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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jason Mockford

805-756-2477; jmockfor@calpoly.edu

Cal Poly Announces Grand Marshals for 20th Annual Open House

SAN LUIS OBISPO – As part of the April 18-20 festivities marking the 20th year of Open House, Cal Poly has announced three grand marshals who will be honored for playing an important part in launching the first edition of the event in 1994.

Stephan Lamb, Marquam Piros and Joe Sabol will be honored Saturday, April 20, during the Open House “Poly Royal” Parade.

Open House began in 1994, growing out of the annual Poly Royal event that was shut down in 1990 following rioting near campus. Lamb, Piros and Sabol played key roles in the recreation of the campus showcase event in 1994.

At the time, Lamb was special assistant to the vice president for student affairs. He shepherded an idea from ASI leadership to create an open house event, shifting the focus to a showcase for newly admitted students who had yet to commit to the university.

Since 1994, Lamb has worked in several areas in the Student Affairs division – most recently as interim director of Student Life and Leadership. He recently retired from Cal Poly. He admires Open House’s Club Showcase and food booths, which he said create such positive energy and fun during the campus showcase each year.

Piros was ASI president in 1993-94 and organized the initial proposal, which included a planning committee with student representatives and campus and city leaders, to address key objectives and event structure. The committee lobbied on campus and within the community to gain support for the concept. After receiving support from the various campus and community groups, a proposal was submitted to then-Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker to reinstate an “All-Campus Open House.”

“It’s one of my fondest memories – the process of gaining the support and approval from city and county leaders and then receiving the letter from Dr. Baker authorizing us to reinstate Poly Royal as Open House,” Piros said. “We experienced first-hand our university leaders’ deep conviction and confidence the Learn by Doing motto.”

Sabol was associate dean for the School of Agriculture when Open House began. After the shut-down of Poly Royal, Sabol initiated a recruitment called “Poly AgriView” specifically for the College of Agriculture in 1993 and provided leadership for the event. After the success of “Poly AgriView” Baker quickly authorized a campuswide open house for the following year.

Sabol remains active with the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences; the Agriculture Education Department; and several student clubs. He now serves as president of the Cal Poly Retired Faculty and Staff Club.

Open House allows admitted and current students, their supporters, alumni, and the San Luis Obispo community to spend the weekend exploring all that Cal Poly offers.

This year, Cal Poly will exhibit its campus and programs to the public April 20. The day begins at 9 a.m. with the Poly Royal Parade, starting at Grand Avenue and Perimeter Road, traveling north toward Via Carta and ending at Dexter Lawn. Seating is available along the route.

Activities following the parade include a Kids’ Fair, live music, the Cal Poly Tractor Pull, the Cal Poly Rodeo and more.

For more information about Cal Poly's Open House weekend, visit
<http://orientation.calpoly.edu/openhouse> or call the Open House office at 805-756-7576.

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Phone: 805-756-1111