2021/2022 Robert E. Kennedy Library Annual Report

Robert E. Kennedy Library
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

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VISION
We connect people and inspire learning.

PURPOSE
We are a Learn by Doing library.
We help every member of the Cal Poly community engage in open and informed inquiry and contribute through creation, innovation, and collaboration to the quality of life in our community.

VALUES
We value learning, innovation, and the diversity of individual and group experiences and perspectives that make our community sustainable, compassionate and resilient.

These values commit us to being open, responsive, and inclusive in the relationships we build across the entire Cal Poly campus and community — including our region, state and beyond.
Dear friends of the Robert E. Kennedy Library,

*I am delighted to write to you and introduce you to another exciting year at Kennedy Library. The highlights of this issue of Inside 35 reflect a remarkable 2021–22 academic year and a stimulating 2022 fall quarter.*

I hope you appreciate reading about the importance of the library’s Julia Morgan collection in the story on Page 16. I know you will be inspired by the story of Emilio Espinal (Page 10), who served for nearly four years as a “LibRAT” (Library Research Assistance Technician) and is now at Stanford pursuing a master’s degree in Latin American studies. I am also thrilled to share how new fellowships and scholarships – funded by generous donors – are opening doors and providing opportunities to Cal Poly transfer students and library student assistants and helping the library build stronger ties to Cal Poly’s faculty while advancing the library’s efforts to advance institutional diversity, equity and inclusion goals. The work of Kennedy Library faculty and staff is interconnected to supporting instructional faculty members incorporate the teacher-scholar model into their academic activities. You will learn firsthand from library staff about their work and from Cal Poly researchers how the library team impacts and supports them (Page 14).

Much of the past year, the library has been engaged in planning and defining the Kennedy Library Transformation Project. As I write, the project team is narrowing down the scope of the project (Page 6). The significance of this transformation transcends the words of the story, and I couldn’t think of a better way to underscore it than by sharing some personal thoughts about this topic from some members of the Library Dean’s Advisory Council (Page 9).

I hope you enjoy reading the latest news from Kennedy Library. I welcome you to join our exciting journey as we re-envision Kennedy Library for future generations of Mustangs. I invite you to stay in touch; I am only an email away: popescu@calpoly.edu.

Sincerely,

Adriana Popescu
Dean of Library Services
Library Renewal: A Challenge and An Opportunity

It’s no secret that Kennedy Library, arguably the life force of Cal Poly and an essential catalyst to student success, is over 40 years old and in need of renovation.

That’s a well-known fact, and Dean of Library Services Adriana Popescu has been grappling with the details – and the challenges – of the renovation for five years.

“The library building is 41 years old, and we have an opportunity to turn the renovation into a project that ensures that future generations of Mustangs have transformational experiences each time they step into the building,” Popescu said.

With $73 million in funding secured from the California State University’s Chancellor’s Office, the university can begin the work in earnest. Construction is projected to start in July 2023, and the target date for re-opening the renovated building is fall quarter 2025.

The project is quite complex and presents a few challenges. Since the building will be closed during the renovation, new locations must be found for student study spaces, resources, services and staff. And not just library staff. The building is also home to the Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology; Office of Writing and Learning Initiatives; Academic Programs and Planning; Honors Program; ITS Help Desk; Ombuds Office; Cal Poly Print and Copy; and Julian’s Café.

Staff and services will likely shift to Crandall Gym and Chase Hall during construction, and information resources will continue to be available via online requests. The library’s extensive electronic collections – accessible anytime from anywhere – will ensure a successful academic experience for students and faculty, despite the building closure.

Supply chain issues and inflation present additional renovation challenges. Popescu estimates that inflation has resulted in a budget loss of nearly $25 million since the project’s conception.

Seismic concerns dictate that the main staircase be demolished and a new one erected. Current plans
also address energy efficiency and thermal comfort, “which is a big issue for visitors and occupants of the building,” Popescu said.

Although the budget has been hit with unprecedented escalation, the library will be transformed. According to Penny Sandman, project manager in Facilities Planning and Capital Projects at Cal Poly, “Users and occupants will return to a refreshed building with new flooring, painting, acoustical ceilings, signage and other cohesive and strategically impactful design elements.

A new and expanded Café on the first level, redesign of the courtyard to solve Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) issues while simultaneously providing for classroom/event space adjacencies and addressing seismic improvements with a new circulating stair will immediately impact the user experience of the building and its programs and services.”

The Kennedy Library transformation also presents an opportunity – an opportunity for students, alumni, faculty, staff and community members to make a
difference. Some members of the Dean’s Advisory Council (DAC) have already signed on as donors to the project; others are actively fundraising on behalf of the library. There are dozens more giving opportunities.

“I would encourage our community to consider a gift to Kennedy Library,” said Zachary Smith, vice president for University Development and Alumni Engagement. “A gift to the library renovation could be naming a space in honor of a professor who made a difference in your experience as a student, it could be recognizing a family member or friend who supported your education at Cal Poly. A gift to the library will help provide opportunities for the next generation of our Cal Poly community – it’s a gift to Learn by Doing.”

The library is seeking donations to cover additional projects, including building more inclusive room/ space options in which the exchange of ideas and intellect can occur. Those spaces would include “fishbowls,” Zoom rooms, large spaces to accommodate groups collaborating on projects and smaller single-use study spaces.

Additional fundraising “wish-list” items include a state-of-the-art-Digital Scholarship Studio and a flexible, dedicated classroom and exhibit space for Special Collections and Archives.

“Every one of our alumni is an alum of the library,” Smith said. “It’s an intellectual resource, not only for the Cal Poly community but for the greater region and our state. Our special collections is a treasure for the Central Coast as well as our campus.”

(See related story, Page 16)

Popescu agrees that fundraising can help achieve aspirational goals, which go beyond what can be accomplished with the available budget. The library, she said, is an extension of the classroom. “It inspires learning, its services and resources are open to everyone. Beyond its core services, the library is an active collaborator and partner in showcasing and promoting Learn by Doing and our region’s rich history and entrepreneurial spirit.

“Kennedy Library is more than a warehouse to store materials that students and faculty need,” she continued. “It’s a community of learners. The programs offered by the library go beyond teaching students how to find and evaluate information they need for their work. The library offers educational programs around the use of data, visualization tools and basic coding skills. The library molds students into lifelong learners.”

The scope of the project is expected to be finalized by the end of 2022, then the design phase will commence. Construction is tentatively slated to begin in July 2023 with completion planned for fall quarter 2025.

For up-to-date renovation information, go to: https://afd.calpoly.edu/facilities/planning-capital-projects/project-news/kennedy-library/
The entire Dean’s Advisory Council has demonstrated their support for Kennedy Library’s renovation, by either generously donating funds or helping with fundraising efforts to directly benefit the project. Below are each members’ statements in support of the renovation.

Dean Emeritus Phil Bailey shared, “I attended and fondly remember the dedication ceremony of Kennedy Library in 1981. I was a relatively young faculty member and associate dean of the College of Science and Mathematics. It appeared to me that President Emeritus Kennedy was surprised by the library naming honor, but in retrospect, I’m sure he knew. However, the large number of family members who secretly came for the ceremony and were hidden from view definitely surprised him. It was very exciting.”

Emeritus Professor Jay Devore said, “From a very early age, libraries have played a pivotal role in my life. I remember with great pleasure my many visits to Carnegie library when I was growing up. The libraries at UC Berkeley and Stanford were fantastic information sources while I was an undergraduate and graduate student. And for many years I relied on the journals in the Cal Poly library to provide real data across a wide spectrum of disciplines – engineering, biology, agriculture, social sciences, medicine – for my teaching and the statistics textbooks I wrote. I hope the renovation of Kennedy Library will encourage students, faculty and staff to make more frequent use of its many resources.”

Bob Kitamura, council chair and retired executive director of Cal Poly Facilities Planning and Capital Projects, stated, “Cal Poly has made it a priority to make sure that its new and existing buildings are state-of-the-art to accommodate the growth and technology required by some of the best students and faculty in our country. The major remodel to Kennedy Library is an important part of the physical changes that are necessary for Cal Poly to stay at the top.”

Jeff Pulver, former vice president, Global Alliances, Workday, stated, “Kennedy Library has truly become the hub of the campus. It’s fabulous to see students working together, ideating on white boards, perusing special exhibits and even enjoying an ice coffee with their fellow students. The buzz is always palpable as students are Learning by Doing in the library. It’s critical that we bring this aging structure to the level that our students deserve!”

Robert Tapella, owner and managing director of Digital Technology Associates, commented, “As a Cal Poly student in the 1980s, the new library was a foreign land on campus used primarily as a place to nap during the day and study during finals. Fast forward to today, when the library is a vibrant 24/7 campus center point for collaboration, study, experimentation and perhaps a few naps too.”

Peter Wiley, emeritus chairman of the board, John Wiley & Sons, said, “For millenia, libraries have been the essential source of human knowledge, contributing to beneficial changes as humans evolve. Over time, libraries have and must change to fit the needs, and in the case of the Kennedy Library, the needs of students and faculty. Kennedy Library is truly a Learn by Doing institution, not only providing resources to its constituents, but also serving as a teaching institution for the many students who work there.”

Christine Young, vice president, Century Tubes Inc., said, “I think of libraries as wonderful places of anchorage for our lives. If we need a haven, there is always a place to rest and reflect. We can find the answers to the questions we must tackle and share thoughts with others. We leave the refuge of the library stronger and more capable, knowing we can return again and again. The renovation of Kennedy Library will ensure the comfort and continue to represent the constancy and stability our campus needs.”
“I have big eyes for creating change,” said recent graduate Emilio Espinal (Anthropology and Geography, ’22). “If I could help a handful of people attain what they are working for, that would be good enough. I’m not looking for revolutionary change, but if I could make it easier for others, that would be great.”

And if all it takes is hard work and dedication, there’s no doubt Espinal will succeed. As a Cal Poly undergraduate, he demonstrated an enormous capacity for meeting challenges, helping people and excelling at work.
He worked for two years as a resident advisor, living in the residence halls and helping students succeed. “RAs are the face and voice of University Housing for the 8,400 students living on campus,” Espinal said. “RAs live and develop positive relationships with every resident in their community. We are role models for the Mustang Way, promote a safe and comfortable living environment, develop community between residents and staff and are committed to every student’s personal and academic success.”

In addition to his RA role, Espinal served for nearly four years as a Kennedy Library “LibRAT” (Library Research Assistance Technician) providing reference, technical and directional support to students and faculty for almost four years.

According to Brett Bodemer, College of Liberal Arts librarian and Espinal’s supervisor at Kennedy Library, the LibRAT positions are highly competitive. “Emilio was one of four individuals hired out of a pool of 63 applicants,” Bodemer said. “At the time he stood out for his poise, thoughtfulness and express interest in developing the presentation and research skills to be gained through the position.

“Throughout his time on our team, he has embraced our model of continuous learning, improvement and peer mentoring,” Bodemer continued. “He has great composure and relatability when leading instructional sessions, calmly teases out information when working with reference patrons and also quickly applied the basic legal research skills he learned with us to land a position with a faculty member as a research intern to help compile sources related to a legal research topic.”

In addition to working those two Cal Poly positions, Espinal interned at California Rural Legal Assistance Inc. for over a year, served as a research intern at Stop Educator Sexual Assault Misconduct and Exploitation
(SESAME) for half a year, and co-founded Cal Poly’s Latinx Cultural Association, serving as its secretary from 2019 until he graduated.

During his first year on campus, Espinal noticed that many student clubs had a theme. “They were either business oriented or they were geared toward a certain type of major or political affiliation,” he said. “There wasn’t really a social club for Latinx students. We wanted to start a more general club – a club to foster community specifically for Latinx but open to everyone.

“The Latinx Cultural Association is a student-run cultural club focused on creating a positive, accepting and diverse environment,” he continued. “Our goal is to create a safe space primarily for Latinx-identifying students, as well as any other groups.”

He succeeded on the academic front as well. He and another student won the Best Student Paper Award for Social or Environmental Justice at the 2022 conference of the California Geographical Society. The paper focused on the mapping of racial residential segregation in the United States.

In addition to his bachelor’s degree, Espinal also earned a minor in Latin American studies and Spanish language and literature.

And he’s not done yet.

Now at Stanford, Espinal is pursuing a master’s degree in Latin American studies before either working on a doctorate degree or applying to law school.

The San Diego native eventually wants to be an immigration attorney. “That’s why I’m interested in Latin American studies,” he said. “I want to have a better understanding and perspective about why people leave their countries. Are they seeking a better economic life? How is the U.S. involved in causing the situations that trigger people to flee their homelands?”

Espinal’s father immigrated from the Dominican Republic to the U.S. in 1970. “I have lots of family in the Caribbean; it’s half my culture,” he said. “I heard stories from my father and his siblings about what it took to get to the U.S. Some of their stories are jaw dropping – what they did, what they sacrificed to come to the U.S.”

“I want to change the process,” he continued. “It should be smoother for immigrants and, frankly, less racist. I want the process to be easier.”

There appears to be a common theme keeping Espinal engaged: helping people.

One aspect of Espinal’s job as a LibRAT was leading research workshops in which he taught students who needed help with research assignments. Much to his surprise, he found that he enjoyed teaching.

“Learning to teach was a challenge,” he admitted. “I am not a very outspoken, bubbly person. I had to muster up the courage and get past my nerves. The students were responsive though because I was their peer. It was fun, and I didn’t expect that.”

I heard stories from my father and his siblings about what it took to get to the U.S. Some of their stories are jaw dropping – what they did, what they sacrificed to come to the U.S.
The experience also made him a better public speaker, he said.

He said his work at the library was enjoyable but sometimes also challenging. “I like challenges, even though they sometimes are frustrating,” Espinal said. “I especially liked getting difficult research questions. Those questions are fun; they are like a puzzle. And the students are so grateful.

“Those experiences also helped me with my academics by being able to find different things in the library,” he continued. “And sometimes I could help my professors through the library.”

Espinal also found great value in Learn by Doing. “I liked the concept because it provides you with opportunities not available to undergraduates at other universities,” he said. “Having access to computer labs and hands-on activities gives you such an advantage. Otherwise, you might just be reading about things. At Cal Poly, students have early access.”

Librarian Bodemer influenced Espinal’s decision to apply to graduate school. In a letter supporting Espinal’s application, Bodemer cites Espinal’s “clear sense of academic purpose, superior ability to discuss complex topics and commitment to pursuing a career that will enable him to make a meaningful contribution to society.”

Bodemer also praised Espinal’s composure, initiative, leadership and integrity. “He thinks very strategically and humanely about his future and how he can apply his energies in ways that will benefit others,” Bodemer wrote.

At Stanford, Espinal is enrolled in an intensive one-year master’s program along with a small cohort of 10 people. “I have a hunch we’ll be a close-knit group with a good support system,” he said.

In sharp contrast to his undergraduate days, he is hoping to avoid having to work while earning his master’s degree. He received two fellowships that should help.

Stanford’s Center for Latin American Studies awarded Espinal $38,488, and from the U.S. Department of Education’s Foreign Language and Area Studies Program, he received $18,000 for tuition and a $20,000 stipend.

Espinal looks forward to the day when he can “help as many people as I can,” even if it’s only a few.

“I would be happy helping even a small number of people,” he said. “Helping one person sometimes translates into helping many people. Not just through legal means, but in making connections.”

Connections and relationships are important to Espinal, and he advises other students to consider their value as well.

“Cal Poly’s Anthropology Department is small,” he said. “I made strong relationships with the faculty. Make connections with your professors and faculty. Professors are human too; don’t be intimated. They want you to succeed.”

As someone who can seemingly juggle multiple tasks, Espinal knows it’s also essential to take time for yourself.

“Don’t get too caught up in academic success,” he advised. “I saw a lot of people dive into studies and skip meals and social events. Find the balance between the different spheres of life. Also, try not to care what other people think. Don’t judge yourself too harshly. College is only four years of your life; it doesn’t necessarily determine your future success.”
Kennedy Library Supports Teacher-Scholar Model

Kennedy Library is making progress on several strategic goals, including one to “align services to support the teacher-scholar model.”

College of Liberal Arts Librarian Brett Bodemer, for one, has assisted several faculty members incorporate the teacher-scholar model into their work.

“Cal Poly faculty and the library are successfully collaborating to create genuine Learn by Doing opportunities that simultaneously support teaching and learning,” he said. “Faculty are engaging their students in scholarship while also exploring scholarship of their field as part of their teaching.”

SLAVE TRADE RESEARCH

History Professor Matt Hopper, whose research interests include the history of the African diaspora in the Indian Ocean and the comparative history of slavery and abolition, engages students in primary source research connected to his research interests.

In 2014 Hopper inquired if the library might subscribe to the Parliamentary Papers, a database with relevant and detailed records for the trade of enslaved peoples.

“That database back then was very expensive, and rather out of scope for our collections generally,” Bodemer explained. Dr. Hopper discovered that a university in London was selling its bound print copies of the Parliamentary Papers, and he knew exactly which 50 or so volumes were relevant.”

Hopper worked with the library’s collections director to make the purchase. “Then the library had to get them across the ocean,” Bodemer recalled. “These are mighty big books — folio size — and are really heavy.”

Everyone’s efforts paid off, and the volumes were added to the library’s stacks. Student use of these volumes became a regular feature of Hopper’s courses.
Until 2020 that is, when access was lost due to the COVID-19 shutdown. With the prospect of an extended shutdown, Hopper again asked about access to the UK Parliamentary Papers database.

“Understanding how important these resources had become to the students’ research, Kennedy Library sought a way to continue support,” Bodemer said.

“Repurposing funds typically allocated to print books, the collections director bargained for a permanent purchase of the UK Parliamentary Papers database.”

The database went live in fall 2020, allowing students to work with the print or online version.

“Genuine student engagement with primary sources is the equivalent of ‘lab work’ in the sciences, with great benefit to the students as they team with Dr. Hopper in continuously mining these resources,” Bodemer said. “Though Kennedy Library cannot take credit for Dr. Hopper’s winning the university’s 2021 Distinguished Teaching Award, the library has taken deliberate steps to support both the learning of his students and Dr. Hopper’s own success in teaching and scholarship.”

**ENTER SHAKESPEARE**

Kennedy Library and Bodemer have also collaborated to provide support to faculty in departments whose teaching and research include the study of Shakespeare.

Several years ago, the library replaced its older, much-used print Shakespeare plays with revised critical editions in the New Cambridge Shakespeare series, which Bodemer deemed to be “just the right level for undergraduate students: some key notes and essays, but not too much.”

At the same time, Bodemer learned that Cambridge had come out with the New Cambridge Shakespeare online database. After a free campus trial, many faculty in the English and Theatre and Dance departments expressed their enthusiasm, and the database was licensed.

Nicole Jacobs, a lecturer in the English Department whose teaching specialty includes Shakespeare, was one of the most vocal advocates for subscribing to the database. Her regular, innovative use of the database in teaching has contributed to Cal Poly’s being its No. 1 global user. Cambridge University Press wrote up a case study of how Cambridge Shakespeare is used by Kennedy Library and by Jacobs’ students. Read it here: https://www.cambridge.org/core/blog/2022/05/26/teaching-successfully-with-cambridge-shakespeare-the-case-of-california-polytechnic-state-university/.

“The database is awesome because students can see all of Shakespeare’s plays and discover many other things about productions,” Bodemer said. “With the plays in the database, students don’t need to buy them. And that’s good because the library could only afford to purchase one or two print copies.”

**COMPUTING FOR ALL**

In another teacher-scholar collaboration, the library’s Digital Projects Lab partnered with computer science Assistant Professor Ayaan Kazerouni, who had students in his CSC 313: Teaching Computing class engage other students across disciplines in computing.

“The partnership was forged in 2019 but was interrupted by the pandemic,” Bodemer said. “When the library reopened, the Digital Projects Lab offered multiple channels of support so that students in the new computing class could lead workshops to other students across the university. The library was the logical, discipline-neutral venue to offer these workshops, which ranged from Python to AI-generated music.”

The library’s team worked with Kazerouni to strategize optimal dates and times, advertising, room reservations and online registration. Kazerouni called the partnership a success. In an email, he wrote: “I want to say a big ‘thank you’ for making the library workshops possible. I think they were a great success in terms of the experiences for my students, and according to the surveys, they were also enjoyed by the attendees. I am extremely grateful that you all helped to make it happen.”
Architect Julia Morgan’s Life, Work, Legacy Revealed in One-of-a-Kind Exhibition

Photos by Josef A. Kasperovich

Kennedy Library staff collaborated with architecture Professor Jennifer Shields this year on an exhibition of one-of-a-kind works by Julia Morgan, famed architect who worked with William Randolph Hearst to design and build Hearst Castle in San Simeon, California.

Shields curated the exhibit, “Julia Morgan, Architect: Challenging Convention,” which was presented in the University Art Gallery in January and February 2022. She was assisted by Jessica Holada, director of Special Collections and Archives; Laura Sorveti, who coordinates reference and instruction for Special Collections and Archives, and a group of student research assistants.

This exhibition showcased Morgan’s life, work and legacy to students, faculty, staff and community members. It included over 80 unique items from the Julia Morgan Papers, which were donated to the library in 1980 by her nephew, Morgan North. The papers comprise the personal and professional records Morgan kept until her death in 1957.

The exhibition displayed original drawings, sketches, watercolors, photographs, letters and telegrams, student medals, the drafting table from Morgan’s last residence in Monterey, California, as well as a 17-foot tall blueprint reproduction of “Canopy on Stair Tower,” a highlight of the exhibit.
“Canopy on Stair Tower” was an architectural element designed for the Gothic wing at Hearst Castle, but it was never built. It would have been made of cast stone, incorporating a medieval statue of Saint Barbara, the patron saint of architects among others.

“Due to its size, light sensitivity and condition, there was no safe or economical way to display the original blueprint,” Holada said. “Professor Shields had the inspired idea to drape a facsimile of the drawing from the ceiling in the gallery. To achieve this, the blueprint was skillfully conserved, photographed in sections and ‘stitched’ together to create a seamless digital file for printing. The full-scale copy served as a dramatic centerpiece in the exhibition.”

Another notable piece in the exhibition was Morgan’s to-do list. “Not only is this a relatable artifact – as many of us regularly organize tasks on a piece of paper, margin notes and all – but the list provides solid proof of the scope and scale of Morgan’s responsibilities at Hearst Castle,” Holada explained. “From chimneys to pool bottoms, she was building, adding, removing, rebuilding and ‘revamping’ in all corners of Hearst Castle. When the list was made in 1931, Morgan had so much unfinished business, she had to tape a second sheet of paper to the first, which was typed on the back of letterhead from the Andrews Hotel, a building that still stands at the corner of Monterey and Osos in downtown San Luis Obispo. It is astonishing to think she was 12 years into a job that would still span another 16 years.”

In addition to items from the collection, which were largely displayed in their original formats, Shields included a handful of complementary items such as vintage postcards and motion picture footage from the 1900 Paris Exposition, as well as recent photographs of the Chapel of the Chimes, a rambling columbarium in Oakland, California.

“Julia Morgan was a pioneer in the field of architecture in a number of ways,” Shields said. “She was the first woman to graduate with a certificate in architecture from the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, the first woman to become a licensed architect in California...
and an expert in reinforced concrete construction for earthquake resistance.”

Since Shields’ arrival at Cal Poly in 2015, she has taken her architecture students to see the architecture drawings in Special Collections and Archives as inspiration for their own drawings.

According to Holada, before the exhibition, “Shields had made frequent and creative use of the architecture collections, which were springboards for novel class assignments. For instance, students would observe how architects drafted 3-D forms on 2-D paper before the advent of AutoCAD 3-D modeling software, learning the value of cultivating an analog sketching practice to iterate design concepts.

“When Professor Shields saw Julia Morgan’s student sketchbooks for the first time, they spoke to her curricular goals, and as I recall, were early inspiration for the exhibit,” Holada continued. “Made while living in France and studying architecture in Paris, Morgan’s sketchbooks offer a window into the architectural styles and details she was compelled to document in graphite, ink, watercolor and gauche. The pages of the sketchbooks, which were displayed in the exhibit in a digital loop, were one of the first things visitors turned to in the exhibit.”

Shields purposely organized the exhibit to illustrate the collaborative nature of Morgan’s practice. The exhibit demonstrated the dialogue between Morgan’s drawings and her correspondence with clients. Visitors to the exhibit were able to read Morgan’s letters, giving greater insight into her professional practice and her decision-making.

Shields hopes that her students and other visitors to the exhibit came away with an understanding about how “an architect can work collaboratively with clients, to provide them with functional, beautiful, site-specific buildings, without the ego we see so often in contemporary architecture, or ‘starchitecture,’” Shields said. “At the same time, I’d like people to realize what challenges Morgan had to overcome as a woman trying to enter into an exclusively male profession.”

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Morgan definitely blazed a trail for women in architecture. While the enrollment of women in architecture and related fields is growing, Cal Poly’s College of Architecture and Environmental Design is still 55% men to 45% women.

“This historic shift stands in contrast to Julia Morgan’s experience at the turn of the 20th century,” Holada said. “The exhibit powerfully illustrates how Morgan pushed through systemic gender barriers to study and practice architecture at a time when only men were permitted to do so. These obstacles may be unthinkable to students today.

“Despite her privilege, talent and connections, Morgan’s early success required sustained drive that defined her prodigious career,” Holada continued. “Within the context of social, educational and professional change, the exhibit’s most vivid selections showcase Morgan’s comprehensive
skill as a designer, engineer, construction manager, businesswoman and collaborator. Together, she activated these ranging skills at Hearst Castle, her largest, longest and most recognized project.”

Visitors to the exhibit were given a glimpse into how archival records, which once served a useful purpose for their creators, now function as evidence of past experiences, events, concepts, intentions, decisions, processes and more, Holada said. “The exhibit demonstrated how archival objects — the raw materials of historic scholarship — lend humanity to exhibits-based storytelling and exude an unmistakable aura of authenticity because the objects are original.”

As curator, Shields selected, organized, researched and coordinated the use of the objects; wrote and/or edited didactic texts and descriptive labels; and oversaw the exhibit design. She was awarded a Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities grant by the Cal Poly division of Research, Economic Development and Graduate Education to resource the project, supervised and mentored student assistants and interns, coordinated with collaborators and contributed to outreach and promotion efforts.

Holada’s contributions to the exhibit, in addition to supporting the teacher/scholar model, included “assessing the condition of the objects Shields wanted to use, determining if and how the objects could be safely displayed, providing specifications and options for display that could be practically achieved, and physically preparing and installing the objects.”

Holada said a major challenge in installing the exhibit was caring for the items. “Because some archival objects were handled extensively at the time they were created and without long-term preservation in mind, condition issues presented the biggest display challenges,” she said. “Cases were designed and built to facilitate the flat display of many archival objects that still required meticulous preparation. In the case of the blueprint, it needed to be stabilized and was too big to be framed, so a joint investment was made in conservation and photography. Shields’ grant was instrumental in helping to achieve these preservation-minded outcomes.”

Holada hopes that the exhibit helped spread awareness on campus and off that Kennedy Library and the materials in Special Collections and Archives are available for research and inspiration.

“In the specific case of the Julian Morgan Papers, we have evidence of an active 20th-century architectural office led by a woman of many firsts, including the first woman to be recognized by the American Institute of Architecture with a posthumous Gold Medal in 2014,” Holada said. “The deepest parts of the collection relate to Hearst Castle, a monumental project executed at high standards in a remote location. Julia Morgan wasn’t just responsible for the design of the estate’s infrastructure, buildings and landscape; she also managed construction, hired artisans and partnered with client William Randolph Hearst to execute his vision and seamlessly integrate the antiquities and decorative arts he collected.

“Professor Shields successfully used a variety of archival records to trace Morgan’s development and achievements as an architect, always attuned to the role gender exclusions and expectations played in her life,” Holada continued. “Rather than focusing on completed projects, exhibited letters, photographs and drawings provided backstories about those projects and revealed the elusive processes of creation.”

To see the interactive online exhibition, go to: https://artspaces.kunstmatrix.com/en/exhibition/6796640/julia-morgan-architect.
Kennedy Library Establishes New Fellowships and Scholarship

Kennedy Library is a place of constant change, seeking new and better ways to serve the Cal Poly community. Toward that end, it has created three new programs, two of which – the Transfer Student Library Fellows Program and DEI Faculty Fellowship -- are designed to advance diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives, a top strategic goal.

TRANSFER STUDENT LIBRARY FELLOWS PROGRAM

Transfer students often have a rougher – and a shorter – road to student success than traditional students for several reasons, including missing Kennedy Library’s course-related Foundational Experiences program that introduces first-year students to the library and information resources.

“Compared to the general student population, the transfer population includes a higher proportion of first-generation and underrepresented students” said Dean of Library Services Adriana Popescu.

“Compared to the general student population, transfer students also have greater financial challenges. Given these factors, it is not surprising that transfer students’ graduation rates are lower than the general student population.”

Kennedy Library aims to change that by rapidly onboarding a small cohort of incoming Transfer Student Library Fellows, who receive a $1,000 stipend for their participation. The library welcomed its first cohort of two students in spring 2022 and another two in fall. The students complete asynchronous learning
modules on research, meet with librarians and other staff to learn how the library supports student success, then work together to devise strategies for sharing this information with other transfer students.

The students will gain important library and information research skills, learn what technology and personalized help the library provides, build a sense of community among themselves and engage in productive teamwork to develop future outreach materials.

“Kennedy Library, for its part, will benefit by working closely with these students and gaining insight into what they perceive as needs, as opposed to our conjectures as to what we think they need,” Popescu added.

KENNEDY LIBRARY VISITING FACULTY DEI FELLOW

Recognizing that successful DEI initiatives require strong leadership, Kennedy Library has appointed its first Visiting Faculty DEI Fellow: Farah Al-Nakib, associate professor of history at Cal Poly.

Al-Nakib has been working since August to provide vision and leadership in implementing DEI initiatives, including finalizing the library’s DEI Action Plan to “guide efforts toward becoming a more diverse, equitable and inclusive workplace, knowledge center and community hub” where the “perspectives, experiences and contributions to knowledge of people from diverse backgrounds are centered and valued.”
The action plan relates to the everyday policies and practices of the library organization and to its collections, programs and services.

“I am deeply invested in equitable and inclusive teaching and in improving the campus climate for community members, like myself, from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds,” Al-Nakib said. “Playing a leading role in promoting DEI efforts at the library is a remarkable opportunity to make a meaningful and hopefully lasting contribution to create a more inclusive environment where everyone feels valued.”

Al-Nakib aims to implement “genuine goals and strategies to improve diversity, equity and inclusion at an institutional level, which, though necessary, can be challenging. As a faculty fellow who is not directly part of the library organization but who is committed to improving our campus climate, my overall goal is to help facilitate that work and mediate some of those conversations within the library. I would also like to help foster an institutional culture — within the library but also at Cal Poly more generally — whereby DEI work is recognized as everyone’s responsibility, not just those with DEI in their title.”

DOUGLAS GATES LIBRARY EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

Alumnus and library staff Emeritus Douglas Gates (M.A., Education, ’83) established a scholarship to benefit library student employees, whom he referred to as “integral members of Kennedy Library.” When Gates arrived at Cal Poly in 1980 as a graduate student, he was hired to work in the library. His tenure lasted four decades. As he approached retirement, Gates created the eponymous Library Excellence Scholarship Endowment, which will award $1,000 to one student assistant annually. Gates created the scholarship to acknowledge and reward the students, who impressed him with their “intelligence, diligence and integrity.”

Dean Popescu said, “Though he crowned his degree with a thesis on the history of Atascadero’s Eagle Ranch, the lure of working in Kennedy Library proved inexorable, and for the next four decades Douglas fulfilled a variety of vital roles. His most public-facing work was in providing reference services, and Gates was the afternoon linchpin of the library’s reference services for the better part of this century.

‘His career spanned the transition from print-based to digital resources,’” Popescu continued. “‘It’s a tribute to his flexibility that he never missed a beat in this transition, and for the last nine years of his career he ably mentored the student assistants who staff the library’s research help service point.’"
Mark Bieraugel spoke at the annual conference of the Dress and Body Association on the topic of the intersection of workplace attire and professionalism, nonbinary gender, and hand sewing one’s own clothing.

Kaila Bussert, Mercedes Rutherford-Patten and Russ White co-authored a book chapter, “Wading into the Data Deluge: Introducing Data Literacy Under the Umbrella of Information Literacy to First-Year Undergraduate Students.” It was published in the ACRL book “Embracing Change: Alternatives to Traditional Research Writing Assignments”.

Sarah Lester co-authored an invited paper, “Optimizing Library Services - Library Collections and DEIA: Progress and Opportunities,” in Against the Grain that shared current work in STEM libraries on the need for publishers to explore new approaches for creating opportunities for and supporting Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) and underrepresented authors.

Mercedes Rutherford-Patten presented her poster, “Rise to the Occasion! Using Rise 360 for Improved Information Literacy,” at the Lifelong Information Literacy (LILI) Virtual Conference in July 2022. She waded on Articulate Rise 360 as an effective tool for creating information literacy learning objects that provide interactive and accessible learning experiences and accommodate diverse learning styles.

Laura Sorvetti served as co-facilitator of the CSU-wide Archives and Archivists Roundtable, a community of practice building connections across the Cal State Archives. As part of the roundtable team, Sorvetti served on a panel at the 2021 Society of American Archivists Annual National Conference.

Heather Cribbs co-authored a peer reviewed article, “To Pre-filter or not to Pre-Filter, That is the Query: A Multi-Campus Big Data Study,” in the Journal of Librarianship and Information Science.

Heather Cribbs and Danielle Daugherty presented on their ongoing initiative for Kennedy Library, titled “Website Redesign and UX” at the Internet Librarian conference on Oct. 19, 2022.

Heather Cribbs also made a presentation, with research partner Gabriel Gardner of California State University, Long Beach, titled “Keep Search Option Configurations” at the Computers in Libraries conference in Arlington, Virginia, on March 29, 2022.
NEW STAFF

Chandler Rashley joined the Kennedy Library in July 2022 as the personnel and resource manager. Prior to working at the library, Rashley was a human resources business partner for FOX Entertainment and operations manager and HR specialist for Trial Partners, both in Los Angeles. Rashley comes with years of demonstrating effective human resource strategies and the ability to boost employee engagement. Prior to being in human resources (HR) Rashley spent over 20 years in retail building the foundation for client services, as well as handling delicate matters with thought and care. She is thrilled to be a part of the team during this exciting time of the library’s transformation starting in summer 2023. Rashley earned her undergraduate degree in anthropology from UCLA.

NEW STAFF

Marvin Trejo joined the Kennedy Library in the fall of 2021 as the evening services coordinator. Trejo comes to us from UC Santa Barbara where he earned his B.A. in sociology as well as minoring in U.S. history and sports management. Trejo spent eight years at UCSB’s Department of Recreation, where he served as the assistant operations coordinator. In addition to his responsibilities for student payroll and scheduling, Trejo assisted in interviewing, hiring, training and supervising a team of over 100 student employees. This role solidified his love of working with students, and he is excited to bring this experience to his new role as coordinator for the Access Services team. He looks forward to learning new programs and skills in his first foray in library services and developing strong professional bonds with his student staff. On the personal side, Trejo is an avid fan of the Los Angeles Lakers, San Francisco Giants and Las Vegas Raiders. He frequently plays basketball and tennis with friends and loves to relax watching classic “Simpsons” episodes or playing a fun video game.
A Gift to Kennedy Library touches every Cal Poly student

We are the beating heart of campus and serve every member of our community to help them reach their full potential.

BECAUSE OF OUR DONORS:

• Research help is available daily through our online peer research assistance program.

• Kennedy Library is the only place on campus with open access to data tools such as GIS, and we offer one-on-one support and instruction.

• Students have access to unique collections, such as original drawings by famed architect Julia Morgan and memorabilia from every Poly Royal.

• Online resources were swiftly expanded to support virtual research needs during the pandemic.

• Kennedy Library is renewed with modernized spaces that connect individuals to opportunities that enrich their academic experience and research.

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