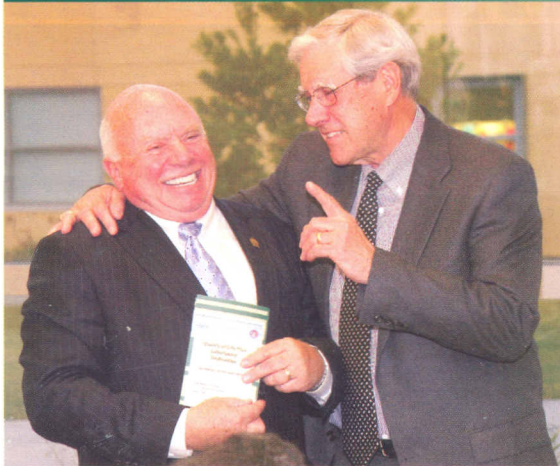


ENGINEERING Advant

College of Engineering, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, California, Spring 2014



Jon Monett (IE '64) jokes with President Warren Baker at the Quality of Life Plus Lab opening.

Alumnus founds lab to improve quality of life for injured vets

Jon Monett, a Cal Poly 1964 industrial engineering alumnus, recently donated \$500,000 from the Monett Foundation to the College of Engineering.

These funds will be directed towards the Quality of Life Plus Laboratory (QL+), a multidisciplinary facility dedicated to the development and application of technology to improve the quality of life of wounded and disabled veterans of the military, law enforcement and intelligence organizations.



A veteran of both the U.S. Air Force and a 26-

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Steel Bridge team member Sofia Landis (CE) grinds a part in the Mustang '60 Lab. At right: Ross Galon (ME) wheels a project through the lab's double doors.

Mustang '60 Shop opens doors to students

Cal Poly Engineering students have a brand new place to saw, grind, sand, drill, weld, bend and shape metal, wood, plastic and other materials as they work on their award-winning projects: the Mustang '60 Project Shop in the Bonderson Projects Center.

Dedicated in recognition of 1965 mechanical engineering alumnus **John Neilsen** and his wife Connie, who supported equipping the shop with an upgrade challenge fund, the space was named

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was an emotional time, and John Westcott, Connie and I felt that dedicating a Mustang '60 Project Shop would be a way to remember those fallen students."

At the dedication ceremony, Cal Poly Engineering Dean **Mohammad Noori** presented the Nielsens with an engraved plaque and said, "We are enormously grateful that you recognize how important it is to preserve and enhance project-based learning, a paradigm which has made Cal Poly a leader in engineering education worldwide."

"By choosing to name this facility the Mustang '60 Project Shop, you have also gone to the heart of Cal Poly, by recognizing a sad, but important event in the history of the university. You have given us a way to embrace those fallen students. I know that past students, especially alumni of that era, will be touched and will find this tribute healing, while this recognition will enrich the historical legacy of Cal Poly for future students."

QL+ Lab

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year career with the Central Intelligence Agency, Monnett envisions QL+ as becoming an important center, where Cal Poly students and military develop life-enhancing products and techniques for those who have served their country.

During his years with the CIA, Monnett focused on developing tools for the collection of intelligence. He rose in the agency to the position of senior executive. On his return to civilian life, Monnett started a company that became known as Telemus Solutions, a global security consulting and intelligence advisory services provider.

"When I sold Telemus last July, I started to think about ways to acknowledge the role Cal Poly played in my life and to show my appreciation for the men and women who, in the course of serving their country, have been wounded or disabled," said Monnett.

"The lab is needed because companies tend to focus on products with high revenue potential, but often the problems affecting vets are much smaller. I want to give Cal Poly students—who are so good at solving problems—the opportunity to initially focus on prosthesis. QL+ is the first step and will hopefully open the door for others to join this effort." ■

Dean **Mohammad Noori**, left, presents **John Nielsen (ME '65)** with a plaque at the Mustang '60 Shop dedication as **Connie Nielsen**, right, and **Jessica Paz** look on.

The Nielsens established the John & Connie Nielsen Student Projects - Lab Upgrade Challenge Fund in 2007, committing \$240,000 as a challenge to fellow alumni and friends. The Fund matches all unrestricted gifts to complete shops in the Bonderson Projects Center and the Aero Hanger, which combined are expected to accommodate more than 500 students from more than 30 majors per quarter.

Nielsen, who retired from General Mills after design-

training the shops and working with student clubs," says John. "What excited me most was the enthusiasm of the students and the projects they develop—much more sophisticated projects than what we did in the '60s."

Several student groups, including Cal Poly's Steel Bridge and Rose Float teams, put the Mustang '60 lab to use immediately after the dedication, although it was still undergoing some construction and wasn't expected to be completely operational until summer quarter.

"Projects are what make Cal Poly students stand out," said Nielsen. "When the students go out into the work field, they will already know how to build things, solve problems in the real world, and actually operate the machines and manufacturing processes required to make the project work." ■



Cal Poly president Warren Baker, left, and Jon Monnett (IE '64) unveil a plaque for the new Quality of Life Lab as Dean Mohammad Noori looks on.

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