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Dance to the Big Band Sounds of the Cal Poly Collegians
At Scholarship Fund-Raiser Aug. 28

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The Cal Poly Collegians Alumni Big Band is reuniting to play a dance concert Aug. 28 at the Madonna Inn to raise money for a scholarship supporting student jazz musicians.

The dance concert will run from 7 to 11 p.m. in the ballroom at the inn, featuring the classic hits of Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Les Brown and other big bands of the 1940s to 1960s, along with arrangements from more-contemporary big bands.

Admission is free but donations for the scholarship fund will be accepted.

Longtime Music Department Head Harold P. Davidson founded the Collegians Big Band at Cal Poly in 1937. The Collegians played dances and concerts in San Luis Obispo and toured throughout California.

“The Collegians jazz band has been performing on and off – mostly off – since the 1940s,” joked Collegian Bob Alberti of Atascadero. “Each year, about 20 members of the group return to San Luis Obispo to remember the good old days.”

Since the 1960s, alumni members have traveled annually from across California, Arizona, Oregon and even as far as Massachusetts to play music in San Luis Obispo. For the past six years the group has reunited and played at the Madonna Inn.

The alumni big band has also performed concerts in San Luis Obispo and the surrounding area for nearly 20 years. Recent venues have included Edna Valley Vineyard, the Central Coast Mall, Mission Plaza, Atascadero Lake Park and a 1996 pre-opening sound check for the Performing Arts Center’s Christopher Cohan Center at Cal Poly.

For details about this event, please contact the Madonna Inn at 543-3000, or visit the Collegians’ Web site at http://music.calpoly.edu/collegians/Collegians.html. You can also find more photos of Collegians from many different eras by clicking on the "Pictures" link at the left side
of their Web page.

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