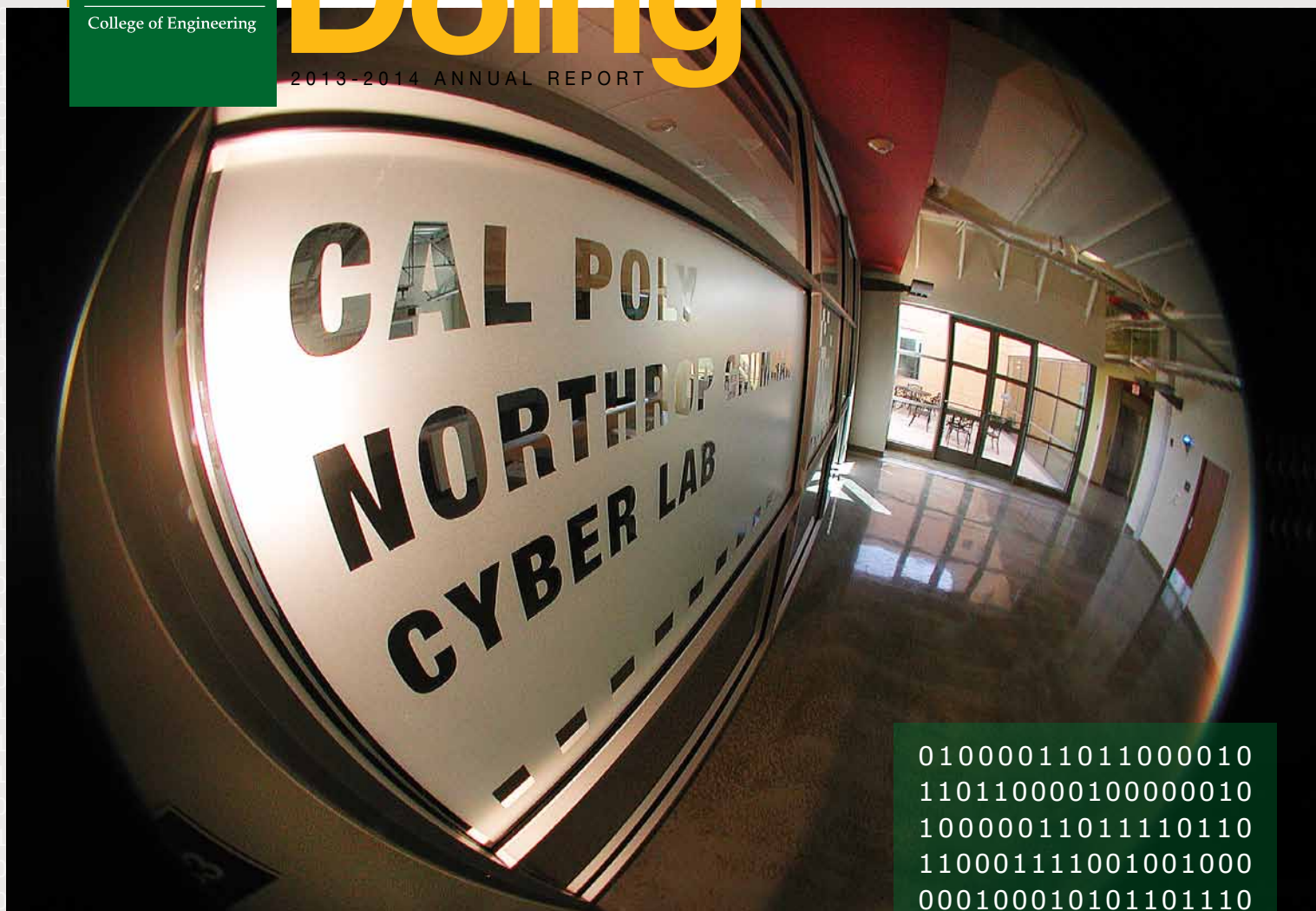


CAL POLY
College of Engineering

Doing

2013-2014 ANNUAL REPORT





COVER: TRAINING CYBER SLEUTHS — Dedicated in January, the Cal Poly - Northrop Grumman Cyber Lab is a 32-workstation facility that serves as the centerpiece of the new Cal Poly Cybersecurity Center. At the dedication, Dean Debra Larson said: "Cal Poly is now part of an elite group of mostly East Coast universities that are becoming known as the providers of cybersecurity professionals." On the cover, Jessie Pease, president of the student club Women in Software & Hardware (WISH), is one of dozens of computer science and engineering students already immersed in binary code, malware, encryption, cyber attacks and cryptology in the new lab. At right: Cal Poly Engineering in binary code.

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CAL POLY ENGINEERING

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Dean Debra Larson

EACH YEAR, WE RECOGNIZE OUR individual, corporate and foundation donors by listing them in this report.

Providing the names of our donors doesn't, however, fully explain the tremendous impact they have on students, faculty, staff and administrators.



They are the hand on our shoulder that propels us forward in our quest to be the nation's top undergraduate engineering program.

It is through public-private partnerships with donors and stakeholders, in fact,

that we advance the college's key strategic directions and initiatives. What are some of the impacts of giving this year?

The Raintree Foundation, a family trust, provided a sizable gift to support our efforts in applied autonomous flight. In particular, the gift encouraged us to make a commitment to hire a new faculty member. When Dr. Aaron Drake arrives on campus, students will be able to choose from expanded course offerings in the field, and the college will begin to develop a long-term plan around this exciting new strategic initiative.

Support from Northrop Grumman allowed us to open the Cal Poly – Northrop Grumman Cyber Lab. But the impact Northrop Grumman has made is less about a cash gift to establish a facility and more about boosting Cal Poly's stake in the field.

An initial gift from Stantec to support an Earn by Doing student safety tech position has already made a big difference in making our labs available to more students. Students in electrical engineering, industrial and manufacturing engineering, and computer science, in particular, have benefited from added safety training hours, experience that they will carry with them into their professional practices.

These are only a few of the many outcomes I could cite from company and foundation gifts — but I want to also emphasize the importance of gifts from individuals. Indeed, large and small gifts from individuals lay the

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CAL POLY

College of Engineering

Learn by Doing, Lead with Innovation

Our Vision: As a national leader in engineering education, the College of Engineering transforms students into world class, innovative and collaborative engineers to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Our Mission: The College of Engineering provides an excellent Learn by Doing education and graduates in-demand, Day One-ready professionals.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND 2014-2015 ACTIONS

PARTNERSHIPS

- Engage alumni, parents, friends and industry partners in meaningful activities.
- Collaborate on the following initiatives:
 - New Projects Building
 - Applications in Autonomous Flight
 - Cybersecurity
 - Innovation and Entrepreneurship
 - Big Data and Data Science
 - Sustainable Energy Systems
 - Infrastructure Sustainability
 - Advanced Manufacturing and 3-D Printing
 - Innovations in Engineering Education
- Support emerging initiatives that address contemporary needs.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

- Ensure educational excellence and the successful reviews of our undergraduate and graduate programs through continuous improvement.
- Promote diversity and inclusivity with attention to wellbeing.
- Expand high-impact practices that foster student success and improve graduation rates.

OPERATIONS AND PRACTICES

- Foster a culture of safety and professionalism drawing from the best practices in industry.
- Grow opportunities through funded student and faculty projects and extended education.
- Empower teacher-scholar activities.
- Establish common workload principles and evaluation criteria for retention, tenure, promotion and periodic review.

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foundation for our institutional health.

We profile a handful of these donors in this magazine: Richard Giuli, who has made generous gifts to the Computer Science Department; Bob and Susan Brown, who made a bequest to the college and provided an endowment for an Earn by Doing student shop technician; and recent graduate, Eric Taylor, whose monthly gifts-to-fit-his-budget will build into a lifetime legacy. We have also highlighted Michael Haworth and Christy Carter, students whose efforts as volunteers will serve to showcase the college to visitors for decades to come.

If we had the space to do so, I could cite outcomes from the gifts made by all the individuals listed. While that's not possible, I hope all our donors realize how much we value their support and welcome their insights.

Your gifts initiate conversations about new pathways and give us the confidence to explore new initiatives founded on our undergraduate mission. You're the hand on our shoulder that gives us the courage to make our own future.

2013-2014 HIGHLIGHTS

■ Cal Poly College of Engineering was named the nation's top state-funded undergraduate engineering program by U.S. News & World Report.

■ Among public universities, Cal Poly ranked number one for its computer and mechanical engineering programs; its electrical engineering and civil engineering programs ranked second in the nation.

■ For 21 years, Cal Poly as a whole has been rated the best public-master's university in the West.

■ The college welcomed 1,414 new freshmen, who presented an average high school GPA of 4.03 and average SATs of 685 (math) and 624 (reading). Total College of Engineering enrollment for the year included 5,288 undergraduates and 391 graduate students.

■ Donors to the College of Engineering made gifts totaling \$13,642,824. Mean-

while, Cal Poly Foundation's endowment reached a record total of \$198.4 million, increasing by \$22 million this year. Cal Poly's endowment is now the second largest nationally for a public-master's university.

■ Cal Poly launched a new educational initiative in cybersecurity. As part of the effort to make the university the leading supplier of cyber professionals and innovators, the College established the Cybersecu-

rity Center; added faculty; offered "Defense Against the Dark Arts," a unique course presented in collaboration with McAfee industry professionals; and dedicated a new lab.

■ A gift from the Raintree Foundation helped launch Applications in Autonomous Flight, a strategic initiative to position the College of Engineering as a leader in the emerging field of civilian uses for airborne vehicles.

■ Women in Engineering ProActive Network (WEPAN) presented its annual Women in Engineering Program Award to Cal Poly Women's Engineering Program (WEP).

■ The first named Cal Poly Scholar was established with a gift from Ron Smith (B.S., Electronic Engineering, 1983).

■ The College established the Systems Integration Engineering (SIE) program, an online graduate program for working engineers.

■ A new concentration in manufacturing in the Mechanical Engineering Department will help students incorporate manufacturability into product and component designs.

■ Cal Poly began offering a graduate certificate program in Space Systems Technology.

■ Stantec provided funds for the College's first Earn by Doing student safety technician.

STUDENT SUCCESS

■ College of Engineering student awards went to: Tanner Stevenson, the topmost senior for academic excellence; Jenna Becker, Outstanding Senior for Contributions to the College; Shaun Villa Koide, Outstanding Senior for Contributions to the University; and Cecilia Cadenas, Outstanding Senior for Service to the Community. Michael Haworth and Christy Carter were named College of Engi-



CAL POLY COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING NEWS



■ A gift of more than 1,000 solar voltaic panels from SunPower will spur student projects while also providing energy for the campus. Above: Professor Dale Dolan and electrical engineering students test the new panels.

neering Student Volunteers of the Year.

■ Computer science junior Michelle Lam was awarded the 2014 California State University Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement, one of the highest distinctions in the university.

■ Civil engineering graduate student Jason Cox earned first place in the graduate Engineering and Computer Science category at the statewide California State University (CSU) Student Research Competition for his work to develop a cost-effective system to optimize compaction in landfills.

■ The eighth CubeSat developed by Cal Poly students was launched into space. IPEX (Intelligent Payload Experiment), pictured at right, was sponsored by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

■ Materials engineering senior Matthew Vance received the Undergraduate Student Award from the Pacific Southwest section of the American Society of Engineering Education.

■ Civil engineering senior Chao Yang participated in the Clinton Global Initiative University (CGI U).

■ Seventeen Cal Poly students — five from the College of Engineering — received special recognition on the floors of the California State Senate

and Assembly for their achievements in national competitions.

■ Samantha Rawlins, an aerospace engineering senior, was inducted into NASA's Student Ambassadors Virtual Community (NSAVC).

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

■ Two College of Engineering professors received the University's Distinguished Scholarship Award. Stephen Klisch (Mechanical Engineering) is known as a pioneer in the theoretical biomechanical computer



modeling of the growth and remodeling of cartilage. David Marshall (Aerospace Engineering) focuses on improved modeling techniques to design quieter and more fuel-efficient aircraft, work that has the potential to transform commercial air transportation.

■ Electrical Engineering Professor John Oliver, director of the Computer Engineering Program, was named the University's Outstanding Faculty Advisor.

■ Computer Science Chair Ignatios Vakalis received Cal Poly's Leadership Award for Partnership in Philanthropy.

■ Helene Finger, director of the Women's Engineering Program, received a Women of Distinction award sponsored by Cuesta College and the Community Foundation

San Luis Obispo County's Women's Legacy Fund.

She also received national recognition from the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE): she was named the Outstanding Counselor of the Year, and she won an award for research conducted in collaboration with Jane Lehr (Ethnic Studies and Women & Gender Studies) on improving the recruitment of female engineering majors.

■ Lily Laiho (Biomedical Engineering) won the Raytheon Excellence in Teaching and Applied Research Award, and was also named director of interdisciplinary projects.

■ The College's Initiative in Sustainable Energy & Infrastructure gained traction with the appointment of co-coordinators, Dale Dolan (Electrical Engineering) and Dennis Elliot, Cal Poly's assistant director of energy, utilities and sustainability.

ALUMNI SUCCESS

■ Beth Anderson (B.S., Aerospace Engineering, 1985) was named the College of Engineering Honored Alumna. Anderson serves as vice president of supply chain rate capability for commercial airplane supplier management at Boeing Commercial Airplanes.

■ Tricia Compas-Markman (B.S., Civil Engineering, 2009; M.S., Civil & Environmental Engineering, 2009) was honored as a Mother of Invention by Toyota. Compas-Markman is known worldwide for her development of the Day-One Waterbag, a portable, low-cost device that provides clean drinking water to disaster victims.

■ Sofia Leon (B.S., Civil Engineering, 2008), a doctoral student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, was named the Outstanding Collegiate Member by the Society of Women Engineers. ■



■ Northrop Grumman CEO Wes Bush, right, spoke with President Jeffrey D. Armstrong and other dignitaries at the opening of the Cal Poly - Northrop Grumman Cyber Lab, which will enable intensive training in malware, encryption, cyber attacks and cryptography. The facility was built with the support of a \$150,000 grant from the Northrop Grumman Foundation and links engineering students to the defense company's Virtual Cyber Lab in Virginia.

Chair, Dean's Advisory Council **Beth Anderson**

I BECAME A VOLUNTEER FOR CAL POLY 20 YEARS ago when I was recruited by my boss at McDonnell Douglas, Jim Phillips, who was the company's campus liaison at the time.

Having graduated from Cal Poly in 1985 with a degree in aerospace engineering, I jumped at the chance to return to campus. I joined the Women's Engineering Program Advisory Board because I felt I could make a difference in growing the number of women in engineering. Back then, women accounted for about 13 percent of the College of Engineering enrollment — it's exciting that we're now at almost 20 percent!

That increase represents a concerted effort by the college and companies like Boeing that are seeking, more and more, to align important strategic objectives with those of universities. These collaborative partnerships go beyond a transactional relationship that has the singular goal of employee recruitment.

In fact, I and other members of the College of Engineering Dean's Advisory Council and department-level industry advisory boards hope to stimulate deeper connections with the College of Engineering — relationships that create new educational programs and student learning opportunities.

For instance, Boeing is very involved in funding student and faculty applied research projects. Recently, we supported projects in the areas of optimized air traffic planning, ultraviolet light-energized bio-fuel, a human-powered helicopter, micro hydropower, electric vehicles and many more.

Boeing is also providing multidisciplinary scholarships, offering technical and business internships, supporting student societies and assisting in curriculum development. The new paradigm in industry-university interaction results, we believe, in a larger, more diverse and more broadly skilled talent pool entering the profession.

Personally, I think that the best engineers in the world come from Cal Poly — I am proud to say that more than 1,000 Cal Poly alumni work at Boeing. Like me, these individuals are passionate about their alma mater.

What can these individuals do to help Cal Poly and simultaneously support student success and a robust engineering workforce? Write a check, of course! But also step forward to facilitate strategic alliances with the uni-



versity, create joint ventures, team projects and mentor-protégé relationships.

My message to my professional colleagues and all Cal Poly Engineering alumni is get involved! I have discovered rich rewards in establishing a meaningful relationship with my college. It's been a journey that has created opportunities for the college, for my company, and for me and my family — you'll have great fun introducing your kids to Cal Poly! ■

Beth Anderson

(B.S., Aerospace Engineering, 1985)

Vice President, Supply Chain Rate Capability
The Boeing Company

CAL POLY
College of Engineering

Donors

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
# Donors	2,461	2,421	2,519	2,445	2,537	2,280	2,279
# Gifts	3,486	3,418	3,502	3,466	3,542	3,212	3,333
Gift Total*	\$4,232,836	\$5,865,899	\$5,170,616	\$4,687,577	\$8,845,483	\$6,025,603	\$13,642,824

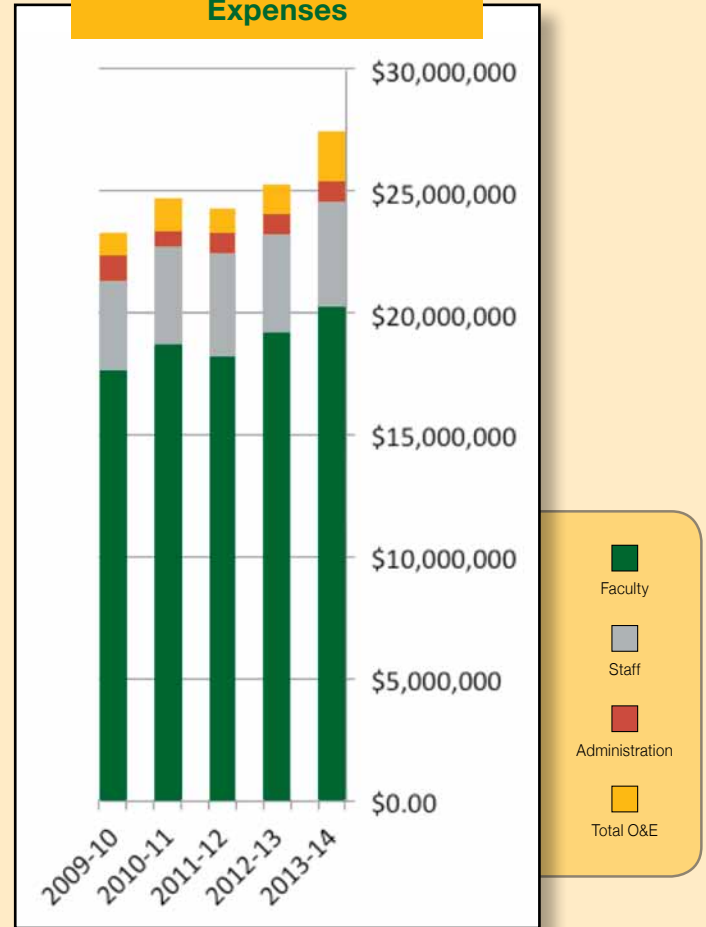
*Gift total included cash, in-kind gifts, bequests and pledges.

College of Engineering Budget Sources



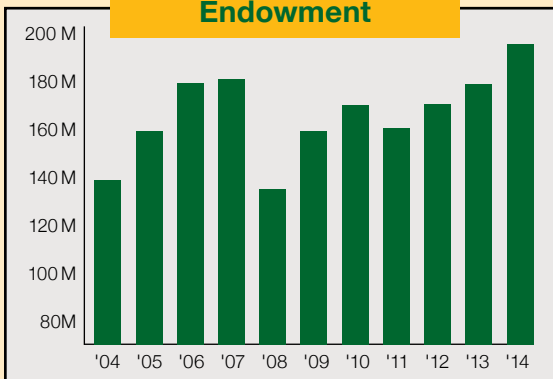
Budget sources represent state sources only and do not include private, non-state sources such as endowments and gifts.

College of Engineering Expenses



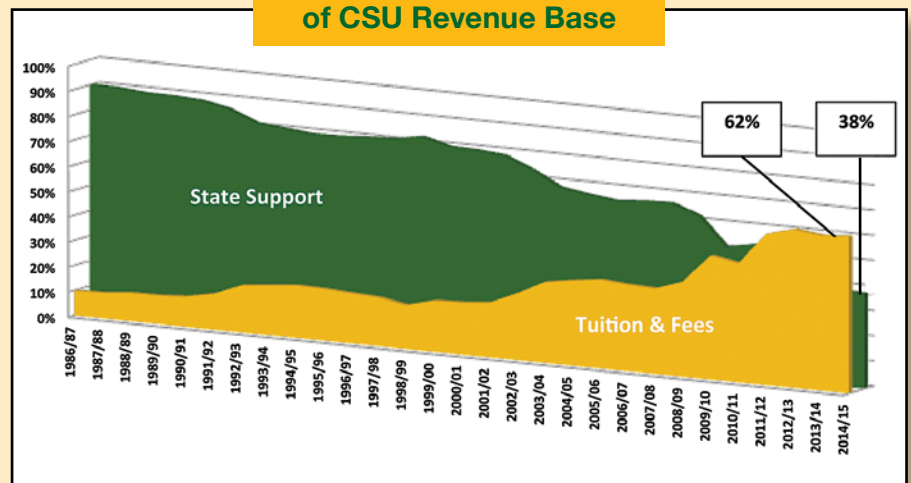
Expenses exceed budget sources because non-state sources were used to cover expenses.

Cal Poly Foundation Endowment



As of June 30, 2014, Cal Poly Foundation's endowment reached a record total of \$198.4 million. The endowment increased by \$22 million during the 2013-14 fiscal year, with market value gains of \$25 million and payouts to the university for programs and scholarships of \$7.3 million. Cal Poly's endowment is the second largest nationally for a public master's university.

Changing Components of CSU Revenue Base



Over the last two decades, support of the 23-campus state university system by the state of California has eroded significantly. In 1987, the state contributed more than 80 percent of the cost of attending; today, that portion is 38 percent.

CAL POLY ENGINEERING STUDENTS GO FOR



■ Engineering students Gordon Belyea, Garret Gudgel, Ethan Juhnke and Eric Dreischer fly the “Sky Barge” drone that won an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle competition sponsored by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Team Highlights

■ For the third year in a row and the 10th time since 2002, Cal Poly Society of Women Engineers (SWE) received the Outstanding Collegiate Section Gold Award. The Cal Poly SWE Team Tech was also honored, taking third place for its pharmaceutical recovery and rescue project.

■ The Cal Poly float co-constructed by Cal Poly and Cal Poly Pomona received the Crown City Innovation Trophy at the 125th Rose Parade. The only float designed and built by students, the project was certified as California-Grown. The float also featured flowers that moved, creating a water-like ripple effect.

■ In only its first year as a campus organization, Cal Poly’s student chapter of the California Geotechnical Engineers Association (CalGeo) received the professional organization’s Rising Star Award for expanding its membership base.

■ The Cal Poly’s Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) was named the top student chapter in the nation for being the driving force behind ITE’s first-ever conference designed specifically for students. Cal Poly hosted the Western District ITE Student Leadership Summit with attendees from 35 universities across 13 western states.

■ Cal Poly aerospace seniors won first- and second-place awards in the

American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Foundation Undergraduate Team Aircraft Design competition. The winning entries continue more than a decade of remarkable Cal Poly finishes in the most prestigious national collegiate contest in the aeronautical engineering design industry.

■ A multidisciplinary team of Cal Poly engineering students won the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) competition sponsored by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers at its annual regional student conference. The contest challenged students to build and fly a radio-controlled vehicle that maneuvered through obstacles and dropped a payload, simulating a UAV firefighting mission.

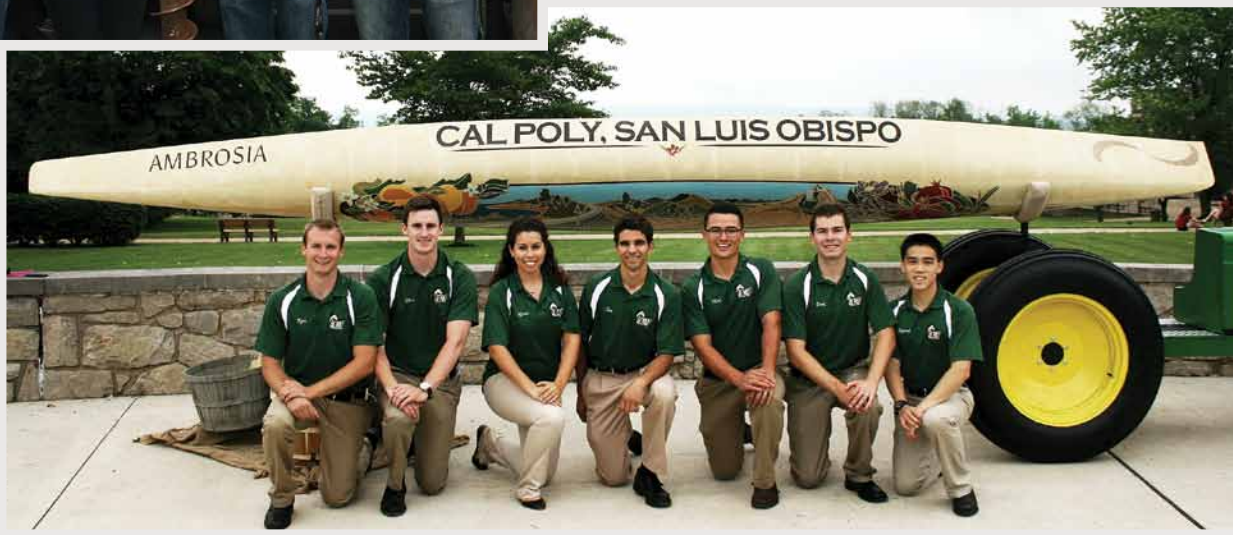
R THE GOLD IN 2013-2014



■ Cal Poly CalGeo Club received the Rising Star award from the California Geo technical Engineers Association. Pictured above are, from left: Fred Potthast, president/CEO, Earth Systems Pacific; Keegan Arnt, club president; Jim Hanson, civil engineering professor and club advisor; and club members Olivia Davis, Quintin Flores and Max Rossiter.



■ The Cal Poly Society of Women Engineers received the Outstanding Collegiate Section Gold Award for the third year in a row and 10th time since 2002.



■ Cal Poly's Concrete Canoe team placed second overall at the National Concrete Canoe Competition.

■ Cal Poly engineering and graphic communications students, along with 15 University of Munich students, produced a waterproof timer that won the Freestyle Demonstrator award at the 2014 Large-Area, Organic & Printed Electronics Convention in Munich, the leading international conference for printed electronics.

■ Cal Poly's American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Student Chapter was awarded the 2014 Distinguished Chapter Award for Region 9 (Region 9 includes 25 ASCE student chapters).

■ Cal Poly's concrete canoe took first place in oral presentation and

second overall at the National Concrete Canoe Competition held in Johnstown, Penn. This is the ninth consecutive year that Cal Poly has placed in the top five at the "America's Cup of Civil Engineering."

■ Cal Poly collected every award in the concrete canoe competition at the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Pacific Southwest Regional Conference. The team has placed first in 17 of the last 19 years of the conference. ■



■ Cal Poly Engineering students again played a key role with the Cal Poly Rose Float, which won the Crown City Innovation Trophy at the 125th Rose Parade in Pasadena, Calif.

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NEW CAL POLY ENGINEERS



■ More than 1,200 new Cal Poly engineers went through spring and winter commencement ceremonies in 2013-14. The figures included more than 1,000 undergraduate and 200 graduate degrees awarded from the College of Engineering's 13 degree programs.



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Cal Poly Computer Science
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“
I think it says
something about Cal Poly
and the quality of engineers
coming out of it that three
of the original Siri Inc.
engineers were Cal Poly
graduates.
”

COMPUTER SCIENCE GRADUATE RICH GIULI, NOW working at Apple, was a chief architect at Apple-owned Siri, the artificial intelligence personal assistant app acquired in 2010.

A self-taught programmer since the age of 14, Giuli thrived at Cal Poly, where students get to “figure things out” under the guidance of professors like Clint Staley.

Giuli enjoyed his classes with Staley (“the hardest in the program”), and the professor also helped launch Giuli’s career by connecting him to a job while still a student. “I was hired because of an individual study project that got me out of taking a final,” Giuli stated. “I worked at a software company for three years developing noise-control simulation software, 3-D modeling for scenarios like the noise impact of an airport runway extension.”

After graduating, Giuli stepped into another dot-com startup before switching to SRI International where he worked on artificial intelligence projects, the most notable being CALO, the government-funded cognitive assistant project that led to Siri.

“I’ve worked on all stages of Siri from prototype to full product. When we hit 1 million users, we were acquired by Apple. I think it says something about Cal Poly and the quality of engineers coming out of it that three of the original Siri Inc. engineers were Cal Poly graduates, including the two chief architects,” noted Giuli.

“Those were stressful years, when we were scaling production massively, but I did what

I learned at Cal Poly: you take on a challenge and do your best by immersing yourself in the project, even though you don’t exactly have the answers you need.

“All my jobs spin back to Cal Poly and the day in class when Professor Staley opened a professional opportunity. He and other Cal Poly professors are so available to students; they’re great teachers and mentors.”

In thanks for financial assistance he received from the university and the guidance he received from Staley and other faculty members, Giuli has provided generous gifts to the Computer Science Department (CSC) over the last three years. He hopes his support will help CSC thrive into the future.

“I want my children to go there!” he said. “I hope to help the program be the best that it can be by funding labs and equipment — I’d be happy to even help pay for the salaries of professors like Clint Staley.” ■

■ Cal Poly Engineering graduate Rich Giuli, left, and professor Clint Staley check out an Apple lab in the Computer Science Department.

BLAZING A TRAIL FOR A NEW GENERATION

YOULEN GHAZALIAN LIVES BY AN ARMENIAN SCOUTS motto: Rise and Raise — Elevate Yourself and Elevate Others with You.

Ghazalian is a first-generation U.S. citizen, the first in her family to attend a four-year college and the first to move away from home. Her parents emigrated from Iran 24 years ago and settled in an Armenian enclave in Burbank, where they own a small coffee shop.

“For many first-generation Armenians and Iranians, college is not an option, especially for girls,” said Ghazalian. “Although my parents want my brother and I to pursue our education, they would have liked me to attend a local community college.”

But Ghazalian was the rebel of the family and chose to “rise” and make her own path. In high school, she loved calculus and “getting her hands dirty.” She was accepted for an internship at UCLA, where her professor told her that she should consider Cal Poly.

Growing up, Ghazalian had never heard of San Luis Obispo — the transition to campus from her Armenian community was something of a shock. “I didn’t realize what a big deal it is to be first generation,” she admitted. “Other parents who have college degrees advise their children about classes and schedules; they have means. One of my professors told us to ask our parents for help getting internships, and I thought, ‘What??’”

Ghazalian found support and resources in the Multicultural Engineering Program, and she lost no time in establishing community. She reached out to other Armenian students and restarted the Cal Poly Armenian Student Association. She also became active in the Institute of Industrial Engineers and the Engineering Student Council.

And she found jobs that not only help her pay for college tuition and expenses, but also give her a way to “raise” others in her community. She works as a peer advisor in Engineering Advising, helping students make arrangements to study abroad, and she is the resident advisor in Yosemite Hall. She cares deeply about her residents, and the feeling is obviously mutual. In fact, her residents call her “Mom,” a role she embraces.

The scholarships Ghazalian has received have opened doors of opportunity, helped set her on a path to success, and furthered her vow to elevate others as well.

“In the future, I want to establish a mentorship and scholarship program for first-generation girls,” she said. “I want to tell them that I succeeded — and they can, too.” ■

Youlen Ghazalian

Industrial Engineering senior

Parker Aerospace Scholarship



“

In the future,

I want to establish a mentorship and scholarship program for first generation girls. I want to tell them that I succeeded — and they can, too.

”

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Cal Poly Industrial Engineering

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THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GIVE BACK TO CAL POLY

MICHAEL HAWORTH GRADUATED IN JUNE WITH A BACHELOR'S IN MECHANICAL engineering and an engineering master's degree specializing in integrated technology management. Christy Carter earned her bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering last year and is now enrolled as a dual graduate student in business administration and engineering management.

Before stepping off campus to begin their careers, Haworth and Carter made a difference that will affect current students and showcase the college to all visitors for years to come.

Both Haworth and Carter served as Engineering Ambassadors, with six years of combined experience leading tours and representing the College of Engineering. The pair acknowledged, however, that ambassadors can't accommodate all requests. Despite a corps of 40 student volunteers, during finals, academic holidays or summer, there is often no one available to give tours. Plus, Carter and Haworth knew that because Building 192 lacked signage, many guests are unsure about where to congregate.

"We've had the idea that it would be great to facilitate self-guided tours, so we initiated a project to develop brochures that would allow anyone to get a feel for each department, whether you're a prospective student, parent, alum, corporate sponsor, current student looking to change majors, or just curious," said Carter.

"Then we needed a place to put them," said Haworth. "In a larger sense, Christy and I felt that the college needed a welcome center, a place for students and visitors to gather."

The welcome center project was large in scope, especially considering all the approvals needed from nine departments, the dean, Facilities Department and fire warden, along with input from fellow students.

"From a learning perspective, we designed and coordinated everything, from signage and space design to brochures that represent each degree program," said Carter. "We came up with a template that includes a program overview, career paths, clubs, course flow chart, map, and descriptive lab list and contact information."

"I never thought I'd spend my last few months at Cal Poly choosing carpet and furniture," laughed Haworth, "but the experience has been fun and we know it's the right thing — there is so much to showcase! We hope that the college keeps adding to the project, like an app that incorporates the brochure information."

"Cal Poly feels like extended family," said Carter. "We wanted to do what we could to ignite that passion in others. We're grateful that our experience as ambassadors gave us the skill set to undertake a project like this." ■



■ Cal Poly engineers Christy Carter and Michael Haworth check out the new furniture in the lobby of Building 192 which will serve as the Engineering Welcome Center.

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Cal Poly Mechanical Engineering

“
Cal Poly feels
like extended family.
We wanted to do what
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passion in others.
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MECHANICAL ENGINEERING STUDENT HAS VETERAN'S PERSPECTIVE

SOMETIMES, JOSE LEMUS'S PARENTS WOULD TAKE HIM WITH THEM when they worked in the fields around Watsonville, Calif. The lesson was clear: "You don't want to be doing this when you grow up." Instead, Lemus and his sisters pursued higher education; first, though, Lemus joined the U.S. Army to pay for college and fight for his country.

He enlisted two days before he turned 17 and two weeks before 9/11. Six months after high school graduation, Lemus was fighting in a remote eastern province in Afghanistan, where his unit was attacked weekly. Following his deployment in Afghanistan, Lemus was sent — twice — to Iraq, which was more developed with TVs and cell phones, but also deadlier because of roadside bombs and IEDs.

"October is tough because that's when I lost five brothers in seven days," said Lemus. Returning home, he latched onto school while on inactive reserve. Because he could still be called up, he attended community college, where he easily passed through the math series. Then he received word that another buddy from his unit had been killed.

"I was moments from dropping out — I felt I owed it to my fellow soldiers to return to battle," Lemus recounted. "But my physics professor, Carlos Figueroa, said, 'Look around. How many Hispanics do you see in my class?' There were maybe four. 'This is where you belong to make a difference,' he said. He made me realize how far I'd come."

Instead of returning to war, Lemus came to Cal Poly on the G.I. Bill and a scholarship from the DFK Foundation, which awards scholarships

to veterans who have served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He connected with other transfer students through the Multicultural Engineering Program, and he became involved in the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). In particular, he led a SHPE program to install solar panels on low-income homes.

"We raised money to pay for a portion of the cost — 19 members participated," said Lemus. "I was really proud. This year, we installed panels on two homes in King City." When it came time to elect a new slate of SHPE officers, numerous members nominated Lemus for president.

"It's an honor to serve," he said. "SHPE has allowed me to develop leadership and networking skills; it helped me get a job with Northrop Grumman this summer, working on unmanned vehicles."

Although Lemus still suffers from his war experiences and grieves for lost comrades, he has found a way to cope and make a difference. In fact, under his leadership, SHPE sent a care package to Afghanistan this year. ■

Jose Lemus

Mechanical Engineering senior

DFK Veterans Assistance Foundation

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Cal Poly Mechanical Engineering



“
My physics professor, Carlos Figueroa, said, ‘Look around. How many Hispanics do you see in my class?’ There were maybe four. ‘This is where you belong to make a difference.’
”

PIONEER LEGACY HELPING CAL POLY GROW

BOB AND SUSAN BROWN COME FROM PIONEERING AND SELF-RELIANT FAMILY stock. As a teenager, Bob's father rode the rails to California; Susan's ancestors traveled west in Conestoga wagons on the Oregon Trail and eventually established a ranch in Oxnard, Calif.

These forbears succeeded, in part, because of a strong work ethic and a practical, self-reliant and down-to-earth approach to life. "My dad also drilled into us kids that you never quit, no matter how difficult the challenge," noted Susan. These are the same values the Browns found at Cal Poly, where they received degrees in mechanical engineering and home economics in 1962.

"Our parents were not college-educated; our fathers didn't see the point of college for work on a farm or, in my dad's case, oil fields," said Bob. Added Susan, "My dad thought women should be wives and mothers — when I arrived at Cal Poly women were expected to be secretaries, nurses or teachers."

But even if their parents were dubious about college, the Browns felt at home at Cal Poly and in sync with its Learn by Doing philosophy. They met on campus, married, and Bob went on to become a research engineer with companies like Lockheed Martin, Rocketdyne and Northrop. They signed up for a 401K and invested for the long-term. When Susan benefited from the sale of the family ranch, they discovered that they had money to donate to a worthy cause.

In 2001, the Browns established a charitable remainder trust (CRT) to support the College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Science. Later, Bob started another CRT to aid the College of Engineering. This year, the Browns made bequest plans for endowments in both colleges.

"After researching options initially, we realized that contributing through a CRT provided tax benefits and would allow us to also receive income," said Bob. "Over the years, we've been impressed with how well Cal Poly has done with the investments — despite the economic turndown, the university fund managers stayed a steady course and we've been very pleased with our quarterly payouts."

"We never dreamed we'd be able to provide gifts like this to honor our parents and help Cal Poly," said Susan. "We feel very lucky that we've been able to make this investment — the university has kept in touch and worked with us closely over the years. We have great confidence that our gift is well-placed."

Their giving also spurred the Browns into reconnecting with Cal Poly. They've become fans of the award-winning Concrete Canoe team and the Rose Parade float. Last spring, they visited the College of Engineering Project Expo and toured the student shops.

"We're so impressed with the students," said Susan. "I got such a kick watching women work on projects and multitask while using equipment. I thought, wouldn't it be fun to endow a student shop technician?"

As a birthday present to Susan, the Browns recently gave an additional \$100,000 gift to endow an Earn by Doing student shop tech position, an investment in future Cal Poly Engineering "pioneers." ■

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“
We never dreamed
we'd be able to
provide gifts like this
to honor our parents
and help Cal Poly.
”

■ Cal Poly
alumni Susan
and Bob Brown
check out the
chassis of the
Cal Poly Rose
Float during a
summer visit to
campus.

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GIVING PEASE A CHANCE

AS A WOMAN IN THE WORLD OF COMPUTER SCIENCE, JESSIE PEASE IS OFTEN an anomaly. But she aims to change that.

As a freshman, Pease found it somewhat difficult navigating the male-dominated environment. “You’re the only girl in the room and your peers can often talk down to you,” said Pease. “In fact, there are times you feel you’re not actually visible at all.”

Efforts of the Computer Science Department (CSC) and mentorship programs have helped make Pease comfortable, happy and successful in her major. Women in Software & Hardware (WISH), a student club, pairs female undergrads with junior- and senior-level “big sisters.” Said Pease, “I had an automatic best friend.”

CSC also provides female students with mentors, professionals who serve on the department’s Industry Advisory Board (IAB). Pease spent time with her mentor, Julia Grace, at PyCon in Montreal, an annual Python programming language gathering.

“Julia is vice president for engineering at Tindie and she’s amazing, totally energized,” Pease said. “I told her that male classmates often assume I don’t know the answer, and when I attended my first White Hat Cybersecurity Club meeting, the tech topics seemed way over my head. But Julia said, ‘That’s the Imposter Syndrome — you feel like you don’t belong, but you do!’” Notably, Pease now serves as president of White Hat.

Pease appreciates that CSC Chair Ignatios Vakalis, “Dr. V,” has “made it his personal goal to have more minds in the room.” In fact, the department sponsors female students to attend the Grace Hopper Conference, the world’s largest meeting of women in computing. Pease cites her Grace Hopper experience as the highlight so far in her Cal Poly career.

Grace Hopper, WISH and White Hat have all contributed to Pease’s leadership skills and confidence. An internship at Apple also affirmed her technical abilities. Last summer, she worked on the product security team; this year, she’ll be part of the privacy engineering team. “I loved Apple,” said Pease. “My team helped me learn and made me feel like I was contributing.”

While loans and her job at Apple pay Pease’s tuition, scholarship support makes up the difference in her total academic costs.

“That extra money is so important,” she said. “It has made it possible to have these great club experiences. Through them — and because I want to give back — I want to make a difference in the tech world, I want to be a mentor and serve on the IAB. I want to see more women in positions of leadership in the field.” ■

Jessica Pease

Computer Science senior

Society of Women Engineers NetApp Scholarship
Apple Scholarships for Women
Studying Information Security (SWSIS)

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Cal Poly Computer Science



“
I want to give
back — I want to
make a difference in
the tech world. I want to
be a mentor and serve
on the IAB.
”

FAMILY INSPIRES ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING GRAD

INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE HAD AN IMPACT ON SAL NAVARRO INCLUDE HIS OLDER brother, his instructors at Allan Hancock College, his Cal Poly electrical engineering advisor and his dad. Most of all, his dad.

Growing up, the person Navarro most wanted to be like was his older brother Miguel. “We had lots in common,” said Navarro. “He loved the Dodgers, I love the Dodgers; he loved math, I love math.” Like many Hispanics in Buellton, Calif., neither Miguel nor Sal considered college. But Navarro’s father told him he had to either work or go to school full-time.

“My dad has only a fourth- or fifth-grade education,” explained Navarro. “When he was young, he loved reading and tried to buy books when he started working at the age of 6. But with 10 siblings, school was not possible. He told me, ‘If I had money, I would have continued my education.’ My dad is the main reason I’m at Cal Poly.”

Navarro enrolled at Allan Hancock College without much direction. Then, in his third year, his father was diagnosed with cancer. “It hit me: I had to make a difference, I had to go to a four-year university,” he said.

Hancock instructors Dom Dal Bello and Rob Jorstad introduced Navarro to engineering. “They and a course in circuit analysis changed my life,” he said. His teachers also recommended that he enroll in Cal Poly’s electrical engineering program. Although his father’s illness and the quarter system made Cal Poly very challenging, he found his place on campus. He relished his electrical engineering classes with Taufik, his “all-time favorite” Cal Poly professor. “Dr. Taufik has a passion for the subject,” he noted.

Having discovered his own academic passion, Navarro was also able to focus on his studies, thanks to scholarship aid. “I financed school with savings, loans and scholarships,” he explained. “Not working means I can concentrate on grades and participate in clubs and projects, which helps professionally.”

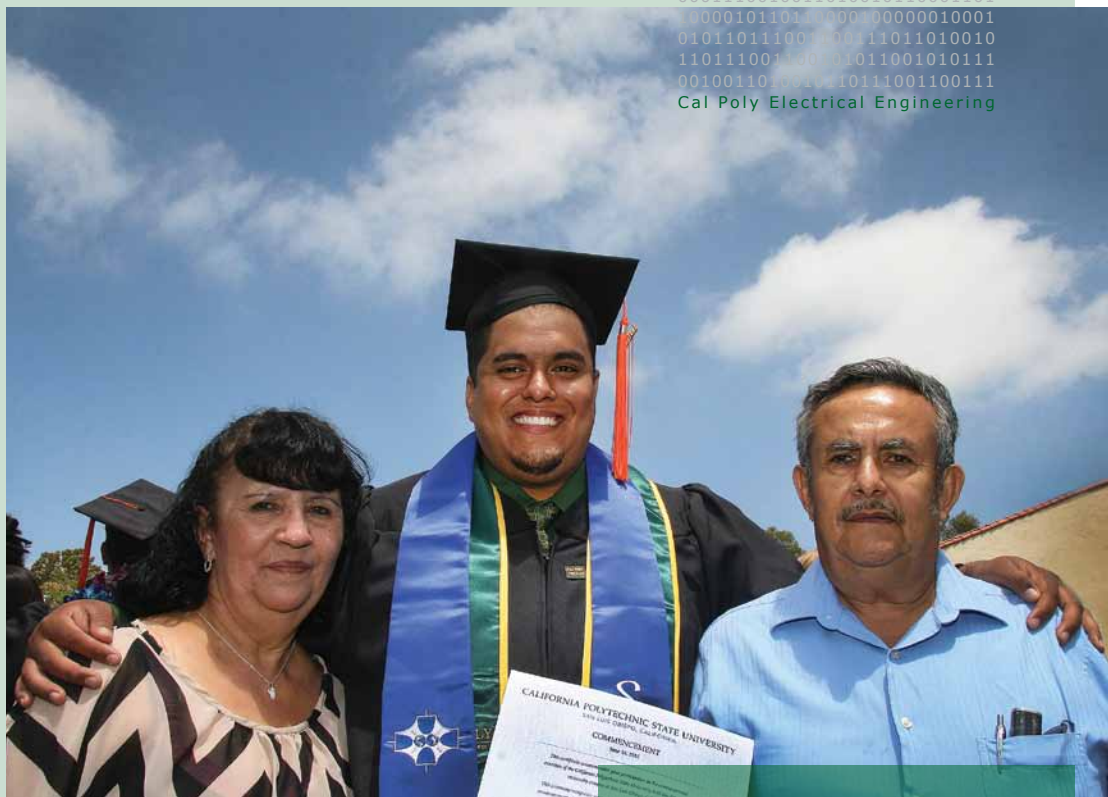
An officer in the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Navarro is also active in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the Power & Energy Society. His leadership activities helped capture the attention of employers — he landed an internship with San Diego Gas & Electric and has been hired by PG&E for his first full-time job after graduation.

Looking forward to commencement, Navarro reflected, “I never thought I’d be here. I’m the first of all my siblings and cousins to earn a bachelor’s degree. It’s a powerful tool, and I hope my example encourages others.

“Commencement was on Father’s Day, and it was also my dad’s birthday. I’m just so grateful.” ■

Salvador Navarro
Electrical Engineering graduate

National Science Foundation • Chevron, Xerox MEP Scholarships
Hispanic Scholarship Fund / Northrop Grumman



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“
I never thought
I’d be here. I’m the first
of all my siblings and cousins
to earn a bachelor’s degree.
It’s a powerful tool and I
hope my example
encourages others.
”

■ **Salvador Navarro** was
flanked by his parents, **Maria
Carmen and Jose Luis Navarro**,
at Cal Poly commencement.

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NEW ALUM BECOMES A “FOREVER MUSTANG” WITH RECURRING GIFT



■ Cal Poly mechanical engineering graduate Eric Taylor checks out the Oracle Team USA 17 catamaran, winner of the America's Cup yacht race in 2013. Taylor is a sales consultant for Oracle software.

ERIC TAYLOR (B.S., MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, 2013) has been working at his first job for six months, but he's already starting to build a philanthropic legacy by making an automatic, monthly gift to Cal Poly.

When the Colorado native was deciding on college, he had three criteria. He wanted to attend a top engineering program at a university that was affordable and offered a rich campus and community environment. Cal Poly came to his attention because of its U.S. News ranking as the nation's best state-funded undergraduate engineering school — and he fell in love from his first step on campus.

Taylor had what he calls an “iconic” Cal Poly student experience, and was involved in the Sales Engineering Club (SEC) and SLO Cru, formerly Campus Crusade for Christ. He also served as a resident advisor, WOW leader and Poly Rep. SEC introduced him to the field of technical sales and landed him an internship with Eaton Corp., one of the club's sponsors. Taylor now works as a sales consultant for Oracle Direct, demonstrating the value of Oracle software products.

Taylor knew that he wanted to contribute to Cal Poly after he graduated. In his words, “All Cal Poly grads have tremendous potential for success, so it's our responsibility to give back. I want to make an impact, to help Cal Poly,” he said, but how does one “make an impact” on a beginning salary?

Then Taylor received his first Cal Poly Fund Phonathon call.

“They made it so easy to set up a recurring gift on my credit card, and I realized that this was the way to make a gift but still stay within what I can afford,” he explained.

“I want to grow my contribution and impact over time, and with a system in place to make regular gifts, that will be much easier to do. There's probably no magic point at which you say, ‘Okay, I've made it, and I can make a donation now.’ In fact, starting small is better than not starting at all, and there's no better time to start giving back than the present.

“I hope to be engaged with Cal Poly and active in the alumni community all my life. My gifts may seem small now, but they'll add up over a year, over a lifetime. The important point is to just get started.” ■

“All Cal Poly grads have tremendous potential for success, so it's our responsibility to give back. I want to make an impact, to help Cal Poly.”

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Cal Poly Mechanical Engineering

WHEN HARD WORK IS RECOGNIZED

ISAAC BARPAL (B.S., ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND MATH, 1967) arrived at Cal Poly in 1963 from Israel with little but the shirt on his back. Through perseverance and encouragement from his professors, he graduated with two degrees in just three years.

Today, Barpal serves as an example of how hard work and dedication lead to success. He retired in 1998 as senior vice president and chief technology officer of AlliedSignal Inc. Before joining AlliedSignal, he had a distinguished 22-year career at Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

Barpal also encourages and rewards high-achieving students through the scholarship program that he established in 2001.

Steven Ambers is the 2014 recipient of the Isaac R. Barpal Scholarship, which is designated for the engineering student with the best overall GPA at the end of his or her junior year.

A civil engineering student who carries a straight 4.0 grade point average, Ambers is grateful that his academic standing has drawn the attention of Barpal. "I feel honored to have been recognized out of the many students in the College of Engineering," he said.

With an interest in geotechnical and structural engineering, Ambers hopes to establish a career that gives him the opportunity to get out of the office, visit job sites and provide public service. "Scholarship support has freed me a bit from needing a summer job and allowed me to seek out internships, instead, which will add to my professional experience," he said.

In addition to academics, Ambers puts faith into action by volunteering with the Newman Catholic Center at the People's Kitchen, where he prepares and serves a meal for homeless neighbors every month. He finds the work an opportunity to help out the community. "I think it's important to serve people who may be down on their luck at the moment," he said.

His experience at the People's Kitchen — along with the scholarship aid he's received — has given Ambers an understanding of the meaning of philanthropy.

"I've discovered that despite our various circumstances, ultimately we're all just people," he explained. "Before I received help myself, the idea of someone giving money for a good cause and someone else receiving the money seemed very abstract. When I was awarded the Barpal scholarship and looked up Mr. Barpal and his accomplishments, it really drove home that there was an actual person at the other end." ■

Steven Ambers
Civil Engineering junior



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UNMATCHED: PG&E IS CAL POLY'S NO. 1 MATCHING GIFTS DONOR

MIKE AVELLA (B.S., CIVIL ENGINEERING, 1980) HAS BEEN GIVING — and PG&E has been matching his gifts — to Cal Poly for almost 20 years.

Now an expert engineer in gas system planning, Avella's 33-year career with PG&E began as a student intern. He started giving back to Cal Poly when he learned about PG&E's attractive matching gift program. "Back then, I couldn't give much, but the company's one-to-one matching gift program made me think, wow, even if I give a small amount, it's a small gift times two!" he said.

With as many as 1,000 Cal Poly alumni employees, PG&E is the university's largest matching gifts donor. The program is popular because the company provides easy access, enables employees to give via payroll deductions, allows employees to direct their gifts to their educational institution or nonprofit of choice, and matches gifts



from both full- and part-time workers up to \$2,500 per employee as well as retirees up to \$1,000 per retiree.

"PG&E considers itself a neighbor

in San Luis Obispo and other towns throughout the state," said Barry Allen, PG&E site vice president at Diablo Canyon Power Plant. "Through our matching gift program and other philanthropic efforts, we contribute to the health and vitality of our communities — we believe that's what a good neighbor does."

According to Allen, PG&E believes in its matching gift program because it helps the company as well the community. "It energizes our employees, fosters community involvement, and strengthens the company's internal and external ties," he noted. "It builds a sense of pride and accomplishment."

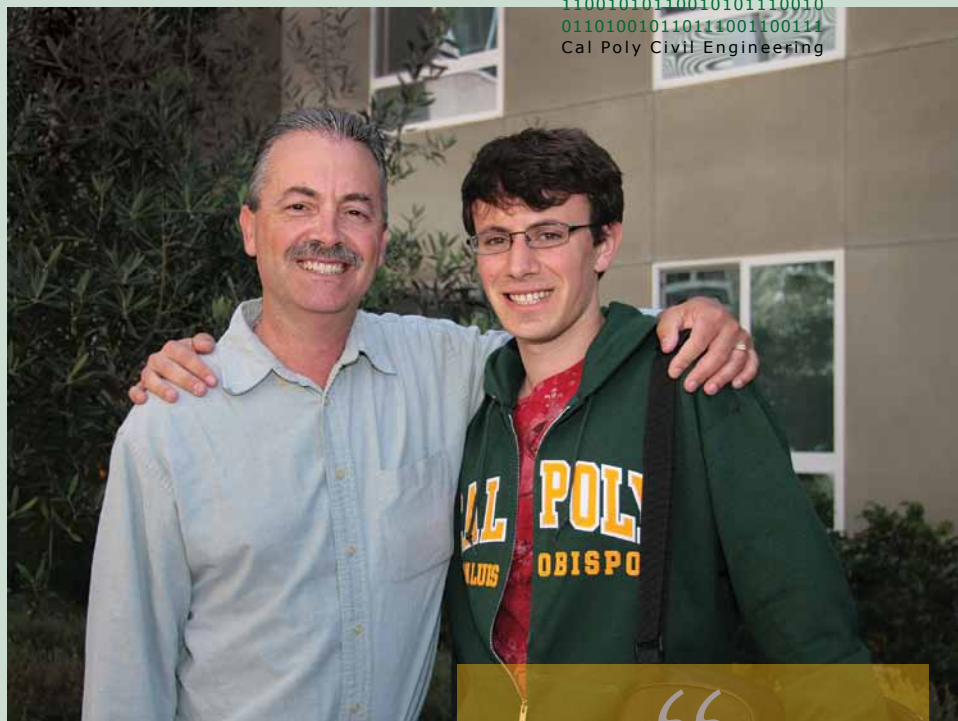
For Avella, his sense of pride in his company dovetails with pride in his alma mater. He values his Learn by Doing education because it helped him learn how to collaborate and communicate with team members, and the lab environment prepared him for practice in the field. "My son Ryan is a third-year electrical engineering student at Cal Poly, and it seems like there are even more high-tech engineering labs now," he said. "Plus, Ryan tells me that, like in my day, you can walk into a professor's office and he or she will often know you by name."

"Cal Poly is a big part of my own success," Avella said. "I'd be losing out by not taking advantage of PG&E's matching gift program — it's such a simple way to say 'Thank you.'"

"We're glad we're benefiting Cal Poly with matching gifts," Allen said.

"In fact, PG&E supports Cal Poly in numerous ways. We have many company representatives serving on university advisory boards and volunteering in classrooms. We participate in symposiums and we provide funds to support programs. We're proud of our involvement." ■

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■ Cal Poly civil engineering graduate Mike Avella, left, greets son Ryan, an electrical engineering student, at Poly Canyon Village.

Cal Poly is a big part of my own success. I'd be losing out by not taking advantage of PG&E's matching gift program.

CIVIL ENGINEERING STUDENT TAKES LONG AND WINDING ROAD TO CAL POLY

AJMAL PUYEHGAR'S JOURNEY BEGAN IN AFGHANISTAN, where he was born, and took him to Pakistan, Russia and Irvine, Calif. After Cal Poly, with degree in hand, Puyehgar hopes to return to Afghanistan to build a school and reconnect with the father he hasn't seen in 12 years.

Puyehgar moved to Pakistan when a Taliban bomb exploded a block away from his home. His mother, a teacher, felt she had to ensure her three children's safety, even if it meant living apart from her husband. Finding living conditions no better in Pakistan, the family took refuge with a relative in Moscow. Eleven years later, when Puyehgar was 12, his mother brought her children to the U.S. in search of safety, opportunity and education.

"We lived in a hotel," remembers Puyehgar. "My mom immediately learned English and walked five miles each way to get licensed as a hairstylist. She sacrificed a lot — my brother, sister and I are determined to get professional jobs so Mom can retire."

Arriving in the U.S. immediately after 9/11, Puyehgar faced discrimination and bullying, but he channeled his energies into a determination to make a difference. Sports also provided lessons about turning pain into strength. He participated in track and field, played football throughout high school and community college, and followed advice from his math professor at Irvine Community College to "push to the limit."

Puyehgar forged ahead to Cal Poly, where he's majoring in civil engineering with a minor in construction management. He believes these fields will give him tools to help others by building hospitals or the school he hopes to establish in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, he's found ways to serve others, both as a volunteer and through jobs that help pay for college.

He volunteers at the Noor Foundation in San Luis Obispo, which provides free health care to low-income residents and undertakes humanitarian and health care projects in Mauritania, Africa and Afghanistan. He also has tutoring jobs at the ECHO homeless shelter and Aaron's Boys Home. "Tutoring homeless and troubled youth makes me realize how fortunate I am," said Puyehgar.

Without a doubt, Puyehgar's positive outlook has helped him make his own fortune, but he's keenly aware of the importance of financial aid and assistance. "Scholarships make it so much easier to focus on academics," he stated. "For instance, thanks to an internship with Clark Construction and a very generous scholarship from the company, I haven't had to ask Mom for a cent all year." ■

Ajmal Puyehgar
Civil Engineering senior

Clark Construction Scholarship
Multicultural Engineering Program Scholarship
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“
**Tutoring
homeless and
troubled youth makes
me realize how
fortunate I am.**
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