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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly's Robert E. Kennedy Library will open its new Data Studio April 26 with a ceremony, featured speaker and student demonstrations. Events begin at 10 a.m. in Kennedy Library, Room 111C.

The Data Studio will allow students, faculty and staff to explore data resources and tools, receive informal instruction and get hands-on experience with data.

The opening celebration features a ribbon-cutting ceremony in recognition of Peter Booth Wiley, chairman of the board, John Wiley & Sons, for a gift that helped launch the studio.

Following the opening ceremony, Quentin Hardy, deputy technology editor of The New York Times and former Forbes Silicon Valley bureau chief, will speak at 10:30 a.m. in Room 111H. His talk, "Fact as Verb: How Data is Changing Nouns into Verbs," will address societal implications of big data – data sets that are so large they are difficult to analyze.

Cal Poly students will also demonstrate how they are working with data. Student projects include Twitter-tracking tools to help Netflix identify service outages and applications of spatial data in architecture and wildlife biology.

Anchored by the library’s geographic information systems (GIS) and spatial data services program, the Data Studio addresses the growing need for graduates who have strong data skills and knowledge. Located in Room 111C, it is equipped to support collaborative data use and analysis with 10 configurable desks, 13 dual display computers, four mobile 46 inch display monitors, and on-site support from peer student assistants specializing in GIS and Data Studio resources.

For more information, go to: http://lib.calpoly.edu/about/news/12_0402_datastudio.html

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