SAN LUIS OBISPO - US News and World Report has ranked San Luis Obispo among its Best Places to Live 2009. And according to the magazine, Cal Poly played a big part in the distinction.

“Tucked into California’s sweeping Central Coast region is lovely San Luis Obispo, Calif. Its warm, gentle climate, with temperatures rarely surpassing 90 degrees, is perfect for hitting nearby beaches or touring local vineyards,” reads the magazine’s story, posted Monday.

“In addition, California Polytechnic State University, which is located in town, infuses the community with intellectual energy.”

San Luis Obispo ranked No. 8 on the magazine's list of Top 10 places to live in the U.S. According to the story, the magazine looked through data on more than 20,000 locales around the country. Included were areas with populations of at least 10,000 and crime at or below the national average. In additional, all cities with populations of 100,000 or more were included.

The magazine then looked for areas on the list that had strong economies, low costs of living and lots of fun things to do.

The Top 10:
1. Albuquerque, N.M.
2. Auburn, Ala.
3. Austin, Texas
4. Boise, Idaho
5. Durham, N.C.
6. La Crosse, Wis.
7. Loveland, Colo.
8. San Luis Obispo, Calif.

###