bring design professionals to campus and allow students to visit practitioners in the workplace.

"The gift from Women for WineSense will help endow a professorship in honor of George Hasslein, the college’s founding dean who passed away in 2002, and $50,000 will support the Cal Poly Scholars program, which helps attract the nation’s top high school seniors. In addition, Rossi’s pledge includes $15,000 to help finance a bronze sculpture of Hasslein, bringing the total gift to $1,015,000.

"Much of what I learned at Cal Poly goes above and beyond what can be measured by a grade-point average," Rossi said. "Taking risks, working with a team, learning from mistakes and making the most of opportunities — those were among lessons I learned that have served me well, both professionally and personally."

Additional funding for the proposed new structure has been pledged by Detroit-based Pulte Homes, one of the nation’s largest homebuilders, which has committed $250,000 to fund a laboratory in the new facility. The lab will be named the Pulte Homes Residential Construction Laboratory. Pulte Homes recognized and selected Cal Poly “because of the strength of the program and the hands-on approach that students experience in the Construction Management Department,” said John M. Drew, the company’s Orange County-based director of construction.

Another pledge for $80,000 by Morley Builders, the firm that built the new Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, will be used to construct the new building’s main conference room. Four of Morley Builders’ vice presidents are Cal Poly graduates: Mark Montoyo (CM ’84), Charles Muttillo (CM ’86), Chris Forster (CM ’84), and Jeff Simonson (CM ’88).

“Our firm has benefited greatly from the talent and skill of quite a few Cal Poly graduates, and we’re honored to give back to the college by providing one of the lead gifts toward this new building campaign,” company President Mark Benjamin said.