BEST FOR CAL POLY

CHECK OUT PAGE 8 TO SEE ALL OF THIS YEAR'S WINNERS
One of the Best Sports Bars in SLO!

Thank you Cal Poly!

Beer-battered Fries    Appetizers
20 Beers on Tap         Burgers
Cheesesteaks            Wraps
Sandwiches              Salads

Neighborhood Restaurant & Sports Bar

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11560 Los Osos Valley Rd.
on the corner of Madonna & LOVR
Real Ads Can Help You Find the Best Place for Your Car!

San Luis Obispo is a college town. Cal Poly students make up nearly half of the city’s population of 44,000 and have a major impact on San Luis Obispo’s economy. From surf shops to restaurants, the Mustang Daily’s “Best For” features local business that best suit students’ needs.

As we have for the past six years, the Mustang Daily collected surveys during fall and winter quarters asking students to choose their local favorites. Hundreds of surveys are turned in each year, which students have the freedom to choose any business they want for each category. Public relations students contribute by writing all of the articles.

The winners are profiled here and can be found around town by recognizing Mustang Daily plaques in the stores.

From dining to entertainment, from shopping to services, the “Best For” issue is the best place to find Cal Poly students’ favorite place to spend money.

— Emilie Egger, editor-in-chief
— Alex Kacik, managing editor

Behind the Scenes

Villa Automotive

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THANK YOU CAL POLY STUDENTS for voting us BEST BEER from all around the world 2 years in a row!

WEEKLY SPECIALS

TUESDAY
Taco Tuesday
2 beef or bean
$2.75

WEDNESDAY
Wing Wednesday
1 lb $5.50

THURSDAY
Brat & Pint
$11.50

FRIDAY
Fish 'n' chips
$8.00

SATURDAY
Specialty
Imported Pitchers
$15.00

570 Higuera St. (Located in the Creamery) // (805) 544-7157
The Royal Lemon Drop

With bars lining downtown San Luis Obispo, the establishment with the best cocktail must be one that far exceeds all of the other venues in town. What is this famous drink, you may ask? It is simple: the royal lemon drop from Mother’s Tavern.

“It consists of citron vodka, triple sec, sour mix, lemon, sugar, and is topped off with Chambord,” bartender Mindy Cal-menson explained.

People frequently come to Mother’s Tavern, especially on Friday and Saturday nights, for this specialty drink. But, let’s not leave out the people who go during Happy Hour, Monday through Friday, when they get $2 off signature drinks and can order from the $2 food menu.

No matter what day or time you go, you will not be disappointed. There is a wonderful environment at Mother’s and clearly does not lack in the cocktail department.

Whether you end up going in for the unique social scene or the happy hour specials, be sure to order the royal lemon drop. The Cal Poly students and the bartenders of Mother’s Tavern have made it clear that it is a drink that stands above the rest.

— Brittany Reach

Best Boutique
Lucky Lulu’s

For almost seven years, downtown San Luis Obispo’s Lucky Lulu’s has been inviting women inside with its fun green doors and energetic music. Located at 691 Higuera St., the store has walls full of fashionable clothing at less expensive prices.

Manager Megan Larson, who has worked at the store since its opening, said owners Eron and Halit have the ability to cater to women from ages 14 to 40. When asked what it meant to her to be awarded best clothing boutique, Larson said, “Since we opened in 2003 there’s been a lot of new stores that opened up and it’s good to know that we still have a really strong customer base.”

Second- and third-place winners in the category were H & G Clothing and Ambiance. Honorable mentions went to Crazy Jay’s and Coverings.

Lucky Lulu’s appeals to Cal Poly students because of the selection of clothes that fit a student’s budget. Communications major Natalie Kiss likes the store because “you can buy everyday items without having to spend a ton of money on them.” Basic tanks are $4 and the hottest fashions such as boots, plaid button-ups and sequined dresses are also on the racks ready to be worn.

— Caitlin Ahele

Best Golf Course
Dairy Creek

Dairy Creek has been voted the best golf course by students for a variety of reasons.

First of all, Dairy Creek offers great deals for students. The price for students for 18 holes is just $18 while clubs are available for another small fee and balls are free.

The challenge of the course at Dairy Creek appeals to many students as well. The course is recommended for intermediate to advanced players while beginners are still welcome to play. The course has few trees, a good roll and hazards too.

“Dairy Creek’s location offers great views throughout the course,” head golf professional Kent Lauble said. “The course sits on a hill from which you can see Bishop Peak and even the smoke stacks in Morro Bay.”

With such reasonable prices, a location close to Cal Poly and Cuesta and the scenic views along the course it’s no wonder students love to golf at Dairy Creek.

Check it out for yourself at 2990 Dairy Creek Road off Highway 1 in San Luis Obispo.

— Katie Bayer
Are you looking to pick up a keg for your party this weekend? Take a short drive down California Boulevard and make a quick stop at Campus Bottle. Its convenient location easily makes it Cal Poly’s Best Keg Deal.

Campus Bottle’s location is optimal for students living around Half Price Place or Football Boulevard, looking to purchase a keg. Besides Campus Bottle’s convenient location, the store’s selection of kegs never disappoints. Campus Bottle stocks kegs ranging in price from a $63.99 Natural Light to $159.99 Blue Moon. Its best sellers are Natural Light and Keystone kegs.

This comes as no surprise, as college students are always looking for the cheapest alternative for a good time.

Industrial Technology junior Sam Wertheimer preferred Campus Bottle to other liquor stores because of its availability. "I know I can always count on Campus Bottle having Natural Light kegs ready for me to pick up when I decide to throw a party at 10 p.m. Saturday," says Wertheimer.

Campus Bottle’s hours are sure to suit everyone’s schedule. During the week, it is open from 10 a.m. until 11 p.m. On the weekends, it is open from 8 a.m. until midnight. So next time you are thinking of throwing a party, make Campus Bottle your one-stop keg shop.

— Stay Liang

Best Grocery Store
Trader Joe’s

Trader Joe’s, voted overall Best Grocery Store and Best Organic Grocery Store by Cal Poly students, is a store that offers low prices, healthy choices and bold and exotic alternatives.

Located on South Higuera Street, this “neighborhood grocery store” is popular among college students because of its commitment to “being so much more than a grocery store.” Trader Joe’s understands that students want to save and not compromise their health in the process. This grocery store gives those health- and budget-conscious students a place to combine those two seemingly exclusive criteria.

The store claims to try every product before it’s put on the shelf, ensuring great taste and flavor. And the best part, Trader Joe’s offers a full refund if the customer does not agree. Shoppers can buy knowing that they have the opportunity to keep the store accountable for those low prices and great products.

College students are often overlooked in the context of religion and devotion to worship. But, there are many venues in San Luis Obispo that provide a means for individuals to develop their spirituality.

Competing in the category of Best For Worship were Newman Catholic Center, Mission San Luis Obispo, Calvary and First Baptist.

First Baptist Church (FBC) snagged top honor. First Baptist Church (FBC) is located on Johnson Street about two miles from California Poly’s campus and offers services at both 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Sundays.

FBC was founded on the belief that, “God is growing in us a love for Him, a love for His church and a love for His world.” This belief is fostered in many ways, including programs for children and families, youth ministry, college and celebration, spiritual formation, missions and outreach, and collaboration with a sister church.

“The sense of community I feel at First Baptist keeps me coming back,” art and design senior Adam Wirdak said. “I don’t feel like I have to go — I want to go.”

— Victoria Zahal
Thank You For Voting

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Open 7 Days a week
Best Slice of Pizza
1. Woodstock’s
2. Fatte’s
3. Pizza Solo
HM: Nucci’s, Costco

Best Coffee House
1. Starbucks
2. Peet’s
3. Black Horse
HM: Linnaea’s, Joe Mama’s Avila Beach

Best Bargain Meal
1. Taco Bell
2. Costco
3. Fatte’s
HM: Chino’s

Best Sushi
1. Shin’s
2. Yang’s
3. Sushiya
HM: Nucci’s

Best Sandwich
1. High Street Deli
2. Kona’s Deli
3. Gu’s Grocery
HM: Sandwich Factory, Ben Franklin’s

Best BBQ
1. Firestone Grill
2. Moe’s Smokehouse BBQ
3. F. McIntocks

Best Restaurant for Vegetarians
1. National Café
2. Big Sky
3. Pita Pit
HM: Novo

Best Restaurant for a First Date
1. Novo
2. California Pizza Kitchen
3. Giappo’s, Firestone Grill
HM: Buona Tavola, Mama’s Meatball

Best Place for Late Night Munchies
1. Taco Bell
2. Chilli Peppers
3. Pita Pit
HM: Danny’s, Applebee’s

Best Tri Tip
1. Firestone Grill
2. F. McIntocks
3. Moe’s Smokehouse BBQ

Best Place to Eat On Campus
1. Campus Market
2. Avenue
3. Sandwich Factory
HM: Thays to Go, Dexter Subs

Best Chinese
1. Panda Express
2. Golden Gong
3. Golden China
HM: Mandarin Gourmet

Best Thai
1. Thai Palace
2. Thai Classic
3. Thairiffic
HM: Royal Thai, Thai Boat

Best Mexican
1. Chilie Peppers
2. El Nabor
3. Chino’s
HM: Pepe Delgado

Best Italian
1. The Ci’s Meatball
2. Giuseppe’s
3. Vieni Vai
HM: Buona Tavola, Upper Crust

Best Restaurant, Period
1. Firestone Grill
2. F. McIntocks
3. Nucci’s
HM: California Pizza Kitchen, Big Sky Café

Best Ice Cream
1. Coldstone’s
2. Rite Aid
3. Cal Poly
HM: Doc Burnstein’s

Best Frozen Yogurt
1. Yogurt Creations
2. Ball’s
3. Snofari

Best Desserts
1. Yogurt Creations
2. Madison Inn
3. Ball’s
HM: The Cakey, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory

Best On Campus Study Spot
1. Robert E. Kennedy Library
2. University Union
3. Peet’s at Poly Canyon Village

Best Place to be Spoiled by Your Parents
1. F. McIntocks
2. Costco
3. Apple Farm
HM: Firestone Grill

Best Happy Hour
1. The Cliffs Resort
2. The Shack
3. Downtown Brew
HM: Marth’s, Applebee’s

Best Cocktail
1. Mo Tav
2. Sandbar
3. Shin’s

Best Party Supply Store
1. Best Buy
2. Apple Store
3. Costco
HM: RadioShack

Best Place to Buy Music
1. Boo Boo Records
2. Best Buy
3. Cheap Thrills
HM: iTunes, Barnes and Noble

Best Cell Phone Service
1. AT&T
2. Sprint
HM: T Mobile

Best Place to Buy Electronics
1. Best Buy
2. Apple Store
3. Costco
HM: RadioShack

Best Flower Shop
1. Poly Plant Shop
2. Open Air Flowers
3. April Flowers
HM: Albert’s Florist

Best Place for Your Parents to Stay
1. Madonna Inn
2. Embassy Suites
3. Apple Farm
HM: The Cliffs, Holiday Inn Express

Best Off Campus Housing
1. Mustang Village
2. Murray Station
3. Stenner Glen

Best On Campus Housing
1. Poly Canyon Village
2. Cerro Vista
3. Sierra Madre

Best Property Management Company
1. Cal West
2. McNamara Realty
3. Farrell Smyth
HM: SLO Realty, SLO Property Management

Best Place to Buy a Mattress
1. Costco
2. Sears
3. Mattress and Bed Company

Best Storage Facility
1. Premier Mini Storage
2. SLO Mini Storage
3. SLO Self Storage
HM: Meathead Movers, Mission Self Storage

Best Nail Salon
1. Nailtown
2. SLO Nails
3. CIGI
HM: Pro Nail Monterey
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<td>Supercuts</td>
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<td>Sunset Honda</td>
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<td>Perry Ford of SLO</td>
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**Best On-Campus Event**

ASI Concerts

ASI Concerts beat out Cal Poly football games this year for "Best On-Campus Event." ASI Concerts feature a wide variety of performers including local bands, up-and-coming artists and national touring acts.

"We do our best to bring students what they want," ASI Event's student supervisor Courtney Scrifft said.

ASI Concerts tries to bring a big name band each year.

"Last year, the end of the year show featured Rebulition, which attracted at least 2,000 students," ASI supervisor Missi Bullock said.

Andrew Burger, a recent Cal Poly graduate said that his favorite concert was Brett Dennen.

"He has a very unique style of music and he's just as good in concert as he is on his album," Burger said.

In previous years, the concerts have been held in the UU Plaza, however with the construction this year, the concerts have been moved to the marketplace in front of Campus Market. Upcoming concerts will feature.

The Stone Foxes on Feb. 11, and Tommy Garran on Feb. 18.

"Thank you for the win, it's really fun to do and we just want the students to have fun," says Bullock.

— Ronnie Harris

**Best Winery**

Edna Valley

This year’s winner of the best winery went to none other than the local Emilia Valley Vineyard.

Winemaker Josh Baker said all the staff members at the winery are really fun to elo and we just want the students of drinking age to the establishment is Vallarta’s 6-ounce margarita.

"I think the novelty of the 60-ounce margarita, you can eat in the little tradition Italian cafe located in The Creamery off Higuera. The staff was really friendly and accommodating all 18 of us who showed up for the wine tasting. The grounds are beautiful, you can look out across the vineyard and see the mountains behind it," civil engineer junior Stephanie Moore said.

Edna Valley Vineyard is located at 2585 Biddle Ranch Road, about a 15-minute drive from the university.

— Rachel Eggers

**Best Margaritas**

Vallarta’s

Located at the corner of Grand Avenue and Monterey Street, Vallarta’s Mexican Food and Cantina is placed in an ideal location for Cal Poly students of all ages. However, one of the main items on the menu that draws students of drinking age to the establishment is Vallarta’s 60-ounce margarita.

"I think the novelty of the 60-ounce margarita costs only $3.80 on a personal, but it also brings people into the restaurant. The margarita comes in flavors such as strawberry, lime, mango and raspberry. The best-selling margarita tends to be the strawberry-raspberry.

Vallarta’s has specials throughout the week, including daily lunch specials starting at $5.55, $2 Taco Tuesday and $5 regular margaritas on Wednesdays. The most popular items on the menu include the fajitas, nachos and enchiladas.

There are two Vallarta’s locations in San Luis Obispo County one in San Luis Obispo and the original location in Pismo Beach. The Pismo Beach location was established in 1986.

Come into Vallarta’s for a margarita any day of the week. The San Luis Obispo location is open daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

— Cathy Ross

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— Cathy Ross
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**Best Cell Service**

**Verizon**

Although it may seem like AT&T’s iPhone is taking over Cal Poly’s campus, our readers voted Verizon Wireless as the best cell phone service in San Luis Obispo compared to competitors. Verizon’s wireless service has the most coverage across the United States, which is important to Cal Poly students like Math and Science senior Catie Carmody.

“With Verizon, I never have to worry about the reliability of my phone service,” said Carmody. “My experience with Verizon has always been positive and I have never had any problems with my phone losing service or dropping calls.”

One of the great benefits of having Verizon as a cell phone service provider is the “Friends and Family” benefit of it in “Family Share Plan,” which allows unlimited calling to ten out-of-network numbers at no added cost.

“The family plan that Verizon offers is nice, especially as a student, because I’m not charged for making calls to friends that use other networks. It helps keep the cost of the phone plan affordable,” said Carmody.

Verizon Wireless is located at 904 Mill St. in downtown San Luis Obispo.

— Kitty Gonzalez

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**Best Bargain Meal**

**Taco Bell**

What do you think of when you hear Taco Bell? Is it their catchy song, “Think outside the bun?” Is it that Taco Bell is seemingly the only place with Mountain Dew Baja Blast (the best flavor of Mountain Dew)? Whatever it may be, we will always know it as somewhere we can go for a great bargain meal.

Based out of Irvine, California, Taco Bell rose up and has maintained itself as the nation’s top Mexican “quick-service” restaurant chain serving over 2 billion consumers each year. It has gained a large following in San Luis Obispo, according to Cal Poly sophomore Josh Lee, because “they are open really late...and most Mexican restaurants in San Luis cost $5-$8 for a burrito.”

Most known for their signature dishes like the “Crumchwrap Supreme,” “Volcano Taco,” and “Grilled Stuffed Burrito,” Taco Bell also features a rather nice selection on their “Big Bell Value Menu.” The menu consists of items from 79 cents to 99 cents. Of the many choices, apparently “it’s all about the 99 cent 5-liner burrito,” says Cal Poly sophomore and Taco Bell employee Traci Klahnhammer. “Taco Bell is the best value because it’s fast, easy, good, and cheap!” Can’t really argue with that.

What are some other places for a good bargain meal besides Taco Bell? You voted Costco in at second best and Farm’s in at third with Chico’s as an honorable mention.

— Evan Secker

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**Best Place to Buy School Supplies**

**El Corral Bookstore**

At the beginning of each quarter Cal Poly students go to El Corral Bookstore for their one-stop-shop to buy school supplies, textbooks and Cal Poly apparel.

Randy White, a third year Cal Poly student, has worked at El Corral for three years and believes it’s El Corral’s location in the University Union plaza which makes it so popular.

“Students like it because of convenience, because it’s right on campus,” says White. “If they’re in between classes and need some-thing or live on campus it’s right here.”

White says that on a day-to-day basis they sell school supplies the most. However on the weekends and during the holidays they primarily sell Cal Poly merchandise both to parents visiting and students who are buying gifts for family and friends.

El Corral also has a large selection of books, magazines, gift cards and gifts like picture frames and beauty products.

El Corral has an entire section of electronics where students can buy laptops, iPods, headphones, zip drives and more, with well trained employees who can answer any question.

According to second year, Andrew Martin, it’s El Corral’s overall service and experience that make them so popular.

“It’s really easy to find everything, everyone is really nice and they move the lines really quickly when it’s busy.”

— Colly Coates

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On the Road to Avila Beach
**Best for a Massage**

**Sycamore Mineral Springs**

Located in the small town of Avila Beach, just south of San Luis Obispo rests Sycamore Mineral Springs Resort and Spa. Built in the early 20th century, Sycamore Mineral Springs has become famous for its natural mineral spring tubs and luxurious spa treatments that include specialty massages, custom facials, and soothing body wraps.

By achieving the reputation of a place of health, wellness, and relaxation, it's no wonder why students at Cal Poly voted Sycamore Mineral Springs as “Best Place to Get a Massage” and “Best Place to Pamper Yourself” in the Mustang Daily’s “Best For” competition.

“We are honored at Sycamore Mineral Springs Resort to be voted ‘Best Massage’ and ‘Best Place to be pampered.’ We thank all who voted and visit our resort. It is our goal to give the best service and quality to all of our guests, and most of all the feeling of being pampered,” said sales and marketing manager Marina Huntington. “We wish all Cal Poly students wellness and joy in 2010.”

To learn more about Sycamore Mineral Springs, visit its website at [http://www.sycamoresprings.com](http://www.sycamoresprings.com).

— Erika Bighe

**Best Coffee**

**Starbucks**

Strong, Inviting, Tasty, Consistent. These are four of the many words that Starbucks customers use to describe their favorite coffee house.

As a company whose mission is “to inspire and nurture the human spirit— one person, one cup, and one neighborhood at a time,” it has certainly obtained the hearts and cravings of people around the globe.

In its last fiscal quarter, Starbucks grossed a record revenue of $2.7 billion. What makes this Seattle-based coffee company so successful? “Its quality coffee and great service,” said John Singri, a Cal Poly Electrical Engineering professor. “The employees are polite and customer-friendly, and the ambiance is nice.”

— Safral Cowden

**Best Karaoke**

**MoTav**

When you feel as if there is nothing fun to do on Sunday or Monday evening, MoTav is the place to go! MoTav offers karaoke from 10pm-2am (DFS) on these off nights. Rachael Burral, a Cal Poly Alumna, who works on these nights encourages “everyone to come out and be a star for the night!” Burral thought MoTav won because it is the biggest production compared to its main competitors Sushiya and Shin’s. Burral is one of the many energetic employees staffed by MoTav who contributed to not only the “Best For” award for karaoke but also the “Best For” award for cocktails. The dark mahogany wood, disco ball, stage, welcoming crowd, and wide range of music are enough to make anyone want to be the latest American Idol!

MoTav has offered karaoke for over the past five years. Costing you nothing, karaoke is a great way to balance a stressful week at school. MoTav continues the entertaining atmosphere on the weekdays and weekends, offering many DFS, events, a VIP lounge, themed nights, bottle service and many more great deals on alcohol.

I look forward to seeing you there next Monday!

— Nikki Nathan

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Best Movie Theater

Fremont Theater

For decades, going to the theater to watch the newest movies has been a popular form of entertainment. Voted best movie theater, the Fremont is in the best location to maintain that tradition. The theater opened in 1942 and can seat about 900 people. It was designed by architect S. Charles Lee. Trying to maintain the style, atmosphere, and spirit of going to the theater in the 1940s, the Fremont has done its best to maintain the atmosphere, which includes an authentic art deco ceiling. "We want to keep the old style architecture for the experience," said Will Stevenson, a manager at the Fremont. The Fremont has a unique segment called SLO Rewind. The re-wind series shows old classic people love in their original formatting. Last month, Back to the Future was the film shown. "It's a great thing and always fun," said Stevenson. It's something about bringing back old movies that brings back the nostalgia in us. It's a good activity to have."

The Fremont is located downtown San Luis Obispo at 1025 Monterey Street. When you go to the Fremont you are not just going for the movie, you are going for the experience.

— Lisa Santoro

Best Bookstore

Barnes & Noble

When students need a break from long and uninspiring textbooks, Barnes and Noble Book-sellers is a great alternative. The bookstore, located on Marsh Street in downtown San Luis Obispo, carries a wide variety of books, music, magazines and more. Book subjects include everything from science fiction and fantasy to biographies, to romance novels and cookbooks. Amy Lann, a Cal Poly graphic communication junior, describes it as her go-to bookstore when she's looking for light reading. "I love to go and browse Barnes and Noble for a book that looks interesting. They have so many choices, I can never come out of the store with just one." To go with their large selection of books, Barnes and Noble invites customers to relax, read, and have a cup of coffee at their coffee shop located on the second level of the store.

Also in the store, customers can try their newest product, the Nook. Advanced electronics is an electronic device that lets you access over one million electronic books called eBooks, newspapers and magazines at the palm of your hand. The product is available for $259. Barnes and Noble is open 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.

— Hallie Dinsel

Best Place to work out: Rec Center

When you're looking to join a gym, what do you typically search for? Quality equipment, exercise classes, personal training, a clean locker room, and if you're lucky, an Olympic-sized pool and sand volleyball court, right? Well, no wonder the Cal Poly Recreation Center won the best place to work out. Despite recent changes to the facility due to construction on its expansion, which is scheduled to complete in June of 2012, the Rec Center continues to bring in hundreds of students daily.

"I love the classes they offer, their hours, all the different machines, and the staff," said Ken Richardson, a biology senior. "I even like the big room. It makes it easier to find cardio machines." While Richardson enjoys the lower level of the Rec Center, Spencer Wangarin can be found on the basketball court three times a week. "There's always basketball games going on," said the third year student. "I don't even know where or if there's an indoor basketball court besides this one.

Students' satisfaction will certainly continue to increase once the exercise space triples and an indoor jogging track, multi-activity center, and a leisure pool are added to the already-popular Recreation Center. Now, students are just hoping to be able to use the anticipated facility before they graduate. With the budget cuts and difficulties enrolling in classes, students might find one positive to their postponed graduation.

— Sarah Goodman

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**Best Sushi**

Shin's Sushi Bar is not your average sushi spot. With affordable prices, a hungry college crowd, and birthday celebrations complete with flashing lights and a personalized picture, Shin's brings a unique flair to downtown San Luis Obispo that is worthy of its First Place title.

Nestled between The Fremont Mezz Theater and a row of local restaurants on Monterey Street, Shin's exudes a comfortable and personal atmosphere. On any given night, Shin's is packed with local families and college students, all eating, drinking, watching the latest sporting events on TV, and chatting with friends.

"I went to Shin's for my 21st birthday dinner. I thought the sushi at Shin's was really good, especially compared to other places I've been. The free desert was pretty good too! And to add, great service," Cal Poly Junior Sarah Cawrese said.

With dishes like "The Heart Attack," "The SLO Roll," and "The Hot Grover Beach Night," there is something for everyone. As for specials, Shin's offers half price sushi every day of the week and all you can drink beer and sake, Sunday through Thursday for only $20.

Visit Shin's Sushi Bar at 1023 Monterey Street in downtown San Luis Obispo.

--- Aly Kline

---

**Best Fraternity**

**Delta Chi**

Delta Chi shows how to surpass the fraternities' stereotypes by offering a curriculum of full activities to its members and community.

The fraternity won as the best fraternity of the year award after showing extra dedication to the community. This quarter, each member is dedicating extra 16 hours volunteering on top of the already required 4 hours. By the end, it will be a total of 1600 hours of community services.

"We see this as a way to give back to our community and increase brotherhood," said Tanner Bennett, Delta Chi's former president, a civil engineering senior.

The members have already volunteered at a retirement home, where they helping plant flowers, hang pictures and cleaned. They also plan to work at a local animal shelter and help with a food drive in Paso Robles.

To achieve their goals, the fraternity has paired with Alpha Chi Omega (AXO) to collect and distribute food to the homeless during Martin Luther King weekend and with Alpha Omicron Pi (A0B) to clean local beaches.

"Delta Chi provides the community with men that make right decisions and like to see the community succeed rather than fail," said Daniel Ferras, Delta Chi's president, a business junior.

On top of volunteer work, Delta Chi tries to provide its members with leadership opportunities, tutoring by older members, and fun social activities. "We always offer a fun time whether someone sees us at a community service event or at the bars," said Ferras. "This well roundedness is what makes us stand out. We are not all jocks, crazy partiers, comedians, meatheads, or really tan, but we are close knit friends that know how to have fun."

— Paulina Espana

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BEST FOR CAL POLY EDITION

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Best Hair Salon

Salon Lux

If you’re looking for a professional, high-end salon that does it all at a reasonable price, look no further because Salon Lux is the answer. Salon Lux has been voted the best hair salon by Cal Poly students for the second year in a row.

Salon Lux offers all services a large range of spa services as well as hair services including cuts, highlights and color treatments. The salon’s customers consist of male and female students and residents from throughout the San Luis Obispo area.

The salon keeps students’ budgets in mind also. Hair cuts range from $35 to $60 and highlights start at $85. There is even a “Beauty on a Budget” special on Mondays where services are about half off and styling interns get a chance to work on clients under supervision of a master stylist.

“Part of our appeal comes from our really great advanced training program,” said manager Elise El-islot. “All of our stylists are trained for an additional year to two years so we have really great stylists and a structured system.”

Check out all the great services at Salon Lux for yourself at 1040 Court St. in downtown San Luis Obispo or call 781-6180 to book an appointment.

— Katie Boyer

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Take a stroll down Higuera any day, and as you pass Cold Stone Creamery, voted Best Ice Cream by Cal Poly Students, a delectable aroma will overwhelm your senses. "I love the smell of waffle cones when you first walk into Cold Stone," said Molly Sowers, a fourth year Wine and Viticulture student at Cal Poly.

Follow your nose into Cold Stone Creamery and taste only the finest ice cream, made exactly the way you like it. Not in the mood for ice cream? Cold Stone offers delicious smoothies, shakes, sundaes, and cakes. Cold Stone uses the highest quality ingredients and ends with the signature Cold Stone method of combining your favorite ice cream, with your own personal choice of nuts, fruits, candy, cookies or brownies mixed on a frozen granite stone. Cold Stone employees call themselves "Ice Cream Artists." Cold Stone makes its ice cream fresh in the store every day, which makes it "Super Premium," as ice cream industry experts call it.

Cold Stone Creamery opened its doors for the first time in 1988 in Tempe, Arizona. You can learn more about Cold Stone by visiting the company's web page at http://www.coldstonecreamery.com/.

— Toree Davis

Best Jewelry Store
Hands Gallery

Looking for more personality in your gift? Voted Best Jewelry Shop, Hands Gallery has been offering unique crafts and jewelry in San Luis Obispo for nearly 20 years. "We are not your stodgy art gallery," said store manager Sara Vaskov. You are sure to be satisfied by the quality and originality of products. The contemporary craft gallery specializes in 3-D pieces, and is filled with designs you would not find anywhere else. Hands Gallery showcases work from exceptional local as well as nationally recognized artists. "Many of the items are one of a kind, so you should grab something when you see it," said Vaskov.

With a friendly atmosphere and items in every price point, you are sure to find that perfect gift and an enjoyable experience. "I love their jewelry. Even if you don't go in with the intention of buying something, it's still fun to look around," said agricultural business senior Chelsea Marshall.

In addition to jewelry, Hands Gallery also features glassware, ceramics, furnishings, metal, and fine art.

"We're honored and excited to be chosen. We definitely depend on the students," said Vaskov. Hands Gallery is located at 777 Higuera St. in San Luis Obispo.

— Krista Scarron

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* have something to say? let us hear it. 5 words
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We're listening...
Best Local Wine

Tolosa Winery

Tolosa Winery, located in San Luis Obispo's Edna Valley, provides a relaxing wine experience for all their patrons with a Hospitality Center that includes tasting room and outdoor patio. With more than 700 acres of vineyards, the winery has a wide variety of state grown grapes to choose from and routes itself on using a hands-on approach throughout the wine making process. Their best selling wine is the 40-Oak Chardonnay made in stainless steel. You can take advantage of a full list of services to a welcoming and relaxing environment. Inside the salon, pink massage chairs are arranged in a semi-circle against a background of pink walls and an employee seated at the front desk will greet you right away. The warm atmosphere at The Nails Town makes it a fun place to go with your friends on the weekend or relax before finals. The salon is in its third year of business in San Luis Obispo and is conveniently located at 1519 Froom Ranch Way, in the Irish Hills Plaza off of Los Osos Valley Road.

Owner Tracy Dang says Cal Poly students are attracted to the salon because "the manicurists here are young and fun and they know the customers very well." Manicures at the salon range from $15 to $40 and pedicures are $28 for the standard treatment or $40 for the deluxe treatment. Other services include: Gelish, waxing, deep tissue massages and nail art.

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Best Nail Salon
The Nail Town

The Nails Town, voted "Best Nail Salon" by Cal Poly students, provides customers with a wide range of services in a welcoming and relaxing environment. Inside the salon, pink massage chairs are arranged in a semi-circle against a background of pink walls and an employee seated at the front desk will greet you right away. The warm atmosphere at The Nails Town makes it a fun place to go with your friends on the weekend or relax before finals. The salon is in its third year of business in San Luis Obispo and is conveniently located at 1519 Froom Ranch Way, in the Irish Hills Plaza off of Los Osos Valley Road.

Owner Tracy Dang says Cal Poly students are attracted to the salon because "the manicurists here are young and fun and they know the customers very well." Manicures at the salon range from $15 to $40 and pedicures are $28 for the standard treatment or $40 for the deluxe treatment. Other services include: Gelish, waxing, deep tissue massages and nail art.

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Best Sandwich
High Street Market and Deli

There is always something special that makes a sandwich so tasty. At High Street Market and Deli, it's a combination of high quality ingredients and old school character.

Manager Adam Gruner enjoys working at High Street because of its "really great atmosphere of good people and good sandwiches." The small deli is always full of classic rock songs, quality meats, and college students. Its walls are lined with vintage tin signs and a refrigerator hosting an array of unusual beers and colas. It's the homely feeling that brings customers back time and time again.

High Street strives to provide outstanding service and a delicious product, even if you're "the customer who always orders egg salad and roast beef on the same sandwich," said Gruner. But if you aren't creative enough to build your own, High Street does the hard work for you. Its most popular menu item is the California Turkey sandwich. Toasted San Luis sourdough holds together oven roasted turkey, melted pepper jack cheese, an Ortega Chile, and a large helping of avocado. Other favorites include the Spring Club and the Chipotle Beef — a Saturday special. "They have the best sandwiches in San Luis Obispo. They always give you tons of meat and loads of veggies and never skimp on the good stuff like other places," said High Street regular and Cal Poly student Tracy Dang.

— Caitlin Ahlc

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Best On-Campus Housing
Poly Canyon Village

Imagine a view of the sunrise washing over Bishop Peak in the early hours of the morning. The residents of Poly Canyon Village are treated to such a view every day with expansive views of Bishop Peak right from their bedrooms. How many are actually awake to experience this is quite a different matter.

For the second year in a row, students have chosen Poly Canyon Village as the Best On-Campus Housing. With its amazing views, a long list of amenities including a retail pavilion, study spaces, a recreational pool, and its proximity to campus, it is in high demand among sophomores looking to stay on campus as well as third-years looking for an affordable housing option.

Asked why students picked Poly Canyon Village as the best option for on-campus housing, University Housing Outreach and Programs Coordinator Tessa Stevens said, "I definitely believe that the diversity of the programs, activities, and amenities they have there is the primary reason." Whether it's an open mic night at Peer's Coffee or faculty led study groups, students have a bevy of programs to get involved in while living in Poly Canyon Village.

With the second phase opened to students fall quarter, Poly Canyon Village occupies roughly 30 acres and can house 2700 residents. "It's the biggest student housing community in the CSU system," said Stevens. It's also eco-friendly to boot. Poly Canyon Village is one of the biggest projects on campus to attain LEED Gold certification.

Robert E. Kennedy

Library

Robert E. Kennedy, the largest library between Santa Cruz and Santa Barbara, has been voted the number one spot to study while on campus. With services including a 24-hour study room, PolyCat, Pony Prints, research assistance, laptop check outs, and course reserves, it's no wonder why this is the best place.

Fourth-year Lynn Gualtieri says, "Being a mechanical engineer, there is always homework and tests I need to study for. I practically live [here] at the library 'cuz it's the only place I can actually get work done". Agriculture Business major, Sheeva Nazhand, says it wasn't until after her first year that she started going to the library. "I get distracted in my own house and I can escape to the library for a few hours where it's quiet and get my work done," said Nazhand.

Cal Poly's first library was a single room in the administration building back in 1903. In 1900, when construction was completed, the new library was established and was renamed in honor of president emeritus, Robert E. Kennedy. The popular library holds a collection of almost five million items of books, manuscripts, photographs and architectural drawings.

— Joyce Torr

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Best Thai Food
Thai Palace

Looking for a great date spot? How about a nice place to go to limner when your parents come to visit? If any of these sound good to you then Thai Palace is the place to eat!

Thai Palace offers a cozy and welcoming setting for people to enjoy tasty and affordable meals. Located conveniently on Court Street in downtown San Luis Obispo, Thai Palace offers a charming atmosphere with traditional Thai decor and an aura of mystery reminiscent of actually being in Thailand enjoying the native cuisine.

According to Erin Crowley, a third-year engineering major at Poly, "their pad-thai was to die for and the customer service was absolutely phenomenal. I would definitely recommend Thai Palace to anyone visiting SLO who likes really good Thai food."

— Michaela Bernard

Best Organic Grocery Store
Trader Joe's

There’s no need to wonder anymore whether or not certain foods are good for you. All you need to do is shop at Trader Joe’s, where the store’s motto guarantees that each product contains only the finest quality and natural ingredients with no artificial flavoring, genetically modified ingredients, MSCi, or added trans fat. This promise is probably why Trader Joe’s was voted both Cal Poly’s favorite organic grocery store and favorite grocery store overall.

Trader Joe’s offers high-quality foods for very reasonable prices which allow students to eat well on a budget. "Trader Joe’s sells food that I cannot find at any other grocery store. It’s easy to make and inexpensive but still healthy, which works perfect with my busy college lifestyle," student Sarah Whitling said.

Many products are sold under the Trader Joe’s label to cut out the middle man and keep costs low without cutting corners on great taste.

Trader Joe’s provides a wide variety of organic foods that offer a safer and healthier alternative. They set high standards for their organic foods and will not purchase from places that are not as stringent as they could be. Many of the company’s products are also environmentally friendly because they buy directly from local and international small-time vendors. Trader Joe’s really is “your unique neighborhood grocery store,” so go check out our local Trader Joe’s in San Luis Obispo located on South Higuera Street.

— Laura Tuohy

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Best Party Supplies

Beverly's

For anyone who went to college, is currently in college, or has merely art supplies. I go to Beverly's because paints, and other essential party supplies. "Being in a sorority, we have a lot of functions that require costumes and art supplies. I go to Beverly's because they have a great selection that allows me to show my creativity while staying on a budget," says Cal Poly Junior, Jenna Peterson. In addition to the store's extensive variety, low prices, and excellent customer service are held in high esteem. Robin Garcia, third year Business student says, "I never hesitate to ask questions. The store is pretty big and Beverly's employees are always eager to lend a helping hand."

Whether you are looking for fake tie to pull the show together or are just looking to be artistically inspired, Beverly's can make it happen.

— Brittany Bishop

Best Pet Store

Petco

With specialty choices for pet owners and a staff for any pet, PETCO is not just where the pets go in San Luis Obispo. A large selection of basic supplies such as dog food, cat litter, and toys makes it the go-to for pet essentials, while a well-rounded assortment for more exotic creatures attracts other animal lovers. Petco for birds, fish, reptiles, and furry little friends like guinea pigs are all carried. Why were they voted best pet store for Cal Poly? "It's because our outstanding customer service," said general manager Tony Edwards. With cheerful and practiced employees throughout the store, the store seems to be on the right track.

An on-site grooming salon and day spa allow dog owners to keep their companion(s) trimmed, fresh and pampered. Paid training classes are also offered and limited to five or six pets each to ensure quality instruction.

Adoption services are held at PETCO each weekend. The Feline Network of The Central Coast is hosted Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., while Short 'n Sweet Dog Rescue brings dogs who need a home on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

— Steven Gayton

Best Bistro

Tobin James Cellars

Built to resemble a western-style saloon, Tobin James Cellars stands out from the rest because of its unique setting, picturesque wines, and fun atmosphere created by the friendly staff. Located off Highway 46, out of Paso Robles, the bistro is a must because of its distinctive building that transports back to the old west. Instead of whiskey flowing, "bodacious, outrageous, and interesting" wines are served to those that step up to the "antique 1860s Brunswick mahogany bar."

What makes Tobin James stand out from the rest? Ben Lunt, Dining Room Manager, says that people are drawn to the "great wines, super personalities, and the willingness to make work wine for the customer. Oh yeah! And fun, we never take ourselves too seriously." The staff is friendly and extremely knowledgeable about their products, creating a comfortable environment for all. "It's because our outstanding customer service, and general manager Tony Edwards. With cheerful and practiced employees throughout the store, the store seems to be on the right track.

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— Steven Gayton

Best Hotel for Parents

Madonna Inn

Following a stay at the Madonna Inn, your usual lodging accommodations will simply not measure up. After all, the charmingly eccentric hotel, a San Luis Obispo landmark for 50 years, is a destination in and of itself. The hotel's famous individually designed rooms offer unique choices for every personality. The most popular is Cavernus, which is not only covered in animal prints and stone surroundings, but has a waterfall shower to boot. The San Luis Obispo restaurant has retained a dedicated following, evidenced by amateur room tours posted on YouTube, a lively Facebook page, and visits by Week of Welcome groups.

Reservation Office Manager Rebecca Questenberry says the hotel has built relationships with many Cal Poly parents who elect to take a miniature vacation and stay at the hotel while visiting their student. The hotel's live DJ, delicious food, and unique setting, it's easy to see why Tobin James Wine Cellars has won "Best Paso Robles Winery" for the second year in a row.

— Christine Cussick

Best Place for Late-night Munchies

Taco Bell

You and your friends are hungry for a late night snack. No one can decide where to go for food. Then, someone mentions "fourth meal." Now, everyone is in agreement. It's time to go to Taco Bell. Voted Best Place for Late Night Munchies last year, Taco Bell gets the top spot again. Its "think outside the bun" attitude, varied menu, and quick service make it the most popular eatery for Cal Poly students after midnight.

"Taco Bell is my late night meal choice because it's super affordable and downright tasty. I love the Crunchwrap Supreme," says Cal Poly Junior, Christine Poulson.

Taco Bell's menu of "mexy, crunchy, spicy, grilled" items appeals to most hungry college students. And Taco Bell recently introduced an alternative menu called the "Drive-Thru Diet" dedicated to wards more health conscious consumers. The items on this menu are served "fresco," meaning fresh salsa replaces the cheese or sauce. This helps reduce the calorie content of the item.

Taco Bell's location at 397 Santa Rosa St. is open Sunday through Thursday until 3 a.m and Friday and Saturday until 4 a.m.

— Stephanie Meyer

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The Graduate

With the biggest dance floor on the Central Coast, it's no surprise that The Graduate was voted the best dance spot in SLO. "The Grad," as it's typically referred to among Cal Poly students, has a different theme for each night of the week. For example, Wednesday College Hump Night offers cheap drinks as DJ Suave Javi and DJ Slick spin the newest hits. Other nights include Country Night on Thursdays with DJ Rich, and "Noche Caliente" Fridays play the latest Latin music.

Most nights, The Graduate allows admission to anyone 18 and older for no more than $10, making it popular for students who may not be able to go to the other popular dance spots in town. "The Graduate is the most legitimate nightclub in town. We play good dance music, do a good job with the lights...we have the whole package," says manager Bob Kuntz.

The Graduate is located on Industrial Way off Broad St. It may be a drive for some students who live close to campus, but "The Grad" lives up to its reputation of the hottest spot for dancing any night of the week.

—Juliana Baker
Best Place to Be
Spoiled by Your Parents

F. McClintocks

When your parents come to town, you want to take advantage of one meal they buy for you on Sunday night. Most Cal Poly students turn to F. McClintocks to satisfy their longing for spectacular barbecue and a good hearty meal. McClintocks' "authentic ranch style cooking with genuine western hospitality." Located in Shell Beach and downtown San Luis Obispo, parents and students flock to McClintocks to enjoy both the unique atmospheres and outstanding meals. Diners must come hungry because each meal features a large portion of meat, several sides and an after-dinner liqueur or ice cream.

Cal Poly biology third year Kim Trenren always takes her parents to McClintocks. "The atmosphere is energetic. The food is amazing and it makes for great leftovers." With talented waiters who pour water from chairs blindfolded, guests are always entertained.

McClintocks can also be seen engaging the crowd at Thursday nights Farmer's Market. Staff members shout out orders to create a fun and lively environment for customers waiting in line. The line is long but always well worth the wait.

The large portions, friendly staff, and western atmosphere keep Cal Poly students and parents coming back for more. — Christine Gooney

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Best Tires
Wayne's Tire

Wayne's Tire was voted "Best Place to Buy Tires" by readers of the Mustang Daily. Wayne's has been in business on the Central Coast for 50 years, with the San Luis Obispo branch open since 1969. Its independence and focus on customer service is what has been attributed to its success.

"We're locally owned, and I think we appeal to the small town business owners and clientele as opposed to the big box stores that treat you like a number instead of a customer," Manager Steve Accornerca said.

An average of 40 students come into the store every week. In addition to tires, Wayne's also offers vehicle repairs.

The store also focuses on serving the community. It has sponsored several youth teams in various sporting leagues and once gave free soccer balls to every member of the American Youth Soccer Organization in San Luis Obispo in 2005.

Wayne's has five stores throughout the Central Coast and the San Luis Obispo branch is located at 3595 S. Higuera St.

— James Camereu

Best Place to Buy
Music

Boo Boo Records

In an age where most people are turning to iTunes and the Internet to buy music, Boo Boo Records has found a way to stay on top in the eyes of Cal Poly students. With a wide selection of music, low prices and a friendly and knowledgeable staff, Boo Boo Records is the perfect place to find your favorite artists new CD as well as discover new musical talents.

Malik Thorne, the manager of Boo Boo Records has been working there for eight years and loves being surrounded by the music and musicians that frequent the store.

"It's a very visual and tactile setting," says Thorne. "We try to be a friendly place where we can help people find what they're looking for."

Thorne says because today's college students tend to buy music digitally, traditionally run record stores are changing. He primarily sees students coming in who are starting LP collections or buying tickets to local concerts at venues like Downtown Brew.

Boo Boo Records has learned to work with the digital trend while remaining the small town store that makes them who they are.

The store allows you to buy a CD take it home and burn it, and then return it to the store and get money in return. Boo Boo also has vinyl records that include download codes so you can put the music onto your computer or i-Phone. "Buying stuff locally, that stuff always helps," says Thorne. "Your money ends up staying with the community a little bit longer."

— Heather Anderson

Best Place to Buy a Mattress

Costco

College students may not get the best sleep, but they know a good mattress and a good deal. Costco provides a variety of mattresses at affordable prices.

Because it is such a large company, Costco provides its customers with competitive pricing. Most of the mattresses are twin size and are priced at less than $1,000, the perfect mattress solution for college students. Costco primarily sells Sealy brand mattresses—a consumer favorite according to manager Steve Goetz.

Just like a mattress store, Costco displays its mattresses on the sales floor. Shoppers can test out each model by bouncing from mattress to mattress. But if you aren't into000, the perfect mattress solution for college students. Costco primarily sells Sealy brand mattresses—a consumer favorite according to manager Steve Goetz.
**Best Thrift Store**

Goodwill

Goodwill has more than 2,000 stores around the United States, and the retail location in San Luis Obispo is the winner of this year's Best Thrift Store award. Jim Burke, Director of Operations for Goodwill in San Luis Obispo County, says that he is very honored to win this award.

"Goodwill appreciates the connection that we have with the students at Cal Poly and that they see us as a great resource, as well as an opportunity to help recycle and reuse products."

There are Goodwill donation locations open daily on Santa Rosa Street, next to Rabobank, and at 880 Industrial Way, next to the Goodwill Headquarters. The donations Goodwill collects are reused and sold back into the community or are sold on the salvage market to be recycled and keep thousands of pounds of waste from entering landfills.

Goodwill also conducts volunteer programs to help improve the lives of people in need. These programs include mentoring youth, teaching classes to advance skills for the job market, reviewing resumes, and preparing taxes for people with low incomes.

Go to www.goodwill.org for more information about the volunteer programs.

You can visit Goodwill's retail location at 15 Higuera St. in San Luis Obispo.

— Stephanie Moore

**Sycamore Mineral Springs**

Located in the small beach town of Avila Beach, just south of San Luis Obispo, Sycamore Mineral Springs Resort and Spa, built in the early 20th Century, Sycamore Mineral Springs has become famous for its natural mineral spring hot tubs and luxurious spa treatments such as specialty massages, custom facials, and soothing body wraps.

By achieving the reputation of a place of health, wellness, and relaxation, it's no wonder why students at Cal Poly voted Sycamore Mineral Springs as "Best Place to Get a Massage" and "Best Place to Pamper Yourself." In The Mustang Daily's "Best For" competition.

"We are honored at Sycamore Mineral Springs Resort to be voted Best Massage and Best Place to be pampered," says sales and marketing manager Martin Huster. "We think all who voted and visit our resort. It is our goal to give the best service and quality to all of our guests, and most of all the feeling of being pampered! We wish all Cal Poly students wellness and joy in 2010."

Without a doubt, Sycamore Mineral Springs Resort is Cal Poly students' favorite place to relax and feel fabulous. To learn more about Sycamore Mineral Springs, visit its website at http://www.sycamoreresorts.com/.

— Jamie L. Evans

**Best Taxi Company**

**Beach Cities Cab**

Sometimes driving is not the most convenient thing to do. In that instance, should you need to ride to the airport, a ride to a friend's house, or a ride after a long night downtown, Beach Cities Cab is available to drive you.

Voted best taxi service and approaching eleven years of service this Halloween, Beach Cities Cab has grown to own twenty [DJSI] vehicles.

Beach Cities Cab has an advantage over other cab services being based in San Luis Obispo. Jeff Goldenberg, founder of Beach Cities Cab, believes his company has great customer service and is lucky to have a memorable phone number. His drivers are happy to be part of the service as they have fun with their passengers. "They make good money and have great stories," said Goldenberg. "Students can do some nutty stuff, it would be fun to have a real story."

SLO Taxi was the second runner up, which is also owned by Goldenberg. If you ever need a ride, any time of the day or night, contact Beach Cities Cab at (805) 543-1234 and a cab with a surfboard will be there to pick you up.

— Lisa Sagisso

**Best Women's Clothing Store**

**Forever 21**

Forever 21 had its grand opening in San Luis Obispo on Aug. 8. Forever 21 prides itself in providing fashion forward clothes at a low price point, which is exactly why Cal Poly voted Forever 21 as the Best Women's Clothing Store.

Kelly Core, a senior at Cal Poly says, "I enjoy shopping at Forever 21 because there is so much variety to choose from." In fact, Forever 21 has over 100,000 different styles in the store at any time. The store receives new shipments of clothing every day. The store in San Luis Obispo is the largest Forever 21 in the world, with over 100,000 square feet of selling space. That is almost two football fields full of fashionable clothes.

Chuck Clark is the co-manager at Forever 21 in San Luis Obispo and says that it has been great to see the positive response from the community. Forever 21 also has more than 120 employees, with the majority being students in the San Luis Obispo area. The store continues to expand and plans to launch a new line of clothing for girls ages eight to fourteen. The new line will be similar to the Heritage style that Forever 21 currently sells.

— Kelly Statton

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Quoting lines from a good movie doesn’t always replace a late night in curled up on the couch with a bowl of popcorn. When your DVD collection is looking a little thin, the store with the blue and yellow videotape logo is an immediate go-to for Cal Poly students. “It’s my one stop because you can pick up candy with your movie to have the real theater experience at home,” says Cal Poly junior Grace Flint.

With websites like Netflix, some are turning their backs on going out to rent movies, but Blockbuster is still a Cal Poly favorite. Located in the Madonna Plaza, it’s the perfect place to grab a DVD if you don’t want to wait for one in the mail. Hundreds of movies line the walls with new releases like “The Hangover,” to classics like “When Harry Met Sally,” so you will not leave disappointed. The employees are friendly and just a click away from checking which movies are available for rent.

Recently Blockbuster started its own system in which you can set up an account to have DVDs sent to your home, or even rent them online to watch instantly. Blockbuster is also open late, until 10 p.m. on weeknights, and midnight on Fridays and Saturdays, so you can conveniently pick up a movie any day or night of the week.

—Julianne Harker

SLO Swim

SLO Swim has been providing fashionable bathing suits while striving to meet needs of every woman since 1998. Owner Shel-ley Filip began selling swim suits in San Luis Obispo in 1984 and eventually opened SLO Swim because she recognized a need for a specialty store located in downtown for easy access.

“Because I’m a specialty shop, I try to be a step ahead of large retailers,” Filip said. She attributes the business’s success to a wide selection and a dedication to customer service.

SLO Swim is unique in it’s effort to carry suits in large cup sizes. Customers are also welcome to mix tops and bottoms as necessary.

Flip claims that while the store is perhaps best known for offering all sizes, the concentrates primarily on fashion.

Filip is in the process of updating SLO Swim’s website to allow for customers to make purchases online. The store will also be hosting a number of trunk shows before Spring Break. These shows will likely include discounts for customers.

Sports Authority and Central Coast Surf were also popular among students, placing second and third respectively. Honorable Mentions went to SLO Surf and Ross.

—Austin Mello
Firestone Grill

Firestone is a true American barbecue grill that has it all. From the famous tri-tip sandwiches and seasoned fries to the delicious salads and veggie burgers it is impossible to make a bad choice.

Firestone classifies itself as a high-end fast food restaurant that provides its customers with both good quality and quantity food. The restaurant prides itself on being one of the most popular places to eat in San Luis Obispo where any given night a line stretches out the door. The restaurant swept away their competition by winning four awards including best sports bar, best barbecue, best tri tip, and best restaurant period.

“The tri tip sandwich is delicious. Prices are totally reasonable and the portions are generous. It’s a great place to go with a group of friends,” customer and Cal Poly sophomore Kristyn Richter said.

Darnell Harris has been the manager at Firestone for 15 years. He enjoys working in a restaurant that creates a welcoming atmosphere where customers want to keep coming back.

“People come to Firestone to eat, drink, and watch from our big screen TV’s where they can root for their teams. As long as our customers are happy we are going to keep being successful. There is a loyalty that Cal Poly students continue to show and we are thankful for that,” Harris said.

—Kaleigh Eskey

Woodstock’s

Delivering more than just a great slice of pizza, Woodstock’s has provided the San Luis Obispo community with a great hangout for the past 30 years. Happy Hour, Trivia Tuesdays and Pint Night on Wednesdays make Woodstock’s the perfect place to enjoy good times and good food with friends, any day of the week. Woodstock’s is conveniently located right downtown, at the corner of Higuera and Osos St.

Woodstock’s menu sets it apart from all other San Luis Obispo pizza eateries. Along with all the typical pizza topping offerings, Woodstock’s has a few signature pies, including the BBQ Bird, the Mediterranean Masterpiece, Pesto Primavera, and the Carnivore. For the more health conscious, the menu also offers a variety of fresh salads.

Woodstock’s is open until 2 a.m. on the weekends, making it a late-night hotspot for students. For those over age 21, weekly happy hours make Woodstock’s the perfect place to kick back with a beer and watch the game. Woodstock’s also offers student discounts. Reasonable prices, great food, and a good atmosphere keep the Mustangs coming back for another slice.

—Lindsey Fontana
Thank you Cal Poly!

BEST RESTAURANT. PERIOD.

THIRD PLACE
Best Restaurant for a First Date

HONORABLE MENTION
Best Restaurant to be Spoiled by your Parents

1001 Higuera Street
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805–783–1001
**Best Doctor, Eye Doctor, Dentist**

**Cal Poly Health Center**

College is tough enough without being sick, or in my case, having something unexpectedly fly in my eye. Cal Poly’s Health Center was there when I didn’t know where else to turn.

The Health Center opened my eyes literally to a range of healthcare and counseling services offered at little or no cost to students. Voted best SLO eye doctor, doctor and dentist, the professionals at the Health Center make seeking their first priority.

“Our providers are more aware of special needs of college students. The medical and counseling needs of this age group are unique, plus the life of a college student is different in many ways from the general population,” said Dr. Martin Bragg, Director of Health and Counseling Services.

Conveniently located next to the Recreation Center, open Monday through Friday, the Health Center is easy to use and offers an after-hours nurse hot line for medical advice.

“Even though I felt scared, the doctor assuring me made sure I felt comfortable,” animal science junior Mendi Shelden said about her visit to the Health Center last quarter.

Staff members have made more appointments available, which means less wait time. Students can even fill out forms and schedule appointments online through the Mustang Health Portal.

“A little-known fact is that regularly-enrolled students at Cal Poly can use the student Health Center at any CSU campus for basic services without charge,” Bragg said.

“Staying healthy is crucial to academic success, so take advantage of the many services the Health Center has to offer!”

— Grady Williams

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**Best Off-Campus Housing**

**Mustang Village**

Don’t know where to live next year? According to this year’s vote, the Mustang Village apartment complex is the best off-campus housing in town. Cal Poly junior and former Mustang Village resident, Lauren Montgomery, explains, “I think people like to live there because it is so close to campus and the apartments are big and the great thing is they’re already furnished.”

Furnishing an apartment or house can be one of the hardest things about moving off campus, but Mustang Village boasts that each apartment is fully furnished with modern bedroom and living-room furniture. The large complexes also have a variety of floor plans ranging from studios to four-bedroom apartments. Whether you want a place to yourself or you want roommates, Mustang Village has plenty of options. And if you are still searching for roommates but haven’t found them, Mustang Village also offers a roommate matching service that will pair students together.

“Adding to the long list of reasons why Mustang Village in this year’s winner, are the apartment amenities, which include: swimming pools, fitness center, a basketball court, a TV room, and more. In the end, one of the most attractive and most important qualities for student housing is campus proximity, and Mustang Village is just a short walk from campus.”

— Lauren Montgomery

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**Best Happy Hour**

**The Cliffs Resort**

The Cliffs Resort has again won the award for Best Happy Hour in the San Luis Obispo area. Located in Pismo Beach, The Cliffs offers great food and delicious drinks in an unbeatable location.

Happy Hour takes place every Monday through Friday, from 4 to 7 p.m. The resort offers free tacos on Tuesdays, 65 cent oysters on Wednesdays, free pizza and pasta on Thursdays, and ½ off appetizers as well as complementary pizza on Fridays. Hippy hour goers can sip a variety of tasty and inexpensive drinks. Margaritas and wine are only $5. Firestone, Samuel Adams, and all domestic beers are $3. The Cliffs can’t be beat when it comes to great, affordable food and drinks.

“What makes The Cliffs stand out above all is its incredible location and atmosphere. The resort overlooks the ocean and is just steps away from Shell Beach. The bar has a patio where happy hour goers can sit outside while enjoying a gorgeous view. The staff is friendly and attentive to customers. The attitude is always relaxed and fun, so many different groups enjoy happy hour daily. Bill Martin, a bartender at the Cliffs said, “Overall, it’s become where Cal Poly likes to hang out. It’s ‘the place’ to come to, I mean look at the view here!”

The Cliffs certainly offers the best deal when it comes to a fun and affordable happy hour. It’s no wonder they’re the champions nine years running!”

— Jillian Hunney
**Best Surf Shop**
CCS

When looking for a surf shop that has it all, look no further than one very own Central Coast Surfboards. CCS has a wide variety of products and appeal to suit the needs of its local surfers, skaters and snowboarders.

Owner, Mike Chaney started providing surf and ski products to Cal Poly students and the local surfing community, more than thirty years ago, a time where there wasn't a local shop in the area. Shortly after, a shop was opened in downtown San Luis Obispo, and has received local and worldwide recognition.

"It is no surprise that locals favor this surf shop that has been a favorite of the San Luis Obispo facility, for eleven years. Tenant security is of paramount importance at Derrel's, and Ikerd is able to keep an eye out for any suspicious activity around the clock. "Unlike most other San Luis Obispo storage facility managers, I live on premises," Ikerd said.

However, in addition to its charming location and superior design, Derrel's provides monetary support to the Children's Hospital of Central California. "For every new rental, Derrel gives a $1 donation to the hospital," Ikerd said.

Since Ikerd has been managing the facility, he has seen many competitors, including the forthcoming Meatball Movers, attempt to get a grip on the storage market. Ikerd is not concerned. "We stand apart from the rest in regards to courtesy, price, and protection," Ikerd said.

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**Best Lawyer**

**William K. Gamble**

On the corner of Mill and Morro Street, in downtown San Luis Obispo, is the small and thriving office of SLO's best lawyer, William K. Gamble.

The practicing lawyer and 21-year resident of Pismo Beach attended numerous colleges to earn his degrees, beginning at San Diego City College and transferring to the University of Southern California (USC). From USC, Gamble transferred to Long Beach State, to the University of Nevada, Reno, and finally to the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). To earn his law degree, Gamble attended the San Francisco Law School and then began to practice.

Over his life-long profession, Gamble encounters he has represented 35,000 people. "The interesting thing about being a lawyer is that you have to learn a lot of different things as you are pursuing these cases," Gamble says.

"Our most popular is the Meatball Movers," says Gamble. "I have been coming to CCS for years, and I first learned how to surf, and I have always had a great experience with the company," frequent customer and local surfer Jeff Kich said.

Shop by CCS, new location at 855 March St, stay connected with the shop on twitter mustangdaily.net for more information.

**Best Storage Facility**

**Derrel's Mini Storage**

With 70 locations in California, Derrel's Mini Storage is quite an empire. The San Luis Obispo facility, located on Broad Street near the Marigold Shopping Center, is kept in pristine condition. Impeccable landscaping, front, tall brick walls, solid metal entrance gate, and clean sturdy storage space inside give one the impression that the facility is an impeccable fortress. A fortress managed by Larry Ikerd.

Ikerd has been watching over the San Luis Obispo facility for 11 years. Tenant security is of paramount importance at Derrel's, and Ikerd is able to keep an eye out for any suspicious activity round the clock. "Unlike most other San Luis Obispo storage facility managers, I live on premises," Ikerd said.

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**Best Place for a Facial**

**Bladerunner Day Spa**

Bladerunner Day Spa, located in downtown San Luis Obispo offers a variety of facials that will leave your skin feeling completely revitalized. Located on the corner of Monterey and Morro streets, this modern day spa offers a variety of services including hair styling, manicures, massages and Bladerunner's famous facials.

The inviting atmosphere is perfect for both locals and students. Bladerunner's clientele varies from young teens to senior citizens. They offer a wide range of facials and will help you choose the treatment that best fits your skin type.

"Our most popular is the Micronidermabrasion Facial which removes the dead skin and helps lessen scars and dark spots caused by acne and sun damage," said aesthetician Jennifer Willis.

"The interesting thing about being a lawyer is that you have to learn a lot of different things as you are pursuing these cases. That is why a lawyer needs a wide background in various subject matters," Gamble says.

"Having an office in San Luis Obispo, Gamble represents a large number of college students, primarily for bicycle accidents and incidences of driving under the influence (DUI). He's a caring attorney who understands college students and charges reasonably for his services.

When Gamble is not in his office answering the phone calls that he receives daily from those asking for his services and opinions, he enjoys flying his plane, bicycling, and photography. Though many assume retirement after years of hard work, Gamble is choosing to not retire. "I want to keep going. I heard this lawyer was that 100. I want to beat his record. I like what I do."

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**Best Jewelry**

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Shop by CCS, new location at 855 March St, stay connected with the shop on twitter mustangdaily.net for more information.
Best Sports Supply
Sports Authority

Have you just signed up for this quarter's intramurals? According to Cal Poly students, Sports Authority is the best place to go get outfitted for the season ahead. Winning the title of Best Sporting Goods Store for the second year in a row, Sports Authority has become a valuable resource for the sporting Cal Poly student. With all the gear you need from bikes to badminton rackets, the store serves as a one-stop location for all athletic and sport specific needs.

When informed that Sports Authority was given the Mustang Daily's Best For award General Manager Daniel Costales was not surprised. "We have a wide variety of choices and a really knowledgeable staff," Costales said. Honored by the award nonetheless, Costales emphasized the importance of giving back to the San Luis community.

"We're active in supporting a lot of the community sports," he said. "We donated a scoreboard to the Cal Ripken League of SLO and we've been a sponsor of Cal Poly athletics."

"I love it. It's literally like a treasure hunt. I never turn to tanning salons to achieve their desired look when the weather turns sour. Tanning salons are a lucrative business in San Luis Obispo, and many businesses compete for the title of "Best for" in this category. Though it was a very tight between Planet Beach and Tanner's Cove, Planet Beach came out on top in the competition."

"The facility is really clean at Planet Beach, the couches and tanning room are super inviting, and the themed rooms make the salon unique," says Jordan Vargas, a junior at Cal Poly frequently looking for shoes and shirts. "I usually go in when I just signed up for this week."

"Convenience, top-of-the-line equipment, and great customer service are what make Planet Beach the best," says Myra Maldonado, former Planet Beach employee. "It's a great place to work."

— Kylee Rouse

BestMen's Clothing Store
Rediscovering the downtown shopping scene

Ross

Ross beat out Kohl's, Urban Outfitters and Express this year for "Best Men's Clothing Store" in San Luis Obispo. Ross's tag line, "Dress for Less" is a big draw for male shoppers and Ross promises that the savings are unbelievable.

Ross Manager, David McNiel, has worked at the Ross in San Luis Obispo for the last three years. "The win means a lot to us! We have great values for shoppers here, and with our prices it's literally like a treasure hunt. The Ross price is just so much better," says McNeil.

Ross offers great brand name clothes for men at discount prices. Ross offers designer brands such as Perry Ellis, Tommy Hilfiger, Chaps, Levi's and Dockers all for discount prices. Jordan Vargas, a junior at Cal Poly frequently shops at Ross. "I like shopping at Ross because I know that I can always find one or two great discounted items. I usually go into looking for shoes and shirts," says Vargas.

Ross is located at 868 Higuera St., in downtown San Luis Obispo.

— Bonnie Barts

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777 Higuera St. 805.543.3407 www.mountainairsports.com
**Best Chinese Food**

**Panda Express**

When Cal Poly students find themselves craving Chinese food, they look no farther than the Panda Express located on Foothill Boulevard in the Foothill Plaza. The parking lot is full of cars coming and going throughout the day.

The colorful atmosphere is inviting for families and students alike to sit down and enjoy a hearty meal. The restaurant’s quick line style is accommodating for those who like to take their food to go.

"I never have to wait long and I like that I can just get my food and take it home," said Lacey Gabriel, a Liberal Studies Junior.

The Two-Entrée Plate is a favorite among students. The plate includes any two entrees and a side of steamed rice, fried rice, chow mein, or mixed veggies. Keaton Taylor, a Construction Management Junior says, "It’s a lot of food for a good price. It’s a definite favorite for my roommate and I."

Panda Express is open at 11 a.m. every day. It stays open until 11 p.m. on Sunday and Thursday until 10 p.m. The rest of the week late hours are great for the college student on the go.

—Erika Bighthe

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**Best SLO Bar**

**Downtown Brew**

Downtown Brew earned its spot as "Best Bar" in this year’s competition not only because of its great night life for the 21 and older crowd but also for the incredible array of artists that take the stage. Past performers include local favorites like Still Time and Chase McBride, as well as Andre Nickatina, Vampire Weekend, and The Expendables.

A Downtown Brew enthusiast, Jenna Sijfer, says, "DTB is to SLO what The Viper Room is to L.A." A one of a kind venue, DTB offers attendees an intimate viewing experience.

For those of legal age, upstairs houses a full bar where you can pick your poison — from live music and dance floor downstairs but upstairs I have the chance to socialize with interesting crowds and meet new people," says Cal Poly Junior Kristen Halsey. Having two different atmospheres under one roof accommodates to the various preferences amongst bar-goers. With a full calendar of events in the upcoming months, Downtown Brew is sure to live up to its title of number one.

— Brittany Blanding

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**Best Credit Union**

**SESLOC**

It came as no surprise that SESLOC was dubbed the Best Credit Union by Cal Poly students. SESLOC’s dedication and hard work for the people of San Luis Obispo lead to this prestigious title.

SESLOC is conveniently located on-campus for students. The credit union can be found right across from the El Corral Bookstore and near the University Union. SESLOC is a “not-for-profit” organization; in other words, it is owned by its shareholders. Because of that, everything SESLOC does helps shareholders achieve their financial goals.

SESLOC credit union is a group of people with a common interest: to help the customer save as much money as they possibly, in the best way possible. SESLOC has a convenient and well-stated ATM right outside its campus office. Plus, SESLOC has offices on Los Osos Valley Rd and in Arroyo Grande.

—Evelyn Yoon

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**Best Gas Station**

**Shell**

Shell gas stations win the confidence of Cal Poly drivers with their advantageous locations and quality-quality products. That’s why Cal Poly student voted Shell “Best Gas Station” in the Mustang Daily reader poll.

Located around Cal Poly Shell has several stations located near campus at along Santa Rosa Street and highway 101 at Monterey Street. As a result, drivers seem to agree on the convenience of Shell’s locations and hours of operation. "When I almost ran out of gas last week at 2 a.m., an opened Shell saved one," said Daphney Silver, 21 year old, a business senior.

The quality also has attracted attention because of their Shell’s new nitrogen-enhanced gas-o-sophism. According to the local Shell’s manager, Mario Perez, this new gas is better for the car because it is more efficient at cleaning the engine and protecting it from carbon build ups. When comes to price, Shell is also one of the favorites. "The price is fair compared to the other gas stations," said Evan Dambach, 19 year old, civil engineering sophomore. The stations offer other deals that help the drivers save as well, such as the Shell Saver Card. It works just like a debit card, it can be used to purchase any goods or services and for every gallon you pump into your car, you earn two cents.

—Paulina Vespasian
**Best Beer Selection**

**Spike's**

The highest quality and most varied beer selection can be found at Spike's Pub. When it comes to a college town, it's naturally assumed that the selection of bars will be better than most, however Spike's Pub takes it to a whole new level.

Spike's beer selection has enough variety to satisfy anybody's taste buds with more than forty beers to choose from. Spike's also combines satisfaction with diversity in their "beers around the world" list, featuring beers from all over, including: Germany, Costa Rica, and Jamaica to name a few.

While its vast beer selection sets Spike's apart from the rest, the bar itself is also what keeps students coming back for more.

"The atmosphere is less crowded than other bars," says Jordan Alden, a bartender at Spike's. "It's just a great place to sit and talk with your friends." Spike's also offers deals of the week, including the Wednesday wing night, where hot wings are sold for only $5.50. "People come religiously for the wings," Alden says.

Spike's Pub is the perfect place for any student looking for variety and satisfaction, as well as good prices and a fun atmosphere.

— Elizabeth McAmnis

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**Best Bicycle Shop**

**Foothill Cyclery**

Despite its recent move in 2009, our readers have stayed loyal to Foothill Cyclery and voted it the best bike shop in the San Luis Obispo area.

"People trust us because it has been the same faces here for so many years and our commitment to excellent customer service has remained a constant from each location. I also like to think that keeping our moves within a block or so helps people keep finding us," Foothill Cyclery owner Josh Cohen said.

Foothill Cyclery has been serving the San Luis Obispo area since 1989 and is dedicated to serving the community by creating opportunities for all bike riders, advanced and beginners, to get involved. The shop holds weekly group bike rides and may start hosting free clinics if there is enough local interest.

— Kristy Gonzales

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Bank of America was voted the Best Bank by Cal Poly students.

There are three Bank of America buildings and nine ATMs in the San Luis Obispo area. Having many locations makes banking easy for students anywhere in the area.

Bank of America also provides student packages to make banking easier. The new student package offers a Campus Edge checking account with no minimum balance required, free online banking and savings account. Bank of America understands that mistakes happen. The first overdraft fee will always be refunded and they provide a “Stuff Happens” card to request a one-time fee refund if you overdraft again.

Journalism senior Bonnie Burtis, experienced identity theft and said that “Bank of America helped so much in securing my accounts and getting my money refunded.”

Keep the Change is another program that helps students to save money without even realizing it. When a person uses their debit card to make a purchase, the bank will immediately round up the purchase to the nearest dollar and put the change into the card holder’s savings account. All of these programs help to make the transition into college a lot easier.

— Kelley Stattenu

Sunset Honda

“We are a part of automotive business, but we are really in the people business,” said George Peterson. This attitude is exactly why Sunset Honda was voted “Best Car Dealership” in San Luis Obispo.

Sunset Honda has been offering new and previously-owned vehicles, car parts and services in the same location since 1977. Not only do they carry quality cars and parts, but their service is top-of-the-line as well.

What continues to set Sunset Honda apart is the family atmosphere provided for employees as well as customers. Sunset Honda’s employees are well taken care of which keeps them happy and excited about being a part of a great work environment. Their customers leave content each time, telling their friends, family and neighbors about their great experiences.

The customer and employee satisfaction is what has kept the Sunset Honda family going for 33 years. “We treat our customers well, and I think that shows them that we are in it for the long haul,” said Peterson.

Sunset Honda has proven why it has continued to be the best dealership in SLO.

— Julianne Grinstead
“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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