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On the cover:

Students, faculty and alumni from the Cal Poly University Center for Teacher Education and the College of Science and Mathematics, with Joe and Victoria Cotchett in front of the Cotchett Education Building. From bottom left, clockwise: Kelly Hanify, Ron Cooper, Rudy Angeles, Natalia Alarcon, Adolfo Hernandez, Elsa Medina, Leilani Hernandez, Rowena Mak, Jaime Cuello, Sion Brannan and Odessa Jenkins.

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

Affirming the Vision

As we go to press with Cal Poly's 2003 *Annual Report*, California, The California State University and Cal Poly are in many respects at a crossroads.

The state is emerging from a serious budget crisis resulting in reduced enrollments and, for the first time ever, redirection of some CSU-qualified applicants to the community college system. The Governor's recently proposed budget compact would renew funding for higher education, with emphasis on meeting California's scientific and technical work-force needs, by increasing the number and quality of science and mathematics teachers and increasing university degrees in science and technology disciplines.

This forward-looking commitment is vital at a time when California's public universities are experiencing rising enrollment demand from a new and diverse generation of students. We are also experiencing a significant turnover in faculty, as the many faculty hired in the 1960s and 1970s reach retirement age. And the state's public education system is facing growing challenges in serving students, particularly in science and mathematics.

Cal Poly's efforts to meet the work-force needs of the state, by mentoring a new generation of students and faculty and supporting science and mathematics education, are central themes of the 2003 *Annual Report*.

Throughout the university's history, the faculty and staff's close involvement with students has been a hallmark of a Cal Poly education. Today, our faculty and staff continue to take pride in their role as student mentors. The *Annual Report* shares examples of their dedicated work.

Over the last several years, Cal Poly has hired 135 new tenure-track faculty members, nearly 20 percent of the entire 2003 tenure-track faculty. They are extraordinary in their quality, enthusiasm and commitment to Cal Poly. The *Annual Report* profiles several of these new professors and a few of the ways in which Cal Poly is mentoring them.

Finally, support from alumni is indispensable, as we implement Cal Poly's new campus Master Plan and expand and strengthen our capacity to serve students, particularly students in agriculture, architecture, engineering, science, mathematics and related fields so critical to the future of the California economy.

The *Annual Report* shares the story of an extraordinary, generous gift by Cal Poly alumnus **Joe Cotchett (ENGR '60)** and his wife, Victoria. They are helping the university increase the number of science and mathematics teachers it educates—especially teachers for the state's underserved urban areas.

We hope you will enjoy this second edition of Cal Poly's *Annual Report*, and we look forward to hearing back from you with comments and suggestions for future editions.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Warren J. Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a dark ink on a light background.