

## EDITOR'S NOTES



**A**s a university student I was often warned, “Wait until you get out into real life.” College — I was told — was a sheltering cocoon that kept me warm and safe and a little oblivious. All I really had to do was read Wordsworth, do my own laundry, and be back in the dorm by curfew.

When I did graduate and go out on my own, I found something entirely different from the rigorous world I expected: life became in fact less demanding, less focused. People I met lived without the intense analysis I was used to.

*The Great Gatsby* was only a movie, and historical figures whose ideas and dreams had fired my imagination faded into ghosts.

I was able to earn a competent living, but I missed passion: the connection between the personal and the universal. The ivory tower had been at the heart of my best experiences, and it was daily life that felt removed and a little blurry.

In this issue of *Cal Poly Magazine*, we profile some alumni, students, and faculty who have learned the secret of combining their deepest interests with university research and community programs. For them education and work are a seamless meld of a whole and continuing adventure.

Our lead feature spotlights alum Monty Roberts, who came to Cal Poly in the mid-'50s after a championship rodeo career that began when he won his first

trophy at age four. His coursework in psychology and animal science enhanced his methods of nonviolent horse training, which ultimately led to a best-selling book inspired by one of his staunchest patrons, Queen Elizabeth II.

Other stories comprise a photo album of people happily immersed in on- and off-campus activities: Anthropology Professor Robert Hoover and 20 students living with Franciscan friars at Mission San Antonio de Padua, excavating and cataloguing treasures of the past; Biology Professor Tom Richards and his students studying the effects of El Niño firsthand on a Maritime Academy vessel traveling from the California coast down to Chile; College of Engineering students competing against 35 other universities to create a winning design of a 60-passenger amphibian aircraft; and alum Danny Gans, who suffered a baseball career-ending injury, voted Las Vegas Entertainer of the Year.

I hope you enjoy reading about the people in this issue as much as I did learning about them. They made me remember once again that education isn't a preparation for life — it is life.

*Vicki Hanson*

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Editor

## FROM OUR READERS

**T**he positive response we received on our new format is exemplified by the following reader letter:

“You are doing a great job! Keep it up! I was so inspired that I got on the phone to my family and friends I knew who went to Cal Poly just to check if they saw your magazine. We all loved it! We are a legacy family [members of multiple generations who

attended Cal Poly] and after all the years it is so nice that *Cal Poly Magazine* has worked so hard to put this together . . . It's a tremendous feat.” — **Myra (Baggao) Kriwanek (BUS '75)**.

We also received the following letter, however, and even though it is not representative, we wanted to include it here for other readers who might have

*From Our Readers continued on page 2*



## ON THE COVER

Horse trainer **Monty Roberts (ASCI '59)** and his loyal friend, *Dually*. Over the past year Roberts' nonviolent horse training methods have been popularized by a best-selling book, numerous magazine articles, and TV spots on NBC and the

BBC. For more on his techniques and philosophy, turn to our lead feature on page 4.  
(Photo by Doug Allen)

*From Our Readers continued from inside front cover*

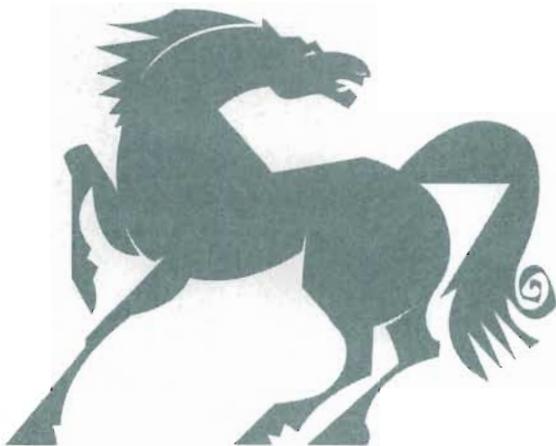
similar concerns:

"Received the [first issue of the magazine] today, and it looks nice, but what the heck is going on here? Whatever happened to the notion that state-supported schools were just that? The cost of this magazine represents money that should go for education. I resent this expenditure on color photos and shiny paper! I attended Cal State Poly College [sic] 1964-67 and received some wonderful educational experiences for about \$25/quarter. What a deal! Now it's Cal Poly State University, big salaries, fancy magazines, annual alumni fund drives, and all. What a joke! Contribute? You must be kidding. Just get back to education instead of image-engineering and things will be OK." — **David Kernberger (IA '67)**

*Editor's response:*

*We moved from a tabloid to a magazine to improve the quality of the publication, compete more successfully against commercial magazines for our readers' attention, and reflect Cal Poly's status as an innovative, top-notch public institution. The cost of the magazine is the same as that of the old tabloid version, with funding coming from the Cal Poly Foundation and private donations.*

*Unfortunately, like most state institutions, Cal Poly is no longer state-supported, just state-assisted, with state monies meeting fewer needs every year. Gifts from individuals and corporations are necessary to help maintain and develop Cal Poly's educational edge in technical, science, and business/liberal arts training. CP*



## Cal Poly magazine

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Please mail letters to the editor to "From Our Readers," *Cal Poly Magazine*, Heron Hall, Room 204, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407 (phone 805/756-7109; fax 805/756-6533). Submit written "Class Notes" items to the same address or via e-mail at [dp146@oasis.calpoly.edu](mailto:dp146@oasis.calpoly.edu).

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