

# Cal Poly Opens Its Doors For Open House

BY TERESA HENDRIX



(Photo courtesy of 2004 Open House Committee)

For more than 100 years, Cal Poly has been inviting visitors every spring to tour the campus and enjoy food and fun.

What began on a day in May 1904 as a “Farmers’ Picnic” for 200 people, has evolved into Open House, a three-day event drawing about 39,000 visitors. Open House now gives the community an opportunity to see the best of what the university has to offer.

Admitted Students Preview Day, held the Friday of Open House weekend, gives prospective students and their parents a day of their own to tour the university; meet with students, faculty members and deans; and get a taste of Cal Poly.

The Saturday of Open House starts with the traditional morning Poly Royal

Parade through campus. The rest of the day is filled with hands-on exhibitions, student music and dance performances, children’s activities, refreshments,



(Photo courtesy of 2004 Open House Committee)

horticulture and agriculture displays, department tours and more.

The Open House Golf Classic is held on Sunday of Open House weekend.

One unique aspect to Open House is the Design Village competition, sponsored by the College of Architecture and Environmental Design.

The event, which began in 1974 as a competition to design disaster-relief shelters, hosts student teams from colleges and universities from across the United States. The students – usually a mixture of architectural engineering, architecture, construction management and landscape architecture students – build temporary structures in Poly Canyon to suit a theme which changes yearly, and then live in them during Open House weekend before the Design Village winners are announced.

Open House activities are planned and coordinated by a committee of 25 students working all year through the Student Life and Leadership office.

Open House 2005 – “Oceans of Opportunity” – is set for April 15-17. Watch the Open House Web site for details at <http://openhouse.calpoly.edu/>. ■



Design Village (Photo courtesy of College of Architecture and Environmental Design)