Spanos pledges $4 million for stadium renovation

Cal Poly alumnus, entrepreneur and San Diego Chargers owner Alex Spanos and his wife, Faye, have pledged $4 million to help fund the Phase I renovation of Mustang Stadium.

It is the largest single gift in the history of Cal Poly Athletics.

“It’s the stadium where my brother, Danny, and I performed as drum majors for Harold Davidson’s marching band in 1941,” Spanos said of his decision to underwrite the improvements.

The project will increase the permanent seating capacity to 10,000 and include a press box, a press area, television and radio booths, two coaching booths, new stadium lighting and an upgrade of the playing surface.

“An important part of the renovation of our stadium is our goal to recognize and honor all of the members of the 1960 football team who perished in a tragic plane crash in Ohio,” said President Baker. “Cal Poly plans to create a Memorial Plaza, thereby ensuring permanent remembrance of the 1960 team members who lost their lives that evening. In the Memorial Plaza, each will be honored with a biographical plaque on a copper pillar standing at the height of the player.

“This plaza will be a constant reminder to students, alumni, and visitors as it will be the focal point of the stadium entrance. We feel that permanent recognition on the Cal Poly campus of the young men who lost their lives and lost their friends and teammates is long overdue.”

The Spanoses’ gift brings the total raised for the Mustang Stadium project to $9.4 million. The entire project is estimated to cost $13 million and groundbreaking is expected in late spring 2005.

In May, the Cal Poly Theatre was renamed the Alex and Faye Spanos Theatre in honor of the couple’s $1.5 million donation for renovation of the theatre and the H.P. Davidson Music Center.

Spanos is owner of A.G. Spanos Companies, one of the nation’s largest builders of apartment communities.

Scientific award named for Cal Poly researcher

An international science society has created an award recognizing outstanding efforts in the study of cells and named it in honor of Cal Poly Environmental Biotechnology Institute researcher Paul Nakane.

Nakane is also the first recipient of the award, created by the International Federation of Societies for Histochemistry and Cytochemistry and presented to Nakane at the society’s international congress in San Diego in July.

The award will go to professionals who show outstanding scientific contributions and international leadership in advancing histochemistry and cytochemistry, disciplines focusing on the chemical composition and activities of tissues and cells.

The international group named the award in recognition of Nakane’s scientific accomplishments and leadership in scientific societies in the United States and his native Japan, as well as in the International Federation of Societies for Histochemistry and Cytochemistry.

Nakane joined the Environmental Biotechnology Institute in 2003. He serves as a consultant to EBI Director and Professor Emeritus Raul Cano in addition to conducting research at the institute.

Five chairs named in CLA

The College of Liberal Arts has named five department chairs, effective Sept. 13:
- Jim Conway, current Speech Communication chair, was appointed to a new three-year term.
- Malcolm Keif, Graphic Communication, will serve one year as chair while Harvey Levenson is on sabbatical.
- Harold Kerbo, who served previously as chair of Social Sciences, will serve a new three-year term.
- Former Political Science Chair Dianne Long was named to a three-year term.
- Terry Spiller, Music, serving as chair for the summer, will begin a three-year term in the permanent position.

Boldt leaving Sept. 24 for UC Riverside

Vice President for University Advancement Bill Boldt will leave Cal Poly Sept. 24 to become vice chancellor for university advancement at UC Riverside.

Rick Ellison, associate vice president for university advancement, will assume day-to-day responsibility for the University Advancement division, reporting directly to President Baker. Baker is reviewing options for a process to select Boldt’s successor and expects to make an announcement soon.

In a message to the campus, Baker said, “I know you join me in thanking Bill for his service to the university, in helping to strengthen our advancement programs and position the university for a sustained and ongoing advancement effort.”

Baker said that Boldt “has helped bring together a strong advancement team. Through the team’s hard work, we have seen significant growth and improvement across the board, in our college advancement programs, planned giving and endowments, advancement services, annual giving, alumni relations, corporate and foundation relations, public affairs and governmental relations. The advancement team has also provided critical support to deans and faculty in realizing and exceeding the goals of the Centennial Campaign.”

Boldt’s chief focus, in his almost 10 years at Cal Poly, has been the Centennial Campaign, the campus’s first comprehensive fund-raising campaign and the largest in the nation for a public master’s-degree university.

The seven-year, $225-million campaign exceeded its initial goal 13 months ahead of schedule, so far raising more than $245 million from more than 170,000 gifts and pledges.

Under his leadership, private support for Cal Poly increased from $11.6 million in 1994-95 to a record $44.3 million in 2001-02. The Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) ranks Cal Poly among the top universities nationally in fund raising within its classification.
SAFER Program to end 756-SAFE number

The 756-SAFE phone number, which has been part of Student Life’s SAFER Program sexual assault prevention and response efforts, will be taken out of service Sept. 1.

Maya Andlig, coordinator of gender and sexuality programs, said maintaining the number was an unnecessary expense at a critical budget time. The number has been maintained as a convenience rather than as a true Cal Poly line, Andlig said. Calls to the phone number don’t ring on campus but are automatically forwarded to the Sexual Assault Recovery and Prevention Center (SARP) line.

She said the first number to call in any real emergency remains 911. A second resource is the 24-hour Rape Crisis Line operated by SARP, 545-8888.

The SAFER Program will continue to offer assistance to survivors of sexual assault in weighing options and obtaining resources. The program’s office number, ext. 2236, is answered 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Position Vacancies

STATE The official listing of staff and management vacancies is posted on Cal Poly’s online employment system, www.calpolyjobs.org. As a courtesy to on-campus employees, job vacancies are also published in the Cal Poly Report. Positions marked with an asterisk indicate that qualified on-campus applicants in bargaining units 2, 5, 7 and 9 will be given first consideration. To apply, go to www.calpolyjobs.org and complete the online application. Applicants needing computer/Internet access and/or assistance may contact Human Resources at ext. 2236 for information on available resources.

#100190-Advancement Director (Administrator II), re-advertised, Orfalea College of Business, salary commensurate with experience. Open until filled; review begins Sept. 7.
#100371-Administrative Support Assistant II, College of Engineering, Dean’s Office, halftime position, $1,136.50-$1,704.50/month. Closes Aug. 27.
#100374-Administrative Support Coordinator I, internal recruitment, College of Architecture & Environmental Design, Architectural Engineering, $2,789-$4,188/month. Closes Aug. 27.
#100375-Coordinator, Cal Poly-Rita Bee Hill Higher Education Center (Extended Education Specialist II), Continuing Education, position located in Visalia, temporary through 6/30/05, $3,311-$4,470/month. Open until filled; review of applications begins Aug. 27.
#100381-Carpenter, internal recruitment, Administration & Finance, Facility Services, $4,088-$4,906/month. Closes Friday (Aug. 20).
#100382-Painter, Administration & Finance, Facility Services, $4,088-$4,906/month. Closes Aug. 27.

Retirement receptions: Friedman, Shober

- Marcia Friedman of Academic Records is retiring Aug. 31 after 31 years at Cal Poly, the last 18 in Records. A reception in her honor is scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m. the 31st in Fisher Science 285. Anyone unable to attend can forward cards to Tom Zuur (currently in Sequoia Hall 129) for delivery.

- A reception for Virginia Shober of the Kennedy Library’s Government Documents section will be held 1-2 p.m. Sept. 10 (her last day) on the grassy area across the street from the library by the Math and Science Building. Shober has worked in the library for more than 15 years. For more information, contact Joan Kennedy at ext. 5781 or jkennedy@calpoly.edu.

Shibata is interim director

Martin Shibata was appointed interim director of career services and testing services effective Aug. 4. Shibata served as assistant director for cooperative education for the past 14 years and has conducted numerous collaborative assessments with the colleges, Student Affairs, and administrative programs.

Early submittal requested for next Cal Poly Report

The next and final summer issue of the Cal Poly Report will be Sept 1. Articles for it should be e-mailed to polynews@calpoly.edu with the subject line “For Cal Poly Report” by 4 p.m. Aug. 27. However, because editor Bob Anderson is retiring (today) and new, part-time editor Susan McDonald will be taking over, it is requested that articles for the Sept. 1 issue, especially longer articles, be submitted by Tuesday, Aug. 24, if possible. For more information, call ext. 1511.