

A Letter to Our Friends

No matter where I travel, I find that Cal Poly enjoys a reputation as a prestigious institution that delivers an extraordinary education.

This reputation is the result of the incredible teamwork of our faculty and the staff, our loyal alumni, our industry partners and our other friends. You have all helped us fulfill our promise to develop California's next generation of engineers, architects, scientists, business leaders, teachers, journalists, computer experts and specialists in many other fields.

As we enter the last year of our Centennial Campaign, our alumni and friends continue to provide unprecedented levels of private support, creating that critical margin of excellence that distinguishes a great university from a good one.

This testament of faith you have shown in Cal Poly, especially in today's economic climate, is a tremendous vote of confidence. In fact, I am confident that the momentum you have created will sweep us in the home stretch beyond our \$225 million goal. I believe we can crest at an amazing \$250 million in total gifts.

I heartily commend you for your support and your generosity. In return, we pledge to be good stewards of your gifts. And we will continue to inform you on how your generosity contributes to a vibrant campus life.

So this special issue of the *Cal Poly Magazine* is dedicated to you. Inside you will find an Honor Roll of all donors who gave \$250 or more to the University during 2002-2003. Also, be sure to read the Centennial Campaign Update (*opposite page*) for the exciting details about some of the more extraordinary gifts we have received.

You will enjoy our cover story about an outstanding individual whose life and accomplishments reflect well on his Cal Poly education. Isaac Barpal's incredible journey took him from Israel to Cal Poly, where he worked for \$1.25 an hour while earning degrees in both electrical engineering and applied math. He recently pledged \$5 million to the University, where, he says "the people were unbelievable."

Throughout the magazine, you will see a number of our other friends whose gifts have benefited the University and touched the lives of our students.



Warren J. Baker

Photo by Patrick Swadener

After reading this issue, I know you will share my optimism that – with your help – Cal Poly will not only survive these challenging economic times but also prevail as one of the nation's top polytechnic institutions of higher learning.

Cal Poly
magazine

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On the Cover

Isaac Barpal (EE and MATH '67) and his wife, Marge (at home with Mango and Kiwi). Barpal's \$5 million bequest to the College of Engineering – one of 145,000 Centennial Campaign gifts and pledges through June 30, 2003 – took the campaign total over the \$200 million mark.

Photo by Donna Connor