

MAINTAINING THE MOMENTUM



Sandra Gardebring Ogren (Photo by Tom Foley)

CAL POLY WELCOMES NEW VICE PRESIDENT

Cal Poly welcomes Sandra Gardebring Ogren from the University of Minnesota as the new vice president for university advancement.

She succeeds William G. Boldt, who, after 10 years at Cal Poly, is now vice chancellor for university advancement at UC Riverside. Ogren will oversee development, alumni relations, corporate and foundation relations, public affairs and governmental relations.

"Sandra is an extraordinarily accomplished person who will bring strong and proven leadership skills to the university. We appreciate her willingness to provide continuity of leadership at a critical juncture in the university's advancement efforts," President Warren J. Baker said. "As we look beyond the successful completion of the Centennial Campaign, we must move to develop plans and strategies to sustain the momentum we have achieved."

Ogren served as vice president, university relations, at the University of Minnesota since 1998. She also has a long record of distinguished public service outside academe, serving as a judge on the Minnesota Court of Appeals and as an associate justice on the Minnesota Supreme Court.

She is a cum laude graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Law (J.D.) and a magna cum laude graduate of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

"I am delighted at the opportunity to join the leadership team at Cal Poly and to assist President Baker in sustaining the momentum developed during the very successful Centennial Campaign," Ogren says. ■

We did it! And we did it one year ahead of schedule. We met our original \$225-million Centennial Campaign goal early, and at press time, had reached \$242 million.

"Yes, by all accounts, the Centennial Campaign has been a resounding success, even with several weeks to go," said Associate Vice President for Advancement Rick Ellison.

Strictly speaking, Dec. 31, 2004, marks the conclusion of Cal Poly's seven-year Centennial Campaign. "But the work will not stop," Ellison says. "There are a number of major, worthwhile projects that require our sustained effort as Cal Poly continues its legacy of excellence."

For instance, funds are still needed to go forward with the Center for Science and Mathematics, as well as other capital projects. There is more work to be done in bringing innovative technology into the classroom. Support is still needed to fund endowed chairs and professorships, which enable us to attract and retain outstanding professors. And the university continues to seek financial support for scholarships to help lessen the financial burden on students so that they can concentrate on their education.

"Private support is essential to enhance the university's polytechnic, learn-by-doing educational mission," Ellison says. "Cal Poly's renowned advantage is a direct result of our generous benefactors."

It will probably come as no surprise, then, to learn that Cal Poly was rated – for the 12th consecutive year – the best public largely undergraduate university in the West by *U.S. News & World Report*, in its 2005 *America's Best Colleges* guidebook. That kind of recognition is due, in large part, to our generous friends and donors. This special edition of the *Cal Poly Magazine* includes the Honor Roll of Donors (starting on page 17), which lists many of the individuals, corporations, foundations and others who have helped make the Centennial Campaign a success.

RECENT CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- During fiscal year 2003-2004, the campus advancement productivity was nearly \$33 million in gifts and pledges, bringing the campaign total to \$236 million.
- The university's annual fund program, the Cal Poly Fund, has brought in 23,563 gifts totaling \$2.48 million, an increase of 14 percent over last year's total.
- The Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation has pledged \$7 million toward the construction of the Center for Science and Mathematics.
- Donald Bently has fulfilled his pledge by contributing \$5.5 million as a permanent endowment to fund a director position for the Donald E. Bently Center for Engineering Innovation and two faculty positions in the Mechanical Engineering Department.

"As we move into the final phase of our Centennial Campaign, please accept our gratitude and appreciation for all you've done to make it a success," Ellison says. "And please remember that our job is not done. With your help, we can keep strengthening our advantage and look forward to another 12 years as the best public largely undergraduate university in the West." ■