CHECK OUT PAGE 8 TO SEE ALL OF THIS YEAR'S WINNERS

2009
THANKS FOR CHOOSING DOWNTOWN BREW AS YOUR FAVORITE BAR

SUNDAY
50¢ Ribs

MONDAY
$1 Tacos
$2 Margaritas

TUESDAY
2 Steak Dinners for $12.95
$1 Pint Night

WEDNESDAY
25¢ Hot Wing Night and Beirut Night

THURSDAY
Tri-Tip and a Pint $6.95
($5.00 sandwich only)

1119 Garden St. www.downtownbrew.com 805.543.1843
MELT HER HEART WITH A FROZEN TREAT
write a letter
Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanity and length. Letters, commentaries and cartoons do not represent the views of the Mustang Daily. Please limit length to 250 words. Letters should include the writer’s full name, phone number, major. Please send your correction suggestions to mustangdaily@calpoly.com or as an attachment. By e-mail: mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com.

editorial
By e-mail:
Yes or No, Cal Poly students make up nearly half of San Luis Obispo’s 44,000-plus population and are a huge influence on the city’s economy. From restaurants to retail stores, the Mustang Daily’s annual “Best For” guide aims to recognize local businesses that best cater to students.

As we have for the past five years, the Mustang Daily collected surveys during fall and winter quarters asking students about local favorites. Hundreds of surveys are turned in each year and students have the freedom of voting for any business they want for each category. Public relations students, not Mustang Daily staff, contribute to this edition by writing all of the articles. The winners are profiled here and can be found around town by looking for a Mustang Daily plaque in the shops themselves.

From dining to entertainment, from shopping to services, the “Best For” issue is the place to look for where Cal Poly students spend their money.

— Marlize van Romburgh, editor in chief
Best Bike Shop

Art’s Cyclery

Santa Barbara is home to beautiful weather, lush hills and nearby beaches. This biker-friendly community, with its abundant resources, is the destination of many out-of-town riders.

Since 1982, Art’s Cyclery has been an avid biker’s paradise. Carrying a wide range of mountain, recumbent, road and comfort bikes, Art’s is home to top of the line brands such as Trek, Cervelo and Kuota.

With its wide range of biking accessories, Art’s is home to items for the entire family. Carrying hydration supplements, bike racks, jogging strollers and baskets, Art’s has everything to suit a biker’s needs.

“One of the great things about our shop is that we carry items from the smallest children’s bike, to the gnarliest mountain bike, and the fastest road bike. We have something for everyone,” said Art’s employee and Cal Poly student Jeff Bruchez.

Art’s can repair your bike as well, and their fully trained service department is sure to get the job done right. With a speedy turnaround rate, you'll be back to pedaling in a matter of no time.

Art’s knowledgeable and friendly staff is there to answer any questions customers may have. Art’s is open every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., so stop by today and check out their student specials.

Art’s is located at 2140 Santa Barbara Ave.

— Casey Maloney

Thank you Cal Poly for voting us your #1 choice for swimwear!

SLO Swim

Largest selection of separates in SLO!
* Specializing in D, DD, E & F cups

795 Higuera Street, Downtown SLO • 805-781-9604

Check our our new web site www.artscyclery.com/tour

15% OFF already low prices.

Thank you Cal Poly for voting us the Best Bike Shop for Cal Poly.

www.arts cyclery.com/tour
Best Manicure/Pedicure

Nails Poly

With the stress of midterms, finals, group and senior projects, and all of those long hours logged at the library, what better way to unwind than taking a visit to Nails Poly?

Located just a short walk from campus, at 862 Football Blvd., Nails Poly was voted best place for a manicure/pedicure.

Nails Poly is not just your average nail salon. Offering an array of treatments including waxing and facials, Nails Poly is the place for everyone to be pampered on a student-sized budget. Prices range with services, but with a year-round student special of 10 percent off each visit. Nails Poly surely cannot be beat. Nails Poly also specializes in color acrylics and their $32 manicure/pedicure deal is enough to keep customers coming back time and time again.

Nails Poly’s blissful foot spa is the longing of both men (though some have yet to discover such bliss) and women alike.

“The staff at Nails Poly is always so friendly,” said business sophomore Elesa Humes. “It’s a must when school is stressing me out.”

So break out that 2009 Krusty Coupon book, treat your feet and hop over to Nails Poly.

— Carrie Maltby

Best Eye Doctor

Cal Poly HealthCenter

Are you still travelling to your usual eye care provider? Cal Poly HealthCenter is open Monday through Friday for all Cal Poly students.

Electronic medical records no charge, the Health Center will do eye exams for a small fee of $25. All services and frames can be obtained with a student discount.

Cal Poly’s University Jazz Bands present

An eclectic mix of jazz standards and modern compositions will be performed by the University Jazz Bands No. 1 and No. 2 and the Cal Poly Jazz Combo.

$6 & $10 student tickets at the Performing Arts Ticket Office 756-2787

Sponsored by the Music Department, College of Liberal Arts & IRA program

performing

6 p.m. | Sat. Feb. 21, 2009 | Arts Center

Best Eye Doctor

Cal Poly HealthCenter

Are you ready for an edge, stylish new haircut? The professionals at Salon Lux are ready to provide and pamper. They offer an assortment of services ranging from basic haircuts and color design to deep conditioning treatments and thermal straightening— all intended for a relaxing experience.

The salon’s mission is to ensure each highly trained team member is dedicated to exceptional service and individual attention to each guest. With male and female customer, Salon Lux has a large number of clientele from Cal Poly and throughout San Luis Obispo.

“Everyone that works there is really friendly,” says Cal Poly junior Lauren Bambro. “She’s been going to Lux for two years. “The prices are pretty reasonable. It’s such a relaxing atmosphere and they give you a great scalp massage before your haircut.”

Along with cut, color, and hair treatments, Salon Lux also offers many spa services including: manicures, pedicures, massages, waxing and tanning. Brides-to-be can also reserve their wedding day hair-styles and makeup application for her and her wedding party.

Depending on the style, haircuts range from $35 to $60. Salon Lux is a great place to relax in a luxurious friendly environment while getting a great haircut or spa service by trained professionals.

Best Hair Salon

Salon Lux

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**Best Lawyer**

Christopher Perello

Whether you are experienc ing legal issues or looking to avoid them, there's no need to stray far from campus. Christopher Perello, also a business instructor at Cal Poly, has the answers to your legal inquiries.

With 22 years of experience as a lawyer, it's no wonder that Cal Poly students voted Perello the best lawyer in the area. Perello began his career more than 20 years ago at Borrom, Peretti & Corren in Berkeley before receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree from Cal Poly and his law degree from UC Davis. Perello began his career specializing in bankruptcy and business law before starting to work as a solo practitio ner in the San Luis Obispo area.

Perello works as a private lawyer, helping residents with legal issues concerning contracts and corporate law. He said he has recently been working primarily in writing business contracts and analyzing copyright infringements. And although Perello claims that he doesn't specify in criminal law or other common legal areas in which students seek help, he has been happy to offer advice and help clarify their rights.

Perello feels that he was voted best lawyer in San Luis Obispo because "people know me and like me," which, he said, is what people look for in a lawyer.

Perello's charge changes depending on the client's needs. While he does work on retainers for some of his larger clients, he is willing to charge an hourly rate or charge by piece, depending on the needs of the client.

**Best Veterinary**

San Luis Obispo Veterinary

Pet lovers have been taking their pets to San Luis Obispo Veterinary for over 20 years. The practice on South Higuera is known for their great outside manner and compassion.

"We hope it's because we're a caring hospital and we work with everyone," said receptionist Lynn Taylor as to why the practice was selected as the best veterinary by Cal Poly students. "We try to treat everyone who comes in with kindness."

She said their patrons vary from senior citizens to high schoolers.

"We work with everyone, regardless of how much you can pay. We just want to help," she said. Taylor says that this is the first year they have merited the award, and are very honored by it.

The veterinary practice is in the planning stages for a new building. It's hoped that ground can be broken for the new facility by next summer.

Taylor says that the current building is "really old, and has lots of problems. It will be nice to have a new building."

The new building will be located in the same spot as the current one so customers don't have to worry about changing locations.

San Luis Obispo Veterinary is located at 2963 South Higuera Street.

— Emma Sather

**Best Movie Theater**

The Fremont Theater

A marquee covered in neon lights greets moviegoers when they arrive at The Fremont. It is covered in bold writing announcing the theater's current movies and special features. It is all part of the movie experience that The Fremont strives to give audiences.

The lighting and art deco interior all add to the retro feel. Assistant Manager, Jeremy Kramer, says the 900-seat theater takes you back to an earlier time. "People have memories from here and it's a central landmark to the city, so it has a lot more meaning than a place where you buy some popcorn and leave," he said.

Kramer said Saturday mornings are usually the busiest at the theater, but this can change depending on what's playing. Midnight shows are usually big blockbusters, and almost always sell out. "The Dark Knight was one of the craziest movies I've ever seen here," Kramer said. "The midnight showing sold out four days before and the line went all the way around the block and down Santa Rosa."

The Fremont is located in downtown San Luis Obispo at 1025 Monterey Street. Prices for general admission range from $8.00 to $9.50 depending on day and time.

— Jessica Avanzino

**Best Outdoor Activity Rental**

Poly Escapes

Heading into the great outdoors? Poly Escapes offers great deals on all the necessary outdoor equipment. From kayaks to backpacks, Poly Escapes has it all for a much lower cost than other outdoor rental shops. Rent for one day, the weekend, or even a week. Poly Escapes is specifically designed to help Cal Poly students achieve their outdoor adventure goals.

Proud members of the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education organization (AORE), Poly Escapes is dedicated to providing opportunities for professionals and students in the field of outdoor recreation and education. Poly Escapes offers a library of maps, books and brochures to plan any excursion and the educated staff will help to outfit you with everything you need.

While renting gear is a big part of what Poly Escapes does, planning outdoor trips for students is an even bigger part. Sign up for a trip and you will receive 50% off rental gear for that trip. They're also willing to plan private trips for you and your friends, clubs, or leadership councils. Whether it's biking, backpacking, surfing, climbing, or hiking, Poly Escapes is willing to tailor the trip to fit your group's needs.

So next time you feel like venturing into the wild, sign up for a Poly Escapes trip or rent some of their gear for cheap.

Poly Escapes is located in the University Union, room 207 across from the Craft Center on the Cal Poly campus.

— Diane Verhaeghe

www.mustangdaily.net

Always in color
### Best Hair Salon
1st: Salon Lux
2nd: Rock & Roll Hair
3rd: Supercuts
HM: Tigerlily

### Best Barbershop
1st: University Barber Shop
2nd: Supercuts
3rd: Rock & Roll Hair
HM: Clippers

### Best Tanning Salon
1st: Planet Beach
2nd: Tanners Cove
3rd: SLO Tanning, Eurotan

### Best Gym
1st: Cal Poly Rec Center
2nd: Gold’s Gym
3rd: Kennedy Club Fitness
HM: Club 24

### Best Place to Get a Facial
1st: Bladerunner
2nd: Sycamore Mineral Springs
3rd: Salon Lux
HM: Faces A’La Mode

### Best Massage Therapy
1st: Sycamore Mineral Springs
2nd: Bladerunner
3rd: Bliss Body Spa
HM: Salon Lux

### Best Place to Pamper Yourself
1st: Sycamore Mineral Springs
2nd: Bladerunner
3rd: Salon Lux
HM: Bliss Body Spa

### Best SLO Doctor
1st: CP Health Center
2nd: Dr. Mazzone
3rd: Dr. Shurgeon
HM: Dr. Koo, Med Stop, Dr. Bravo

### Best SLO Dentist
1st: CP Health Center
2nd: Leopold & Murphy
3rd: Palm Dental Care
HM: Dr. Kim, SLO Dental Practice

### Best SLO Eye Doctor
1st: CP Health Center
2nd: Urban Optics
3rd: Costco
HM: Primary Eyecare

### Best Lawyer
1st: Chris Perello
2nd: William K. Gamble
3rd: Stephen Stern, James McKiernan, Ernst & Mattison

### Best Veterinarian
1st: San Luis Obispo Veterinary
2nd: Broad St. Vet Clinic
3rd: Animal Care Clinic
HM: Dr. Jaynie Noland

### Best Pet Store
1st: Petco
2nd: Petsmart
3rd: Aquatic Adventures
HM: Tails

### Best Car Dealer
1st: Sunset Honda
2nd: Toyota of SLO
3rd: Smith Volvo, San Luis Nissan BMW

### Best Place for Car Repairs
1st: Villa Automotive
2nd: Landis Automotive
3rd: Rizzoli’s Automotive
HM: Sunset Honda, Jiffy Lube

### Best Surf Shop
1st: Central Coast Surfboards
2nd: Moondoggies
3rd: SLO Surf
HM: One Way Boardshop, Esteem

### Best Bike Shop
1st: Art’s Cyclery
2nd: Foothill Cyclery
3rd: Cambria Bicycle Outfitter
HM: Wally’s Bicycle Works

### Best Scooter/Motorized Bike Store
1st: SLO Vespa
2nd: San Luis Motorsports
3rd: SLO eGo
HM: Central Coast Mechanics

### Best Outdoor Activity Rental
1st: Poly Escapes
2nd: Mountain Air Sports
3rd: kayak Horizons, Central Coast Surfboards

### Best Dance Studio
1st: Cal Poly Rec Center
2nd: Academy of Dance
3rd: American Dance Studio
HM: Moon Ja Minn Suhr Dance Studio

### Best Sports Store
1st: Sports Authority
2nd: Big 5 Sporting Goods
3rd: Mountain Air Sports
HM: GH Sports Outlet, SLOCO Soccer

### Best Swimwear
1st: SLO Swim
2nd: Sports Authority
3rd: Central Coast Surfboards, SLO Surf

### Best Women’s Fashion
1st: Express
2nd: Urban Outfitters
3rd: Ross
HM: Bloke

### Best Boutique
1st: Lucky Lulu’s
2nd: H&G Clothing
3rd: Therapy
HM: Crazy Jays

### Best Thrift Store
1st: Hands Gallery
2nd: El Corral
3rd: Best Buy
HM: Salvation Army

### Best Place to Buy a Gift
1st: Hands Gallery
2nd: El Corral
3rd: Best Buy
HM: Urban Outfitters

### Best Place to Shop on a Budget
1st: Ross
2nd: Goodwill
3rd: Dollar Tree
HM: Costco

### Best Bank
1st: Bank of America
2nd: Wells Fargo
3rd: Washington Mutual
HM: Union Bank of California

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Check out [www.mustangdaily.net](http://www.mustangdaily.net) to see an interactive list of first place winners as well as videos.
Best Bookstore
Barnes & Noble

With classes demanding our attention, each quarter, students often find little time to read for pleasure. But when they do, they choose Barnes & Noble as the best place in San Luis Obispo to enjoy. Barnes & Noble hosts a wide variety of books for consumers ranging from top sellers such as twilight to how-to guides. And if you're a book club member, the prices are some of the most competitive in San Luis Obispo. However, it's not just the books that draw customers to this store.

The Barnes & Noble store manager feels the bookstore stands out because of the customer service it provides. "We all love to be here," she says about the store's employees. Customers agree that the store atmosphere draws them to Barnes & Noble. Many students come to grab a cup of coffee upstairs and enjoy the peaceful quiet. "I come here a lot to sit and do homework," said Jean Gibson, a second-year Costa student. Local book enthusiasts make their way to Barnes & Noble at 934 Marsh St. to enjoy the inviting atmosphere.

Best On-Campus Place to Eat
Campus Market

Campus Market stands out from other places to eat on campus because of its variety and long hours. Students can get anything from coffee to produce, sushi or sandwiches, seven days a week. The market stocks all the essential grocery items, and students with meal plans can use their Plus Dollars to stock up. They also offer tons of prepared and hot food options for students needing a quick bite to eat. Psychology major Melina Peters, works at Campus Market and said it is busiest during lunchtime between 10 and 2:30. "At lunch people order a lot of pizza twists or stuff from the grill. The salad bar is also pretty popular."

The grill serves students breakfast burritos, scrambled eggs, potatoes, or ham and egg sandwiches in the morning and tri-tip sandwiches, hamburgers, hot pastrami, and other lunch choices. The market opens at 6:30 a.m., Monday - Friday, and at 10 a.m. on the weekends.

The market also offers a variety of locally produced products including ice cream from the Cal Poly Creamery, Mustang Cheddar, organic SLO Chai tea and Campus Market Private Label Jam. — Jesica Irace

Best Electronic Store
Best Buy

The students have, once again, voted Best Buy as their favorite electronics store — and rightly so, since it stands as the largest electronics store chain in the United States. Best Buy offers installation and maintenance service, technical support and subscriptions for cell phone and Internet services.

"This is where I bought my iPad," says Agricultural Business major Jake Taylor. "And shopping at Best Buy made me realize that you can essentially buy any electronic item here and it's pretty much guaranteed for a long time — even longer if you buy the warranty. Buying your electronics here is a much better idea than buying them online, even if you can get them cheaper, because you can't beat the service and reliability of Best Buy. Plus, they are the first ones to have my favorite video games in stock."

Another advantage for the King of electronic stores the Geek Squad. For those less technologically savvy, the Geek Squad offers new personal computer set-up and security repairs and upgrades, wireless networking and data protection among other things. Despite where you purchased your equipment, the Geek Squad can fix any computer, any time — even making house calls.

The Geek Squad mission: "to create a world where computer problems are obsolete."

Best Buy can be found at 221 Madonna Road in San Luis Obispo.

Best Place to Buy Student Supplies
El Corral Bookstore

El Corral Bookstore sits in the heart of Cal Poly's University Union and provides students with a wide variety of college essentials, from pencils and notebooks to textbooks and backpacks.

Its convenient location makes it easy to purchase a scantron on the way to class or to shop for the latest Cal Poly merchandise during USA Hour. El Corral also accepts Campus Express Club cards, which makes purchasing supplies even easier.

New school supplies and Cal Poly merchandise are frequently introduced at the bookstore to give students the most popular, fashionable and seasonal options available. El Corral conducts price comparisons regularly to ensure that students receive the best possible value for their supplies.

"I can get everything I need for class in one place, and most of the proceeds from the bookstore go directly back to the school," English junior Lauren Babek said.

Students can receive up to $1200 off Adobe software and up to $400 off Microsoft software at the bookstore; a deal that is nearly impossible to find elsewhere.

In addition to everyday low prices, students who pre-order their textbooks online through Textbook Reservation receive 10 percent off their textbook order and an extra discount on school supplies. — Carla Nolte
Best Gym or Dance Studio

Cal Poly Rec Center

Ninety-five thousand square feet of fitness space. Two hours before your next class. One big need to release endorphins. Our Poly card.

The Cal Poly Rec Center is a college student’s ultimate dream of having fun in the palm of his or her hands.

What other gym in San Luis Obispo has racquetball courts, an Olympic-sized pool, sand volleyball pit, multiple basketball courts, cardio theaters, fitness room used for instructional classes, and martial arts rooms?

The Rec Center is a student-run facility and was built with student money about 15 years ago. According to assistant director Greg Avakian, all of the employees are somehow related to Cal Poly, and around 300 of them are students. Students and faculty get much more than just another 20 minutes on the treadmill by coming to the Rec Center.

“They get to have a recreation experience, not just a work-out, gym experience. It’s a big difference,” said Avakian.

Every part of the facility has an opportunity to have an instructional sense to it. If you’ve never played racquetball before, the center offers classes.

There are currently 35 exercise classes being offered at the Rec Center and these include Dance Fusion, Hip Hop, and free yoga and spin classes on the weekends. Students can purchase a quarter pass good for all classes throughout the week for $49 or a noon pass for $37.

But even with so many opportunities to exercise, the Rec Center’s main commitment is recreation.

“Open recreation time is what we value the most,” said Avakian.

And with the big Rec Center expansion project set to break ground this summer, you can count on the Rec Center just getting better and better in the years to come.

— Jessica Avanzino
Best Happy Hour
The Cliffs

With its unparalleled views of the Pacific and affordable mixed drinks — try the margarita — it’s hard to imagine The Cliffs ever losing the Best Happy Hour distinction. The most popular bar overlooking the beach is perhaps most famous for its outstanding five-dollar margaritas.

Jim Madison has worked at the bar since its inception seven years ago and understands its appeal. “The view and drink combo is unbeatable, and the drinks are soars ago, and understands its appeal. “The view and drink combo is unbeatable, and the drinks

The Cliffs is located right off Highway 101.

Best Keg Deal
BevMo!

Turning 21 is a big deal in college. You no longer have to tell your friends “I can’t, I’m not 21 yet,” and that alone is cause for celebration. Many students count the years, months, and days until they can join that elite crowd of legal-aged drinkers, and when that time finally arrives, it’s time for a party.

Unfortunately, most students don’t realize that drinking can be extremely expensive, and when you’re a broke college student trying to get by on Top Ramen, scoring a good deal on weekend beverages is key. For Cal Poly students, BevMo! is the place to go.

At BevMo! you can buy a five-gallon keg of Portland MacTarnahan’s for $55 or Pyramid Hefeweizen for $75. For larger parties, you can buy a 15.5 gallon keg of Pabst Blue Ribbon for $92.96, or spend a little more money for a more high-end beer like Pilsner Urquell or Paulaner Salvator Dopplebock. Whether you’re a beer snob or just want to party (responsibly, of course), BevMo! has over 100 kegs to choose from.

“We’re different from other local liquor stores because we’re corporate, but that gives us the ability to have more of a variety at competitive prices,” stated Kyle Sumner, Assistant Manager.

In addition to low prices on kegs, BevMo! sells wine, spirits, mixers and barware. Customers can also sign up for BevBev, which is free, and allows you bottles of wine as spirits, mixers and barware. Customers can also sign up for BevBev, which is free, and allows you bottles of wine

When the big day finally comes, be smart with your birthday money, and check out the great BevMo!’s great deals.

— Brittany McKinney

Best Grocery Store
Trader Joe’s

Despite being almost five miles from campus (quite a trudge in our compact town), Trader Joe’s still attracts a large constituency of working, hungry college students.

Come by any time between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. and you’ll see why. Employee Dan Weber says that the distance isn’t a deterrent "because of the store’s low prices and varied selection. An employee of Trader Joe’s for 20 years, Weber appreciates what he describes as “the consistently huge college turnout.” Weber said he and his managers do their best to support college students with a wide variety of products, dairy products, and specialty items you won’t find anywhere else.

Weber estimates that about 80 percent of the store’s staff are college students from Cal Poly and nearby Cuesta. Customers are encouraged to bring in their own reusable grocery bags and receive a small discount at the register. For its employment of students, affordable groceries, and wine, Trader Joe’s is San Luis Obispo’s best grocery store.

— Megan Huntington

Best Meal Deal/Late Night Meal
Taco Bell

It’s 1:30 a.m., and after a long night out on the town, one thought comes to the mind of many Cal Poly students: “fourth meal!”

It’s a sight to be seen after midnight at the Taco Bell on Santa Rosa Street. On any Thursday, Friday, or Saturday night. The rush usually begins around 11:30 p.m., and the line stretches out the door while music plays and students chat over their burritos and nachos.

“I like going to Taco Bell because it becomes a social place late at night. I get to see everyone I know there. My favorite orders are the Crunchwrap Supreme and bean and cheese burrito” says sophomore Courtney Preston.

With an army of items to choose from at very reasonable prices, Taco Bell is a great way to end a night out.

Taco Bell is open Sunday through Thursday until 3 a.m. and Friday and Saturday until 4 a.m. It has a lot of budget deals — a cheesy, double beef burrito for 89 cents for instance — which makes it a little hard to decide just which one matched them the award for this year’s “Best meal deal.”

It’s probably either meal number one or two,” said manager Maggie Gonzalez, citing the two most ordered meals from the menu. Taco Bell is leading the industry’s race for great economic deals with its “why pay more” menu, featuring nine items for 99 cents or less.

Taco Bell has nearly 6,000 locations around the U.S., two of which are in San Luis Obispo. The Taco Bell on Santa Rosa Street has the second highest of the sales record in the state of the chain’s restaurants, perhaps because of its proximity to Cal Poly.

Cal Poly student Shane Cyriac says he eats at Taco Bell at least once a week. As for the meal deal, his vote is on the Cheesy Gordita Crunch or the Crunchwrap Supreme.

— Ashley Hudson and Emma Seifter
Edna Valley Vineyard

Edna Valley Vineyard is located, as its name would suggest, in the heart of San Luis Obispo's Edna Valley. Overlooking acres of wine grapes, the tasting room is the perfect place for the local wine drinker.

"I love the view. The tasting room looks out over the vineyard so you can see the valley while you taste," said Lindsay Walsh, a Cal Poly graduate student.

Open year-round, Edna Valley Vineyard caters to its patrons through a wine club that offers specialty wines available only onsite at the tasting room and quality customer service. Tours are also available upon request during the weekend. Edna Valley Vineyard also offers an online calendar filled with dinners, cooking classes, and much more for their loyal wine enthusiasts.

Edna Valley Vineyard prides itself on its commitment to quality and believes that "the wine should be as pure an expression of the place and the grape as possible."

The winery focuses on Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Syrah, Merlot, and Cabernet Sauvignon. The Edna Valley 2005 Chardonnay Paragon Vineyard offers a unique stone fruit aroma that adds to the richness of the wine. The 2006 Edna Valley Chardonnay Paragon Vineyard received a best buy nod in the Connoisseur's Guide to California Wine. With low-impact farming and winemaking, Edna Valley Vineyard is dedicated to excellence.

— Amie Michul

Sycamore Mineral Springs

For anyone looking to get pampered, Sycamore Mineral Springs in Avila Beach has it all. While offering luxury lodging, Sycamore's Spa and Wellness Center is a local favorite.

Since the 1930s, people from all over the world have traveled to Sycamore to soak in its famous mineral water.

Located on more than 100 acres of tranquil forests and meadows, Sycamore Mineral Springs is great place for a massage. The spa offers many different services guaranteed to renew your mind, body, and spirit. Swedish, deep tissue, hot stone, and even quick fix 30-minute massages are offered.

A long list of facials and body treatments are available off of their spa menu. They even offer a unique treatment geared toward wine-country. Sycamore specializes in different wine therapy massages and treatments.

Local Chardonnay grape seeds are used for their powerful anti-oxidant properties. All of the wine therapy treatments even include a glass of local Chardonnay wine. Whether you want a couple's massage or a quick facial, Sycamore offers it in a professional, beautiful setting.

Sycamore also offers yoga classes, hiking guides, and relaxing mineral baths to enjoy before your massage.

Sycamore Mineral Springs is located at 1215 Avila Beach Dr. in Avila Beach.

Best Facials: Bladerunner Day Spa

Looking for a personalized facial that will leave you feeling refreshed and ready to take on the day? Look no further than Bladerunner Day Spa located in downtown San Luis Obispo on the corner of Monterey and Morse streets. This modern day spa offers everything from hair styling, to manicures, to massages to their famous facials.

Its downtown location offers the perfect atmosphere for locals and students alike. And the clientele varies, from young teens to senior citizens.

"We have a wide range of services from teen facials to anti-aging facials," said aesthetician Nora Nolan. With such a wide selection, it's easy to find a treatment that fits your skin type.

"Our most popular is the Dermologica Express Facial which we customize to fit our client's skin type and specific needs," Nolan added.

Bladerunner Day Spa also offers a Microdermabrasion Facial, one of the most effective methods for skin exfoliation, and a Classic European Facial that revitalizes and exfoliates. It has a retail center where you can buy the products, like those offered in the Dermologica line, used during your personal facial. Bladerunner Day Spa has been offering quality services since 1986. The professionals at Bladerunner credit their successes to professional customer service.

— Ann Michul

Best Place for a Massage

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Best Music Store
Boo Boo Records

Post and physician Oliver Wendell Holmes long ago prescribed his readers to "take a walk, both once or twice a week for a few seconds, and you will find that it is to the soul what the water bath is to the body." The ingredients of each individual's music bath will vary, of course, and Boo Boo Records understands that.

From Jazz to Rap, LPs to CDs, concert tickets to memorabilia, Boo Boo Records is prepared to serve your music needs.

Adding to its appeal, the 38-year-old record store lures people who find music just as meaningful as Holmes does. Manager Malik Thorne equated the opening of a newly purchased LP to viewing a beautiful piece of art.

Thorne understands how the authenticity of an independent music store makes its contents that much more appealing, saying, "You walk in and feel a certain excitement about music."

In addition to its knowledgeable staff and diverse selection, the store also has listening stations that play new releases selected by employees.

Check out their Web site which provides useful insider information for music fanatics including bonus tracks, upcoming shows, and free album posters.

Boo Boo Records is located at 978 Monterey St. in downtown San Luis Obispo.

— Megan Huntington

Best Italian Food
Giuseppe's

Created as a senior project by Giuseppe DiFranco, Giuseppe's offers the best in homemade Italian cuisine. DiFranco started his business with an eight-table restaurant in South County. Then, three and a half years ago he opened the more urban, modern San Luis Obispo Giuseppe's.

"I stepped out of my comfort zone," DiFranco said about branching out.

Now, 20 years later, Giuseppe's has become essential to local dining. DiFranco prides himself on attention to detail, from the lemons and limes he grows in his own garden, to organic strawberries, to dry ice in the martinis. "It's the atmosphere. It's top quality," he says.

Whether you are in San Luis Obispo or Pismo Beach, Giuseppe's offers Italian food for the whole family. The San Luis location boasts a contemporary Italian cuisine menu filled with flavorful dishes. The Pismo Beach location features a more Southern Italian palate with Sicilian inspired decor and dishes.

After 20 years, he still has a passion for the business. As for DiFranco's thoughts on winning the Best Italian Food distinction, he said, "I'm grateful to Cal Poly. I wouldn't be here if it weren't for the learn by doing philosophy."

— Anne Michal
VOTED BY CAL POLY STUDENTS

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There are many boutiques and stores in San Luis Obispo that carry a variety of women’s clothes, but stores that carry men’s clothes are harder to find. Express in downtown San Luis Obispo has recently begun to sell men’s clothing, proving to be the No. 1 store for local guys to shop.

Express sells a variety of chic men’s clothing from polos, tees, and knits to pants, jackets, and suits.

“I actually shopped for clothes at Express yesterday. I like to shop there for the jeans. Even though their brands are a bit more expensive than what you find in some other stores, the quality definitely justifies the price,” said freshman David McCutcheon.

Most of what you will find at Express is affordable for the college student’s budget. T-shirts start at $24.50 and jeans at $56.00. The pricier items are in the $90 to $100 range. Most students shop during the sales held at least once a month where clothes are featured at $9.99 for the last season’s looks.

Whatever clothing items the male Cal Poly student desires is offered at Express, where the must-have looks of the season are always in stock.

Express is located at 887 Higuera St. in downtown San Luis Obispo.

Urban Outfitters

Whether you want to find a new pair of shoes or a hilarious coffee table book, Urban Outfitters is a one stop shop for everything cool. With racks of cutting edge designs, you are destined to find that perfect something.

Funky, fashion-forward trends is what Urban Outfitters is all about. The store stands out against other boutiques in downtown San Luis Obispo by carrying a variety of designs hard to find elsewhere. With a two-level store, a woman (or man for that matter) can spend quite a bit of time discovering new items. Although it is a nation-wide chain, the store feels more like a small boutique rather than a corporate retailer. This store is ideal for creating a one-of-a-kind look. Whimsical, edgy, 80s inspired, you name it, and the store probably has something to fit your taste.

Along with apparel, Urban Outfitters offer home décor, jewelry, books and great gag gifts. Customer Christy Hart, 23, enjoys shopping here for herself and others.

“I usually check out the sale rack upstairs first. It’s a great way to save money on some really cute stuff,” she said.

Urban Outfitters is located at 962 Monterey St. in downtown San Luis Obispo.
“When I first came to Cal Poly, I used a bank that my parents had. After too many overdraft charges, long lines and unfriendly tellers, I was fed up and wanted a change. Now at SESLOC, it is so convenient. I pick up my check, walk down stairs, and deposit it right away and the tellers are always happy to see and help me.” Charlotte Lilley, Senior

“SESLOC’s courteous service and generous lending have made me a loyal member during my time as a Cal Poly student. It’s good to know that after graduation, no matter where I go, I will be a SESLOC member for life.” Brian Uhler, Senior

“SESLOC gave me my first car loan at 16 and has met all my needs in the 30 years since. I truly appreciate the safety, security and stability of all our accounts at SESLOC.” Frank Limon, Cal Poly Staff

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Robin James Cellars, named after founding winemaker Tobin James, was built from scratch on the site of an old stagecoach stop. Located just off of Highway 46 East in Paso Robles, Tobin James Cellars is conveniently located in the heart of Paso Robles’ wine region.

Restored to perfection, this winery has a character all on its own. Its saloon atmosphere is unique and intriguing to both locals and tourists. “It’s unique and unusual. The tasting room really shows off the character of the wine and staff,” says Cal Poly senior Rebecca Zieniba. Wine is poured and tasted off the grand, antique 1800’s Brunswick mahogany bar from St. Louis, Missouri.

Diehard fans of Tobin James can become a part of the Janes Club and enjoy discounts, invitations to special events like the annual Zinfandel Festival Reception held specifically for James Janes members and their guests. (Janes Club members also receive access to unique wines only poured in the tasting room like 2005 Estate Reserve Stash, an Estate Bordeaux blend. With wines like the 2007 Chardonnay “Radiance” and the 2006 Syrah “Rock N Roll”, wine drinkers will never be bored. Their wines feature unique aromas and flavors like hints of kiwi and black currant. With outrageous names and bold tastes, it’s no wonder Tobin James Cellars was named Mustang Daily’s Best Paso Robles Winery.

— Anne Michul

Trader Joe’s is where value, adventure and tasty treasures are found every day.

All Trader Joe’s labeled products contain no artificial flavors, colors, preservatives, MSG, or trans fat. None of the Trader Joe’s label products is sourced from non-genetically modified ingredients. All products sold at Trader Joe’s labeled “organic” and “trade with organic” must meet NOP (National Organic Program) standards.

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Not only does Trader Joe’s have original organic products without the high prices of run-of-the-mill grocery stores, but also the customer is treated with special courtesy. If you’re ever unsatisfied with a Trader Joe’s product, you may return it for a full refund, no questions asked. That’s true customer satisfaction. Buying directly from the source whenever possible allows Trader Joe’s to keep prices down and keep shoppers coming back for more. So it’s likely your first trip to Trader Joe’s won’t be your last.

Trader Joe’s is located at 3977 South Higuera St. in San Luis Obispo.

— Cassie Malgieri

“We SLIT you best” is not only the tagline of San Luis Obispo’s largest swimwear store, but it’s also a promise. Owner Shelley Filip has been selling bathing suits for 14 years. Getting her start at the Sea Barn in Avila Beach, she ventured back to SLO to start her own store. Though it started as a rather small swimwear store on Chorro Street, SLO Swim is now serving clients from a larger location on Higuera Street.

“Shelley is huge on customer service,” says SLO Swim employee Kendra Zoller. “She has such loyal customers that only work with her and she knows everything about suits, including what looks best on clients.”

Offering an astounding selection of swimwear brands, SLO Swim is proud to specialize in larger cup sizes. They can also custom order suits in the rare occasion you can’t find what you’re looking for.

Not solely a swimsuit store, SLO Swim offers clothing and sportswear from dresses, shirts, shorts, sandals, swim caps, and purses. “We cater towards all ages,” says Zoller.

“We carry junior sizes and favorite brands like Vix and Vitamin A, yet we also have contemporary suits for older people, and a small area of kids’ suits.”

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With over 6,000 banking centers and more than 18,000 ATMs in the United States, it comes as no surprise that Cal Poly students chose Bank of America as their No. 1 bank.

Bank of America, located at 1165 Higuera St., is known for providing quality service to its customers.

"It's nice to know that people are noticing our genuine service. Even though we are a huge bank, we still act as small since we share the same community," banking center manager Julie Cagle said.

Students can open a free CampusEdge Checking Account with no minimum balance required. This program makes it easy for parents to directly deposit funds into their child's account. Students can even make payments to their landlords online.

Even better, students are eligible to receive $10 when a friend joins CampusEdge.

Online banking is one of Bank of America's proudest features. Its user-friendly approach and variety of capabilities appeal to customers of all ages.

Free mobile banking and text alerts were recently added to make students' lives easier.

Students can stay informed about checking, savings and credit card activity at any time by receiving text messages or emails with pertinent and balance information.

An ATM is conveniently located in the University Union with three others around San Luis Obispo.

Between banking centers, ATMs and online banking capabilities, you can rest assured that wherever you go, Bank of America will be there to serve you.

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**Best Pet Store**

**PETCO**

PETCO is your one stop pet shop. Specializing in an array of pet services, supplies and accessories, PETCO is the place to go to treat, pamper and take care of your pet's needs.

From the full-service grooming salon, and self-service dog wash today, to professional pet photography and DNA breed testing, you're sure to find all that you need for you and more.

PETCO's knowledgeable employees are quick to offer a hand and answer any questions customers may have. If you need further assistance you can also attend their canine education programs where they'll help you learn how to train your pet.

To show how important animals and their owners are to them, PETCO offers pet owners relief in these tough economic times by holding low-cost vaccination clinics.

"As the economy slows, we've seen an increase in the number of customers visiting our clinics," said Taylor Phillips, PETCO's vice-president of pet services new growth.

In addition to vaccinations, the clinics also offer services like heartworm testing and preventative, fecal testing, de-worming, and micro-chipping.

So make sure to take your pet to PETCO and show how much you really care about him (or her).

PETCO is located at 271 Madona Road in San Luis Obispo.

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**Best Place to Buy a Mattress**

**Costco**

San Luis residents know that when you want to buy big, there's only one place to go.

That's why they voted Costco the best place to buy a mattress in San Luis Obispo. Here you can find a variety of mattresses for your needs, ranging from twin-sized to king-sized.

Warehouse Manager Jay Dougherty said that the reason most residents buy at Costco is the quality.

"We guarantee a really good mattress at a great price," he said.

And, although Dougherty said Costco keeps its mattresses stocked year-round, he explained that the store ensures that its stock remains fully loaded during the back-to-school season so students have a chance to get their choice of mattress.

"I bought my mattress from Costco at the beginning of this school year," said fourth year Cal Poly student Danielle Tabachnick.

"When I'm not sleeping in the architecture lab it's nice to be able to come home to a soft bed."

Costco mattresses range from $200 to $660 depending on the style you choose.

So if you're looking to buy a new mattress, head out to Costco, located at 1540 Froom Ranch Way off of Los Osos Valley Road to find a comfy mattress at a great value.

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**Best Storage Facility**

**Derrel's Mini Storage**

Are you short on space? Derrel's Mini Storage may help. This storage facility is a favorite among Cal Poly students wanting to store extra stuff during the summer. While offering a wide range of sizes, Derrel's keeps prices low. For as little as $45.50 a month, you can have safe, clean, affordable storage.

With more than 50 locations in Central California, Derrel's Mini Storage is dedicated to its customers' needs. Since 1982, the company has built architecturally appealing facilities that provide all your storage needs. The friendly on-site managers will help you find a unit that best fits your needs within your budget.

Open seven days a week from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., the storage units are accessible through its computerized gated entry system. The extra-wide aisles provide easy maneuvering even in larger trucks.

Derrel's is running a currently running a free rent special. When you rent a full month, you get a month free. This special is available for up to three free months of rent.

Derrel's Mini Storage is located at 3630 Broad St. in San Luis Obispo.

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Friday, February 20, 2009
For those looking for a restaurant to satisfy their spicy palette needs, look no further than Thai Palace. Located right in the heart of downtown San Luis Obispo, lining the alley that makes up the Court Street shops, Thai Palace is a destination for the exotic food aficionado. The restaurant has been around for 10 years but it just experienced a face-lift two years ago when the entire restaurant was remodeled.

"The theme of this restaurant is a back alley in Bangkok. We are a friendly, high-end, casual environment," said manager Matthew Yin. The most popular dishes at Thai Palace are the curries, fried rice, and stir fry noodles. Everything usually comes as mild or medium, but you can ask the waiter to make it hot or very hot if you're feeling up to the challenge. But if going hot isn't your thing just yet, Yin said that there are food options for beginners, too.

Thai Palace is located at 1015 Court Street, right next to Yogurt Creations. It is open Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for lunch and 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. for dinner; Saturday 12 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

— Krizia Torres

Let's face it, with a failing economy, bills to pay and low-wage jobs, special occasions and shopping for the new seasons can weigh heavily on a college student's budget. That's why many San Luis Obispo residents prefer to shop at Ross when they are on a tight budget. Ross sells the items back at a discounted price to consumers.

"You get more value for your money," said store manager David McNeil. "It's first rate merchandise at a reduced price!" Ross stocks top-name brands including Liz Claiborne, Guess Jeans, and BCBG that have been closed out from other retailers. Meanwhile, other students browsed the discounted shoes and clothes racks in preparation for the changing seasons.

"It's one of the cheapest places for shoes," said Joyce Tari, a third-year Cal Poly student.

So if you find yourself counting pennies this year, but in need of a good gift, new outfit, or home supplies, Ross, located at 868 Higuera St., is a great place to find quality items on a budget.

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Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

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Studying is not always the most enjoyable aspect of college, but the students at Cal Poly know how to get it done at Kennedy Library. The library started in a small room of the original administration building on campus in 1937. Over the last 100 years, it has grown immensely and is now stocked with more than five million items. There are many different quiet places to study throughout the library. Featuring five stories with quiet desk nooks, study rooms, computer labs, 24-hour reading room, and Pony Prints, the library was built especially for studying. Julian’s Coffee Shop was just added to the newly renovated second floor, as well as large brand new study rooms for students to gather in.

It's rare to find a library where eating and drinking are not only permitted, but encouraged. Stop by Julian's and enjoy some of their tasty treats on your way to class.

"I live with seven other girls, which makes studying in the house really hard," English senior Diana Bales said. "The library is a quiet place to study at night and it's especially sweet now that Julian's was put in."

Conveniently located at the west end of campus, students can easily escape for a quick study session, gather for a group meeting or engage in an intense cramming session before a test; which is why it was voted the number one best study spot.

Best Motorized Bike & Scooter Store
SLO Vespa

Do you have that urge to get on a motorized bike and ride down the Central Coast with the warm wind in your hair? Many San Luis Obispo residents and students share the love for riding their motorized scooters and the one place they go for quality bikes is SLO Vespa. SLO Vespa offers a variety of inventory, bike service, and riding accessories. It is an advocate of greener commuting with all scooters getting up to 70 miles per gallon.

At any one time, there are at least 40 scooters in stock. A wide variety of models and price ranges is offered. You'll also find accessories, gifts and riding apparel.

There is also a scooter club that rides at least once a month. Featured on their Web site www.wilmoscooterworks.com, are photos from the club's rides as well as a blog for local riders to share their riding experiences. If you're looking for a quick way to get to school, zip around San Luis Obispo, or just enjoy riding motorized scooters, SLO Vespa has the bike to fit your specific needs.

SLO Vespa is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. — but if you can't come by during those hours, you can always stand outside the showroom window and admire the shiny new scooters all lined up and ready to go.

The store is conveniently located at 1144 Higuera St. in downtown San Luis Obispo.
Best Sushi
Shin's

College students like sushi. College students like affordability. Shin's is the perfect Japanese restaurant andushi bar to cater to those specific needs.

"Sounds too good to be true! Shin's menu offers a great selection of quality cut hand rolls for half the price of what other regular sushi restaurants offer."

"The owner Steve Shin, is so nice. He buys the fish and imports everything at a great deal and makes it very affordable for the people of San Luis Obispo," said server Adam Aguilera.

But the affordable price isn’t the only reason why Shin’s is the top pick for Japanese cuisine. The upbeat, party-like atmosphere is what attracts most hungry college students who religiously crowd the entrance on weekend nights. There is a cake for the staff here on up as well as traditional Japanese beer and cocktails. If you come in on Thursdays after 6 pm, you can try a free sample of Sushi cocktails.

"The college crew that comes here can really connect with us because we aren’t uptight. We want to sell you good, affordable food," said Aguilera.

And aside from those big crowds of college students in a birthday celebration Shin’s offers, a unique, fun birthday celebration consisting of strobe lights, techno music, restaurant participation, oni ice cream, and a picture with a frame that says,”I celebrated my birthday at Shin’s.” The walls of the restaurant are filled with Polaroid pictures of people who came to celebrate their birthdays at Shin’s.

"We love seeing people having fun," said Aguilera. Shin’s is located at 8023 Monterey St. in downtown San Luis Obispo.

— Kerri Jones

Best Sandwich
High Street Deli

For your lunchtime sandwich, there can only be one answer, High Street Deli. Located in the middle of High Street, off of Broad Street, in a 100-year-old building, this deli truly caters to your every taste bud. With sandwiches you can barely fit your mouth around, soups and salads made from scratch, and delicious cookies, you are sure to leave High Street Deli satisfied.

From classics like the B.L.T. to hot meatloaf sandwich every time he eats at High Street. And he knows to come in around 4:20 pm for the 420 sandwich special when sandwiches are only $4.20. He says, "High Street offers a substantial menu with daily specials and customer favorites like the California Turkey sandwich piled high with roasted turkey, avocados, and melted pepper jack cheese. They even offer catering for the local party or luncheon.

Kyle Cameron, a Cal Poly graduate, orders the same sandwich every time he eats at High Street. And he knows to come in around 4:20 pm for the 420 sandwich special when sandwiches are only $4.20. He says, "High Street Deli adds more love to their sandwiches than anywhere else."

— Anne Michul

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Best Student Housing
Poly Canyon Village

Poly Canyon Village, the newest residential addition to the Cal Poly campus, was voted Best Student Housing.

The new housing option opened in fall 2008 and is home to 2,700 continuing students. With four floor plans, housing four to six students in private and shared bedroom suites, students have access to all of the finest amenities. Each apartment is fully furnished and offers picturesque views of the Cal Poly campus and surrounding hills.

Suites include a kitchen, living room, study rooms, a knowledge center and conference room, residents have the access and facility to work hard and play harder.

All current continuing freshmen students have the opportunity to apply to live in the Poly Canyon Village Apartments for the 2009-2010 Academic Year. Students admission is decided upon by a lottery drawing. Upperclassmen interested living in Poly Canyon are able to place their name on an "Interest List" after the initial lottery process has been completed for current freshmen.

For any additional information visit the housing link on the Cal Poly Web portal.

Cassie Maldeger

Best Steakhouses / Place to be Spoiled by your Parents
F. McClintock's

San Luis Obispo is famous for its tri-tip, you can find it at almost every restaurant you go to, and even at Cal Poly's Campus Market. When most people think of having a steak dinner, however, there's usually one San Luis Obispo restaraunt that comes to mind: McClintock's.

Located in both Shell Beach and downtown San Luis Obispo, McClintock's is known among students and community members alike, and the restaurant was voted "Best local, non-SLO restaurant" and "Best place to be spoiled by your parents" in 2008 by Mustang Daily readers.

And it's no wonder. Dinners can enjoy a wide variety of appetizers, and most come with a salad, beans, garlic, cheese bread, a choice of French fries, rice, baked potatoes, or garlic mashed potatoes, and finally, ice cream or an after-dinner drink for the 21-and-over crowd.

"I go to McClintock's when my parents visit. The food is really good, and you get so much. The servers are entertaining too with their water-pouring tricks. We had a waiter that poured our water blindfolded," said Monica Ambrosini, a business sophomore.

Not only is the place entertaining with its clever waiters and quirky, wild west décor, but your parents' money will be well spent, and you will go home well-fed.

Sports

continued from page 25

Sports enthusiasts can find equipment and accessories for a variety of sports including baseball, bowling, BMX, biking, snowboarding, golf and tennis. In addition to carrying all of the equipment you will ever need, Sports Authority also offers sports apparel and footwear from all the top brands.

Sports keep you looking stylish while doing it.

In addition to carrying all of the equipment you will ever need, Sports Authority also offers sports apparel and footwear from all the top brands.

If you're thinking of joining a club-sport or replacing those old running shoes you've had since high school, then look no further; Sports Authority will hook you up.

Brittany McKinley

A Store For All Seasons

Setting the Standard
Cal Poly's choice for outdoor activity rentals and gear!

The best place to see the McClintock's staff in action is on Thursday evenings at Farmers Market. They're easy to spot because they always have the longest line and you will usually have the great, selling out people's orders, giving the place a fun and enthusiastic atmosphere that even makes waiting in line enjoyable.

Business senior Ashley Bartlett and her commuters have made a tradition of going to McClintock's on Thursdays, and have gotten to know the staff well.

"When I go to Farmers, I can think of eating nowhere but McClintock's," Bartlett stated. "Some of my best memories are there; as every week my commuters and I bring all the McClintock's Men's lemonade servers, and our favorite cashiers a freshly baked batch of sweets. We know they are grateful for our baked treats, because sometimes they even offer to buy us dinner. Nothing tastes better on a perfect Thursday night downtown!"

Before you leave San Luis Obispo, be sure to stop by McClintock's, which you won't find anywhere but the Central Coast, and satisfy your craving for a big, juicy steak by taking advantage of that free meal your parents are offering.

Brittany McKinley

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Visit Ticketmaster.com for information on upcoming concerts and the newest available releases.

Win tickets to see Flight Of The Conchords in Santa Barbara! Go to hotboxrecords.com to enter. You can also find the latest upcoming concerts and the newest available releases.
Best Margarita
Vallarta’s

Calling all scholars and scholars tough enough to tackle Vallarta’s famous 60 ounce margarita! Blended or on the rocks, this gigantic cup of fun is a rite of passage for many that come of age in San Luis Obispo. There’s no wonder why Vallarta’s won the top honor for “Best Margarita” this year.

“I’ve been to Vallarta’s many times for my friends’ birthdays and the 60 ounce margarita is a must,” said statistics senior Lauren Olerich. “I’ve only seen a couple people finish the entire thing. My personal favorite is the raspberry.”

Share it with friends or undertake it alone, this massive margarita is good enough to suit anyone’s taste buds and is available in multiple flavors. For those with smaller sensibilities, the famous margarita is available in smaller sizes as well.

Vallarta’s is a great place to kick off a birthday celebration. With plenty of seating for large parties and reasonable pricing, none of your friends will want to miss out.

Vallarta’s is located at 1761 Monterey Street in San Luis Obispo.

— Diane Vlahogi

Best Tanning Salon
Planet Beach

The winter season is slowly transitioning into spring and before you know it, summer is here. And what does that mean for those who have been hiding under layers of clothing all season? It’s time to get a tan!

Planet Beach is San Luis Obispo’s answer to all its tanning prayers. The salon is hip and out of this world. Planet Beach is equipped with multiple level lay-down and stand-up beds and a Mystic UV-free booth for those who opt for a spray tan.

Functioning much more than just another tanning salon, Planet Beach is first to give birth to the idea of the “Contempo Spa.” According to their Web site, this concept marries the tanning business with the day spa and wellness treatments. Customers can relax with an aqua massage, facial treatment and tanning session all in the same place!

Planet Beach is located at 787 E. Foothill Blvd. It is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

— Kiera Toms

Best Cell Phone Service
Verizon

Verizon Wireless’ motto “The nation’s most reliable wireless network” proved true in San Luis Obispo when our readers voted it the “Best for cell phone service.”

The wireless service offers innovative phones as well as good coverage in the San Luis Obispo area that beats out competitors T-Mobile and AT&T. One of the most valuable parts of the Verizon calling plan is free in-calling among customers.

Daniel Forbes, an engineering student, said he is happy with Verizon Wireless as his carrier. “We have a family plan, and it’s really cheap.” He says service is good whether he is here at school or back home in Oakland. “There are some spots where the service isn’t great, but most places I get service. I’m pleased with Verizon.”

Forbes also said that he is impressed with their customer service. “Any time we need to deal with customer service or anything they are really helpful, they are never rude on the phone or anything. If there’s an erroneous charge, they’ll reverse it really quickly. I’m happy with them.”

Verizon Wireless is located at 994 Mill Street in San Luis Obispo.

— Emma Sehler
**Best Thrift Store**

**Goodwill**

One of the biggest thrift store chains in California, Goodwill Industries proudly won this year’s award for best thrift store in San Luis Obispo. The thrift store giant has over 2,000 locations around the country, turning donated goods into charity for the community. In 2007, Goodwill reported $3.2 billion in total revenue, 84 percent of which went towards employment programs and supports services for those in need.

Will Kern, who works for Goodwill Industries in San Luis Obispo, said he is impressed by how much Goodwill does for the community and its own employees.

He said he is touched to see an organization that is concerned with its employees.

“They take really good care of their people,” Kern said. “The small shop’s checkered door, big mirrors, and old-fashioned chairs offer a flashback to a slower, simpler time — and are a testament to how long the shop has been in business.

Phillips has seen the community around the little five-chair shop change drastically over the years. “It used to be a 365-day a year business, but now our customers are migratory and it has become a 360-day a year business,” referring to the student population brought in by Cal Poly and Cal Poly.

She said what people like about the business is that they keep it simple.

“We’re just an old-time barbershop that cuts hair. Beany shops have a tendency to go towards hair coloring and all that type of stuff. We just cut hair”.

**CAL POY**

come visit one of the **Best Tasting Rooms** in San Luis Obispo

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**Best Vegetarian Plate**

**Natural Café**

In a town brimming with carnivorous restaurants and boosting a university with its very own stock pens and course on cow slaughtering, what is a vegetarian to do?

If healthy, meat-free, and delicious are operative terms on your list of desirable qualities in a restaurant, then you’re in luck. Natural Café has a reputation for being one of the best vegetarian restaurants in town.

The downtown restaurant’s varied menu includes chili, burgers and hot dogs — all tasty and meat free. If you’re not into mimicked meat then there are plenty of other options from pastas and salads to burritos.

General manager Jennifer Stockey cites regular customers that make it feel like we’re our own little family here,” she said.

Stockey said the most popular vegetarian dishes are the Old Town Salad and the Portobello Mushroom Sandwich.

For its excellent service and numerous meat-free options (and its sensitivity to the plight of cows everywhere), Natural Café is Cal Poly’s choice for Best Vegetarian Restaurant.

— Megan Horthgogue

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**Best Barbershop**

**University Barbershop**

University Barbershop has been clipping and trimming since 1988. Surprisingly, owner John Phillips says this is the first year his shop has been named ‘Best Barbershop’ in San Luis Obispo.

Located next to Ball’s Fresh York on Foodell Boulevard, the small shop’s checkered floor, big mirrors, and old-fashioned chairs offer a flashback to a slower, simpler time — and are a testament to how long the shop has been in business.

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**UNIVERSITY BARBERSHOP**

2/21/2009

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THANK YOU CAL POLY FOR VOTING US #1 BEST PLACE TO GET A FACIAL WE WOULDN'T BE HERE WITHOUT YOU!

Best Beer Selection
Spike's

With a list of 40 international beers to choose from and new ones featured on the menu each week, it is no surprise that Spike's was voted number one for the best beer selection in San Luis Obispo.

Much similar to Marti's Century Club, Spike's is home to the 'Around the World' beer card. For those who complete the feat of tasting the 40 beers on the card, Spike's will honor them with a special ceremony and a little memento to take home.

Aside from the vast beer selection, Spike's also offers weekly food specials. Among the most popular are Spike's chicken wings and Tuesday night's two tacos for $2.

According to frequent customer, Richie Herman, "The hot sauce is killer, that's why it's better than anyone else's Taco Tuesday around here. Not to mention the beer!"

Spike's is located at 570 High St. in downtown San Luis Obispo.

— Casey Malgieri

Best Flower Shop
Poly Plant Shop

Perhaps you've been considering purchasing some mums (a shrub-like plant that blooms annually) for your yard or maybe a thank-you-for-loving-nice arrangement for your mama. Whatever your plant desires may be, Poly Plant Shop can likely fulfill them.

The Cal Poly-owned and operated nursery has recently expanded its inventory to include items produced on campus including honey, fruits, and jams. Ellen Breek has worked for the shop for 30 years and has witnessed its growth. "Sometimes we sell pottery that students will make to fit our plants. We've recently tried to incorporate pottery and other special items that students create, so we have a more varied and interesting inventory," she said.

The shop's most popular flower, Alstroemeria, a South American lily that Breek claims to be the largest and prettiest in San Luis Obispo County. Like most of what the shop sells, Alstroemeria are grown locally. With an eye on sustainability, Poly Plant Shop's array of locally grown plants and student-made products has put itself on the map as the best flower shop in SLO.

The nursery is located on Via Corta and is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

— Megan Hindenburg

Want to live in the new Poly Canyon Village Apartments next year?

Add your name to the Interest List for Poly Canyon Village!

Beginning FEBRUARY 27, 2009, continuing off-campus students and current on-campus residents who did NOT enter the lottery or interest list process can now request to have their names placed on an interest list for the new Poly Canyon Village Apartments. Call the Poly Canyon Village Administrative Office, 805.756.9300, or send e-mail to University Housing at housing@calpoly.edu.

TOP TEN GOOD REASONS TO LIVE ON-CAMPUS AT CAL POLY

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2. Private rooms, shared rooms, residence halls, apartments . . . on-campus housing has it all!
3. All utilities, as well as high-speed Internet access, cable TV, and local phone service, are included in the housing fees.
4. One-person lease agreements and no security or cleaning deposits.
5. On-site laundry rooms.
6. Community areas with lounges, game rooms and, at Poly Canyon Village, Knowledge Center, food and retail vendors, and swimming pool.
7. Free weekly light housekeeping service in the community areas and bathrooms, including toilet paper and light bulb replacement.
8. Completely furnished.
9. Being part of a student community with great programs; such as Connections Program, Living/Learning Communities, Sophomore Success Program.
10. Adjacent parking.

For additional information about on-campus housing, please visit www.housing.calpoly.edu.
**Best Tasting Room**

**Taste**

"It's an adult candy shop!" said Taste associate Jill DeLaRiva, referring to the Mustang Daily's number-one-voted Best Tasting Room.

For those emerging wine enthusiasts out there, Taste is a great place to begin your journey into the vast world that is the SLO county wine country — all without actually having to leave downtown San Luis Obispo.

Taste's exclusive Ensemble Wine Pouring System not only puts dozens of San Luis Obispo's finest wines right at your fingertips, but also provides a sleek interior decor for the downtown tasting room.

Local photographer Barry Goyette has also had a hand in modernizing Taste's décor. His black and white photographs of local winemakers placed in pewter frames add a chic touch and bring to life the personalities behind each wine.

Presented by the SLO Vintner's Association, Taste lets you sample up to 72 different wines — from producers in San Luis Obispo's Edna Valley, Arroyo Grande, Avila Beach and Nipomo Regions — three of which come from the Cal Poly vineyards.

"We are very excited to be voted best tasting room," says Holly Burke.

"It's especially great because we are locally based. It's a complement to the wines and vineyards of the area."

---

**Best Dance Spot**

**The Graduate**

Voted Best Dance Spot last year, the Graduate steals the top spot once again.

Home of one of the biggest dance floors on the Central Coast, the Grad offers entertainment seven days a week. From Monday, when a Night Football to Cal Poly’s Friday nights are home to “Noche Caliente” where anyone 18 years and older can get their Latin music fix. You can spice up the night with Bachata, Salsa, Merengue, and Spanish Pop and Rock. For Saturday student Mi­chelle Kubacki, Friday nights are a blast.

“I just started taking Salsa lessons... and it’s a great place to practice my new moves,” she said.

On Saturday nights, DJ Slick will be taking your request. The night is 18 and over and the Graduate offers 2 for 1 cocktails from 10 p.m. to midnight.

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**Best Party Supply / Craft Store**

**Beverly’s**

Beverly’s employees know one thing or two about Halloween. The most popular Halloween costume this year?

“Pocahontas,” says Beverly’s employee: Suzie Wardman.

“The Christmas tree in the front of our store was covered in peacock feathers, and students just loved the idea.”

Students aren’t the only ones who love Beverly’s.

“This place is the best,” says Mani Borges, the owner of Butterfly Har­ness, a SLO-based company spec­ializing in hand-crafted dog harnesses.

“I don’t come downtown for anything else,” she continues in as she makes her way to the cash register to check out a hooping assortment of fabric.

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**WE LIKE IT ON TOP!**

Thanks For Voting Us Best Pizza For The 5th Year In a Row!

Woodstock’s appreciates all of our loyal customers continued support & invites anyone who has not tried Cal Poly’s Favorite Pizza to do so!

- **STUDENT 20% OFF** An X-Large Pizza w/1 or More Toppings

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**mustangdaily.net**

We’ve got plenty to distract you from those textbooks.
Woodstock's

Pizza lovers flock to Woodstock's Pizza to choose from over 10 of the best specialty pizzas in San Luis Obispo. Whether it's the Featherweight or the BBQ Bird, you're sure to find a pizza made just the way you like it. With nearly 30 years of experience, Woodstock's knows how to do pizza right.

Located at 1000 Highcrest St., Woodstock's aims to provide every customer with the ultimate pizza experience. Its focus is on preparing each pizza with individual attention and creating a lively, welcoming atmosphere for customers to enjoy.

"I love Woodstock's Pizza. Maybe it's the pepperoni or maybe it's the way the crust is folded over. Either way, it's delicious," said communication studies junior Kaley Parker.

If pizza isn't your favorite, don't hesitate to try one of Woodstock's tasty appetizers, salads or desserts. New to Woodstock's is Monday Madness. All students receive a free medium cheese pizza with the purchase of any extra large pizza. Pizza Night is every Tuesday at 8 p.m., and Wednesday night is Pint Night from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Woodstock's also has agoing special exclusively for Cal Poly students that gives 20 percent off an extra-large pizza.

In case you can't leave the house, Woodstock's conveniently delivers until 1 a.m. Monday through Wednesday and 2 a.m. Thursday through Saturday.

Cal-West

Finding property in San Luis Obispo can be a daunting task for many students. Whether searching for a quaint home downtown or an apartment within walking distance of campus, Cal-West is here to help.

Voted best property management company, Cal-West has been serving Cal Poly students since 1975. "We really do like working with college students. They are a breath of fresh air," property manager Ellie Malykont said.

As a matter of fact, since its opening, 95 percent of Cal-West's clients have been college students. Cal-West provides property management services from Santa Maria to Atascadero, although its main focus is in San Luis Obispo. Its proximity to campus makes Cal-West a desirable company to work with for students.

Different from all other property management companies in San Luis Obispo, Cal-West solely manages property. This distinction from other companies gives them a reputation of excellent customer service and exceptional property management.

Cal-West will begin leasing its apartments and houses to students on May 1 for the 2009-2010 academic year. Students can begin leasing the Garfield Arms Apartments and the El Dorado Apartments on April 1.

Cal-West is located at 1380 Broad St. in San Luis Obispo. Stop by today to learn about the company's many different properties in town. The staff is anxious to help you with your housing needs.

— Carla Silva
Best Surf Shop
Central Coast Surf

California’s Central Coast is home to some of the finest beaches on the west coast, which makes Central Coast Surfboards a popular destination for those interested in surfing.

Central Coast Surfboards primarily focuses its inventory on surf-related products such as surfboards and wetsuits. They also feature over 20 brands of skatesboards.

During the winter season, CCS carries the latest snow gear and accessories. Fashionable apparel and gear available in store and online throughout the year.

In addition, surfboards and wetsuits can be rented for those who do not wish to purchase equipment of their own. CCS has been serving the San Luis Obispo community since 1975. Mike Chaney, founder of CCS and former Cal Poly student, aimed to provide surfing and skateboarding products to the local community and has been doing so for over 30 years.

Chaney can still be found roaming the store and helping customers with their surfing needs. Employees at Central Coast Surfboards strive to provide customers with exceptional service. With this goal in mind, if they don’t have what you’re looking for, they will look into getting it for you.

“Everyone is always willing to help me find what I need, and CCS has some of the best prices in town,” customer Kyle Morton said. CCS recently moved to its new San Luis Obispo location at 855 Marsh St.

Stop in soon or visit the Arroyo Grande store at 148 W. Branch.

Best Place to rent a movie
Hollywood Video

When balancing classes, work, social life, and other activities, sometimes all you want to do at the end of the day is put on your favorite pajamas, settle yourself on the couch with a bowl of popcorn, and watch a good movie. When there’s nothing on TV, don’t panic. Hollywood Video is there for all of your couch potato needs.

“I think we have one of the widest selections of any store,” stated Alfredo Rayos, a Hollywood Video Shift Leader. “We have tons of DVDs, and our Blu-ray section has recently quadrupled in size. We also have the Game Zone, which is the new area that sells videogames. There are a lot of gamers here, and sometimes we hold tournaments in the store, which is a lot of other places don’t do.”

Not sure what to rent? No problem. Hollywood Video’s friendly and personable staff is there to help.

“Quite a few people come in and are a little indecisive about what they want to rent, but we help them out as best we can,” said Rayos. “I like to ask people about what types of movies they like, their favorite actors, and so on, and then try to piece that information together to make recommendations for them.”

In addition to offering a wide variety of entertainment, Hollywood Video also sells all of your favorite movie snacks from popcorn and soda to candy and ice cream. Additionally, its convenient location on California Boulevard allows you easy access to dinner and a movie with Pita Pit, Dominos, Bal’s, Starbucks, and Jamba Juice all within walking distance.

When really tired, Hollywood Video’s best place to rent a movie, however, is the way that you’ll be treated as a customer.

“A lot of people say our customer service is better than other rental places,” said Jimmy Gibbs, Customer Service Representative. “That’s part of why I wanted to work here. I’ve only worked here for a month, but I really love talking to people and I’m getting to know a lot of regular customers by their first names. We’re really proud of the way we take care of our customers. It’s in our mission statement: Treat the customer like a star every time. It’s nice to know that we’re well-liked.”

So whenever you need a celebrity and sugar fix, or just a break from the responsibilities of everyday life, Hollywood Video is your ticket to entertainment.

— Brittany McKinney

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- SIERRA VISTA Apartments 1 & 2 bedroom units
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- ORCUTT ROAD Apartments Studio & 4 bedroom units
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For a more extensive list, please visit our website at www.slorealty.com

We will start accepting most applications on March 1st, so don’t delay and get a head start on finding a place to call home!
Firestone and pulled-pork sandwiches as well to everyone, boasting juicy burgers and tri-tip sandwiches. Their menu offers the best overall restaurant of reasons with people enjoying fries, there are a bunch always having good service. "I love Firestone's new outdoor eating area. Best for Best Cocktail Giuseppe's

Need a quick, cost effective way to make a good contrast to the indoor sports bar. Big TVs and late hours draw a large crowd on any night of the week. Firestone's is a favorite of reminiscing Cal Poly alumni, as well as a great place for students to take their friends and family who come to visit. It is a long-lived and legendary staple of the San Luis Obispo community.

Hay and his friend Ryan Walters always order Firestone's signature tri-tip sandwich. Their menu caters to everyone, boasting juicy burgers and pulled-pork sandwiches as well as tons of sides. They wait for their orders in Firestone's new outdoor eating area. Best for Best Cocktail Giuseppe's

Ever wondered what a peanut butter & jelly would taste like if it were to be made by a bartender? With more than 25 signature martinis, Palazzo Giuseppe serves up an assortment of surprises: Peanut Butter & Jelly, Wasabi, and Firecracker make up just a small portion of the vast and interesting menu. What more would you expect from a cocktail served at Cal Poly Alumni Giuseppe DiBartolo's downtown restaurant and bar? Palazzo Giuseppe's bar certainly lives up to its reputation and makes it Mustang Daily's number one voted Best Cocktail.

"I love Giuseppe's "smoking" martinis. I had the Provençale one, and what popped off the experience was the dry ice tablet that the bartender dropped in the glass—my drink started to smoke while I drank it!" says Rosheen Ashtiani, Cal Poly English major.

Located on 1010 Court Street, Palazzo Giuseppe hosts happy hour Monday through Thursday from 4-7 pm. Best for Best Cocktail Giuseppe's

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When it's time to upgrade to a new set of wheels, Sunset Honda has a wide selection of new and pre-owned vehicles for you to choose from.

As a family-owned car dealership, Sunset Honda strives to provide the best service and value to everyone who walks in the door.

Sales associates are available 24/7 to make sure the experience of purchasing a car is as enjoyable as possible.

Located at 12250 Los Osos Valley Road, Sunset Honda exudes a friendly atmosphere with exceptional customer service and quality vehicles.

"We have been here since 1977, and we are going to be here another 30 years to keep people's Hondas running safely and reliably," Sales Manager (and Cal Poly alum) George Peterson said.

Many of Sunset Honda's services are focused toward the Cal Poly community.

The College Grad Program offers recent graduates the opportunity to purchase a car with no credit and virtually no down payment. Unlike most other dealerships, graduates do not need to have a job to be eligible for this program.

Students can also set up a time to bring their car in to be serviced in less than thirty minutes.

While waiting, take advantage of the wireless Internet and technology areas designed to help students study while they are at the dealership.

You are sure to be satisfied with the quality of the vehicle and the ongoing, exceptional service you will receive at Sunset Honda.

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— Carla Sibris

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Pick up forms in bldg 43 upstairs on the Students’ Stage board.
More info: studentsstage@gmail.com

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Cal Poly Baseball

Saturday, 11AM, Mustang Courts

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Nobody ever plans on getting arrested. Drink responsibly.

Best SLO doctor
Cal Poly Health Center

One of the downsides of moving away from home is that your parents aren’t there to make you soup and tend to your every need when you’re sick. Luckily for Cal Poly students, there is the Health Center.

The Health Center is a convenient place to go when you’re feeling under the weather; it’s on campus, covered by student fees, and you don’t need to have health insurance to be treated.

“I come to the Health Center because it’s free and if I have a cold and can’t self-medicate, then I know I can come here and see someone who knows what they’re talking about,” said Kristen Coldenwood, a Graphic Communications senior. “I’ve gotten better care here than at the emergency room.”

Students can come to the Health Center for everything from check-ups to X-rays to prescriptions, and anything that requires an additional cost is much more inexpensive than places off campus.

For instance, if you have a headache and need something to make it go away, the Health Center’s pharmacy sells a generic version of Advil for around one dollar, which makes staying healthy easy on college student budgets.

Even though Mom and Dad aren’t there to take care of you, the Health Center has a knowledgeable staff of doctors and nurses who are.

“I think we have a really great staff, for sure. We try really hard to get students in quickly, and considering that we don’t currently have a full staff, I think we do really well,” stated Audrey Capp, Administration Assistant.

“We have really good doctors and nurses who are friendly and helpful and who really know what they’re doing. They work hard.”

It’s a comfort to know, being away from home, that knowledgeable, friendly and affordable care is at your service and waiting to help you feel your best.

— Brittany McKinney

Write a letter to the editor!

Send your letter, in 250 words or less, to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com. Or submit it at mustangdaily.com.

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A great game, a refreshing beer and a mouth-watering burger. Do you need another reason to check out Firestone Grill?

Located in the heart of downtown San Luis Obispo, you can follow the stomachs of many hungry locals to this restaurant in search of a delicious BBQ to share with friends and family.

For years, Firestone Grill has been creating some of the best burgers, ribs and tri-tip sandwiches in San Luis Obispo. Cal Poly alum Bryan Barnes says "The ABC burger is still the best burger in town." The ABC burger, which has avocado, bacon and jack cheese is just one of the many choices for meat lovers. Other popular choices include its renowned tri-tip and the pig sandwich. These BBQ items all pair well with a basket of perfectly seasoned fries that can be shared with the whole table.

Although Firestone Grill’s BBQ menu still follows its same traditional recipes, the restaurant has remodeled its facilities to create more open seating for customers that want to relax and watch a game while eating. BBQ patrons hail Firestone, located at 1001 Higuera St., as the perfect, casual place to meet up with friends or bring visitors to share in the downtown San Luis experience.

Thank you, Cal Poly For Voting Us:

The Best Overall Restaurant & SLO County Restaurant
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The Best BBQ

Firestone Grill is located at 1001 Higuera St. • (805) 783-1001

Also One of The Best Vegetarian Plates
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Place to be spoiled by your parents
**Best Breakfast Place**

**Breakfast Buzz**

Most people go to Breakfast Buzz for the “Buzz” Burrito, two eggs, home fried potatoes, bacon, sausage or ham, tomato, avocado, cheese and sour cream, all wrapped in a flour tortilla. This tasty treat is just one reason that Breakfast Buzz has been voted the best place for breakfast in SLO. While the burrito is what the restaurant is famous for, Breakfast Buzz has it all: Omelets, French toast, biscuits and gravy, and fried egg sandwiches. Cal Poly junior, Chris Vanos, usually sticks with the breakfast burrito, which he describes as “home-cooking for a hangover.” Jessica Morris, a server at Breakfast Buzz says, “people get stuck buying the burrito but everything else is good too.” Morris says Tuesday mornings are becoming popular again, because Breakfast Buzz has brought back the 2 for 1 special. If you buy a breakfast burrito, you or a friend get a second one free.

“We recognize the economy is having an impact on everyone,” Morris says. “That’s why we have the 2 for 1 special. We want to be able to help out college students.”

Breakfast Buzz is located at 295 Santa Rosa Street in San Luis Obispo. It serves breakfast and lunch every day from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and also offers take out. — Jessica Aus masculine

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**Best Coffee House**

**Starbucks**

Can I get a grande zebra mocha with a half pump of maple and half pump of hazelnut, no whip? What about one venti iced soy chai with one pump of white mocha? If this language translates into something somewhat coherent, then you know that there’s a Starbucks Coffee close by.

“It goes without saying that this coffee house has become the most recognized and respected coffee house globally, as well as right here in San Luis Obispo. According to the company’s website, “Starbucks purchases and roasts high-quality whole bean coffees and sells them along with fresh, rich-brewed, Italian style espresso beverages.” Starbucks also offers a variety of premium teas produced by the Tazo Tea Company.

With the grand opening of a Starbucks in the Cal Poly University Union at the beginning of the school year, many students eagerly lined up to get their caffeine fix.

“The location is in the heart of campus,” said manager Lori Kappus. “So it’s convenient for everyone to stop by no matter where they’re headed.”

Students often stop between classes to grab a cup. Because Starbucks is right on the way, there’s still enough time to cram for that biology midterm.

In addition to great tasting coffee and other morning delights, the service at Starbucks is professional and welcoming.

“It’s all about the friendly employees. Everyone is so wonderful,” said Kappus — Krista Torres

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We’ve got plenty to distract you from your homework.
By now, this self-serve frozen yogurt pit stop is no longer a buzzword. It’s an addictive late-night safe haven for sweets. And Yogurt Creations is not just any self-serve frozen yogurt store.

Sweet-toothed fanatics flock here daily to get their fix and also to try out their creativity. With a treasure trove of more than 60 different candies, fruits, and toppings to mix in with the frozen yogurt, how could anyone not get creative with their yogurt? The routine: Grab, fill, sprinkle, enjoy. Surely those who call Yogurt Creations a second home know that the menu is quite simple. Grab a cup or cone, make a frozen yogurt selection, pause the plentiful selection of toppings, and be on your merry way. There are fun flavors such as Irish Mint, Classic Vanilla, Snickerskoodle, and Euro Tart. But it’s not just the wide range of flavors and toppings that have college students raving about Yogurt Creations. "It’s clean, breezy, fun, and upbeat," said manager Brian Lambert.

Surely enough, the store appeals to most with its brightly colored walls, tidy counters and friendly service. And one thing is for sure; we can’t get enough of Yogurt Creations! Yogurt Creations is open every day from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and is located at 1075 Court Street #30.

——Jenice Torres

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**Best Credit Union**

**SESLOC**

School Employees of San Luis Obispo Credit Union (SESLOC) was formed in 1942 with the goal of being a valuable financial services provider in our area. Today, more than 65 years later, it’s easy to see why SESLOC was voted "Best Credit Union" in the San Luis Obispo area. Starting with only 32 SLO county school employees, SESLOC now has more than 36,000 members on the central coast. SESLOC Federal Credit Union offers services to everyone who works or attends school in the county.

For as little as a $.50 deposit, anyone can enjoy the benefits of being a SESLOC member. Members enjoy a variety of lifetime benefits and are able to borrow at reasonable rates of interest. With branches and ATMs all around the county, there is always one near by. The on campus branch is located next to the EJ Cerral Bookstore. It offers business hours Monday through Friday, and also has a 24 hour ATM.

Since SESLOC is a not-for-profit member owned credit union, all profits benefit the members in different ways. Higher saving rates, lower loan rates, and many free or low cost services are just some of the benefits of being a member. Even after you step attending school or change jobs, SESLOC will continue to offer their services to you. SESLOC’s main branch is located at 1491 Los Osos Valley Road in San Luis Obispo.

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**Best Art Gallery**

**University Art Gallery**

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**Splash Cafe**

**World Famous Clam Chowder**

Thank you Cal Poly for continuing your support!

Come to our original location by the beach in Pismo or our SLO location at 1491 Monterey St!

**Both locations feature:**

our famous award winning clam chowder in freshly baked sourdough bread bowls. Fresh fish & chips, calamari, grilled fish sandwiches Fish Tacos, salads and more!

**SLO also has a full service bakery!**

Breakfast pastries, cookies, cakes, fruit desserts & chocolates!

**Come into the cafe in slo for breakfast—we open at 7:00am**

Take out available from either location

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