

Honoring Herb Kamm

When veteran journalist and key Cal Poly advisor Herb Kamm passed away last September, he was celebrated by media titans nationwide, by the hundreds of students he mentored, and by community members who benefited from his generosity of spirit, time, and support of the arts.

After "retiring" to the Central Coast in 1985, Kamm put his then-50 years of experience as a writer/editor in New York and Cleveland to work at Cal Poly, teaching journalism and working closely with the President's Office on special projects, most notably the seven media forums he produced that drew hundreds of people to campus to hear from national and local media and film and television writers, critics and directors, and political commentators.

Kamm was also a member of the editorial board of the San Luis Obispo *Tribune*, mentoring the newspaper's young reporters, many of whom he had taught at Cal Poly. Among them was higher education reporter Ryan Huff (JOUR '02), who wrote, "When I grow up, I want to be like Herb Kamm: to be utterly honest with people, but not deflate their spirits; to have the rapport to woo some of the giants of government, Hollywood, and media to speak at campus forums. To live to be 85, yet still act like I'm 35."

In the words of Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker, "Herb cannot be replaced, but he will long be remembered."

Memorial contributions may be made payable to the Cal Poly Foundation for the benefit of the Herb Kamm Journalism Scholarship Endowment and sent to Cal Poly, College of Liberal Arts Advancement Office, Building 47, Room 31, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407.

Herb Kamm at the November 2001 Journalism Gala with (left) Kim Kaney (JOUR '99) and Teresa Mariani Hendrix (JOUR '85).

Photo by Robert Hendrix (BUS '68, MBA '72)

