



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.

DONOR PROFILE: PETER & MARY BETH OPPENHEIMER

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

"Cal Poly's Learn by Doing philosophy had a tremendous impact on our education and lives," Peter Oppenheimer said. "We want to help modernize and expand Cal Poly's animal operations and build new facilities to offer future students an even better experience than our own."

The Oppenheimer's \$20 million gift wasn't the end of the couple's generosity. They have continued to offer support for the Animal Science Department's Equestrian Center, overseen by longtime lecturer and equine specialist Pete Agalos.

"They both really like horses and expressed an interest in buying one or two," Agalos said. "On a recent visit, after showing them the colts that were for sale, Peter asked what we needed around here. I gave them a lengthy wish list of items the unit could use."

The Oppenheimers not only listened; they delivered. The department has been able to purchase new equipment that will benefit the students' Learn by Doing experiential education.

"Peter and Mary Beth Oppenheimer's generous gift reflects their confidence in the future of the College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental Sciences and true belief in our Learn by Doing mission," said Andy Thulin, dean of the college.

The Oppenheimers continue to support areas of ongoing need that have been dear to their hearts for years, including the Cal Poly Scholars program, the university's meal voucher program, and a new Food Pantry. These programs are all aimed at addressing the basic student needs of physical nourishment and tuition, so that the students can focus on making the most of their studies.

"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.

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.

"Being able to work and learn in a modern meat processing facility with U.S. Department of Agriculture inspectors has influenced and transformed my career path," said Joyce Paxton (B.S., Animal Science, 2015). "I chose Cal Poly because of its hands-on learning approach, and having modern facilities is paramount for Learn by Doing."

The J & G Lau Family Meat Processing center has made a dramatic impact on students' lives.

"The \$6.5 million facility, funded almost completely by private donations, is a prime example of how individuals and corporations with a common goal can come together and make transformational impacts on students' futures," said Dean Andy Thulin. "We are extremely grateful for all of those who made the J & G Lau Family Meat Processing Center a reality and look forward to the new facilities to come."

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