

Jim Shelton: Mustang in Action

Jim Shelton (BUS '80) came to Cal Poly in 1975 on a football scholarship. Now vice president of sales at George Rice & Sons Quebecor World Division in Los Angeles, a branch of the world's largest printing company, Shelton said he owes much of his career success to what he learned – on the field as well as off – at Cal Poly.

"The Athletics Department was really good for me. It gave me a good start in life, and it taught me the sort of discipline and a lot of the skills I've used on the job," he explains.

Shelton has pledged \$40,000 to Intercollegiate Athletics for scholarships and the expansion of Mustang Stadium. Over the next five years he and his wife, Sarah, will contribute \$5,000 a year for the stadium project and \$3,000 a year for athletic scholarships.

It's something Shelton is happy to do. "Cal Poly was a great place to go to school. And I'd love to see the new stadium come together. That's something near and dear to me. And I'd like to see the university grow the football team and the football program," he says.

Shelton spent plenty of time in the stadium. An offensive guard for the Mustangs, he red-shirted his freshman year and played from 1976 to 1979. Back then, Fresno State and UC Davis were Cal Poly's chief rivals. "The games with Fresno and Davis are the ones that stand out in my mind," Shelton says.

"We beat Fresno State four times. Then we played a game against Portland State when they had a quarterback by the name of Neil Lomax, who later went on to play pro for the St. Louis Cardinals," Shelton says. "We won that game big."

But it turns out the victories weren't the most important thing Shelton got out of playing football at Cal Poly.

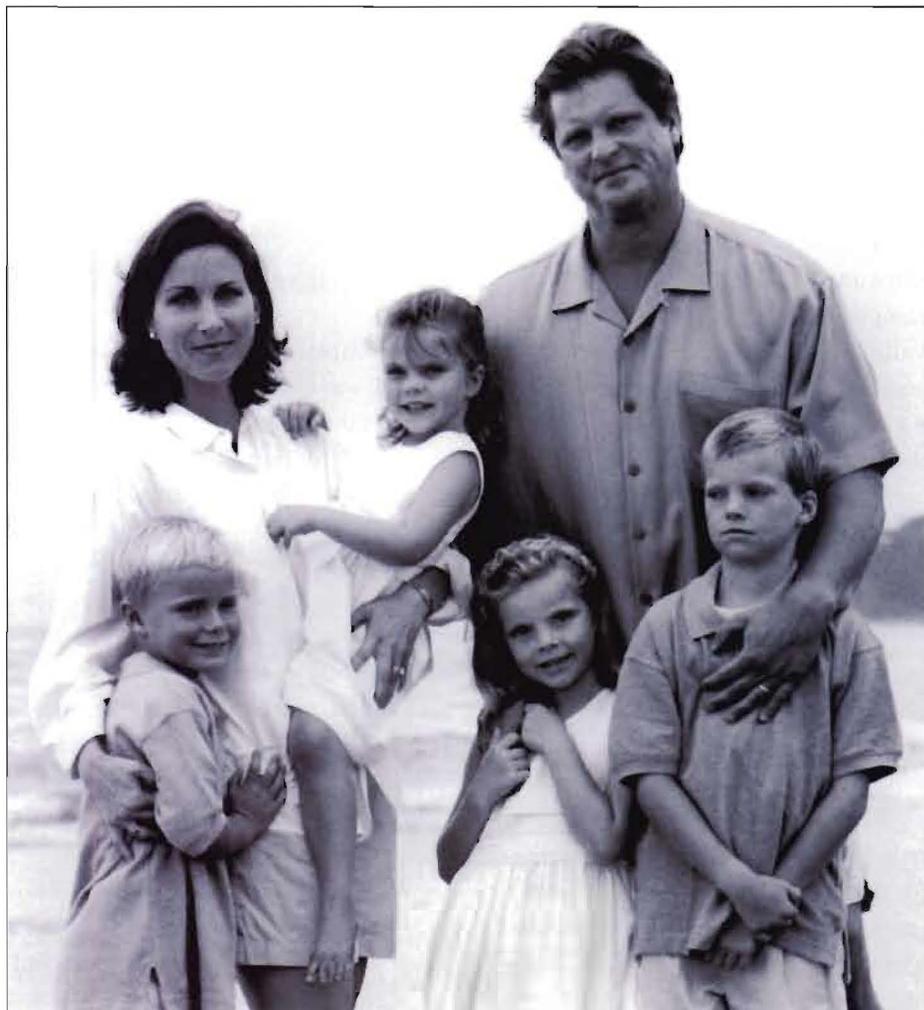
"When you play a college sport like that, you develop a bond with your teammates that lasts," he says. And Shelton also learned a lot off the field at Cal Poly – most memorably in business classes taught by the late Owen Servatius (assistant to former Cal Poly President Julian McPhee and acting dean of the School of Business and Social Sciences).

Shelton and his family travel to San Luis Obispo at least once a year to take in a Mustang football game.

"The kids are already Cal Poly fans," he says.

"The Athletics Department was really good for me. It gave me a good start in life, and taught me the sort of discipline and skills I've used on the job."

Jim Shelton



The Shelton family

Photo courtesy Jim Shelton