THIS PAST JUNE, STUDENTS ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY posted video messages thanking their favorite professors. Junior Joanna Woo said, that with Environmental Engineering Professor Rebekah Oulton’s encouragement, she hopes to follow in Oulton’s footsteps in the engineering field and give back to her community. Peter Loddengaard said that Industrial Engineering Professor Tao Yang “demands so much of students because he believes in us.” Another student, Shannon O’Keefe, said, “I’ve been inspired every single day by our awesome faculty members who challenge me in and outside of the classroom.”

“An analysis of the history of technology shows that technological change is exponential … we won’t experience 100 years of progress in the 21st century — it will be more like 20,000 years of progress.”

Let’s talk about faculty. We all know that faculty make up one part of the education triad along with students, and administration and staff. Online education and statewide fiscal compression have, however, challenged the traditional role of faculty.

From my perspective, faculty are central and essential to education. This is true whether learning takes place in the classroom or in co-curricular settings, such as clubs and team projects. Faculty are the lynchpin to learning because they create the conditions for student success, and they serve as education’s front line in the acquisition and dissemination of new knowledge.

The acquisition of new knowledge is a monumental task. Ray Kurzweil, futurist and director of engineering at Google, writes about the rate of accelerating intelligence:

”An analysis of the history of technology shows that technological change is exponential … we won’t experience 100 years of progress in the 21st century — it will be more like 20,000 years of progress.”

How do we keep up with 20,000 years of progress?

The fact is we don’t, unless we enable current faculty members to use their interests and expertise to develop new curriculum. They need release from teaching in order to delve into the expanding edges of their fields.

We also have to provide the facilities, equipment and technology needed by faculty for applied research. In addition to investing in current professors, we need to recruit new teachers hot off the front lines of technological advances.

Unfortunately, we cannot fund these needs under our current fiscal model, even as we continue to graduate the top engineers in the nation. We are also one of the most efficient universities in completing this task, ranking third in the nation for producing more bachelor’s degrees per faculty member.

To retain our edge, Cal Poly and the College of Engineering must find non-state revenue to invest in faculty. We need faculty endowments in support of our strategic initiatives that address vital and emerging market areas, such as cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing, applications in autonomous flight, Big Data and more.

I’m calling on you — our loyal alumni, donors and friends — to help us fund faculty and their needs. If you think back, I bet that you can identify a faculty mentor who was key to your own success. I hope you’ll now pay it forward by helping us support a new generation of inspirational teachers who will sustain, far into the future, our mission of “graduating in-demand, Day One-ready professionals.”

*You can see some of the videos at http://bit.ly/1JPRmYE.
STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND ACTIONS FOR 2015-16
Learn by Doing, Lead with Innovation

Our Mission: To provide an excellent Learn by Doing education and graduate in-demand, Day One-ready professionals.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AREAS OF DISTINCTION
- Autonomous Flight
- CubeSat
- Fire Protection Engineering
- Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning
- Human Motion Biomechanics
- Liberal Arts & Engineering Studies
- Regenerative Medicine
- Sustainable Waste Management
- Top-ranked Educational Programs
- Women in Engineering

PARTNERSHIPS
- Engage alumni, parents, friends and industry partners in meaningful activities and relationships.
- Further advance our collegewide initiatives: the Engineering Projects Building, Innovation & Entrepreneurship and the Learn by Doing Promise.
- Support departmental and interdisciplinary initiatives, including Advanced Manufacturing, Assistive Technologies, Big Data, Cybersecurity and Mobile Computing.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS
- Enhance diversity and promote inclusivity and well-being for faculty, staff and students.
- Advance our master’s degree programs, promote their value and establish a collegewide vision for their development.
- Implement high-impact practices that foster student success and improve graduation rates.

PRACTICES
- Review and improve our laboratory and computing environments for education, scholarship and services.
- Foster a culture of safety and security, drawing from the best practices of the profession.
- Empower teacher-scholar activities and grow external funds in support of faculty-student scholarship.
Cal Poly College of Engineering was named the nation’s top state-funded undergraduate engineering program by U.S. News & World Report. For 22 years, Cal Poly as a whole has been rated the best public-master’s university in the West.

Among public universities, Cal Poly ranked number one for its industrial/manufacturing engineering program. Its electrical engineering and mechanical engineering programs ranked second in the nation.

The college welcomed 1,246 new freshmen, who presented an average high school GPA of 4.04 and average SATs of 684 (math) and 623 (reading). Total enrollment included 5,422 undergraduates and 393 graduate students.

Donors to the College of Engineering made gifts and pledges totaling $12,741,260. Donations to the Cal Poly Fund for the college increased by almost $300,000, and the number of individual gifts increased by almost 500.

Parsons helped boost Innovation Quest (iQ) by sponsoring a $10,000 award to recognize innovative concepts in the architectural, engineering and construction arena, and providing an additional $10,000 to aid continued presentation of the iQ program.

A $50,000 grant from the Gene Haas Foundation will support scholarships for students interested in advanced manufacturing.

William J. “Bill” Britton, Parsons vice president for Cyber Strategy, joined Cal Poly as the visiting director of the Cybersecurity Center.

The Learn by Doing importance of student clubs was highlighted by the College of Engineering during #GivingTuesday, the nationwide 24-hour giving campaign. Alumni, parents, faculty, staff and students responded with gifts totaling close to $49,000.

Engineering Possibilities in College (EPIC) summer camp had a record attendance with 440 teens. Almost one fourth are the first generation in their families to attend college.

The college began featuring student projects on its Facebook page to provide greater exposure for student innovations.

The popular posts can be found at facebook.com/CalPolySLOEngineering.

**STUDENT SUCCESS**

College of Engineering student awards went to Nathaniel Homan (Environmental Engineering) for academic excellence, Haden Cory (Mechanical Engineering) for contributions to the college, Cristina Formaini (Computer Science) for contributions to the university, and Jeffrey Silva (Industrial Engineering) for service to the community. The Engineering Ambassadors were named College of Engineering Student Volunteers of the Year.

The Sales Engineering Club hosted the nation’s first National Society of Sales Engineering student chapter event.

Biomedical engineering students Kevin Campbell and Kristina Bishard won first place in the category of health, nutrition and clinical sciences at the 2015 California State University Research Competition.

More than 100 students attended the Grace Hop-

2014-2015 HIGHLIGHTS
Year. Sponsored by the Cal Poly Society of Women Engineers, the event showcased engineering disciplines for 250 middle school students.

- Engineers Without Borders – Cal Poly expanded its global reach with a new team in Malawi.

**FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Jesse Maddren (Mechanical Engineering) received the 2014 Provost’s Leadership Award for Partnership in Philanthropy for transforming Cal Poly’s Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning Program.

- Kristen Cardinal (Biomedical Engineering) was named the University’s Outstanding Faculty Advisor.

- Dale Dolan (Electrical Engineering) received the Lockheed Martin Endowed Professorship and was also named a Faculty Fellow by the Cal Poly Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship.

- Mechanical Engineering Professor Russ Westphal was awarded the $1,000 Raytheon Excellence in Teaching and Applied Research Award.

- Steffen Peuker received the university’s inaugural Learn by Doing Scholar Award for his proposal highlighting pedagogical innovations in team-based learning and service learning, in addition to a challenge to students to design their process for becoming a “world-class engineering student.”

- The Don & Paula Heye Award for Outstanding Club Advisor was presented to John Fabijanic (Mechanical Engineering).

- Helene Finger (Women’s Engineering Program) won the DuPont Minorities in Engineering Award from The American Society for Engineering Education. She also received two Advisor of the Year awards from Cal Poly’s Club Services and the Society of Women Engineers.

- Computer science professors Foad Khosmood, Alex Dekhtyar and Franz Kurfess worked with students to develop the advanced technologies powering Digital Democracy, an initiative of Cal Poly’s Institute for Advanced Technology and Public Policy.

- Sam Vigil (Civil & Environmental Engineering) was awarded the Richard I. Stessel Waste Management Award by the Air and Waste Management Association.

- John Pan (Industrial Engineering) was one of six faculty members to receive a Cal Poly Global Programs Development Grant.

**ALUMNI SUCCESS**

- Innovation Quest co-founder and broadband industry pioneer Carson Chen (B.S., Electrical Engineering, 1973) was named the College of Engineering Honored Alumnus.

- Jon Monett (B.S., Industrial Engineering, 1964), founder of Cal Poly’s Quality of Life Plus Laboratory, received Cal Poly’s Sandra Gardebring Ogren Leadership Award.

- Tim Weise (B.S., Aerospace Engineering, 1994; M.S., 1995) was part of the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory Dawn Flight Team that received the Smithsonian’s Current Achievement Award.

- William Swanson (B.S., Industrial Engineering, 1973) was among the honorees at the U.S. News & World Report’s 2014 STEM Leadership Hall of Fame.

- Katherine Van Dellen (B.S., Aerospace Engineering, 2008) received the Society of Women Engineers Distinguished New Engineer award.

- Silvia Osuna (B.S., Industrial Engineering, 2008) was honored as an outstanding role model in science, technology, engineering and mathematics at the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Conference.

- The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics presented the 2015 International Cooperation Award to Russell Cummings (B.S., Aerospace Engineering, 1985; B.A., Music, 1999) and Andrea Schuette.

- Mechanical engineering alumni Justin Russo and Marty Affentragner won the Grand Prize and the Audience Choice Award at the Central Coast Tech-Pitch.
According to Carole Hedden, Executive Editorial director of Aviation Week Executive Intelligence, “Cal Poly has traditionally been a preferred supplier of young engineering professionals to the aviation industry and for investment of research and development dollars.”

As an industry professional myself, I couldn’t agree more with this testimonial on behalf of Cal Poly faculty, students and graduates. As an alumna, I take great personal pride in this statement.

My belief in Cal Poly drives my involvement in the Dean’s Advisory Council (DAC), a group of more than 30 corporate executives who work collectively to support and promote the College of Engineering.

Boeing, my company, along with Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman have representatives on the DAC, but the council also includes members from a wide range of companies in the high-tech sector. These corporate partners include Haas, PG&E, Bechtel, Medtronic, Parsons, Raytheon, Waste Connections, Lam Research, Fluor, LinkedIn and others.

The DAC meets twice a year to assist the college in maintaining the excellence of its programs and to encourage it to continue its traditional hands-on approach to engineering education. Our goals are to serve as a communication link with outside constituencies, to keep the college current on the needs of the profession, to help leaders from outside the university to better understand the college’s mission and to assist the college in seeking public and private support. This year, we provided input on strategic planning issues, such as women in engineering, design and development of the proposed new projects workshop, the graduate programs, student success, and how to increase the four-year graduation rate.

Why is the DAC so important? Because it plays a vital role in keeping Cal Poly as the go-to university for new talent in industry — witness the perspective given by Carole Hedden of Aviation Week! The DAC helps keep the university aware of shifts in the economy and market areas, information needed to ensure that Cal Poly graduates are prepared to meet the needs of industry.

You don’t have to be a formal member of the Dean’s Advisory Council, however, to play an important part in supporting the college. I invite fellow alumni and friends to help open doors at your own companies. You can advocate for a matching gift program, for instance. Or, look for ways to develop a partnership between your company and Cal Poly, such as sponsoring student projects or recruiting on campus.

Whatever you can do on behalf of the college will result in strengthening Cal Poly’s reputation and enhancing opportunities for thousands of engineering students!

Beth Anderson
B.S., Aerospace Engineering, 1985
Vice President, Supplier Management Payloads & Systems
The Boeing Company
Budget sources represent state sources only and do not include private, non-state sources such as endowments and gifts.

Expenses exceed budget sources because non-state sources were used to cover expenses.

As of June 30, 2015, Cal Poly Foundation’s endowment stood at $190 million. Fiscal year investment returns for the endowment were relatively flat due to the drawdowns experienced in many global asset classes. These declines in asset value offset a modest gain in U.S. stocks and bonds, resulting in a drop in the total value of the endowment roughly equal to $8.1 million. Coincidentally, this was nearly the same amount paid out this past fiscal year from the endowment to programs and scholarships. The Cal Poly Endowment has paid out more than $33.3 million over the past five academic years directly benefiting university programs, faculty development and student scholarships.

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| # Gifts  | 3,418| 3,502| 3,466| 3,542| 3,212| 3,333| 3,683|

| Gift Total* | $5,865,899 | $5,170,616 | $4,687,577 | $8,845,483 | $6,025,603 | $13,642,824 | $12,741,260 |

*Gift total includes cash, in-kind gifts, bequests and pledges.
Cal Poly and Cal Poly Pomona’s “Soaring Stories” earned honors at the 126th Tournament of Roses Parade.

The Cal Poly Institute of Transportation Engineers was named the national organization’s top student chapter.

TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Cal Poly Society of Women Engineers (SWE) received the Gold Award, the highest award given to a collegiate section by the national Society of Women Engineers. This is the fourth consecutive year that Cal Poly has received the honor and the 11th time since 2002. In the Team Tech competition, Cal Poly won third place with a Walt Disney Imagineering project.

For the 53rd time since 1949, the Cal Poly float — a joint project of Cal Poly and Cal Poly Pomona, and the only student-built float — earned special honors at the 126th Tournament of Roses Parade. “Soaring Stories” won the Lathrop K. Leishman Trophy for the most beautiful non-commercial float.

Cal Poly’s Society of Civil Engineers received the prestigious Robert Ridgway Award, which recognizes the single most outstanding chapter out of 323 student groups in 16 countries. This is the fourth time in seven years that Cal Poly has won the award, including three consecutive years from 2009 to 2011.

Cal Poly won the Parker Chainless Challenge with a bicycle propelled by fluid power. The team included mechanical engineering students Jack Rechtin, Matt Pallotta, Kemper Whaley and Nathan Klammer.

The Cal Poly Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) was named the top student chapter in the nation for its growth in membership and wide array of activities.

A team of Cal Poly engineering students took second place in the...
Cal Poly’s Society of Civil Engineers received the prestigious Robert Ridgway Award, which recognizes the organization’s most outstanding chapter. Above, a group of Cal Poly engineers tour the Transbay Transit Center in San Francisco.

The Cal Poly Steel Bridge Team placed second overall at the American Society of Civil Engineers National Student Steel Bridge Competition. It was Cal Poly’s highest finish ever.

Four Cal Poly Engineers pedaled a bike propelled by fluid power to victory at the Parker Chainless Challenge.

Unmanned aerial vehicle competition at the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Student Design Competition. Twenty-two teams from around the world took part in the competition held in Montreal.

Computer science student Luis Cuellar and mechanical engineering students Matthew Philley and Keith Yu won first place at the Academic Olympiad sponsored by the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. The trio bested more than 60 collegiate teams.

Mechanical engineering seniors Juan Silva and Nelson Echeverry took first place in ASHRAE’s 2014 Applied Engineering Challenge for their project design to improve the indoor air quality for a typical low-income residence in Mexico City.

In its highest finish ever, Cal Poly placed second overall at the American Society of Civil Engineers National Student Steel Bridge Competition. Forty-seven collegiate teams competed in six categories at the event held in Kansas City, Mo.

The Cal Poly Concrete Canoe Team won the Innovation Award and earned second place overall at the National Concrete Canoe Competition. This marks the 10th consecutive year that Cal Poly has placed in the top five at the event referred to as the “America’s Cup of Civil Engineering.”

Led by the Cal Poly Concrete Canoe Team and Steel Bridge Team, which placed first in their respective categories, Cal Poly won first overall among 18 universities at the American Society of Civil Engineers regional competition at the University of Arizona-Tucson.
GRADUATING WITH HONORS: College of Engineering students Nathaniel Homan (Environmental Engineering) and Daniel Nishida (Electrical Engineering), pictured at left, were honored for academic excellence at Spring Commencement. Joining them on stage were Patricia Hansen and Nava Haghighi of the College of Architecture & Environmental Design.

CORPORATION & FOUNDATION DONORS

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Aaon Inc.
ACCO Engineered Systems
Air Filter/Control Inc.
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All Green
All Star Liquor
Altera Corp.
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American Society of Plumbing Engineers
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Bay Area Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors
National Association
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G Brothers Smokehouse
Gene Haas Foundation
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IN 2003, CARSON CHEN AND RICH BOBERG HELPED CO-FOUND Innovation Quest (iQ), a program that fosters entrepreneurship. This year, Grinds, an iQ-mentored startup, paid out dividends to company investors — and Chen and Boberg returned their investment profits as gifts to Cal Poly.

Believing fervently in innovation, entrepreneurship, Cal Poly and giving back, Chen and Boberg volunteer their time and expertise to iQ and give generously to support it. As a result of their efforts, thousands of students have enthusiastically participated, and Chen and Boberg have witnessed iQ come full circle. “I see iQ as the first successful startup of the startup activity at Cal Poly, now operating at a fever pitch,” said Boberg.

Known for its annual contest, iQ offers funding and assistance for the best ideas presented by students. The success of the program underscores the fact that creativity is prolific at Cal Poly. From prosthetics, to beverages, water purifiers and iPhone repair services, iQ has helped bring innovation on campus to light.

“The fact that so many proposals have developed into successful business operations demonstrates how creative business models have transformed these novel products and services into living entities,” said Boberg.

A coffee-based alternative to chewing tobacco conceived by business administration seniors and baseball teammates Matt Canepa and Pat Pezet, Grinds was the first-place iQ winner in 2009. “I’m very excited about Grinds and the many impactful startups iQ has spawned over the past decade,” noted Boberg. “Our ultimate goal was to have successful iQ alumni founders donating back to Cal Poly.”

“Our vision has always been about Cal Poly, its students, and embracing all that makes them great,” said Chen. “In addition, we have always tried to instill within the students a sense of social responsibility. As they succeed in their respective businesses, we hope they will give of their time to mentor new generations of enterprising students and stay engaged with the university.”

Nurturing iQ from ideation to fruition — and mentoring scores of Cal Poly students — has given Chen and Boberg more than the first modest dividend payout from Grinds.

“Seeing iQ generate new startups and helping spawn a very high level of entrepreneurship at Cal Poly has given me a sense that I’ve provided more than a simple donation — that I have given, with Carson, a perpetual benefit to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, our state, and our nation,” said Boberg.

Chen knows his own contributions have been meaningful when he sees “… student successes, stumbles and solutions, and their companies able to compete in the world market and then give back.

“The challenge of iQ now and for many generations to come is to never let aspiring young entrepreneurs lose the sparkle in their eyes that drives them forward with ferocity. As long as there is an idea untried, a thought not explored and a whim of a notion not taken to its rightful end, then we invite anyone to walk alongside our young entrepreneurs as they journey on their own innovation quest.”
IN HIGH SCHOOL, CINTHYA MENDEZ WAS A WOULD-BE pastry chef. When she visited Cal Poly with Upward Bound, her future changed. Having graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering in June, Mendez now works as a heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) project engineer with Western Allied Mechanical.

This seems an unlikely path for a young woman born in Mexico to parents who only speak Spanish. But they raised their son and three daughters, all outstanding students, to be independent. That quality served Mendez well when she found herself in freshman classes where she was the only non-white student and the only female. “I had to learn how to be assertive,” she said.

Clubs and competitions helped Mendez discover her voice, her passion and her leadership abilities.

“In my sophomore year I joined a multidisciplinary team competing in the Brocade Project Challenge. Designing an HVAC system for a data center was like solving a puzzle. I loved it, and the experience helped me identify my career path.”

The team took third place. The next year, Mendez organized the team — and they took first.

As Mendez amped up her club involvement at Cal Poly, she found additional benefits. “After I adjusted to the workload of college, I started to get more involved in clubs,” she explained. “Each year I became more involved, so by my senior year I had five leadership roles in four different organizations.

“I learned a lot from all my club involvement, both technical and soft skills, which helped in academics as well as in the transition into the workforce. Clubs expose you to unforeseen opportunities, too. I got my job with Western Allied Mechanical because I met company representatives on a field trip with ASHRAE.”

In addition to ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers), Mendez was active with the Multicultural Engineering Program; LSAMP, a program that supports students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields; Alpha Omega Epsilon, an engineering and technical science sorority; Engineering Ambassadors; and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). For two years, she also contributed to the SWE Team Tech project, serving as director her junior year, when Cal Poly placed third in the nation.

“That experience is really special to me,” Mendez said. “I had the opportunity to lead 50 talented and wonderful engineers to complete a project with Walt Disney Imagineering. Being director pushed me outside my comfort zone more than any other opportunity I’ve ever had. I tend to be reserved, but as the leader I had to be vocal and in charge. It was a different experience, though I am very thankful for it.”

Cinthya Mendez
Mechanical Engineering Senior

Xerox MEP Scholarship
Roy N. Poage Scholarship
Fluor College of Engineering Student Society Scholarship
Wingate Foundation Learn by Doing Scholarship
## IN-KIND GIFTS

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For more information, see www.giving.calpoly.edu/matching.
MEGAN BECKER IS THE KIND OF COMMITTED, well-rounded student that George Hoffman devoted his life to teaching. Hoffman, co-founder of Cal Poly’s Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering Department (IME), was a beloved member of the faculty from 1955-96. He gave generously to the department, and his support lives on via the George Hoffman Memorial Scholarship established by his family.

Becker, this year’s scholarship recipient, is a reflection of the Hoffman legacy. Attracted to Cal Poly for its Learn by Doing model and small-town feel, she left her home in Overland Park, Kan., determined to earn her degree in four years.

“I’m paying for college myself, so the scholarship aid goes directly to tuition,” Becker said. “Coming to Cal Poly was new for me, but I love it here — I’ve been given so many opportunities, including this scholarship, and I’ve had great classes, from my freshman year on.

“One of my first classes was IME 223, Fundamentals of Process Improvement. It was a project-based course. I worked with Doc Bernstein’s Ice Cream in downtown San Luis Obispo to improve their efficiency. It was so cool to work with a real client on real-world problems as a freshman!”

This summer, Becker has a paid internship with Black & Veatch, a global engineering company. During her interview for the position, Becker was able to detail her project and lab experience. “I told them, for instance, about working with lathes and mills in IME 144,” she explained. “Before coming to Cal Poly, I never even knew what lathes and mills were, let alone felt comfortable using them! This kind of hands-on experience definitely helped me get the internship.”

If coming to school in California from Kansas helped expand Becker’s horizon, going abroad for her junior year will certainly add to her cultural perspective. “I’ve always wanted to travel and I’m so excited about studying in San Sebastian, Spain,” she said. “I believe that engineers need a global perspective. I hope I can bring that perspective with me into industry, along with an ability to speak Spanish.”

In addition to academics, Becker cites club involvement as an important part of her Cal Poly education. “Clubs have really helped me feel a part of the university,” she said. “I’m active with the Institute of Industrial Engineers; in fact, I played on the club volleyball team. I also joined the Sales Engineering club, which has given me the chance to meet students from other engineering majors. And knowing the importance of scholarships myself, I serve as the scholarship chairwoman for my sorority, Gamma Phi Beta.

“Getting the Hoffman Scholarship is a special honor — I’ve taken so many classes in the Hoffman Auditorium. I’m very grateful.”

Megan Becker
Industrial Engineering Senior

George. E. Hoffman Scholarship

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING STUDENT IS NOT IN KANSAS ANY MORE

Megan Becker

GEORGE E. HOFFMAN SCHOLARSHIP: Faculty emeritus George E. Hoffman gave generously to Cal Poly’s Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering (IME) Department. When he passed away in 1997, his family established a scholarship in his name and an endowment that supports the Hoffman Auditorium, apt tributes to a man who demonstrated a concern for all students and a love for the IME Department.
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*deceased
FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT

Braxton Cullors knows exactly when she decided to become an aerospace engineer.

“I won a rocket competition that let me tour the Lockheed Martin facility where I saw a photo of an SR-71 Blackbird aircraft refueling in mid-flight. It amazed me,” recounted Cullors. “After that I got involved in NASA’s Robotics Competition and Space Academy. These experiences led me to aerospace engineering and, ultimately, Cal Poly.”

While Cullors’ imagination was sparked by the SR-71 photo, it was her parents who primed her for college. “Although both of my parents couldn’t afford college when they were young, it was always an expectation for my brother, sister and me,” she said.

“Mom has always been active helping people. She currently works at Pueblo Y Salud, an organization aimed at eliminating youth drug and alcohol abuse, and she was also an NAACP board member and Girl Scout program manager. When she was my leader, she made sure that we were exposed to what was then considered unconventional topics for Girl Scouts, including technology and engineering.”

Cullors didn’t immediately feel at home at Cal Poly, however. “I was a double minority, a woman and an African American. I was the last chosen for team projects,” she said. “For the first few quarters, I felt so alone, and I even struggled academically, which I had never done before. I reached out to the Multicultural Engineering Program (MEP), and I joined SBES, the Society of Black Engineers and Scientists.”

SBES and the MEP gave Cullors academic help as well as a solid support system. “As students of color, we all struggle with being culturally accepted. We have to prove that we met the criteria to get into Cal Poly, despite our skin tone. SBES members were welcoming and honest about their experiences, which helped me adapt.”

SBES also allowed Cullors to make her mark as a leader. She served as president this year and was elected to the 2015-16 regional board of the national society. “I never expected to be a leader, but now I’m yearning to give back,” she explained. “I’ve called admitted students during Poly Cultural Weekend, and with SBES, I’ve convinced other students to explore Cal Poly’s strong educational foundation. I believe there’s a place at Cal Poly for everyone.”

Pell grants and summer jobs, including a job at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center, have helped Cullors make ends meet. She works 10 hours a week as a work/study student, and she has received scholarships. “I’m so appreciative of the support — it inspires me to pay it forward,” Cullors said. “I see the great value of a Cal Poly education. I want to share the experience I’ve had with others. “Giving has a multiplying effect.”

Braxton Cullors
Aerospace Engineering Senior

SBES Scholarship
MIKE ADAMS HAS VISITED THE WRECK OF THE TITANIC IN AN UNDERWATER autonomous submersible, climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa, and viewed the curvature of the Earth from 80,000 feet up aboard a Russian MIG fighter.

While his taste in travel tends toward the adventurous, Adams’ support for Cal Poly is firmly grounded in the practical, Learn by Doing needs of students. In addition to supporting a scholarship, Adams has provided funds to purchase a milling machine and lathe. Installed in the Mustang ‘60 Lab, the equipment is used by students across the college who flock to the facility to fabricate class and team projects.

“I find it personally rewarding to see the actual outcome of giving,” said Adams, chief technology officer of SA Recycling, a metal recycling company founded by his father.

Although the 1980 engineering technology alumnus had fond memories of his student days at Cal Poly, he did not revisit campus until almost 30 years after earning his degree. “I wish I was still in school!” he said in reaction to seeing the university today. “The campus is just amazing. It really brought back a lot of great memories.”

While he recalls Cal Poly’s idyllic setting and cruising the Oceano Dunes in his jeep, Adams can also tick off numerous courses that made a lasting impression. “One of the most worthwhile classes I took was hydraulics and pneumatics,” he noted. “I continue to use what I learned in my job at SA Recycling. Electric motors class, welding, metallurgy, machine shop experience … all have come into play in my career at the scrap recycling yard.”

Headquartered in Anaheim, Calif., SA Recycling operates 50 recycling facilities in California, Texas, Arizona and Nevada. Adams has personally designed nearly every process now in use at the company. On a typical day, he might be engineering systems to use water to remove light trash from preprocessed material, speed the filling of a rail-to-sea container, or recover copper wire from a discard stream produced by the automobile shredder.

“My real-world, hands-on education gave me a strong skill set and has benefited me immensely. In fact, Cal Poly has had a lasting impact on my career,” he stated.

“In giving back to the university with the scholarship fund, I hope to help serious, outstanding students, especially those who have an interest in a career connected to the recycling industries. I also want students to have the benefit of state-of-the-art equipment, so they can experience what’s current in industry.

“Above all, I want to help keep Cal Poly and its graduates on top.”

Mike Adams (Engineering Technology, 1980)
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20 | CENG.CALPOLY.EDU
STUDENT THRIVES IN CAL POLY’S LEARN BY DOING ENVIRONMENT

TRAVIS TAYLOR WAS INSPIRED TO BECOME AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER BECAUSE OF A GREAT high school teacher and a hands-on class project. “Martin Emde was a former electrical engineer at Boeing,” said Taylor. “He had us work on an electric vehicle and really served as a project mentor. I was hooked.”

His high school experience set Taylor up for success in Cal Poly’s Learn by Doing program. “I’m from Haiku, Hawaii, but when I visited campus, it felt right,” he said. “Once here, I became involved in clubs, including the Power Engineering Society and SPIE-RMAP, which is the International Society of Optical Engineering/RF, Microwave & Photonics. I enjoy the tech talks and especially the club projects led by students.

“I’d really encourage all students to participate in clubs,” noted Taylor. “Club projects build on course material, but they also show you what you don’t know and give you a chance to figure out unfamiliar problems.”

Now a senior, Taylor is considering a career in analog and power electronics. Looking back on his academic development, he recalled making a power supply in a freshman class: “I had no idea how it worked, but now I’m learning about amplifiers and analog systems. I reviewed my circuit schematic from that first class, which was totally foreign then, but now I completely understand it! It’s exciting to see how far I’ve come.

“I’ll have a chance to apply my knowledge in a professional setting this summer. I have an internship at Texas Instruments in Santa Clara working as a product engineer in the analog and integrated circuit section.”

The paid internship will also help Taylor supplement what his parents are contributing for his college expenses. In addition, he has taken out loans and works 12 hours per week as an equipment technician in the EE Student Project Lab.

“It was emotionally freeing to receive the Michael Sass Memorial Scholarship,” Taylor said. “The award reassured me that by using my gifts to the best of my ability, I can lessen the financial burden for my parents. I can also invest in club activities and devote energy to spiritual growth as well, which I believe is an important addition to the academic and social aspects of college.

“I understand that this scholarship was established in memory of a student who was finishing bachelor’s and master’s degrees in electrical engineering when he passed away suddenly. “The family and friends of Michael Sass turned something tragic into a way to help others and have his memory live on. I’m humbled to be a recipient. My Cal Poly education will open doors for me — I can’t repay that gift, but I can be generous and make contributions to others in turn. I believe that everyone has the capacity to give.”

Travis Taylor
Electrical Engineering Senior

Michael Orion Sass Memorial Scholarship
RON JACKSON BELIEVES THAT EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO THE future of the U.S. and its ability to compete in the global economy. That belief plus his own educational experience at Cal Poly led Jackson to establish the Ronald & Doris Jackson Endowment with a bequest of $3 million.

Jackson came to Cal Poly after serving in the U.S. Air Force, where he recognized his own engineering aptitude and gained an appreciation of electronics.

“I took a two-year apprentice-ship in electronics at the Mare Island Navy Yard and did well. I also kept hearing from pilots about how electronics were the wave of the future,” explained Jackson. “So, I went to Cal Poly. I had a wonderful experience and was very active in IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) and served as president of the student chapter.”

After he graduated in 1966, Jackson landed a job with Union Oil Company. “My 33-year career was quite rewarding,” he said. He started as an electrical engineer in a refinery; was promoted to corporate engineering and construction; and served in various managerial roles, including manager of Engineering and Loss Control, project engineer, project manager and program manager.

Jackson also took many units of graduate work at UCLA and USC. “I competed with engineers that had achieved degrees from Cal Tech, MIT and other prestigious programs,” he said. “I found that I was as well prepared as they were. So I owe Cal Poly a large part of the credit for my achievements and success in my engineering career.”

In 1992, Jackson was named an IEEE fellow for his contributions to the development of electrical standards for the petroleum and chemical industry and for leadership in advancing the profession of electrical engineering. He also remained engaged as a volunteer and supporter of Cal Poly’s Electrical Engineering Department. The department awarded him the C.E. Knott Award for his service.

Jackson’s intent in founding the Ronald & Doris Jackson Endowment is to help Cal Poly keep up with technology. Fifty percent of the distributions will be used to improve and upgrade classroom facilities, labs and equipment.

The other half of the endowment will provide scholarships for junior and senior electrical engineering students who demonstrate a financial need or hardship.

“I want students to have the time to participate in a professional society, like the IEEE, which is so beneficial,” said Jackson. “I want to encourage students to apply themselves and contribute, as I did, to the profession.”
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YOUNG ENGINEER WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

AT FIRST GLANCE, THE FACT THAT ADAM SMITH SERVES AS VICE president of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) is a little confusing.

“I’m not even a little bit Hispanic,” noted Smith, “but I found the group to be so positive and supportive that I became an active member. I joined SHPE in community college and when I was elected president of that chapter, we grew the membership from about seven to more than 40 members.

“Going to community college in Stockton was a mixed blessing, in that it helped me realize the trials and tribulations people go through living in environments wrought with poverty and violence, and yet they still show up in big way to get a college education. I quickly discovered that SHPE is a vehicle to make a positive change that I wanted to see in the world. It’s given me a way to focus my desire to make a difference.”

Smith comes from Manteca, Calif., where his mother is a postal carrier. His dad is a truck driver and mechanic.

“From a young age, my mom pounded the idea of college into me,” said Smith. “Because of my paternally inherited interest in cars, I started in mechanical engineering at community college, but quickly discovered that I’m a terrible designer. Even after failing my first calculus class, I still knew that engineering was right for me. The SHPE community became my savior in that respect.

“Because I like to talk and motivate others, industrial engineering (IE) sort of screamed at me. Cal Poly is my dream school and I love the IE curriculum, which directly relates to what I’ll be doing in industry. I hope to build a career related to supply chain management, especially in Southeast Asia. There’s tremendous opportunity in China. It’s exhilarating. I’d love to be a part of the growing economic collaborations between the U.S. and China.”

Smith finances his education using grants and scholarships, and with help from his grandfather to fill in the gaps. “At the age of 24, I have eight years of work experience, but I’m so grateful for the scholarship aid I’ve received, which gives me time to step back from work and volunteer with SHPE and other groups,” he said.

“Volunteering to help others gives you perspective,” explained Smith. “It’s easy to get caught up in your own problems, but when you work with others who struggle, it reminds you how fortunate you are.”

Adam Smith
Mechanical Engineering Senior

Xerox Multicultural Engineering Program Scholarship

“At the age of 24, I have eight years of work experience, but I’m so grateful for the scholarship aid I’ve received, which gives me time to step back from work and volunteer with SHPE and other groups.”
JIM LOCKE CREDITS HIS CAL POLY education for an axiom that has proven useful throughout his life: “Engineers learn that when you encounter a problem, you need to figure it out and act on it.”

When figuring out their retirement plans, Jim and Betty Mae Locke saw the need to diversify income streams. In addition to pensions they would receive from Jim’s career and Betty Mae’s years as a math and physical education teacher, they added 401K plans, investments and rental properties.

And when they discovered the benefits of a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT), they acted, establishing their first CRT in 2002.

“It made so much sense,” said Jim, who earned his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering in 1959. “The trust pays us a fixed income for life and provided tax benefits. Plus, we were able to make a significant gift. We’re very happy to have found a way to give back to Cal Poly for my education.”

When Jim first entered Cal Poly, he knew immediately that Learn by Doing was right for him. “The hands-on project content really spoke to me,” he noted. “When I was on campus in the mid-50s, we all learned welding, running machine tools — basic skills that you can always market.”

After he graduated, Jim was hired by Lockheed Aircraft for his experience in design and development. His career followed that focus in a variety of companies, including Aerojet General Corp., Pacific Telesis and others. “In each position, I kept my learning curve going,” he explained. “One of my Cal Poly professors told us, ‘By the time you graduate, you will mentally ask why or how to everything you see.’ That opened the door to lifelong learning.”

Betty Mae also ascribes to lifelong learning. “In order to get an A in my physical education class, students had to submit a report on the physical activity they did outside of school,” she said. “It could be walking the dog, mowing the lawn, anything, but it made them think about incorporating physical activity into everyday living, an awareness that I hope they carried throughout life.”

This year, after learning about another opportunity for a CRT and assessing the downsides of being landlords for 36 years, the Lockes established a Charitable Remainder Flip Unitrust. They placed a rental property in a trust, and then sold the property, “flipping” the asset to a cash CRT.

“We eliminated the problem of being property managers and fixit grunts and gained all the benefits we realized with our first CRT,” explained Jim. “In addition, after we’re gone, our daughters will continue to receive the interest income from the trust for their lifetimes.

“The value of our first CRT continues to grow, so we know it is well managed. Betty Mae and I were again delighted to find a philanthropic vehicle that serves our needs, provides income to us and eventually our daughters, and benefits Cal Poly.

“It’s a great deal.”
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Members of the Engineering Student Council were thankful for the support from donors to the College of Engineering. Back row from left: Jamie Forslin, Bo Oelkers, Austin Graham, Curtis Hodgson and Ashwin Ramanathan. Front row from left: Rachel Jakob, Esha Joshi, Rob Potter and Mairead Blaes.