**REDEFINING LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS: SHARING PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL SPACE WITH THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY**

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**BACKGROUND**

Cal Poly Science Café is an international movement (http://www.sciencecafes.org/) to create expert-led, informal speaker series on scientific topics.

**SUMMARY**

A variety of topics and formats have been presented in 2009:

- Improvable Vehicle: Panel presentations on the Cal Poly methanol monowheel, electric car, human powered vehicle & Tournament of Roses Parade rose float. 70+ participants.
- Darwin’s 200 “The Galapagos: not as Darwin saw them” with Cal Poly professor, comments by Darwin [the Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics in costume], and birthday cake. 120+ participants.
- The Science of Type: an Adobe executive discussing the processing of creating a new font. 25+ participants.
- “Hands on demonstrations of nanotechnology: creation of something from nanoscale and building of a large nanoscale model from blocks.” Part of NanoScience Information Technology Network (NSF-NIT). Nanocafé. 70+ participants.

**ADVICE**

- Form an Advisory Board consisting of representatives from a variety of departments and administrators to get buy-in.
- Choose a good moderator – crucial for stimulating the conversation, keeping the speakers “in line,” etc.
- Encourage student participation in planning, presentations, etc.
- Advertise via blog, library website, posters and flyers, campus website, newspaper, twitter, Facebook, outside sandwich boards, etc.
- Provide an inviting atmosphere with a greeter, café style seating, free food, etc.
- Briefly describe the idea behind Science Café at each event. Make sure you get a broad count.
- Provide good IT (information technology) support.
- Limit-speaker PowerPoint “presentations” to images.

**INTRODUCTION**

In pursuit of the idea of a library that is “dynamic, campus-centered, bringing together technology, information, and people to create connections of all kinds” (Task Group on the Future of the Library, 2007), the Kennedy Library has launched several initiatives supporting university-wide learning objectives such as critical and creative thinking, communication, and understanding of one’s discipline in relation to the larger world of the arts, sciences, and technology.

Initiatives include Science Café, DigitalCommons@CalPoly, and building renovations that have added a Learning Commons, coffee bar, 24/7 study space, space for ongoing student art exhibits and other research-focused events.

**CONCLUSION**

Libraries are increasingly focused on marketing their services to students, staff and faculty in various venues. Patrons currently utilize “the library” in both physical and digital spaces. Creative use of these spaces initiates and maintains campus interest. The Science Café and the DigitalCommons@CalPoly are two examples of how the Kennedy Library is extending its identity beyond traditional library boundaries. When libraries are presented as both physical and digital collaborative and conversational spaces they expand the value of the library and change patron perspectives while maintaining the mission of the library to promote and support learning.

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