



Sept. 3, 2008

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805-756-2014

## Cal Poly Welcomes 3,500 New Students

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly and local businesses and organizations are gearing up to welcome about 3,500 new students who will begin arriving in town Saturday, Sept. 13 to move into campus residence halls and participate in the university's unique annual Week of Welcome (WOW) program.

This will be WOW's 51st year of welcoming new students and their families to Cal Poly and the community. Beginning this year, WOW is also taking strides to reduce paper waste, food waste, and material waste in a conscious effort to diminish WOW's environmental impact on the community.

For the first time this year, no paper schedule will be produced. [The entire WOW schedule will be available online.](#) WOWies will receive flash hard drives with information about campus resources instead of a paper packet. Not only will the flash drive help WOW use less paper, but the incoming students can use them in their academic studies, said Andrene Kaiwi-Lenting, director of Orientation Programs at Cal Poly. Students will also receive reusable grocery bags and reusable water bottles.



Cal Poly sustainability clubs Net Impact and Zero Waste have collaborated with WOW to educate students on how to live more sustainably. More information about sustainability is available on the [WOW Web site](#), and information will be displayed on campus during WOW week. In addition, Green Campus Program will host education sessions for anyone interested in learning more about sustainability.

A host of other WOW activities are planned – both on and off campus – as a way to acquaint students and their families to Cal Poly and the community, as well ease the students' transition to college life.

### Events include:

**Family Orientation Weekend, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 13-14.** Activities include a welcome reception with Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker, a resource fair and workshops. Sunday's activities include Bank Day, Kid's Passport, several parent sessions and a Zero-Waste Family Barbeque.

**The WOW awareness presentations**, Tuesday, Sept. 16, and Thursday and Friday, Sept. 18-19, focus on issues ranging from campus life, clubs and the community, to body image, alcohol and stress. The first presentation, "Campus, Community, College Life and Respect," focuses on a student's role on campus and in the community, respect, and diversity. The second presentation addresses such topics as drugs and alcohol, sexual awareness, personal safety and body image. An Awareness Faire is also scheduled at the University Union Plaza from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with representatives from such campus and community resources as the University Police and Planned Parenthood. The awareness presentations conclude with the "Coping with Stress" presentation, which examines stress, depression, and eating disorders,

**SLO Bound, Tuesday, Sept. 16, 11 a.m.** The theme for this year is "SLO and Steady Wins the Race!" Students head for Mitchell Park for a Zero-Waste picnic, including a voter registration drive, group pictures, music, and booths representing San Luis Obispo businesses. The students then travel through downtown, getting a tour of over 60 businesses, and end up in Mission Plaza, where additional San Luis Obispo businesses are represented in a carnival-like setting.

**Week of Welcome's fifth annual Day of Service, Friday, Sept. 19**, from 1 to 4 p.m. Students and WOW leaders will volunteer throughout San Luis Obispo to clean up local garden projects, collect canned food for populations in need, and provide staffing for local public programs. Cal Poly's Student Community Service organization works with WOW to coordinate the annual event.

**The 7th annual PREFACE book discussion will be held Wednesday, Sept. 17**, at 8:45 a.m., when students and volunteer-leaders will discuss this year's book selection, "Montana 1948" by Larry Watson. The PREFACE program asks new students to read a book over summer so they can participate in group discussions when they arrive on campus in the fall. In addition, author Larry Watson will give a public lecture on Wednesday, Sept. 24, at which time students and the public will have the opportunity to hear him speak and have their books signed.

For more information on WOW activities, call Andrene Kaiwi-Lenting at 756-2014.

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