

**M**ultitudes of Cal Poly students, alumni, and members of the Central Coast community have fond memories of Mustang Stadium. Since its construction in 1934, it has welcomed former President Ronald Reagan as a keynote commencement speaker, been the venue for the "Pride of the Pacific" marching band, and hosted many outstanding football and soccer games.

The past 68 years, however, have brought with them peeling paint, dilapidated bleachers, and inadequate restroom, concession, and

## The Renovation of Mustang Stadium

### Honoring the Past, Defining the Future

By Michael LaPlante

locker-room facilities. The university has now placed a top priority on the renovation and expansion of Mustang Stadium. Cal Poly also plans to recognize and honor the victims of the tragic 1960 plane crash by renaming the stadium "Mustang Memorial Stadium."

As a landmark of the Cal Poly campus, a renovated

stadium can serve as both a symbol of the bright future in store for the university and its athletic program and a memorial to a group of young men we will always honor.

Cal Poly will also reap many benefits from a renovated stadium. Our teams will gain a valuable recruiting asset as well as an improved competition venue. Fans will reap the benefits of comfortable chair-back seating, expanded restrooms, and more convenient concession stands. A Memorial Plaza is planned to recognize both the victims and survivors of the 1960 crash.

"It is gratifying to know that the campus administration has made it a priority to recognize our teammates," says Al Marinai, a crash survivor. "The families of those victims will certainly appreciate the honor."

For the first time in 40 years, Marinai returned to campus in July 2000 for the Millennium All-Sports Reunion, where the idea of re-naming the renovated stadium was initiated. He is one of 10 members on the Athletics

*See Stadium, page 22*

