The Robert E. Kennedy Library annual publication is for friends of the library at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

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For up-to-date news about the library, go to lib.calpoly.edu
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Montaña de Oro
From the University Librarian

Last April, Cal Poly students, leaders, friends and partners came together to honor the 30th anniversary of the dedication of the Robert E. Kennedy Library.

What better time to envision our future and who better to envision that future than Cal Poly students? So we challenged students to tell the story of our future in short videos. I think you will find them bright, thoughtful and entertaining!

Watch them here: lib.calpoly.edu/2012

Viewers like you voted Kate Smith’s video, “The Future,” their favorite and I can see why; it perfectly captures the synergy between the Kennedy Library and its users.

What really makes a library like ours come alive with electricity, passion and vision are the students, faculty, staff and community who use it, and who share their ideas about what their library experience is like and what it will become.

Our future is their future and belongs to all of us. We are dedicated to extending and deepening our partnerships with Cal Poly students, faculty, staff and the larger community and we are proud to be an integral part of student success.

A very exciting development this last academic year was the announcement of the library’s new partnership with Cal Poly’s Information Technology Services as part of a new Information Services Division. Our future collaborations with campus technologists will allow us to share the exceptional talents of our staffs and work closely together with students, faculty, staff and committed partners in the Cal Poly community.

We invite you to celebrate our efforts in the past year and support our plans toward our common goal in the year ahead: to give every Cal Poly student extraordinary experiences in discovery, understanding and empowerment.

Storytelling is an integral part of being human. Stories speak to who we are, who we were and who we want to be.

There are so very many compelling stories to share from the library. There is the rapidly changing physical space, a tangible reflection of how the library listens to students. There is also the library’s growing world of special collections, stories within themselves. There are the public programs Cal Poly Science Café and Conversations with Cal Poly Authors, bringing together a community of curious people. Then there are the many accomplishments of the students who contribute to the library in a variety of ways.

I could go on...

The library not only tells stories but also listens to them — about what students love and what they need. We are looking for ways to tell more stories for and about our region, too. We hope that you will share them with us.

Find us on Facebook or email klaurits@calpoly.edu.

Karen Lauritsen
Communications and Public Programs Coordinator

Anna Gold
University Librarian
The first of eight new collaboration rooms was dedicated May 14, 2011, in honor of the Alpha Sigma Society.

Sixty-six members of the society and the larger community attended the dedication.

The group was founded at Cal Poly in 1957 by five students who wanted to share the cost of housing, form a fraternal organization that did not discriminate based on race or religion and encouraged academic excellence.

Dennis Fazzio joined Alpha Sigma in 1966, his junior year at Cal Poly, because he wanted an education outside of the classroom, a place where he could learn the art of give and take.

While the group disbanded in 1989 there are still 130 active members who gather twice annually, funded in part by the nonprofit formed when they sold their fraternity house. In addition to continuing the brotherhood through their regular get-togethers, members felt strongly about giving back to Cal Poly. Since they represented a range of majors and interests, the library felt like a natural place to share their story.

Fazzio is the current president of the group. "The library is a place to collaborate, which is what happens in industry," said Fazzio. It is what happened at Alpha Sigma, too, he explained.

Visit Alpha Sigma Society's Collaboration Room (#216R) on the second floor of the library to view the room's dedication plaque and read the society's preamble.

We are pleased to announce that Jeff Pulver, vice president of business development at Workday, joined the Library Leadership Council in August, 2011.

Pulver has held a number of executive leadership positions in marketing and alliances in the enterprise software industry over the past 20 years.

In his current role, Pulver is responsible for building consulting and software alliances for Workday, a cloud-based provider of human resources, payroll and financial applications. Previously, he led the product and corporate marketing efforts for Rearden Commerce, Siebel Systems and E.piphany.

From 1993 through 2000 Pulver served in a variety of executive positions at PeopleSoft, leading marketing and alliances. He also spent five years in sales at IBM.

Pulver has received numerous industry accolades, including being named one of the Marketers of the Year from "Technology Marketing" magazine and Top Marketer from "B2B" magazine.

Pulver holds a bachelor’s degree in Industrial Technology from Cal Poly.
Summer Transformations:

Reshaping Library Spaces with Dale Kohler

Dale Kohler (B.S. Graphic Communication ’88) is the director of library information technology (LIT), although that title does not begin to explain the extent of his role implementing student-driven change at Kennedy Library. From more power to more media, more seats to more quiet spaces, students have been asking to experience more from their favorite study spot. This summer, Kohler has been integral in making it happen.

“We do lots of asking,” Kohler said, to explain what inspired the changes. The library’s methods include student surveys, an influential Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC), suggestion boxes and a new online feedback system. Whatever the method chosen, the library is listening.

Number one want? More power. When students returned to campus this fall, there were 1,100 more power outlets throughout the library than when they left for the summer. “Students were renting out space on their power strips,” Kohler explained. So while budding entrepreneurs may lament, students with low laptop batteries certainly rejoice.

Remodeling Virtual and Real Worlds

This summer Kohler oversaw a vibrant remodel of the atrium. Thanks to a generous gift from Peter Booth Wiley, a founding member of the Library Leadership Council, the library’s green space has been transformed. Within minutes of installing new, bright outdoor furniture, students were reclining and reading with their shoes off. When photos were posted to the library’s Facebook page, students took time from their summer break to show their enthusiastic approval. There are now 64 additional outdoor seats in the balconies and atrium, along with budding landscaping.

[See page 13 for more about the atrium transformation.]

Collaborative to Quiet

The higher up you go in Kennedy Library, the quieter it gets though not everyone realizes that the library offers both collaborative and quiet space. “Librarians have been shushed by students,” said Kohler.

On the third floor, graduate students have benefited from a collaborative room for some time, recently updated with popular beanbag seating, computers and whiteboards. This year, there is a new space on the fourth floor for graduate students to study quietly. Inside the quiet room visitors will find soft seating as well as additional computers, mobile whiteboards and individual desks.

Susan Opava-Stitzer, dean of research and graduate programs, had a hand in creating and updating both of the graduate library spaces. In addition, she recommended offering both fixed and mobile lockers to graduate students. Look for students wheeling “mobies” down the halls next time you’re here.

Maps to Media

There are also big changes underway on the first floor. A new Data Studio is being constructed, giving students a collaborative space to interpret large data sets. Should they need to compare Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data of watershed areas past and present, for example, they will be able to do so on four large flat-panel displays.

“THERE is no other place on campus where students can look at data like this,” said Kohler. There will also be space for additional computers, instruction, and glass windows through which you can witness it all.

[See page 10 for more about the Data Studio.]

Listen and Support

It has been another busy year for everyone at the Robert E. Kennedy Library. For Kohler, it has been rewarding to be part of a creative partnership between the library, Cal Poly students, and our generous friends and supporters. “Because of their support, we’ve been able to get back to students and say, ‘Here are the changes you asked for,’” said Kohler.

Stay in touch with us on Facebook to hear about our ongoing student-inspired changes.

To support the Robert E. Kennedy Library, go to: giving.calpoly.edu
Data as the New Text: An Innovative Studio

Designed to facilitate an interdisciplinary exchange of ideas surrounding the evolving use and sharing of data, the Data Studio is home to Kennedy Library’s new Data Services program. Discover, explore, create and share data through technology, consultation, collaboration and informal learning.

Located in Room 111-C, the Data Studio builds on the Kennedy Library’s strong GIS program as well as its new Data Curation services program that supports data management, sharing and preservation.

“The Data Studio will provide an environment for students and faculty to utilize new technologies and software, investigate visualization techniques, discover innovative instructional formats, facilitate retrieval of data sets and more,” said Data Services Program Coordinator, Jeanine Scaramozzino.

The Cal Poly community is invited to attend brown bag lunches and seminars by guests from on- and off-campus. Proposed topics include GIS and business, epidemiology studies, data curation and data management plans. Discussion schedules will be posted to the library’s Facebook page.

Look the Other Way
An exhibition of photographic truth and fiction

In “Look the Other Way: An exhibition of photographic truth and fiction,” students merged early 20th century materials and 21st century technologies to reenvision the university’s history — straining credibility and provoking a rich array of interpretations from viewers.

University ghosts

Working under the collaborative direction of Professor David Gillette and Special Collections Curator Catherine Trujillo, more than 140 students participated in the development of the interactive exhibit. Some gathered and manipulated early photographs, postcards and glass plate negatives that they discovered in the University Archives, creating haunting images of what appear to be otherworldly phenomena. Others constructed antique radios, photo-developing tents, live-streaming video, and case files on early “university ghosts.”

Range of collaborators

The exhibit included a wide range of collaborators. Kennedy Library Special Collections and University Archives staff worked with students and professors in architecture, computer science, theater, education, and the new Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies (LAES) program to highlight the early history of the university and the unusual history of spirit photography.

Live performances

An estimated 700 people experienced the interactive exhibit that included live performances.

Tours were provided during Cal Poly’s Open House. Students from the School of Education also led tours for more than 200 students from 10 area elementary schools.

Now, LAES students and faculty are busy adapting the experience for iPads and smartphones.

Learn more and see “spirit” images in motion: lib.calpoly.edu/2012

Images from Look the Other Way, an exhibit that used student-engineered images, sounds and textual documents drawn from University Archives.
As educators and advocates, the Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC) met weekly throughout the school year, conducted a survey of Cal Poly students, and met with library staff to prioritize and advocate for many exciting changes. From more electrical outlets to longer weekend hours, SLAC has had a hand in the evolving services Kennedy Library offers the academic community.

The College of Science and Mathematics Librarian, Jeanine Scaramozzino, is the SLAC faculty advisor and in the coming year she will be joined by Architecture Librarian Jesse Vestermark. This year, we said farewell to graduating (and founding) SLAC member Jonathan Marth, who also served as SLAC’s representative to the Student Campus Computing Committee (SC3). Congratulations and thanks, Jonathan!

2011-2012 Members:
Ryan Bitter, CAFES — Forestry and Natural Resources, undergrad | Tucker Brofft, CLA — Political Science, undergrad
Jessica Bruin, CLA — Political Science, undergrad, ASI Representative | Jason Colombini, CAFES — Ag Business, undergrad | Ashley DeGuzman, CENG — Bioengineering, undergrad, co-chair | Jordan Hooper, CLA — English, undergrad, library assistant | Susie Kopecky, CLA — English, graduate, library assistant | Patrick McNeech, COSAM — Biochemistry, undergrad | Hannah Panno, CLA — Geography, undergrad, co-chair
Lauren Raff, COSAM — Liberal Studies, undergrad | Solomon Reda, OCEO — Industrial Technology, undergrad, ASI Representative | Mike Shaw, CENG — Civil Engineering, undergrad | Philip Tran, COSAM — Biology, undergrad

Students Put Their Feet Up

The library’s outdoor space was revitalized over the summer thanks to a generous gift from Library Leadership Council founding member Peter Booth Wiley.

The space was inspired by conceptual drawings students developed in an interdisciplinary project course offered through the College of Architecture and Environmental Design. The atrium features new landscaping, bright awnings and more than 60 outdoor seats, creating a warm and inviting space where students can take advantage of San Luis Obispo’s mild weather all year long.

We set up a webcam to document the renovation.

Watch the stop-motion video: lib.calpoly.edu/2012

New Library Computer Map App

With more than 300 computers on five floors, the library provides ready access to great computing facilities. However, computers are often busy, and students said they wanted to know where they could find an open computer.

Now, without wasting time walking from floor to floor, students can instantly get the real-time information they need via their smartphone or at new digital displays near the elevators on every floor.

The app and displays include floor-by-floor maps of computer locations including those that have assistive technologies.

lib.calpoly.edu/2012

I really appreciate that the library has a 24-hour room and even some computers to use then as well!

— Student, SLAC survey
"I thought that if students were aware that their work could be made available to other students and scholars around the world, it might have a positive impact on their work, that they would want to do the best job they could."

Jim Sargen

The second floor is a nice environment to meet and discuss projects as well as a great place to get a cup of coffee. — Student, ISLAC survey

Intellectual Energy at Digital Commons

Last year, Jim Sargen’s pursuit of lifelong learning and his interest in the impact of technology on the learning process brought him to the library.

"I always wondered about what happened to all of those papers and projects we did when we were in college — especially the good ones. What happened to all of that intellectual energy?"

It was a natural match when Sargen learned about DigitalCommons@CalPoly, a service that promotes discovery, research, cross-disciplinary collaboration and instruction by collecting, preserving and providing access to scholarly work created at Cal Poly.

Sargen is chairman of the board and past president of Triactive America, Inc. Based in Grover Beach, Triactive produces outdoor exercise products. Sargen is also an avid reader.

"I always have a stack of books at hand, only now I have stacks of books, plus a Kindle, my iPad, a Kobo and Nook e-readers as well!"

Sargen made a gift to the Robert E. Kennedy Library that enabled Digital Commons to purchase a state-of-the-art scanner that will enhance the preparation of documents to be archived in the repository and published online. "Some of us were serious about our papers, and some students were working just to get by. Either way, imagine the thousands of hours of effort that go into the process," Sargen said.

Discover faculty and student research at digitalcommons.calpoly.edu.
In Memoriam

A great library is essential to a higher education institution. The library is like the kitchen in a home. It’s the hub of the house; it’s where you get fed.

— President Emeritus Robert E. Kennedy (1915-2010)

Library advocate

President Emeritus Robert E. Kennedy was always an advocate for the university’s library. In the 1940s, he was assigned the title of Cal Poly Librarian in addition to his responsibilities as professor and faculty advisor. Later, as president, Dr. Kennedy was actively involved working with the legislature to fund the construction of a new library to replace the out-of-date Dexter Library.

In 1978 the CSU trustees voted to name Cal Poly’s new library building after its seventh leader in honor of his dedicated service. A year later, after 39 years of service to Cal Poly, President Kennedy retired.

The Robert E. Kennedy Library celebrated the legacy of its namesake by hosting a celebration during the 30th anniversary ceremony on April 8, 2011. The event was attended by many members of President Kennedy’s family as well as campus leaders and friends.

Read more about Robert E. Kennedy and our 30th Anniversary: lib.calpoly.edu/2012

From Special Collections:

Architect Mark Mills’ Professional Papers and Drawings

Mark Mills was a mid-century modernist California architect, whose homes reflected his clients’ diverse tastes as well as the rugged coastal landscape. He designed the Fan Shell House, set into the sand-dune area of Pebble Beach with panoramic ocean views, and the Copper Spine House perched on a rocky promontory in the Carmel Highlands. In addition to making his own mark, Mills also worked for Frank Lloyd Wright and with Italian architect Paolo Soleri.

This year, Special Collections and University Archives were gifted with Mark Mills’ professional papers and drawings. Mills had no connection to Cal Poly other than his admiration for the university’s Architecture Department and our students’ talent. It was out of this respect and due to Special Collections’ preservation skills that the Mills collection was donated.

Collaboration

The gift represents a high point in years of collaboration between Special Collections and the Architecture Department and reflects efforts to support the hands-on use of primary sources in research and teaching. A boon to students, faculty and scholars, the Mills collection has attracted graduate students completing doctoral dissertations and scholars engaged in the rarely-seen modernist architecture of coastal California. The Mills collection also enhances the department’s other manuscript collections focused on the California modernist vernacular including those of Palm Springs architect William F. Cody.

Learn by Doing

After the Mills papers and drawings were received in November last year, the collection of more than 900 tracings was arranged and described by fifth-year architectural student Cailin Swarm under the supervision of Special Collections archivists. Swarm gained an intimate view of the collection while imparting her architectural knowledge to better describe the collection.

Department of Architecture Associate Professor Don Choi spoke enthusiastically about the new acquisition.

“Students can learn how one architect developed architecture that addressed the specific culture and environment of California, combining influences from Frank Lloyd Wright and other sources to create a personal yet contextual approach to design,” said Choi.

“The architectural drawings in the collection show how Mills designed architectural details integral to his vision of the building as a whole. Students interested in design-build will find Mills’ comprehensive approach particularly intriguing.”

The Mark Mills collection is open to researchers and can be found on the fourth floor of the library.
LibRAT Goes Librarian

In last year’s annual publication you met Mary Stirchak (CLA, ’11). She was a first generation LibRAT (Library Research Assistance Technician), an experience that has influenced her life.

Accepted at the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, Stirchak is now pursuing her Master in Library and Information Studies (MLIS). In addition, Stirchak is the recipient of the Marjorie S. Mardellis Fellowship at UCLA.

We exchanged emails about her time at Kennedy Library and the time ahead:

How did you become a LibRAT?
I happened upon the LibRAT position by chance. I had been looking for a part-time job when I saw that Kennedy Library was hiring. I hadn’t really thought about working for the Library until that moment, but it seemed like something I would really enjoy. I was lucky enough to get the job and I immediately fell in love with the position. It was so satisfying to be able to use a skill set that I had to help other people achieve what they needed to do.

After a while it dawned on me that I could potentially make this sort of thing my career. That’s when I started looking into the library science field and made the decision to pursue my MLIS.

In last year’s Annual Publication, you mentioned how you find reward in helping people.

A lot of people don’t realize how many wonderful resources are available to them and sometimes it just takes another person to show them what’s out there. I love watching people realize that there is a way to find information about anything they want to know.

What are your career aspirations?
As of right now, my goal is to end up working for an academic library in some capacity. I absolutely loved the work environment at Kennedy Library and I think I would really enjoy working in a similar environment after I finish my MLIS. I don’t want to fully decide yet, though – I’ve heard of some really fascinating positions in the library science field that are a little off the beaten path, and I don’t want to limit myself to one area before I’ve explored all of my options.

How do you envision the library of your future?
I think that in the future the basic purpose of libraries will remain the same. They will always be places where people can access information, learn things, and collaborate with other people. I feel like people will always need this kind of space in one form or another.

As technology evolves, libraries might focus less on the printed page and more on offering access to digital resources, but I know that libraries will always find ways to remain relevant.

Conversations with Cal Poly Authors

Launched this year and inspired by the many members of the Cal Poly community who publish significant creative and scholarly books, Conversations with Cal Poly Authors are informal, interactive discussions.

Missed our first two events? You can access the podcasts at Kennedy Library Out Loud: lib.calpoly.edu/blog/outloud/

Listen to Hema C. Dandekar, professor and department chair, City and Regional Planning, discuss an American way of life and her book “Michigan Family Farms and Farm Buildings.”

Assistant Professor of History Joel Orth and CAFES Center for Sustainability Director Hunter Francis join the conversation.

Learn how living in Taiwan inspired History Professor and Department Chair Andrew Morris’ book “Colonial Project, National Game: A History of Baseball in Taiwan.”

John A. McKinstry, professor of Sociology, and Don Choi, associate professor, Architecture, join Morris in the discussion.

We are building our collection of community conversations at Kennedy Library Out Loud.

Love the library – I’d live there if I could.
— Student, SLAC survey
Supporting Students

One of the library’s most important contributions to Learn by Doing is our commitment to creating challenging positions for Kennedy Library student assistants in which they can gain diverse pre-professional experience working closely with library professionals.

This year, the Holcombe Family gave a generous gift to support the work of student library assistants. Both Cal Poly graduates, Jerry Holcombe (B.S. Biological Sciences, ’69) and Sally (Bolster) Holcombe (B.S. Home Economics, ’67 and Teaching Credential, ’68), are the proud parents of Cal Poly graduate Debbie (Holcombe) Kastner (B.S. Human Development, ’01). During their years at Cal Poly, both Jerry and Sally recognized the importance of the library as they worked toward their degrees.

The Holcombes believe the library will always be an invaluable resource for Cal Poly students and faculty, and they want their gift to benefit current and future users. The endowment’s payout will be used exclusively to pay salaries for the library’s student assistants.

Student assistants play a critical role at the Kennedy Library serving more than one million visitors and fielding thousands of inquiries each year.

They build lifelong skills through their employment and help cover the costs of their Cal Poly education. This endowment will help to support the 100+ students employed by the library each year.

The library is fortunate to have a history of support for student library assistants. In 2000, Steve Pearson set up a Library Student Assistant Endowment.

Grab a Cup of Science Café

Seven interactive conversations

Our community continues to come together for casual conversation at Cal Poly Science Café. Between October, 2010 and May, 2011, Kennedy Library hosted seven programs designed to stimulate discussions in the arts and sciences. The events were coordinated by biologist and East Bay Science Café founder, Cynthia Perrine.

The informal events are led by experts and encourage open, easy-to-understand conversation around scientific topics and whole systems thinking. Everyone is invited.

Ideas explored in 2011 included robotic underwater exploration in the Mediterranean; engineering for disasters including “The Big One” — the next major California earthquake; and understanding the profound impact of cancer on life in the 21st century.

One of the many highlights of the year was our program the weekend of Open House in April 2011, “Bionics: Merging Man and Machine.”

Russ Angold (BRAE ’00), co-founder and chief technical officer at Ekso Bionics (formerly Berkeley Bionics), demonstrated how to use an untethered exoskeleton, a device designed for people with mobility limitations (eLEGS) as well as soldiers in the field (HULC). There was a crowd of more than 200 students, faculty, parents and visitors. Several Cal Poly students also shared their work on robotic hands and other devices they are developing as part of their undergraduate and graduate research.

Watch the video: lib.calpoly.edu/2012
Listen to the podcast at Kennedy Library Out Loud.
Stay informed about future Cal Poly Science Café events on Facebook.

The implementation of quiet areas on the fourth and fifth floors was genius.

— Student, SLAC survey
Student Achievements

Congratulations to library student assistants Kaela SooHoo and Hallie Helbert, who are now award-winning graphic designers.

Kaela SooHoo won first place and Hallie Helbert won third in the Graphic Arts Education and Research Foundation (GAERF) 2011 Design Competition for Graphic Comm Central, in the post-secondary category. Their work was selected from 225 entries.

Both students contribute their graphic design talents to the library. You may have seen their ads in the Mustang Daily or their signage in the halls. Helbert designed the popular All Access Library Pass for WOW (Week of Welcome), which was worn by thousands of new students.

“Designing for the library is “a good combination of real-world experience working with clients and printers and revisions,” said Helbert. “It’s an opportunity to grow and not be thrown into the fire right away.”

Both students graduate this year. Before then they hope to “expand ideas of what we can do with each project,” Helbert said. Look for their future designs on the library website and on print posters and postcards highlighting library events and services.

Introducing Beth Brenner

In September 2011, Beth Brenner, director of corporate and foundation relations for Cal Poly, began fundraising on behalf of Information Services (Library and IT Services), working closely with Vice Provost and CIO Michael D. Miller.

To support the library, please go to giving.calpoly.edu

A lot of people don't realize how many wonderful resources are available to them and sometimes it just takes another person to show them what's out there.

- Mary Stirchak (CLA, '11) Former LibRAT and current MLS student at UCLA
Support Robert E. Kennedy Library

Please use my gift for the following purpose:

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☐ Library Student Assistant Fund
☐ Library Collections
☐ Innovation Fund for Technology
☐ Robert E. and Mary Kennedy Endowment
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☐ Please contact me to discuss how I can help the library.

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