Making History

IN GIVING

The Oppenheimers Pledge $20 Million to College, Continue to Give Back

Cal Poly’s agricultural landscape will be transformed with new facilities and enhanced classrooms and labs, thanks to the generosity of alumni Peter Oppenheimer (B.S., Agricultural Business Management, 1985) and Mary Beth Oppenheimer (B.S., Home Economics, 1986).

The couple announced last November their gift of $20 million to the College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences, marking the largest cash gift in the university’s history.

The gift will be used to build critical new facilities for the college and modernize many of the existing teaching units in the Animal Science Department, including a new Equestrian Pavilion. It will also enhance the college as a whole by funding a new 70,000-square foot Agricultural Events Center, as well as a farm store to sell student-produced meat, poultry, dairy, wine, crop and horticulture products.
The updated facilities will greatly enhance the college’s ability to maintain its hallmark hands-on teaching methods for students for many generations.

“Cal Poly’s Learn by Doing philosophy had a tremendous impact on our education and lives.”

— Peter Oppenheimer

Peter Oppenheimer spent 18 years at Apple, the last 10 as Chief Financial Officer. He retired in September 2014. Currently, he serves as a director of Goldman Sachs and the Cal Poly Foundation.

The couple now lives on the Central Coast and remain committed to their alma mater.

J & G Lau Family Meat Processing Center

Peter and Mary Beth Oppenheimer’s gracious $20 million donation will fund the construction and improvement of several new facilities on campus — positively impacting and shaping the lives of future students.

Prior to their latest gift, the Oppenheimers were a principal donor to the J & G Lau Family Meat Processing Center. Just over four years ago, it opened as a fully functioning plant with the capabilities to involve students in all stages of meat processing from harvesting to packaging.

Designed to supplement students’ classroom instruction, the center gives them the opportunity to apply learned principles to industry-like practices and experience.

“This quiet need exists and we would like to ensure that students have access to the basic essentials, including food and personal necessities,” said Mary Beth Oppenheimer.

To make a donation, please contact Russ Kabaker at rkabaker@calpoly.edu or call 805-756-6601.