Cal Poly Thanks Supporters at 'An Evening of Green & Gold'

By Larry Peela

President Jeffrey D. Armstrong and Sharon Armstrong hosted more than 600 of Cal Poly's leading donors and volunteers at An Evening of Green & Gold, held on campus May 2.

"I couldn't have written a better evening event," said Scott Gauldineen, (B.S. Architecture, 1979), a longtime donor and volunteer who attended An Evening of Green & Gold. "It's an event that should be held every year. It really captures a lot of this new spirit that I'm starting to see come onto the campus.

"We were honored to be considered a contributor to Cal Poly. It tells me that what I am doing is making a difference, even in a small way."

This year's gathering was the inaugural installment of what is planned to be an annual event.

The evening began with a reception in Chumash Auditorium, showcasing student work that exemplified Cal Poly's Learn by Doing philosophy. Donors and volunteers visited exhibits where students discussed their latest research and projects, including architecture students demonstrating 3-D printing; civil engineering students displaying Cal Poly's famed Concrete Canoe; and business students marketing innovative new products.

Students were involved throughout the evening. Music majors Kevin Capaci, Trevor Carson and Ryan Waczek performed a three-man act.

CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White, in the midst of his first visit to campus, praised Cal Poly and thanked donors for their impact on public higher education in the state. President's Cabinet Chairman Chuck Harrington (B.S. Agricultural Engineering, 1981) and Cal Poly Foundation Board President Dick Bradshaw (B.S. Mathematics, 1970), leaders respectively in the arenas of volunteer advocacy and philanthropic giving, thanked the members of their groups and shared their own reasons for supporting Cal Poly.

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Two students spoke personally about their gratitude toward donors and volunteers. Natural resource management major Mario Scalzo appeared on video to describe the moral and financial support he had received from scholarship donor Sonya Woods Anderson (B.S. Home Economics, 1960), and engineering major Garrett Swannke spoke about the opportunities afforded him through the efforts of volunteer and donor Jon Monett (B.S. Industrial Engineering, 1964).

"In giving, you are fueling within us the same passion that has brought you here tonight," Schwannke said. "I aspire to follow in the footsteps of alumni like Jon and one day devote my time and efforts toward helping future students find the passion that will drive them to succeed."

During the program, Read and Bradshaw unveiled the Green & Gold Societies, a new recognition program to honor those who have given $100,000 or more to the university. They also announced plans to develop a grove at the center of campus, dedicated to honoring major Cal Poly supporters and providing living specimens of rare trees for biology and forestry students to study.

"Cal Poly's donors and volunteers are so important in maintaining the excellence of the Learn by Doing education," says Read. "It was an honor to be able to recognize their service to our students. I'm really looking forward to giving them an even greater celebration next year!"

The Apprentices Become the Masters

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Students from the Cal Poly chapter of Engineers Without Borders discussed their work to the reception attendees.
Cal Poly's STRIDE Health Ambassadors explained their work providing nutrition education to kids in the community.
A physics student describes a project exploring the foundations of the universe with one reception attendee.
Donor Jean Sander hears the latest news from a member of the Cal Poly Student Life team.
An Evening of Green & Gold

Representatives from the Student Life offices.
An Evening of Green & Gold

Cal Poly supporters enjoyed hors d'oeuvres provided by University Catering.
An Evening of Green & Gold

Donor and CAFES volunteer advisor JoAnn Switzer, examining the student exhibits.
Biology students presented their latest research into human and animal embryology to supporters who had helped make it possible.
An Evening of Green & Gold

Reception attendees mingled among some of the best examples of student work, including the Cal Poly Society of Civil Engineers’ 2012 championship-winning concrete canoe.
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The reception featured beautiful green and gold floral decorations in Chumash Auditorium.
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Charles Walton (B.S., Ornamental Horticulture, 1966) and Mary Lynne Franzia
An Evening of Green & Gold

Engineers Without Borders student Zoe Hinck and James Regan, (B.S., Metallurgical Engineering, 1968)
Guests at the reception were surprised by the sudden appearance of the Mustang Band and Dance Team.
President Armstrong thanked guests for their support and applauded the students for the work they had showcased at the reception.
An Evening of Green & Gold

Members of the Mustang Dance Team
An Evening of Green & Gold

The Mustang Band led attendees out of the reception in Chumash Auditorium, across the University Union Plaza to Mott Athletics Center for the evening dinner program.
Emeritus professor of architecture William Brown and his wife Joan.
The Mustang Band and Dance Team continued to provide entertainment in Mott Athletics Center as guests entered and found their seats.
ASI President-Elect Jason Colombini (center) and others.
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Cal Poly Mascot Musty the Mustang made an appearance and mingled with guests before the dinner program.
A short break before the dinner program gave guests a chance to continue to chat and enjoy performances from the Mustang Band and Dance Team.
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Members of the Mustang Band singled out and serenaded visiting dignitary Timothy P. White (left), chancellor of the California State University system.
Guests such as President’s Cabinet member Jaime Oaxaca (left) and CSM Dean Phil Bailey (right) had the opportunity to sponsor and share a table with outstanding students at the dinner.
President Jeffrey D. Armstrong welcomed the guests and spoke about the power of Learn by Doing education.
More than 600 supporters filled a transformed Mott Athletics Center for the dinner program.
Vice President for University Advancement Deborah A.W. Read served as the program's emcee.
President's Cabinet Chair Chuck Harrington (B.S., Agricultural Engineering, 1981) spoke about the impact of volunteers at Cal Poly, describing them as guides and role models for students.
Bob Scofield (B.S., Ornamental Horticulture, 1953), a member of the CAFES Dean’s Advisory Council, and student Megan Hobbs.
Garrett Schwanke, a mechanical engineering major, thanked volunteers and donors for giving him opportunities to find his passion at Cal Poly.
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Music majors Kevin Capacia, Trevor Carson and Ryan Waczek performed two percussion arrangements at the dinner program.
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Cal Poly President Emeritus Warren J. Baker and CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White
Cal Poly Foundation President Dick Bradshaw (B.S., Mathematics, 1970) explained why he gives toward student scholarships and thanked donors for supporting the university.
Misty Moyle (B.S., Biological Science, 2012) introduced “This Is What Science Looks Like,” a number she choreographed as an interdisciplinary student for Orchesis Dance Company.
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Donors received small trees as gifts thanking them for their support of the university. Fred (B.S., Business Administration, 1963) and Judi Honoré showed off their tree.
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Ken Stone, (B.S., Architecture, 1979/B.Arch., Architecture, 1980), Manfred (B.S., Animal Science, 1953) and Jean Sander
Guests enjoyed a dessert reception after the close of the dinner program.
Leslie (Social Sciences, 1980) and Scott Gaudineer (B.S., Architecture, 1979 and B.Arch., Architecture, 1980)
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