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The faculty and staff of the Robert E. Kennedy Library have embarked on an exciting journey of discovery. Our goal is to invent the academic library of the 21st century.

We are not alone in this quest: university libraries all over the country are developing new services and collections and adopting new technologies to meet the changing needs of students and faculty in this fast-growing age of information technology.

We all know and love the image of the traditional library: rows of interesting books and journals, quiet nooks for study and reflection, knowledgeable and helpful librarians to answer questions and guide research. Much of that cherished image remains unchanged. But it must adapt to the fast-paced needs of students using portable computers and mobile communication devices, the proliferation of digital information (only some of which is on the Internet), and the requirement to do most class assignments as part of a project team. We also grapple with what it means to be the university library on a polytechnic campus that prides itself on its learn-by-doing ethic.

All of these challenges mean that we live in the most interesting of times. We thought that you might be interested, too, so this publication is our way of sharing just a few of the things we are doing to help Cal Poly. Enjoy.

Michael D. Miller
Dean of Library Services
AGRIBUSINESS STUDENT FEES HELP SUPPORT WORLD-CLASS COLLECTIONS

Each year since 2002, agribusiness students in the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences have provided the Robert E. Kennedy Library with $35,000 from their student fees to expand and enhance research collections in agribusiness-related areas. This collaborative effort between the Department of Agribusiness and the Kennedy Library has been so successful that in 2007, Dr. Wayne Howard, Department Chair, increased the annual allocation to $40,000.

Frank Vuotto, the business and agribusiness librarian, explains that these funds allow the Kennedy Library to purchase high-end databases and specialized resources that would otherwise be cost prohibitive. “The student fee funds have had a dramatic impact on research quality while providing a win-win environment for all parties,” says Vuotto. “Through this partnership, students gain hands-on experience with real-world business tools, making them highly employable in today’s competitive job market. Industry wins by hiring new graduates who can conduct effective, high-level research in a vast digital landscape of information overload and questionable online content.”

“Frank helps us to identify and buy the information that enables our students to hit the ground running,” says Dr. Howard. “It is important for our students to know how to access and use cutting edge information on the agri-food markets: what products are sold in which markets, knowing the players, and understanding the underlying trends affecting our global market.”

Additionally, the agribusiness student fee money directly aligns with and underscores Cal Poly’s teacher-scholar model by providing the funds needed to secure scholarly and market-level resources that meet the research needs of both students and faculty. To view the many agribusiness world-class resources available at Cal Poly, visit the Agribusiness Research Portal. lib.calpoly.edu/staff/fvuotto/agb_index.html
At the heart of Cal Poly's distinctive approach to faculty and student service is the College Librarian program. Each college has a designated expert College Librarian who works with faculty and students to assure student success.

In addition to selecting resources for library collections, Cal Poly's College Librarians conduct in-class instructional sessions, collaborate with faculty to create assignments that help teach critical information skills, and develop tutorials and Web sites that allow students to assess and acquire these skills. Last year, college librarians taught over 370 instruction sessions, reaching over 17,000 students. As members of the faculty, Cal Poly librarians work alongside other teaching and research faculty on campus initiatives and committees, and contribute to the pursuit of Cal Poly's strategic goals and vision of a 21st-century polytechnic university.

The newest College Librarian, assigned to the College of Science and Mathematics, is Jeanine Scaramozzino. Jeanine joined Cal Poly and the College Librarians team this fall. Prior to joining Cal Poly, Jeanine was a research librarian for Physics, Astronomy and Mathematics at the University of California, Irvine. She previously worked for three years as a library research specialist at Stanford’s marine biology library. "I'm excited about joining the Robert E. Kennedy Library and Cal Poly communities. I hope my background and knowledge will contribute to advancing the College of Science and Mathematics research and teaching missions," says Jeanine. “I look forward to instructing students in information literacy and facilitating learning, research and discovery in classrooms and laboratories throughout the College.”

In addition to receiving her MLS from San José State University, Jeanine has completed both undergraduate and graduate degrees in marine biology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Jeanine brings to Cal Poly both her exceptional skills in information literacy support and a strong knowledge and love of science.

[Side note: Learn more about the college librarians at: lib.calpoly.edu/research/librarians/]

CollegE Librarians
A New Role for a New Age
The Robert E. Kennedy Library has launched the DigitalCommons@CalPoly, an online initiative that provides a centralized location to preserve and provide unlimited access to the rich variety of intellectual and scholarly work produced at Cal Poly. Visit the digital archive online at http://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu.

The DigitalCommons@CalPoly contains research from a variety of disciplines including agriculture, architecture, business, education, engineering, liberal arts, mathematics and science. The DigitalCommons also serves as the digital archive for campus-hosted events including the UC/CSU/CCC Sustainability Conference 2008 and campus journals, like Moebius (College of Liberal Arts) and Focus (Department of City and Regional Planning).

By collecting scholarship in one central online location, Cal Poly showcases faculty research to new audiences, including potential students, fellow faculty, funding agencies, and other universities. And because DigitalCommons@CalPoly is optimized for fast and accurate indexing by Google and other Internet search engines, it’s easy to find and download content.

DigitalCommons was launched in October 2007 with support from the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. “Faculty have been very receptive to the DigitalCommons service. They get excited when they see how easy it is for them to share their current and past work with students and colleagues,” says Marisa Ramirez, Digital Repository Librarian. “For authors who don’t have time to contribute digital copies of their research, we’ll scan their work, create PDFs, contact publishers for copyright permissions, prepare metadata to enhance search and retrieval, and upload and create entries.”

Interested faculty should contact Marisa and provide citations of their work. “We’ll do the rest. We’ll post any materials they have authored: journal articles, conference proceedings, presentations, white papers, essays, technical reports, and campus publications.”

For additional information, contact Marisa at mramir14@calpoly.edu.
From their location on the fourth floor of the Kennedy Library, the staff of Special Collections and University Archives is dedicated to finding and preserving unique historical materials. Researchers from universities across the United States and seven countries have traveled to the Kennedy Library to use their archival collections of manuscripts, rare books, architectural drawings, and photographs. Special Collections materials have even been featured on the BBC, CNN, PBS, A&E, and in international print media.

Choosing what to preserve and catalog for use is a big part of the archives staff’s responsibility. Collections must relate to disciplines taught at Cal Poly. Major collecting areas include:

- Architects and architecture in California
- Fine printing and graphic arts
- Local, regional and California history

Holdings include the papers and drawings of noted California architects Julia Morgan, William F. Cody, and Charles Butner; the papers of Morgan biographer Sara Holmes Boutelle; collections of John Steinbeck and Robinson Jeffers first editions; the Painted Rock Pictograph Collection; papers of noted environmental activists Ian McMillan and Kathleen Goddard Jones; the California Fairs Collection; and the Manzanar Collection and the Smith Family Papers on World War II.

Copies of guides to the current collections are available for download at lib.calpoly.edu/specialcollections/ The guides are also available at the Online Archive of California.

Stop in and learn more about your favorite collection. Special Collections is open from 9 am–4 pm, Monday through Friday. Appointments are not needed for individuals, but are encouraged for groups. Contact Ken Kenyon at (805) 756-2305.

[DID YOU KNOW?] The library has over 1000 seats, 20 collaborative study areas, 300+ computers, and 20 loaner laptops.

CHECK OUT THE GUIDES AT THE ONLINE ARCHIVE OF CALIFORNIA
Rosey Parks joined the Robert E. Kennedy Library in May as the Director of Library Advancement. In this position, Rosey leads the Library’s efforts to secure private support for its programs and also works as a member of University Advancement’s campus-wide fundraising staff. Rosey was the Associate Director of Cal Poly’s Alumni Relations Office for the past several years and was the guiding hand behind the very successful alumni travel program.

Rosey holds a Bachelor of Music Education Degree from Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory of Music and a Masters of Education and Education Specialist in counseling and higher education administration from the University of Virginia.

The Word About the 24-Hour Room

Fall quarter of 2007 saw the inauguration of a new 24-hour study room at the Kennedy Library. The following spring quarter students participated in a voluntary on-line survey regarding how they felt about the 24-hour study room.

- “I am a proud 24-hour study room patron and love having somewhere to go study when I get too tired to study anywhere near my bed.”
- “The library is the only place in town that any one of any major can come and study 24 hours.”
- “It’s a good place to go to study, eat or meet people for a group project.”
- “Thank you so much for the 24-hour study room! If I had to cram in my apt., I would have bombed some midterms and finals!”
Fall Quarter 2008 began with many upgrades in technology at the Kennedy Library. Some changes were very visible to students and faculty, such as the eight new collaboration rooms with digital display capability and a new media presentation corner on the second floor. Others were behind-the-scenes upgrades that raised the level of technology and research capabilities.

The role of technology in the Library has changed dramatically. “High tech” in the Library used to mean a computer-based catalog and microfiche machines. Now technology is focused around creating faster and wide-ranging search possibilities and more efficient online tools. “The trick is to make searching seamless and intuitive while yielding the most effective and scholarly results,” says Dale Kohler, Director of Library Information Technology.

In partnership with Cal Poly’s Information Technology Services, the Library improved the network infrastructure in the building, upgrading wired network speeds, wireless access, and digital storage. This year students can watch for access to five additional PolyCard print stations and new laptops for checkout, as well as a remodel and expansion of the PolyConnect open access computer lab. “The goal of Library Information Technology is to expand and improve services and resources, create a welcoming environment, and enable students to succeed and thrive,” says Dale.

“THE TRICK IS TO MAKE SEARCHING SEAMLESS AND INTUITIVE WHILE YIELDING THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND SCHOLARLY RESULTS”
"Wow!" A student stands looking across the sunny expanse of the renovated second floor of The Kennedy Library in September 2008. Along windows looking out at golden hills and fall trees, students are gathered on comfortable, pale-green banquettes, interspersed with big tables where they’ve spread out their wireless laptops, problem sets, and books. Some are conversing quietly or helping each other with homework. Nearby, groups of students can be seen working together in spacious glass-enclosed study rooms, each equipped with movable chairs, tables, whiteboards and flat screen monitors. A dozen students are enjoying café-style seating in a light-filled room looking out towards Poly Canyon Village; faculty and students are meeting over coffee and pastries near the display of today’s newspapers.

What this student is witnessing is the transformation of the Kennedy Library’s Learning Commons. Throughout summer 2008 Kennedy Library students and staff spent hundreds of hours relocating and consolidating print book and journal collections into the Library’s quieter upper three floors. The result: the new, expanded Learning Commons, anchored on one end by students and staff who provide expert technical support at the Learning Commons Desk, and on the other by Kennedy Library’s latest partner: Julian’s Café and Patisserie. In between are over 200 new chairs and soft seats inviting both individual and informal group study as well as eight state-of-the-art group study rooms where students can share their work, collaborate on projects, and practice presentations.

The goal of the expanded Learning Commons is to provide students with more diverse learning environments that support students at
every stage of their work. On the menu: natural light, high-speed wireless access, ample room to spread out books for focus or reflection and spaces to meet and work in groups. That’s not to mention excellent coffee, nourishing food, and opportunities to relax in friendly company.

Everywhere across the nation and the world, academic libraries are evolving and becoming campus hot spots for informal learning. University libraries are now “hybrid” spaces where books, people, and digital resources all coexist and flourish, along with previously forbidden food and drink.

The expanded Learning Commons is not only a new resource supporting current students - it’s also a pilot for future library and academic spaces and student support. Student feedback from the expanded Learning Commons will help inform the design of a new Library and Academic Center to be built within the next five years. This 112,000 square foot addition will be home to expanded library programs in information use and retrieval, as well as a new campus Center for Inclusive Excellence, made up of student support units that will include the Multicultural Center, the Honors Program, and the Disability Resource Center. Stay tuned for more exciting developments!
The Robert E. Kennedy Library’s Learning Commons provides a unique venue for student and faculty collaboration by offering exhibition space where technology, scholarly and artistic expression, and diverse perspectives converge in a shared dynamic hub.

Work by students and faculty, in everything from architecture to fine arts and biology to planetary science has a home in the Kennedy Library’s exhibition space dubbed “Gallery at the Commons.” The Library provides the space and a professional curator to provide students, faculty, and alumni with a venue where they can exhibit their scholarly and creative work. In the spirit of Cal Poly’s learn-by-doing philosophy, there are also opportunities for student curators and those majoring in design to work with the Library to develop exhibitions by assisting with installation and graphic design.

Housed on the second floor, the exhibition area offers 880 square feet of open gallery space partially illuminated by natural light. Past projects displayed have included architecture exhibitions, works from the Ethnic Studies Department, and contributions from Cal Poly alumni.

Now in its second year, the “Gallery at the Commons” continues to foster collaborative projects with faculty, students, and cultural organizations. The current exhibition, “Mars Within Reach: Arctic Melodies and Science from the Red Planet,” allows visitors to touch, hear, and interact with data from several recent Mars missions. The exhibition blends planetary science, engineering, and music to demonstrate scholarship related to the exploration of the Martian Arctic, with special attention to making the content accessible to persons with visual impairments. Special Collections Assistant Catherine Trujillo worked with Cal Poly physics professor Dr. John Keller, composer Marty Quinn, the NASA Mars Exploration Program at JPL, the NASA Phoenix Mars Lander Mission at the University of Arizona, and Cal Poly’s Disability Resource Center to develop the Mars exhibition.

Learn about past and future exhibitions online. [lib.calpoly.edu/gallery](http://lib.calpoly.edu/gallery)
NOW AT THE GALLERY

THE CURRENT EXHIBITION

“Mars Within Reach: Arctic Melodies and Science from the Red Planet”

Allows visitors to touch, hear, and interact with data from several recent Mars missions. The exhibition blends planetary science, engineering, and music to demonstrate scholarship related to the exploration of the Martian Arctic, with special attention to making the content accessible to persons with visual impairments.

PAST EXHIBITS

ChismeArte ¡Y Que!
Spring 2008

retro·spective
Fall 2007

M.DME Modern
Sustainable Living
Fall 2006

Designing Interactive Systems for Learning Environments
Spring 2006

[Side Note:] To learn more about the Gallery at the Commons visit:
lib.calpoly.edu/gallery
MEET TYSON TATE:
STUDENT ASSISTANT EXTRAORDINAIRE

What does Tyson like about working in the Library? “There are so many things,” he said. “I’ve had some great opportunities to increase my skills and work on real-world projects. When I start a job search, I’ll have already had some great work experience.” He adds that flexible work hours and great coworkers are additional benefits. “Everyone in this office is an absolute pleasure to work with.”

Growing up in El Dorado, California, Tyson knew he wanted to attend Cal Poly from the time he was in the fourth grade. Since he always had an interest in computers, Cal Poly was a natural choice, having been rated as one of the “best in the west” for computer science. Because of a keen interest in web design, after two and half years as a computer science major Tyson switched to art and design with a concentration in graphic design. This proved to be a wise decision: in 2008 Tyson won a Web design contest held by Web Associates, a leading California web development company located in San Luis Obispo. His knowledge of both design and technology is a unique combination of skills.

In addition to fulltime study and working in the Library, Tyson belongs to Kappa Kappa Psi, which is a co-educational honorary fraternity, the Triathlon team, and the Cal Poly marching band. “I spend a great majority of my time training and racing in triathlons,” says Tyson. “I’m currently training for the Arizona Ironman.”

With graduation on the horizon for June, 2009, Tyson is happy to let everyone know that he’ll soon be in the job market. Employers: take notice!
Steve Pearson knows what it’s like to be a library student assistant. As a freshman at Cal Poly in 1982, Steve started working in the Learning Resources and Curriculum Department – now the Teachers’ Resource Collection – and stayed until he completed his computer science degree.

Steve felt so strongly about his Library experience that he set up a Library Student Assistant Endowment in 2000. The endowment was created for the dual purpose of providing the Kennedy Library with additional student assistant funding and to expand the Library’s capacity to employ students. “Gifts that benefit student assistants offer a unique opportunity to touch a student’s life and to benefit the Library,” says Steve.

“As a longtime library student assistant, my experiences were broad and challenging. After my supervisor saw my capabilities, she added a number of responsibilities, including cataloging some of the fine art print collections. Cal Poly’s Audio Visual department trained me to maintain and do first level repairs on media and AV equipment. My work experience was valuable both for me and for the Library.”

Steve’s work at the Kennedy Library helped to develop a lifelong interest in libraries. He currently volunteers in the circulation department of the Cedar Mill Community Library, a local nonprofit cooperative community library in Portland, Oregon. He joined their library association board in 2006 and is currently serving as the board secretary.

The Kennedy Library employs more than 50 students every year, at an annual cost of over $180,000. Most units at the Library use student assistants, with jobs ranging from retrieving archival materials in Special Collections to offering technical support in computer labs. Each position offers the student the opportunity to learn a useful skill while also helping them meet the rising costs of a college education. “Working in the library can broaden the scope of a student’s education, not only by providing a young person with a unique work experience, but also by exposing them to sources of knowledge,” says Michael Miller, Dean of Library Services.

The Library Student Assistant Endowment generates income that is used to fund student employees. “My employment at the Library paid for the bulk of my Cal Poly education expenses,” says Steve. “I hope that others will help by making donations to support our student assistants.”
Perfect for History Buffs:
The University Archives

Are you interested in seeing the beanies worn by Cal Poly freshmen in the 1930s? What about reading President Warren J. Baker’s latest speech? If you need to research Cal Poly’s history or just enjoy looking into the past, then visit the University Archives. You’ll find original and digital collections documenting the history, growth, and development of Cal Poly. Established in 1978, University Archives is housed on the fourth floor of the Kennedy Library.

The University Archives provides information on campus life, organizations, and activities; the physical campus, its facilities, and the built environment. You can also learn about campus lore and traditions.

University Archives’ major holdings include 20,000 historical photographs, yearbooks, presidential speeches, and books written by Cal Poly faculty members. During the coming year, the University Archives staff will be working to digitize and make available photographs from every decade in the University’s history.

lib.calpoly.edu/universityarchives
What is better than a generous gift to Cal Poly? A gift that has been doubled thanks to a corporate matching gift! Many employers, such as PG&E, AT&T, Boeing, and State Farm will match employee gifts to Cal Poly as part of their employee benefits package. Sometimes the gifts of retirees, members of the board of directors, and spouses are also eligible.

Matching gifts at Cal Poly accounted for more than $320,000 for 2007–2008. To find out if your employer has a matching gift program, search the Cal Poly Web site for your employer at www.giving.calpoly.edu/matching, contact your benefits manager or Human Resources office, or contact Linda Stark, Cal Poly’s Matching Gifts Specialist, at (805) 756-2713 or lstark@calpoly.edu to see how your gift can have a greater impact.
NUMB3RS AT THE LIBRARY

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7 COLLEGE LIBRARIANS
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On five floors so students can study, read, think and work alongside their classmates.

$1.6 MILLION WHAT CAL POLY SPENDS
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