Honoring the Tradition:  
The Centennial Celebration

Fireworks blazing on bright banners campuswide set the tone for Cal Poly's yearlong Centennial Celebration, launched March 8, 2001, the 100th anniversary of the university's founding legislation.

The showcase event was "Celebrating the Century," a campus colloquium reviewing Cal Poly's progress from a polytechnic high school to a nationally renowned university. Other highlights included:

• An exhibit of historical photographs and memorabilia illustrating a century of university achievements, displayed in the Rossi Grand Lobby of the Performing Arts Center's Christopher Cohan Center

• A multimedia exhibit chronicling Cal Poly's past and present in the Capitol Building in Sacramento

• Cal Poly: The First Hundred Years, a retrospective volume of campus life and academic development

• A time capsule prepared by College of Architecture and Environmental Design students

The Founders Celebration in fall 2001 featured a Colloquium, Convocation, and All-University Picnic and Centennial Celebration, attended by more than 1,000 faculty members, students, staff, alumni, and invited guests, with academic representatives from around the world celebrating Cal Poly's place in California and U.S. higher education.

President Warren J. Baker moderated the colloquium, "Educating a Diverse Population for the Nation's Science- and Technology-Based Economy," with panelists David Baltimore, Nobel Prize laureate and Caltech president; Gary Bloom (CSC '82), Veritas Software chairman, president, and CEO; Rita Colwell, National Science Foundation director; and Richard DeMillo, Hewlett-Packard vice president and chief technology officer.
As part of Cal Poly's Centennial Celebration, Art and Design Professor Crissa Hewitt was commissioned to create a new ceremonial mace, a symbol of office for the Cal Poly president. During university ceremonies, the chair of the Academic Senate is the mace bearer.

The 10-pound mace, which took more than 250 hours to create, is constructed of sterling silver, bocote (a Mexican rosewood), crushed malachite, and cast gold (the last two representing Cal Poly's colors). The sterling and wood were hand formed, and on the handle's end a reversed version of the Cal Poly seal can be used to stamp impressions.

Hewitt, who earned her MFA in metalsmithing from Michigan's Cranbrook Academy of Art in 1975, began teaching at Cal Poly in 1976. She has studied silversmithing in Denmark and sculpture in Italy. From the beginning of her degree work at Cal State Northridge she has been fascinated with combining materials. Although she especially enjoys using fine hardwoods in her metal pieces, she has begun to add carved marble as well.

Cal Poly is fortunate to have two other pieces of Hewitt's art. A mural of metal, clay, and wood displayed in the entrance to the Robert E. Kennedy Library was created, under her supervision, by 15 students. At the entrance to the Performing Arts Center's Christopher Cohan Center is a marble sculpture she created during one of her trips to Pietrasanta, Italy. The sculpture commemorates recipients of the President's Arts Award, established to recognize student and community arts activists.

Hewitt has exhibited nationally, receiving several first-place awards in juried competitions. For 16 years she has created the honoree gifts presented at the KCBX Central Coast Wine Classic. The majority of her one-of-a-kind pieces and limited editions are commissioned works.
While History Day 2001 celebrated the road traveled by Cal Poly to its centennial anniversary, History Day 2002 looked forward to the university's second century and its increasing role in environmental stewardship, research, and education.

Physicist, environmentalist, and energy expert Amory Lovins (co-founder, CEO, and research director of the Rocky Mountain Institute, a nonprofit resource policy center) gave the keynote speech on "Sustainability and the Future of the Polytechnic University."

His talk followed a slide show and display by staff of the Cal Poly Land Project, an interdisciplinary faculty effort exploring the intersections of nature, science, technology, agriculture, art, and recreation on Cal Poly's 10,000 acres of land holdings. The Land Project showcased the course "Cal Poly Land: Nature, Technology, and Society" and Cal Poly Land: A Field Guide, a collaborative book of photos, drawings, maps, nature descriptions, and poetry.
Educating Tomorrow’s Science and Technology Leaders: 

The Baker Forum

In April 2002 the capstone of Cal Poly's yearlong Centennial Celebration was the inaugural Baker Forum, established by members of the President’s Cabinet to honor more than two decades of distinguished service by President Warren J. Baker and his wife Carly.

The two-day forum brought together more than 100 leaders from higher education, business, and government to discuss the significant role that polytechnic and science-and-technology universities play in our global society and ways in which this vital role might be strengthened.

The keynote address, “California at Risk: The Imperative for Science and Technology Educational Reform,” was delivered by Susan Hackwood, executive director of the California Council on Science and Technology, with commentary provided by Walter Massey, Morehouse College president, and Gary Bloom (CSC '82), president, CEO, and chairman of Veritas Software.

On the second day a panel moderated by Paul Zingg (Cal Poly provost and vice president for academic affairs) included Gary Bloom, Joseph Bordogna (deputy director, National Science Foundation), David Goodstein (vice provost and professor, California Institute of Technology), Susan Hackwood, Diana Natalicio (president, University of Texas at El Paso), and the late Keith W. Uncapher (senior vice president, Corporation for National Research Initiatives).

Panel and breakout sessions covered three main areas: defining the social/ethical responsibilities of polytechnic and science-and-technology institutions;

“Outstanding jobs in science, engineering, and technology are going to university graduates from other states and countries. Policies must be developed to significantly increase participation by all Californians in the science and engineering workforce.”

- Susan Hackwood (keynote speaker), executive director, California Council on Science and Technology
preparing a new, diverse generation of innovators, problem-solvers, and leaders; and establishing partnership strategies to support faculty and students, provide applied learning and research opportunities, and sustain economic growth and development.

Final recommendations by forum participants included:

- Education, government, and industry fostering greater awareness among parents and students of available opportunities in mathematics, science, and engineering
- Business, industry, and higher education improving K-12 outreach programs, teacher education and retention, and fostering real-world applications in math and science
- The state increasing support to community colleges as training grounds for math, science, and engineering associate and baccalaureate students
- Community colleges and universities promoting academic success among math, science, and engineering students by evaluating student needs, setting high academic expectations, tracking student progress, providing mentoring support, and targeting degree completion
- Education/government/industry creating partnerships based on clear goals that rest on viable financial and organizational models, yielding definable and measurable benefits
- Universities/industry exposing students to real-world case studies

"Cultural and ethnic inclusiveness in science, engineering, and applied fields enriches the practice of science. Each individual perceives physical phenomena through a different lens of sensibility, enriching and broadening the way that we interpret and understand the physical universe."

- Walter Massey, president, Morehouse College, and recipient at the Baker Forum of an honorary doctorate of science (conferred by the California State University and Cal Poly) and of the Wiley Lifetime Achievement Award (established by John Wiley & Sons Inc.)
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President’s Cabinet
Cal Poly is grateful to the President’s Cabinet for their support and vision in creating the Baker Forum.

Wiley Lifetime Achievement Award
John Wiley & Sons Inc. have generously established the Wiley Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes a national leader whose work exemplifies extraordinary leadership and lasting contributions to American higher education and public life.

Baker Forum Patrons
We gratefully acknowledge this generous cornerstone gift providing sustaining support for the Baker Forum.
Clifford W. Chapman and Gene A. Shidler

Inaugural Baker Forum Benefactors
We would like to thank the following individuals for their support of the inaugural gathering of the Baker Forum.
M. Richard and Joyce Andrews
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The following individuals are founding members of the Baker Forum Endowment, which supports this biennial gathering of leaders in education, science, and industry.
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Juan Gonzalez and Irene Hoffman

illustrating professional ethical challenges and appropriate responses

With support from the President’s Cabinet, Cal Poly is actively participating in several initiatives, including:

- A proposed study of math and science teacher education and retention in California by the California Council on Science and Technology and a Business/Higher Education Forum initiative to strengthen math and science education nationwide
- Support for incorporation into the state’s education master plan of key recommendations regarding workforce preparation and education linkages to business
- A targeted “student success” study to identify and eliminate barriers to student progress to degree at Cal Poly
- Ongoing support through the Cal Poly College-Based Fee Initiative (see story on page 23) and the Cal Poly Plan for student access to classes, investments in new faculty and faculty professional development, acquisition of new equipment, and support for student projects.

Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker (left) and CSU Board of Trustees Chair Laurence K. Gould (right) present an honorary doctorate to Walter Massey.