

SUSAN CURRIER

THE LEGACY CONTINUES

BY TERRY J. SAN FILIPPO



A CHAMPION OF STUDENTS, a giving scholar, a beloved wife and a friend to many – few of many words to describe the late Cal Poly associate dean **Susan Currier**.

Her service to students continues in the form of the Susan Currier Memorial Scholarship and the Susan Currier Visiting Professorship for Teaching Excellence in the Liberal Arts. These generous endowments will allow her commitment to the liberal arts to flourish, according to College of Liberal Arts Dean Linda Halisky.

“She was a champion of the students she advised, giving counsel wisely and compassionately, and an intellect who was never afraid to right a wrong,” said Halisky. “She never lost her sense of humor about life.”

Currier was 58-years-old when she passed away after a battle with cancer. She worked closely with her husband, Professor Emeritus **Max Wills**, in the final days to establish the two endowments.

Her memorial scholarship was awarded for the first time last year in the amount of \$1,000. The scholarship aims to help CLA students who have a disadvantaged background, have overcome significant adversity and/or have made a valuable contribution to community service. Students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA to qualify.

Details are still being addressed for the visiting professor-

ship, which allows CLA to host a faculty member from another institution to teach at Cal Poly for an entire quarter. Recruitment for this position is scheduled to begin next winter or spring for fall quarter 2009.

Currier’s sincere interest in students and their success led her to establish the CLA Career Forum in 1994, held during the annual Open House. According to former colleagues and friends, it was her favorite event.

She would invite CLA alumni with interesting career paths back to campus to speak to current and prospective students and their parents. Alumni shared stories about their experiences while at Cal Poly – the courses they took, the professors who mentored them, and the extracurricular activities the college provided – which helped shape their career choices.

Currier collaborated with Housing and Residential Life in establishing the CLA Living and Learning program in 1996, which encouraged academic excellence of both freshmen and transfer students by connecting them with others in the same majors and with CLA faculty.

Currier also worked closely with alum **Angie Hacker (PSY ’04)** to establish the Afghanistan Children’s Center at Kabul University. Currier began teaching in the Cal Poly English Department in 1980, where her specialization was women’s and modern British literature. □

Contributions to the Susan Currier Memorial Scholarship or the Susan Currier Visiting Professorship for Teaching Excellence in the Liberal Arts may be made in care of: CLA Advancement Office, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407-0320.