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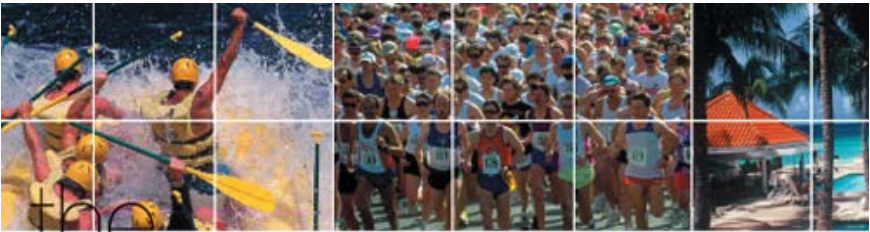
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Fall 2011 Newsletter  
Live It, Protect It, Explore It!



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FROM MY LITTLE WOODEN DESK...

By: Dr. Bill Hendricks, Department Head

Fall quarter at Cal Poly is a whirlwind of activity each year highlighted by incoming students who embark upon one of the most significant of life's accomplishments - the pursuit of learning and higher education. The transformation of students who arrive their first quarter until they embark on their internship two to four years later reminds me of Henry Ford's comments about teamwork. Ford once said, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success. [Read more.](#)



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By Anthonia Edgren (RPTA '12), Editor, The Report

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RPTA students, regardless of whether or not you take part in the holiday festivities here at the beginning of the winter season, it is the perfect time of year to reflect and give thanks. It is the time of year to appreciate your family, friends, and the fact that you attend one of the top universities in the nation. It is the time of year to enjoy and embrace that you have the opportunity to live in the "happiest place in the United States!" It is the time to appreciate the opportunity you have to study RPTA while being supported by faculty and staff that truly care about your success. It is the time of year to be thankful, in general, for everything you do have. [Read more.](#)



Congress in Anaheim. [Read more](#)

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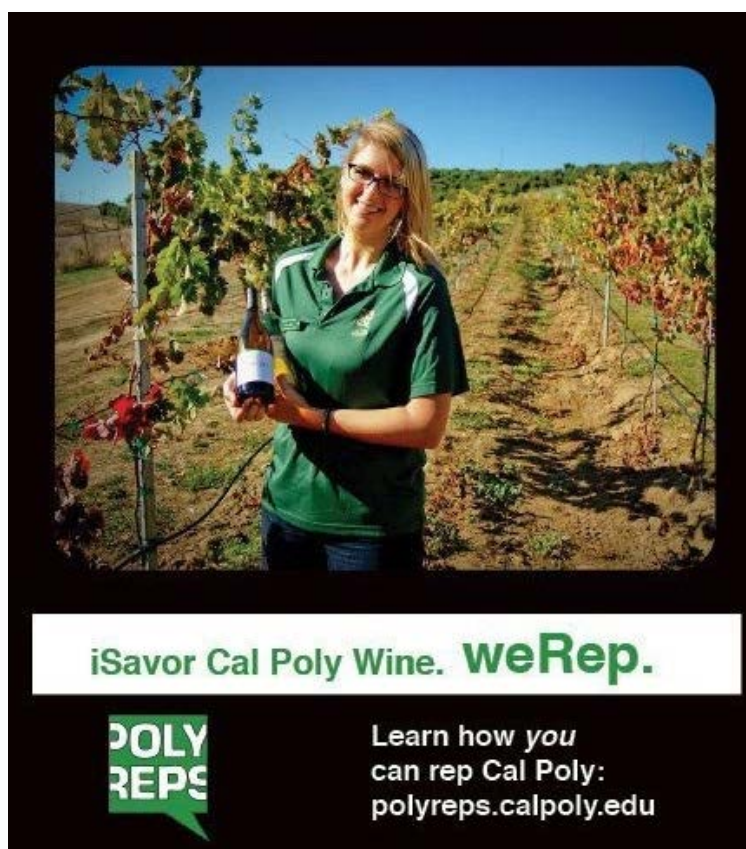
Dr. Bill Hendricks was named one of two 2011-2012 Distinguished Scholarship Award winners. Hendricks was honored with a reception in May 2012 and will be recognized again at both commencement in June 2012 and convocation in September 2012. [Read more](#)

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## RPTA STUDENTS REPRESENT CAL POLY AS CAMPUS AMBASSADORS

By Kalli Sandberg (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

Have you ever noticed a group of prospective students or alumni being led across campus by a student in a green shirt? Sure you have! But, did you know the title for those green-shirted students? They are Poly Reps, the official Cal Poly Campus Ambassadors and one of the most prestigious positions on campus. The Recreation Parks and Tourism Administration (RPTA) department is currently home to five Poly Reps. These students are: Alicia Carney ('11), Alexis Bradfield ('12), Nick Taylor ('13), Kelly Rowse ('13), and Kalli Sandberg ('13).



The five students are proud to represent Cal Poly, which is no surprise given the orientation towards service and community-building exhibited by most RPTA students. The students who serve as Poly Reps attribute part of their success to the lessons and skills learned in RPTA. [Read more.](#)

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## "I LEFT MY HEART IN SAN LUIS OBISPO"

**Join us for the RPTA annual auction benefit in celebration of 35 years at Cal Poly**

By Eric Duarte (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

On February 25, 2012, students, faculty, alumni, family, and friends of the RPTA department are invited to the annual benefit, this year in celebration of our 35th anniversary at Cal Poly. Just two weeks removed from Valentine's Day, love will linger with this year's theme of "I Left My Heart in San Luis Obispo." The full event will run from 3:00-9:00pm in order to take advantage of the spectacular scenery provided by Windfall Farms, located in the heart of the Paso Robles wine country. The afternoon session will provide time to tour the grounds and soak in some winter sunshine, catch up with old friends, and enjoy what will hopefully be a fabulous sunset over the vineyard. The evening will feature a "Taste of SLO" with locally-based food and wine pairings and the annual silent and live auction. Benefit chair Kaitlyn Mullinax ('12) says, "The goal of the event is to support, show love, and give back to the best major at Cal Poly. The money raised through this event helps support professional development for students and faculty alike."

Show Your Love for RPTA 

# I LEFT MY heart IN SAN LUIS OBISPO

35TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY ♥

Recreation, Parks, & Tourism Administration Department  
Proceeds Benefit Students and the Program



**Saturday, February 25, 2012**  
**at Windfall Farms, Paso Robles**  
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Tour and Activities  
4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Reception, Dinner, & Auction  
**\$30. RPTA students & \$50. Friends of RPTA**

Seats are limited. Tickets on-line at [www.rpta35.eventbrite.com](http://www.rpta35.eventbrite.com) by 2/20/12 (fees apply). For donations please forward to Cal Poly RPTA - Kendi Root - 1 Grand Ave. - SLO, CA. 93402  
Or contact chair Kaitlyn Mullinax - [Kmullina@calpoly.edu](mailto:Kmullina@calpoly.edu)

The event is planned and managed by students while being led by faculty advisor Professor Kendi Root. There are almost 20 students working on this event and as always it's anticipated to bring out students, parents, faculty, and of course our proud alumni. Mullinax added, "We are really focusing on our alumni this year, we want them to come back and share the love! The venue is absolutely breathtaking." In addition to some extraordinary auction items, there will be t-shirts that commemorate the 35th anniversary celebration. For registration and pricing information, see the event flyer above. Register at: [www.rpta35.eventbrite.com](http://www.rpta35.eventbrite.com). For further questions or if interested in hotel blocks in Paso Robles, contact Mullinax at [kmullina@calpoly.edu](mailto:kmullina@calpoly.edu) or Root at [kroot@calpoly.edu](mailto:kroot@calpoly.edu).



# WHAT'S IN A NAME? FOR PEBBLE BEACH INTERNS...EVERYTHING!

By Kalli Sandberg (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

Every year the Cal Poly RPTA department says goodbye to fantastic seniors who embark on the next leg of their life journey. Well prepared by a dynamic major, students have the opportunity to experience internships that people would only dream of having. One such "dream internship" is with Pebble Beach Resorts, the crown jewel of the Central Coast of California. The RPTA department has forged a long and fruitful relationship with Pebble Beach. Tim Ryan, Vice President of Sales for Pebble Beach Resorts, serves on the RPTA advisory council and has helped to create opportunities for RPTA students. Approximately 24



interns have been placed at Pebble Beach in the last decade with more than half of those interns being hired as full-time employees. For the summer and fall season, three RPTA students earned internships with Pebble Beach: Phillip Stapp ('11), Jackie Lauver ('11) and Tiffany Fowler ('11).

Fowler and Lauver both raved about their internships with Pebble Beach. Fowler expressed how much the internship taught her, "Not only has this internship been an incredible opportunity for growth and professional networking but additionally, it has taught me invaluable lessons about the hospitality industry that I'm convinced can only be learned through firsthand experiences." [Read more](#)



# ALL WE ARE SAYING IS "GIVE CAMPS A CHANCE!"

By Kevin Mould (RPTA '14), Staff Writer

Summer camp is something that many people look back on with great fondness and take notice of how it helped them to grow as a person. At Camp Henry in Newaygo, Michigan, the hope is that its attendees will be able to do just that. A Christian camp, Camp Henry is open to children of many ages and backgrounds, and for fifteen years now RPTA's own Dr.



Jeff Jacobs has been in charge of directing their summer camp programs. For those who know Jacobs, his stated goals for the camp programs fit his personality to a tee: "Have a ton of fun and try something new!" Further, activities are directed at helping campers to be the best that they can be.



Jacobs also points to the diversity of the programs, which range from day camps and three-day mini camps for younger kids, to specialty camps that include such activities as sailing, music, wake boarding, and rock climbing. Over the past 6 years, 15 RPTA students have made the journey to Michigan to join Jacobs and his family on staff at Camp Henry. Jacobs strongly encourages anyone who is interested to contact him. Summer camps are a great way to get hands-on experience with leadership and facilitation while getting the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. So, if you are interested in outdoor recreation and leadership or just have a passion for working with children, give camps a consideration when thinking about a summer job, an official internship, or even a career.

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## **RPTA PARTNERSHIP YIELDS AWARD-WINNING COMMUNITY PROGRAM**

By Eric Duarte (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

RPTA students are constantly working cooperatively with businesses, companies, and organizations in the community. The exceptional work done by our students and the mentoring gained from professionals already working in the field creates a mutually beneficial partnership and an experience to grow and learn from each other. This past spring quarter, the students enrolled in Dr. Brian Greenwood's Recreational Sports Programming course (RPTA 260) received a chance to engage in one of those unique partnerships through the FUNdamentals Sports Clinic for children ages five to twelve.



Roughly 20 RPTA students had an opportunity to partner with San Luis Obispo (SLO) Parks & Recreation and the San Luis Coastal Unified School District to aid in the development and very first implementation of this inclusive sports skills clinic program for children with developmental delays/disabilities. RPTA students served as facilitators of the clinic and developed program plans for future clinics. Students also received training in Applied Behavioral Analysis from an area expert and inclusive training working with children with disabilities from RPTA adjunct faculty member Rene Van Hoorn. [Read more.](#)

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## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: KIMBERLY SAAVEDRA

By Eric Duarte (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

It's no mystery Cal Poly RPTA students are notorious for seeking new and adventurous opportunities. For Kimberly Saavedra ('13), her adventure came to fruition when she decided to study abroad with the Cal Poly In Spain Valladolid Program.

Saavedra knew that she wanted to study abroad when she was still in high school. When Saavedra arrived at Cal Poly, she had a difficult time deciding between studying in Italy or Spain.

Remembering that she always wanted to learn Spanish, and because of her Spanish surname, she was inspired to learn more about her heritage, and it made the decision a little bit easier. [Read more.](#)



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# LEARNING-BY-TRAVELING: ADVENTURE TRAVEL IN COSTA RICA

By: Kevin Mould (RPTA '14), Staff Writer

One of the greatest aspects of being an RPTA student is the multitude of chances that are provided for hands-on learning. One such opportunity is the Adventure Travel and Tourism course taught by Dr. Jeff Jacobs. The class travels each spring break to a different international location to explore and learn about the various sustainability and hospitality practices employed in the region. This year, the destination is Costa Rica.

[Read more.](#)



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# MOYER LEADS THE WAY WITH NEW CAFES ADVISING MODEL

By Kalli Sandberg (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

Cal Poly's College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) has changed its advising model, and the RPTA department is leading the charge. Cynthia Moyer, RPTA faculty member and past recipient of Cal Poly's Outstanding Faculty Advisor award, has accepted a dual position as head of advising for all of CAFES. According to Moyer, the new model is not eliminating the traditional faculty-based advising that many of us have become familiar with, but rather re-focusing it. [Read more.](#)



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# THE NRPA QUIZ BOWL: MORE THAN JUST COMPETITION

By: Amy Lepp (RPTA '11), Guest Writer



Last year I had the amazing opportunity to attend the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Annual Congress in Minneapolis and compete in (and win) the first annual academic Quiz Bowl competition. This year I was fortunate enough to attend again, with a new team (Ali Bickel, Jamie Dehn, & Lauren Maston), in Atlanta, Georgia. We ended up



having a great time, and I can speak for all of us when saying that we are so thankful the department gave us this opportunity. It was incredible to attend a national conference where we got to meet and network with people from all over the country. The educational sessions included talks on many interesting subjects, and the exhibit hall was the team's favorite place due to hundreds of businesses with different products and services (as well as our favorite - lots of new playgrounds and equipment to test out). NRPA also planned networking events that we attended with great food and entertainment. The opening party was our favorite because it was at the Georgia Aquarium, and we got to see beluga whales, dolphins, whale sharks, and even touch the sting rays! [Read more.](#)

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## RPTA CLUB: CONTINUING THE TRADITION

By Kalli Sandberg (RPTA '14), Staff writer

The RPTA Club's mission is "to inform and unite all grade levels by providing professional and social opportunities while representing the RPTA department in a positive light." The RPTA club is growing stronger every year with great events, speakers, and of course those eye-catching and creative t-shirts. With a stellar group of officers leading the club, 2011-2012 looks to be a great year. Kaci Knighton and Nikki Harth are leading the club this year as Co-Presidents. Grace Bowermaster is Vice President; Kaya Rader is Treasurer, and Dr. Jeff Jacobs returns as the Faculty Advisor. [Read more.](#)



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# WELCOME TO NEW ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

By Anthonia Edgren (RPTA '12), Editor

This quarter, the RPTA department would like to welcome five new members to the RPTA [Advisory Council](#):

- **Barb Newton**, President of Sunset Publishing Corporation
- **Bob Roberts**, Executive Director of the California Ski Industry Association
- **Cathy Backus**, Global Director for CSA Travel Protection/Europ-Assistance
- **Michael Maher**, Global Accounts Manager with Travelocity
- **Jason Alexander**, General Manager of Disney's Paradise Pier Hotel

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# MEET THE STAFF OF "THE REPORT"

Staff for "The Report" are nominated by RPTA faculty for demonstrating excellent writing skills in RPTA classes. Student writers then coordinate with the editor and faculty advisor Dr. Brian Greenwood to develop and write articles.

The editor for 2010-2011 is **Anthonia Edgren** (RPTA '12). The staff is comprised of **Kevin Mould** (RPTA '14), **Kalli Sandberg** (RPTA '13), and our newest member Eric Duarte (RPTA '13). [Read more about the staff.](#)

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# Make a Donation

Interested donors should first choose "**College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences**" and then have the choice of giving to the "**Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Administration department**" OR the "**Excellence in Recreation Administration (REC Excellence) fund**," which is designated to benefit RPTA student and faculty professional development.

**[Make a donation now!](#)**

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# Fall 2011 Newsletter

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By: Dr. Bill Hendricks, Department Head

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One of our department's core values is "celebration." Our students, alumni, and advisory council give us ample cause to celebrate success. This edition of the Report will provide you with a glimpse of RPTA successes including study abroad programs, internships, newly appointed advisory council members, our nationally recognized academic quiz bowl team, learn-by-doing activities and classes, faculty highlights, and our ability to continually attract, retain, and graduate among the finest students in the country. These successes are only possible because we emphasize working together.

Working together as members of the RPTA community has resulted in a major now celebrating 35 years at Cal Poly. Please help us kick off the next 35 years of success at our 2012 Auction and Dinner on February 25th at Windfall Farms in Paso Robles. As you prepare for the holidays, celebrate success no matter how big or small the endeavor, help others to achieve success, and don't forget as my dad always said, "keep those cards and letters (emails) coming."

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Wishing you all a memorable and happy 2012!

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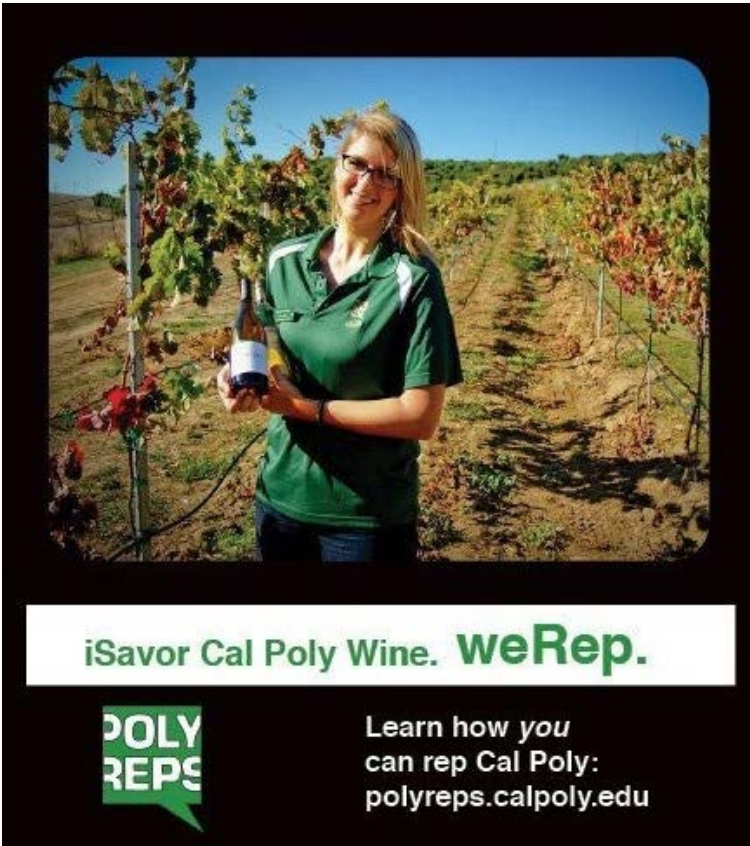
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The five students are proud to represent Cal Poly, which is no surprise given the orientation towards service and community-building exhibited by most RPTA students. The students who serve as Poly Reps attribute part of their success to the lessons and skills learned in RPTA. Rowse expressed her pride in being in a department that not only teaches her to be a contributing member of society but how to do so successfully. Being personable obviously helps when giving tours, working with admissions, and connecting with the alumni, but not all students are naturally gifted in this realm. Carney addressed this element in stating, "I really attribute our major's emphasis on group interaction, team building, and collaborative projects to my acceptance into Poly Reps in March 2010. Being an RPTA major brought me out of my shell and showed me how to effectively communicate with all different types of people, one class at a time. Being a Tourism Planning & Management concentration, I absolutely love sharing Cal Poly with prospective students and parents, and promoting the incredible programs we have to offer."

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**iStudy Abroad. weRep.**

**POLY REPS** Learn how *you* can rep Cal Poly:  
[polyreps.calpoly.edu](http://polyreps.calpoly.edu)

As a Poly Rep myself, I applied to be a Poly Rep last winter quarter and I don't think that I would have been as ready or confident for the application/interview process if I hadn't been a part of the RPTA department. I used knowledge from my classes during the nerve-wracking interviews and now thrive when giving all the anxious and excited prospective students their campus tours. Whenever I mention my major I get students and parents who look perplexed by how a student can have the opportunity to major in something so applicable and fun.

Together, Poly Reps and RPTA help prepare students for the real world. Cal Poly RPTA department is proud to be so well represented within Poly Reps and hopes that the tradition continues. Applications are currently available online at: <http://www.polyreps.calpoly.edu/>. If you would like to serve the campus, prospective students and alumni, apply to be a Poly Rep!

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taught me invaluable lessons about the hospitality industry that I'm convinced can only be learned through firsthand experiences."



The RPTA department sets students up for success after graduating by giving them critical classroom and real world knowledge that is applicable across the board in the professional world. Lauver had worked with San Luis Obispo Downtown Association as well as J. Lohr Vineyards and Wines before her internship, while Fowler was the ASI President's Chief of Staff for the 2010-2011 academic year. Lauver started on her path to Pebble Beach because of Professor Kendi Root's advanced event planning class. She was given the chance to help plan the ESTC 2011 conference, which gave her experience and confidence to enter the real world.

RPTA majors are required to complete a 400-hour internship as part of the graduation requirement, but what many do not know is that full-time employment can be counted for the internship. That's the goal anyway, right? Lauver was one of the fortunate few who simultaneously ended her college career and began her full-time working career in being hired full-time as a Pebble Beach employee. Lauver explained further, "I had previous obligations I was committed to and could not commit to a summer internship. I kept in communication with Pebble Beach and was contacted when an opening became available for fall internships. After discussing my experience and status in school, it was suggested I apply for the full time position as Senior Reservations Agent. I am completing my internship credits learning the leading technology for resort reservations for the premiere golf resort in the world. What more could you ask for?"

Both Fowler and Lauver know that whatever the future holds, those three words, "Pebble Beach Resorts," on their resume will be powerful in the hospitality industry.

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## RPTA PARTNERSHIP YIELDS AWARD-WINNING COMMUNITY PROGRAM

By Eric Duarte (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

RPTA students are constantly working cooperatively with businesses, companies, and organizations in the community. The exceptional work done by our students and the mentoring gained from professionals already working in the field creates a mutually beneficial partnership and an experience to grow and learn from each other. This past spring quarter, the students enrolled in Dr. Brian Greenwood's Recreational Sports Programming course (RPTA 260) received a chance to engage in one of those unique partnerships through the FUNDamentals Sports Clinic for children ages five to twelve.

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Roughly 20 RPTA students had an opportunity to partner with San Luis Obispo (SLO) Parks & Recreation and the San Luis Coastal Unified School District to aid in the development and very first implementation of this inclusive sports skills clinic program for children with developmental delays/disabilities. RPTA students served as facilitators of the clinic and developed program plans for future clinics. Students also received training in Applied Behavioral Analysis from an area expert and inclusive training working with children with disabilities from RPTA adjunct faculty member Rene Van Hoorn.

The clinic was held at CL Smith Elementary school twice a week and was focused on providing a welcoming and positive environment as well as seamlessly integrating life lessons through the sport of soccer. Third year RPTA student Alison Sunahara ('13) said, "FUNDamentals was not something that many students get a chance to experience. It pushed us out of our comfort zone to become better coaches, mentors, and people."

Cortland Forsyth (RPTA '13) thought one of the most rewarding parts of the clinic was being able to see the kids' skills grow so much from the first day to the end and being able to give them something while growing himself as a person and a facilitator. Students led soccer drills and team building activities while also learning about behavioral



reinforcements, ADA accessibility, and wellness. Students also received a chance to work with recreation professionals from SLO Parks and Recreation, providing for a vibrant mentoring environment and one where openness was fostered in seeking input from the students on how to improve the program.

On September 14, 2011, Governor Jerry Brown helped announce the winners of the 2011

Congress in Anaheim. [Read more](#)

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Spotlight Awards and presented the FUNdamentals Sports Clinic the Bronze Medal in the Park Program of the Year category. A generous \$1,000 check was awarded to SLO Parks and Recreation to further promote physical activity in the community. This award was testament to another successful community partnership. All Spotlight Award winners and medalists can be viewed at: <http://www.calgovcouncil.org/Spotlight/>.

Dr. Greenwood and SLO Parks & Recreation have continued the partnership. RPTA 101 students volunteered this past fall to support the FUNdamentals basketball clinic. Plans are in the works for the spring RPTA 260 class to continue the partnership.

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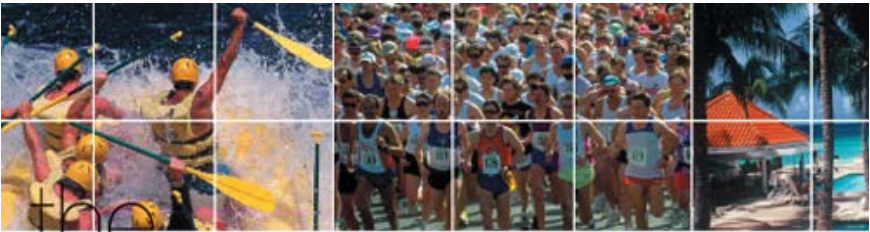
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## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: KIMBERLY SAAVEDRA

By Eric Duarte (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

It's no mystery Cal Poly RPTA students are notorious for seeking new and adventurous opportunities. For Kimberly Saavedra ('13), her adventure came to fruition when she decided to study abroad with the Cal Poly In Spain Valladolid Program.

Saavedra knew that she wanted to study abroad when she was still in high school. When Saavedra arrived at Cal Poly, she had a difficult time deciding between studying in Italy or Spain. Remembering that she always wanted to learn Spanish, and because of her Spanish surname, she was inspired to learn more about her heritage, and it made the decision a little bit easier.



"I've learned so much; it's ridiculous!" says Saavedra. That learning has included becoming relatively proficient in speaking Spanish. She is now able to hold a decent

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conversation, which is impressive considering she couldn't even form a sentence in Spanish before arriving in Spain. Most of all, Saavedra has "learned how to be an independent and confident traveler, whether it's preparing or planning for a weekend adventure or simply learning to be on my own in a completely foreign place where I don't speak the language." Saavedra has taken full advantage of being overseas. She has traveled to Tangier, Morocco and prior to

starting school in Spain, traveled to Rome. Both locations challenged her to think for herself even while not being able to speak the native language.

Saavedra tells other prospective students considering studying abroad that all one needs to do is decide where to go and how long you want to be there. "Stay for as long as you feel comfortable with and even if money is going to be tight it's 100% worth it."

There are quite a few resources here at Cal Poly for students that do wish to make a journey to another country in the name of knowledge, such as the [International Education Program](#), which holds true to their credo of "Learn By Going." There is also financial aid available. Of course, Saavedra is also happy to share her story and experiences with other RPTA students that are motivated to travel. "Life outside of America is different but as long as you are open to change and ready for adventures, there is no reason why you shouldn't try it."

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LEARNING-BY-TRAVELING: ADVENTURE  
TRAVEL IN COSTA RICA

By: Kevin Mould (RPTA '14), Staff Writer

One of the greatest aspects of being an RPTA student is the multitude of chances that are provided for hands-on learning. One such opportunity is the Adventure Travel and Tourism course taught by Dr. Jeff Jacobs. The class travels each spring break to a different international location to explore and learn about the various sustainability and hospitality practices employed in the region. This year, the destination is Costa Rica.



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As Jacobs points out, the alignment with Cal Poly's learn-by-doing approach to education is a key component of the experience, as students plan the itinerary and activities and then get a chance to see the fruits of their planning firsthand. This year's itinerary, for example, has many opportunities for learn by doing. Students will stop over at EARTH University, which educates the best and brightest Central American students on sustainable agricultural practices. Students will get a chance to tour the university and engage with their Central American peers, fostering admiration and respect for the hard work that they put in. In addition, students will get a chance to explore many diverse landscapes and ecosystems, from the jungle and the forest to mountains and the beach, all the while learning about native creatures and their habitats and subsisting on local food. Finally, to create as authentic of an experience as possible, every night will be spent in locally owned properties and all activities will be led by native Costa Rican guides.

As Jacobs notes, it is a wonderful chance for students to experience how things are done differently in other parts of the world, and to take those experiences back with them and use them to grow. If you are interested in traveling abroad or in simply planning next year's trip, sign up for RPTA 412 to get in on the action.

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## MOYER LEADS THE WAY WITH NEW CAFES ADVISING MODEL

By Kalli Sandberg (RPTA '13), Staff Writer

Cal Poly's College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) has changed its advising model, and the RPTA department is leading the charge. Cynthia Moyer, RPTA faculty member and past recipient of Cal Poly's Outstanding Faculty Advisor award, has accepted a dual position as head of advising for all of CAFES. According to Moyer, the new model is not eliminating the traditional faculty-based advising that many of us have become familiar with, but rather re-focusing it.



Whereas in the past students under most CAFES departments had a professor as their sole advisor, that job has now been split up between the faculty and a full-time, professional advisor. Faculty are still responsible for career and future planning questions, but anything to do with academics such as scheduling and classes now goes through the professional advisor. As head of this new model, Moyer oversees four advisors, who oversee roughly two or three departments each. Moyer is now a part-time instructor and part-time administrator, and is very excited for the benefits that this change will provide for students. The change comes with the introduction of new advising initiatives, such as the EAPs (Expected Academic Progress), which would be difficult for faculty to stay on top of in addition to their many additional responsibilities (i.e., teaching, research, service, etc.).

By handing the tracking and updating of academic progress off to full-time advisors, the hope is that it will ultimately ease graduation flow and ensure that students are doing

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what they need to in order to succeed. One important item to note is that this new model (at least for RPTA) only applies to the Freshman class of 2015 and beyond. This means that anyone expecting to graduate in 2014 or earlier is still operating under the same system of working with a specific RPTA faculty member. Moyer also hopes to bring on RPTA peer advisors in the near future, and loves the fact that due to the career-oriented advising, RPTA faculty will still be able to connect with new students and get to know them.

The CAFES advisor for RPTA is Dianne Korth, and anyone seeking more information can feel free to contact her by email at [dkorth@calpoly.edu](mailto:dkorth@calpoly.edu) or through dropping by her office (Bldg. 11, Room 240). [Read more.](#)

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## THE ACADEMIC QUIZ BOWL: MORE THAN JUST COMPETITION

By: Amy Lepp (RPTA '11), Guest Writer

Last year I had the amazing opportunity to attend the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Annual Congress in Minneapolis and compete in (and win) the first annual academic annual Quiz Bowl competition. This year I was fortunate enough to attend again, with a new team (Ali Bickel, Jamie Dehn, & Lauren Maston) in Atlanta, Georgia. We ended up having a great time, and I can speak for all of us when saying that we are so thankful the department gave us this opportunity. It was incredible to attend a national conference where we got to meet and network with people from all over the country. The educational sessions included talks on many interesting subjects, and the exhibit hall was the team's favorite place due to hundreds of businesses with different products and services (as well as our favorite - lots of new playgrounds and equipment to test out). NRPA also planned networking events that we attended with great food and entertainment. The opening party was our favorite because it was at the Georgia Aquarium, and we got to see beluga whales, dolphins, whale sharks, and even touch the sting rays!



The competition we had all been waiting for was held on Wednesday night in the

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Georgia World Congress Center. Because of the amount of time we had studied, we all felt very prepared and were excited to compete. We started off in the first round against BYU and Ole Miss. The competition didn't go as we

had hoped and after a series of unfortunate questions and events, we ended up losing to the winning team, BYU. We were all pretty frustrated with the outcome because we had put so much time and effort into the competition. But, after the initial disappointment subsided, we were able to remember the reason why we were there♦ to have fun and positively represent Cal Poly and RPTA.

Of course, it is still disappointing that we lost; however, we were all able to learn so much from the experience, and it was truly a once in a lifetime opportunity. I am so thankful for our professors who helped coach us and to the whole department who supported us. I made some amazing friends, was able to network with incredible professionals, and showed NRPA what Cal Poly RPTA is all about! I will never forget the great times and happy memories from the NRPA Conference 2011!

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## RPTA CLUB: CONTINUING THE TRADITION

By Kalli Sandberg (RPTA '14), Staff writer

The RPTA Club's mission is "to inform and unite all grade levels by providing professional and social opportunities while representing the RPTA department in a positive light." The RPTA club is growing stronger every year with great events, speakers, and of course those eye-catching and creative t-shirts. With a stellar group of officers leading the club, 2011-2012 looks to be a great year. Kaci Knighton and Nikki Harth are leading the club this year as Co-Presidents. Grace Bowermaster is Vice President; Kaya Rader is Treasurer, and Dr. Jeff Jacobs returns as the Faculty Advisor.



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In fall, the club hosted numerous events including a Park Day, volunteering at the Morro Bay Harbor Festival, cave exploring with Poly Escapes, Rec-O-Fest (carving pumpkins, enjoying desserts, and hanging out), an info session with the SLO Blues discussing internship opportunities, a visit from John Roth, Chief Ranger at Lassen Volcanic National Park, and camping in Big Sur.

The RPTA club offers numerous social and professional development experiences for members including career networking opportunities, professional guest speakers, peer advice, help with Cal Poly classes, a text book exchange, fun social events, BBQs, and club trips. Members also have the ability to experience recreation as a student, participant, and programmer, while getting to know students and faculty, and even working towards attaining the 1000 hours of paid or volunteer service needed to graduate! If you don't want to miss out on any more great events this year, it's never too late to join the Cal Poly RPTA club! Join and become a "total REC" today!



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### MEET THE STAFF OF "THE REPORT"

Staff for "The Report" are nominated by RPTA faculty for demonstrating excellent writing skills in RPTA classes. Student writers then coordinate with the editor and faculty advisor Dr. Brian Greenwood to develop and write articles.

The editor for 2010-2011 is **Anthonia Edgren** (RPTA '12). The staff is comprised of **Kevin Mould** (RPTA '14), **Kalli Sandberg** (RPTA '13), and our newest member **Eric Duarte** (RPTA '13).

Here's more about the staff:

**Eric Duarte (RPTA '13), Staff Writer**  
Event Planner, Storyteller, and Connector.  
Duarte is a Central Coast native whose passions are the environment, events, technology, community, providing experiences to others, and relationships. He does his best to find the beautiful things about others and appreciates good character, creativity, positivity, and a great sense of humor. Duarte plans to represent his beloved RPTA Department in upcoming internships, jobs, opportunities, and professional experiences.



**Anthonia Edgren (RPTA '12), Editor**  
Edgren is a third year RPTA student concentrating in Sport Management and Special

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Events. She has been on The Report staff for three years and truly enjoys the opportunity to be Editor. Edgren hopes to turn her love of sports and communication into a career with either her hometown team, the San Diego Chargers, or a sports broadcasting network such as ESPN. In her free time, her favorite activities are running in Poly Canyon, indoor cycling and line dancing at the Grad.



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**Kevin Mould (RPTA '14), Staff Writer**

Mould is excited to be a part of The Report staff. A sophomore from Mountain View, Mould's concentration is Sport Management, a tribute to his love for the San Jose Sharks. Why he chose RPTA: "All through high school I knew I wanted to do something related to sports business, and this seemed like the perfect way to do that!"

**Kalli Sandberg (RPTA '13), Staff Writer**

Sandberg is a third year RPTA student from Marin County, CA (just North of the Golden Gate bridge) who plans on picking up a minor in Media Arts and Technology when she returns from her Winter and Spring quarters in Copenhagen, Denmark. She chose RPTA because "RPTA gives me an opportunity to combine my leadership and organizational skills with fun and amazing staff, students, and classes. Most of my friends just nickname the major 'FUN,' and I couldn't be happier with my decision." Sandberg comes to "The Report" after having shown her writing abilities both in the classroom and in the blogosphere.



If you have ideas for stories, ideas about how to improve The Report, and/or feedback about the current or past issues, please feel free to email us at [rptanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:rptanewsletter@gmail.com).

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