Most of Cal Poly’s nearly 125,000 alumni have settled in cities far from campus, but staying connected to the university – and to fellow alumni – has never been easier. The Cal Poly Alumni Association and the university host dozens of regional alumni chapters and their volunteer leadership, the Cal Poly Alumni Association is able to do just that, Gannon says, with activities that range from tailgates to wine tastings.

Like to golf? Chances are, there’s an upcoming tournament in which you can improve your swing while also helping fund scholarships and other worthy Cal Poly causes.

Not a golfer? Not a problem. How about taking in a baseball game or betting on your favorite horse at the racetrack? Perhaps a concert at the Hollywood Bowl or helping decorate the joint Cal Poly Rose Float entry is more to your liking?

Did anyone mention events up and down the state and beyond. Last year alumni chapters hosted more than 40 events, drawing 3,300 alumni, family and friends.

The vast majority of alumni – a whopping 80 percent – remain true to their native California roots. A fraction has remained on the Central Coast. “But we are always looking for ways to stay in touch with all our alumni,” says Kim Gannon, director of alumni relations. “not just those close to campus.”

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Did anyone mention tours? How about a behind-the-scenes look at Hearst Castle in San Simeon, a backstage tour of the wondrous Pageant of the Masters in Laguna Beach, or a guided tour of Balboa Park, San Diego’s great triumph of urban planning?

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The Alumni Association also supports special-interest chapters, designed for those with an affinity for a particular subject matter or activity, such as Cal Poly theatre, rugby, Vines to Wines, WOW (Week of Welcome), band or graphic communication.

And, don’t let the name fool you: the Alumni Association is not just for alumni. Cal Poly welcomed incoming students (future alumni) and their parents at summer events throughout California, and in selected cities in Washington and Idaho.

While the central Alumni Relations office hosts numerous events, many of Cal Poly’s colleges host regional alumni events as well. In October the College of Engineering held a reception for engineering alumni in the Bay Area. Co-hosted by PG&E, the event provided an opportunity for alumni to renew relationships, network and socialize.

The Orfalea College of Business and a league of volunteers organized business alumni reunions in Berkeley, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Manhattan Beach, Orange County, Sacramento, San Jose, Santa Barbara, and even as far away as Washington and Texas.

The business alumni reunions allow alumni to network, catch up on one another’s careers, and get the latest information from the college, says Leslie McKinley, director of college and alumni relations for the Orfalea College of Business.

Alumni from the College of Architecture and Environmental Design gathered last spring in Las Vegas at the annual American Institute of Architects Convention. Then in mid-summer,
CAL POLY WELCOMES INCOMING STUDENTS (FUTURE ALUMNI) AND THEIR PARENTS AT SUMMER EVENTS THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA...

Professor Emeritus Jim Bagnall led his annual trip to the colonial Mexican town of San Miguel de Allende, where he led participants in the "Drawing Room," a program in which he teaches the "art of meaningful travel journaling."

Construction management alumni are invited back to campus in spring 2006 to help the College of Architecture and Environmental Design break ground for a new building and celebrate with a dinner and golf tournament.

Stay connected by getting involved. For a complete list of events, go to www.alumni.calpoly.edu and click on "events."

For more information, contact the Alumni Relations office at (888) CAL-POLY (888-225-7659) or e-mail alumni@calpoly.edu.