



News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Jose Company Establishes Scholarship in Memory of Cal Poly Alumnus

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly’s Civil and Environmental Engineering Department received a gift of \$50,000 from Mark Thomas & Co., an employee-owned surveying and engineering corporation headquartered in San Jose. The gift will fund a scholarship endowment in honor of the late Chris Rockway, a 1979 Civil Engineering graduate.

Rockway served as a principal with the Mark Thomas & Co., starting there in 2000 after many years in the Sacramento area with URS Corporation. According to Michael Lohman, vice president and chief operating officer of Mark Thomas & Co., Rockway was respected because he took a personal interest in developing staff, “being a teacher rather than just a boss,” and establishing an internal mentoring program. Rockway passed away in October 2010.

Liz Rockway, who met her husband at Cal Poly, noted, “Cal Poly’s Learn by Doing philosophy prepared Chris for a successful career as a civil engineer. His management style mirrored that philosophy, believing employees advanced more quickly when pushed to solve problems on their own, learning from both their successes and failures.”

Rakesh Goel, chair of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, said, “We are honored to receive this generous donation from Mark Thomas & Company, which honors an alumnus who was clearly beloved. The gift will help further the development of young engineers who are following in Chris’ footsteps.”

About Mark Thomas & Company:

A leading California transportation engineering firm, Mark Thomas & Company also provides land surveying, site development, infrastructure improvements and municipal engineering services. The company has been operating continuously since it was established by Mark Thomas in 1927. Corporate headquarters are in San Jose, Calif., with branch offices in Cupertino, Fresno, Irvine, Pleasanton, San Carlos, Sacramento, Salinas, and Walnut Creek, Calif. The company employs 200 surveying, engineering and administrative support staff.



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