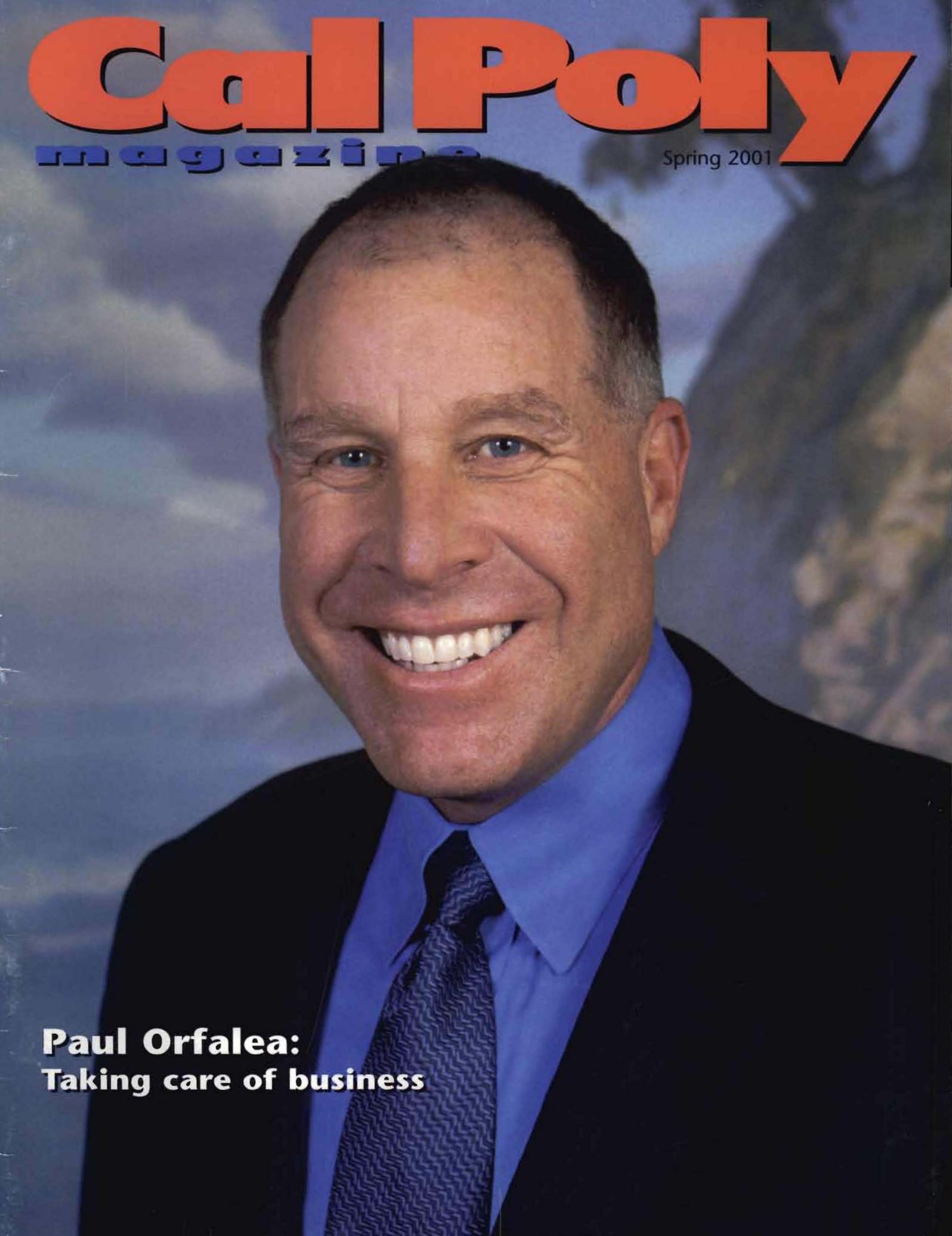


Cal Poly

magazine

Spring 2001

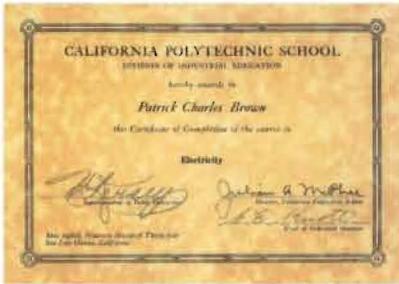
A close-up portrait of Paul Orfalea, a middle-aged man with short dark hair, smiling broadly. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a light blue dress shirt, and a patterned tie. The background is a soft-focus blue and white sky with clouds.

Paul Orfalea:
Taking care of business

FROM OUR READERS

Editor's Note: Letters may be edited.

I have neglected to report the death of my husband, Patrick Charles Brown [see *In Memoriam*], and am enclosing his 1934 certificate in electricity. Cal Poly was a two-year college [then] but Patrick was as proud of



his certificate as if it had been a four-year diploma.

During the Depression he worked as a night watchman at General Hospital, splitting his shift with another fellow so he could study during the day and get four or five hours of sleep before he went to his classes. He worked that shift for the next three years. It helped three other Cal Poly students—Alden Turner, John Hurtt, and [Mr.] Marion Smith—attend Cal Poly.

Patrick benefited from his Cal Poly education all his life. He worked 30 years for Union Oil Company, now Unocal, retiring in 1971 and writing articles for Daniel Krieger, a history professor at Cal Poly, who published a “Times Past” column in the San Luis Obispo *Tribune* [formerly *Telegram-Tribune*].

We attended alumni breakfasts at Cal Poly Homecoming. Leona Stenner, who was in her 80s and

had been a student when girls first attended Cal Poly, gave a piano recital which started toes tapping, and at the last breakfast, John Hurtt aced out Patrick as the longest-living graduate, receiving the trophy of a small camera.

— **Eleanor J. Brown**

I attended Cal Poly from 1928 until 1931. My divorced father was the business manager. For two years, he and I lived in separate rooms in Duell Dorm, across the street from Heron Hall, where I moved when I was a junior.

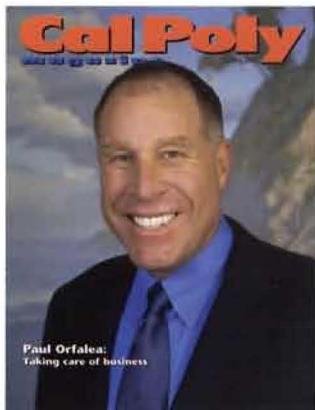
Cal Poly was a high school and junior college then. We all wore military uniforms and carried guns when we drilled. Although my grades were good, my father was told I wasn’t performing at my potential, so I joined my mother and younger sister in San Francisco, eventually graduating from Berkeley High, UC Berkeley, and the UC Medical School.

I recently retired after a medical career which included a country practice, 20 years at the Menninger Clinic, a gold medal for “outstanding contributions,” and a stint on the clinical faculty at UC San Francisco. I am grateful for broad experiences and a helpful start during those long-ago years at Cal Poly. I am also impressed with the campus, which my wife and I observed during a recent visit.

Carry on!

— **Prescott W. Thompson, M.D.**

From Our Readers continued on page 2



ON THE COVER

Kinko's founder Paul J. Orfalea is the man behind two gifts to Cal Poly totaling \$16 million. A \$15 million gift establishing the Orfalea Family Endowment for Excellence is the largest of its kind in the history of the 23-campus CSU system, naming the College of Business in honor of Orfalea's parents and helping to fund the college's strategic initiatives in entrepreneurship, globalization, and technology through scholarships, faculty development, and program enhancements. Of the \$15 million total, \$5 million is a challenge gift to leverage additional private support for the college and the establishment of endowed professorships in critical areas. A second \$1 million gift goes to the Orfalea Family and ASI Children's Center. For the full story, see pages 6-11. (Cover photo by Alice Williams, background oil painting by Richard Schloss)