California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly to Dedicate ‘Alex and Faye Spanos Theatre’ May 7

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Entrepreneur, Cal Poly alumnus and San Diego Chargers owner Alex Spanos and his wife, Faye, will be honored at a special ceremony today at 2 p.m. in the newly-renamed Alex and Faye Spanos Theatre at Cal Poly.

The couple, longtime supporters of Cal Poly, donated $1.5 million in 2003 to help remodel the university’s H.P. Davidson Music Center and the 40-year-old Cal Poly Theatre, and another $100,000 to endow a scholarship named after legendary music professor and Mustang Band leader Harold P. Davidson and his wife, Rosalie, an accompanist who arranged music for campus choral groups.

Alex and Faye Spanos, who live in Stockton, will be guests of honor at the theatre dedication ceremony, which will include remarks by Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker, College of Liberal Arts Dean Harry Hellenbrand, longtime music professor and Music Department Chair Clifton Swanson. Alex Spanos is also scheduled to speak, and the program will include a musical tribute by the Cal Poly Mustang Band and a tap dance performance by students plus a videotape of Alex Spanos and Bob Hope tap dancing.

“We are honored to recognize alumnus Alex and his wife, Faye, for their extraordinary generosity to the university’s Music and Theatre and Dance departments,” said Baker. “Their gift is a testament to the spirit and history of a great department. Alex and Faye are to be congratulated for a lifetime of philanthropy and humanitarian achievements.”

About Alex Spanos
Spanos began his college career in 1941 in aeronautical engineering at Cal Poly. Despite his technical studies, Spanos was also interested in the arts and became the drum major of the Cal Poly Marching Band. He left Cal Poly to join the armed forces during World War II. Today, Spanos is recognized as one of the nation’s most dynamic business
leaders. He is credited with transforming a modest business venture into a corporate giant that is ranked at the top of the national housing industry. As chairman and owner of A.G. Spanos Cos, one of the few family-owned Fortune 400 companies, he presides over 10 companies with more than 500 employees. The Spanos organization has built more than 100,000 apartment units and owns more than 3 million square feet of commercial property in 18 states.

In 1984, Spanos assumed ownership of the San Diego Chargers, realizing a lifelong dream. Less well known is the fact that Spanos realized another lifelong dream by traveling the world -- golfing and singing and tap dancing -- with entertainer Bob Hope. Spanos met Bob Hope by chance in 1968 while playing golf in Palm Springs. “From then on, not a week went by in 35 years when Bob and I weren’t together,” Spanos said.

**About the Alex and Faye Spanos Theatre and the Davidson Music Center**

The couple’s gift will complete the renovation of the lobby and will help the university extend the current Davidson Music Center into a complex that can more effectively serve a wide range of programs, including a music program that serves 1,000 students a year and an expanding theatre and dance program.

The newly renamed Alex and Faye Spanos Theatre seats 500 and is the main stage for most student theatre, music and dance productions. When completed in 1961, the facility served as both a general auditorium and a large classroom. Since 1985, with the creation of Cal Poly Arts, the number of events held in the Theatre has tripled. The venue is now home to three academic courses and an average of 50 annual theatrical productions, averaging about 85,000 visits a year.