

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE



Steve Kulchin (LA '81) hiked up into Poly Canyon his first day on campus. He never got over how great an opportunity it was for students to get their hands on things and build.

"It was inspiring to know that as a student you could actually build things," Kulchin says. "That was really something rare, and it made Cal Poly unique."

And he never forgot how important the right donation at the right time could be.

"We needed a truck and a trailer for a project, something that was out of our reach, and a donor provided that crucial help."

So Kulchin, now president of his own foundation drilling company in Redmond, Wash., was delighted to return to campus and provide the lead donation that helped make it possible for three College of Architecture and Environmental Design students to build Poly Canyon's newest addition: the Tensile Structure.

"Poly Canyon is an amazing opportunity to design and build things at full scale," says Kieran Kelly-Sneed (ARCE '02), one of the structure's creators.

Marking 40 years of building in the canyon, the tensile structure was dedicated at Open House in April 2003, confirming that what energized Steve Kulchin is still energizing tomorrow's designers and builders – and keeping Cal Poly's learn-by-doing tradition going strong.

– Bob Anderson



Poly Canyon's tensile structure was the senior project of CAED graduates (left to right) Royce Chow (Architecture), Theresa Zaro (Landscape Architecture) and Kiernan Kelly-Sneed (Architectural Engineering).

Photo by Jeff Greene