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

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Vision
We connect people and inspire learning.

Mission
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 of 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.
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Although this is the third time that I invite you to read Kennedy Library’s Annual Report, it is my first time as dean of Library Services that I introduce you to the library’s accomplishments over the past year. I am honored by this appointment and delighted to continue working with the campus community on upholding the library’s place at the heart of holistic learning at Cal Poly. I look forward to working alongside the talented library faculty and staff to further Kennedy Library’s role in bringing diverse people and disciplines together and enabling collaboration, innovation and personal growth.

At the end of his book “Libraries and Enlightenment” (Library Juice Press, 2012), my former colleague Wayne Bivens-Tatum suggests that, “Libraries are still places where people can find enlightenment, education and enrichment. They are not warehouses for old books, as some people think, but active, thriving places where ideas clash and cultures engage, where values other than the strictly commercial survive and inspire, places people can go, physically or virtually, and emerge better people, their lives improved and through them perhaps our society improved.”

I share the conviction that libraries transform people; libraries exist for people and they are about people, and you will see this conviction affirmed in this snapshot of staff and faculty activity over the past year.

A few examples included in this report are articles about how the continuous enhancement of the new library management system aims to improve the user experience and make discovery and access of information as seamless as possible; how the library’s exhibits educate visitors on topics ranging from the elements of hip-hop culture to the history of building the campus; and how our public programs, such as Cal Poly Authors, enrich those in attendance with stories about “Lives Well Lived,” as those depicted in Professor Sky Bergman’s documentary of the same name.

As Kennedy Library’s 40th anniversary approaches, the aspiration to renovate the existing building is getting closer to reality, and this year we rallied the campus community to join us in defining the vision for a renewed library building.

The vision that emerged over a series of open forums and focus groups embodies Cal Poly’s Learn by Doing spirit and affirms the library’s role in supporting engaging, practical and active learning experiences. The library played this role when it was located in the Dexter Building, when it moved in a new building in 1980, and will continue to do so in the renovated library.

Years will pass, but the library at Cal Poly will always be centered on the community it serves and will always provide spaces, services and technologies that empower its users to connect and collaborate.

The upcoming renovation of Kennedy Library brings us the opportunity to add one more pillar to our commitment of keeping people at the heart of our mission by showcasing work from across disciplines and connecting individuals to opportunities that will enrich their research and academic experiences at Cal Poly.

I am looking forward to sharing with you in the year ahead our aspirations for the renovated library and what the project means for Cal Poly students, faculty, staff and the larger community. You can learn more about opportunities to be involved and support the Kennedy Library’s renewal on page 53.

I am grateful for the unfailing support you have all provided over the years, and I welcome you to join me and Kennedy Library faculty and staff as we celebrate the beginning of a new chapter for Kennedy Library.
Congratulations to Katherine O’Clair and Jeanine Scaramozzino for their promotion to the rank of full librarian, and to Zach Vowell for achieving tenure and promotion to the rank of associate librarian.

Congratulations also to Catherine Trujillo for receiving the President’s Diversity Award for Excellence in Inclusive Design, and to Russell White, who received the History Department’s Award for Excellence in Partnership and Service.
The Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC), formed in 2010, is charged with inspiring library improvements by engaging in dialogue with library staff and administration; advocating on behalf of student needs within the library, with other decision-makers, and with students; and promoting the library’s integration of student perspectives into its services and priorities.

Each and every year they have a profound impact on the library. We are thankful for their help.

ADVISORS  Chris Lee and Mark Bieraugel

2017–18 STUDENT LIBRARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Trent Baldwin  Marco Reza
Esther Chen  Anshula Singh
Alec Der Matoian  Ian Sun
Abby Dorrell  Annalise Whitacre
Alejandra Garcia  Max Wu
Shae Langley  Hana Zarea
Stefanie Lee  Eric Zhong
Layla Lopez  Matt Zimmerman
Madeline Maloon
Members of the Kennedy Library Dean’s Advisory Council serve as individual and collective advocates for Cal Poly and the Robert E. Kennedy Library. These industry and community leaders provide expert advice and counsel to the dean of Library Services.

Dean Adriana Popescu along with the staff and faculty at Kennedy Library are grateful to each member of the Dean’s Advisory Council, past and present, for their unwavering support and advocacy.
Textbook Match
Fostering a community
Learn by Doing
Scholar Awards
Research 101 tutorial
Library and Honors
Program partnership
Image and data visualization workshops
A quiet space for everyone
Staff innovation
Textbook Match saves students money

Research on affordability challenges in higher education consistently shows that a significant barrier to student success and on-time graduation rates is the rising cost of course textbooks. Since 2014, Kennedy Library has collaborated with the campus bookstore to identify and make e-books available to Cal Poly students in an effort to lower some costs for students. Textbook Match is one component of the California State University’s (CSU’s) Affordable Learning Solutions (AL$) initiative in place at Cal Poly. AL$ is a systemwide initiative to support student savings through the adoption of lower cost, high-quality course materials.

Kennedy Library provided e-textbooks for 12,300 students during the 2017–18 academic year.

This translates to a potential savings of $1,223,000 for students who did not have to purchase a textbook.
Fostering a community of practice

“Fostering Communities of Practice (FCoP): Software Preservationists and Emulation Experts” is a three-year Institute of Museum and Library Services-funded project that is one of a handful of projects affiliated with the Software Preservation Network (SPN). The FCoP project seeks to empower librarians, archivists, conservators and curators to address the key challenges of providing long-term access to software-dependent cultural heritage through the development of a community of practice representing a range of organizational types.

During the project’s first year (2017–18), Zach Vowell, the library’s digital archivist and project lead, along with colleagues at Educopia Institute, formed a cohort of six organizations to pilot a software preservation project in their local institutions: the University of Virginia, Guggenheim Museum, University of Arizona, Georgia Tech University, Living Computer Museum + Labs, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The FCoP project also partnered with Yale University to provide the cohort with access to the Emulation-as-a-Service software emulation platform.

Learn by Doing Scholar Awards

The award, which was established in 2014 with the generous support of the Library Dean’s Advisory Council, recognizes faculty who are advancing Cal Poly’s signature pedagogy through research on Learn by Doing. This year’s awardees tackled aspects of equity in education, inclusivity and life-long learning.

Planned and in-progress research

Building intercultural competence through cultural immersion projects

Julie Rodgers, Ph.D.
Psychology and Child Development Department, College of Liberal Arts

Why do some students choose to get involved in co-curricular engineering projects?

Graham Doig, Ph.D.
Aerospace Engineering Department, College of Engineering

Published research

Learning by Doing statistics: having students engage with scientific studies that matter, every day

Beth Chance, Ph.D.
Karen McGaughey, Ph.D.
Allan Rossman, Ph.D.
Soma Roy, Ph.D.
Statistics Department, College of Science and Mathematics
Research 101: online tutorial builds information literacy skills

The library’s Foundational Experiences Program continues to introduce thousands of lower-division students to information literacy skills in engaging face-to-face instructional sessions.

This year, the program went even further — achieving its long-desired goal of augmenting in-person instruction via an online research tutorial.

Designed and launched by Foundational Experiences Librarian Kaila Bussert, the robust and interactive Research 101 tutorial helps students identify quality sources and strategically search Kennedy Library’s databases. The course was conceived as a stand-alone learning objective and as a supplemental way to “prime the pump” before in-person instructional sessions.

Faculty members from the English and Communications Studies departments direct students to complete the Research 101 tutorial and affiliated online notebook just before the students’ scheduled instruction session. The tutorial provides an introduction to the steps of the research process in six self-guided online lessons, while the notebook aids students in reflectively tracking their steps toward finding sources for their pending assignment. Many of the instructional faculty embraced this new model, and in its rollout year, over 70 percent of all students participated in the foundational library instruction sessions.

Library and Honors Program partner to accelerate research skills

Research and Information Skills for Honors Students (HNRS 265) was offered by Kennedy Library and the Honors Program in both winter and spring quarters of 2018. Enrolled students once again dove into the nuts and bolts of framing a research question, writing a research proposal, compiling an annotated bibliography, and creating a poster. Along the way, students learned key search strategies for both open resources and subscribed library databases. Interactive sessions sprinkled throughout the course drew on expertise from across the library. In a field trip to Special Collections, Laura Sorvetti and Zach Vowell engaged the students both with traditional primary sources (such as letters) and with challenges in migrating information from obsolete technologies such as cassette tapes to digital platforms. In a hands-on collage workshop, College of Architecture and Environmental Design Librarian Jesse Vestermark helped the students demonstrate the conceptual elements of poster design.

The Honors students in these two quarters represented nearly every college, and ranged from first-year to fourth-year. Those moving on to graduate school or immediate employment were equipped with strategies that will serve them well once beyond Cal Poly, while lower-division students were jump-started in skills that will help them move successfully through upper-division coursework.
Image and data visualization workshops

Kennedy Library Data Services partnered with ESRI Academy and undergraduate Geography and Anthropology students to map and visualize campus safety features with the ‘Blue Lights’ demonstration project.

By incorporating geospatial data from Cal Poly facilities, these students provided beta-testing for an ESRI web mapping application to visualize campus illumination and plot the potential placement of new safety features.

Presenting this work at the California Geographic Society annual meeting in April, undergraduate student Kira Evers (anthropology and geography) won first place in the student digital cartography competition.

See the Story Map presentation: https://arcg.is/eqX99
A quiet space for everyone

In May 2018, Kennedy Library rebranded the Inclusive Prayer and Meditation Room to become the Inclusive Prayer, Meditation and Sensory Room to promote the space to students on the autism spectrum seeking a quiet space for recovery from sensory overload. Students in the ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) Network sought a place in the library that was private, quiet, dark and free of noise and distractions.

Rebranding beyond prayer and meditation to a space where one can seek individual solitude and stress-reduction helps to meet the needs of more students. The ASD Network is now promoting this space to its members and through the Cal Poly Connections peer social network office.

Staff innovation

In July 2017, Kennedy Library — along with the other 22 libraries in the CSU system — merged onto a single library management platform known as OneSearch.

For the first time, all collections across the system were made available to all faculty, staff and students at any campus.

Since the launch, the visibility and usability of items and options have been improved, thanks to the collaborative work of the Kennedy Library staff. To ensure consistency across the library’s online presence, the look and feel of OneSearch was tweaked and the language enhanced to make interactions with the system more intuitive. Library staff also developed a number of workflows and APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) to enhance library technical operations. Collection titles can be added to and removed from the inventory more rapidly thanks to improved workflows. Labels for new materials can be produced more efficiently due to the improved inventory application.
Honored Alumni 2018
Office of Diversity and Inclusion 2018 teach-in
Watercolor Wednesday becomes Pop-Up Painting
Developing the whole Cal Poly student
Giving Tuesday and Day of Giving
Cal Poly Authors
Honored Alumni 2018

Each year, the Honored Alumni Award is bestowed upon Cal Poly alumni from the six colleges and Athletics by the university’s Alumni Association. The university’s highest award is given to individuals who have made significant contributions in their respective fields. In partnership with the Alumni Association, the University Archives participated in the lively celebration with a display of photographs, newspapers, videos, yearbooks and other memorabilia, including a braying Musty the Mustang mascot head. Special Collections and Archives staff and students enjoyed spirited interactions with awardees and their guests, who shared personal memories of attending Cal Poly.

Special Collections and Archives staff and student assistants were on hand at Cal Poly’s annual Honored Alumni event. Jack Spaulding (Class of ’49) shared a humorous tale about a noisemaker he used at Cal Poly sporting events and later donated to the University Archives.
Under the “Art as Activism = Artivism” theme, the Office of University Diversity and Inclusion hosted its second annual “Inclusion Starts With Me” teach-in in January, and Kennedy Library was an enthusiastic participant.

The library partnered to bring Self-Help Graphics and Arts for an aerosol demonstration to collaboratively create a graffiti art piece featured in the “Don’t Believe the Hype” exhibit. Librarian Jesse Vestermark joined other craft stations in the University Union and led a Pop-Up Painting event.

Curator Catherine Trujillo, along with art and design Professor Elizabeth Adan, led a teach-in mini-course, “Re-envisioning Definitions of ‘American’ in Art and Collecting Practices.” Their presentation addressed the ways in which visual art and institutional collections enable and/or disrupt certain notions of privilege, power and identity.
Developing the whole Cal Poly student

Integrating the mind and heart of a student is central to the mission of Kennedy Library and student success at Cal Poly. Since 2009, a library outreach program has helped students manage and reduce excessive stress.

The Take5 program is committed to making a difference to each individual student and to contributing to a healthy Cal Poly campus climate.

Free craft workshops are offered throughout the year, in addition to coloring book activities, snacks and free postcards. Our most popular events include therapy dogs or cats in which hundreds of students attend and “cuddle their stress away” during the academic quarter.
Watercolor Wednesday becomes Pop-Up Painting

Watercolor Wednesday, the monthly drop-in community-building program, increased in popularity over the course of the 2017–18 school year.

In fall and winter quarters, the program averaged over 20 students per two-hour session, up from 16 the prior year and ending with 31 attendees in March.

In response, a new arts and outreach student assistant was hired to host weekly sessions, design promotional materials, and advocate to campus organizations. This added student position allows for a wider variety of session times and dates, thus creating more attendance options to fit students’ busy schedules. To reflect this expansion, the program is being rebranded as Pop-Up Painting.

Cal Poly Authors

In 2018, Kennedy Library’s Conversations with Cal Poly Authors series extended its continuous run to seven years. Maintaining its tradition of fostering meaningful exchanges across disciplines, the series hosted art and design Professor Sky Bergman discussing her award-winning documentary, “Lives Well Lived” with psychology Professor Debra Valencia-Laver. In the second event of the year, sociology Assistant Professor Ryan Alaniz discussed his book “From Strangers to Neighbors: Resettlement and Community in Post-Disaster Honduras.” His conversation partner was William Siembieda, professor in City and Regional Planning and an international expert on disaster management.

Cal Poly hosts Giving Tuesday in November and a Day of Giving in March

Kennedy Library participated in two universitywide initiatives: Giving Tuesday on Nov. 28, 2017, and Cal Poly’s Day of Giving on March 9, 2018. These events were organized as part of a greater movement on campus to cultivate a spirit of philanthropy among students, graduates and the Cal Poly community.

While alumni, parents and friends were encouraged to make a gift to the “Cal Poly they love,” students were encouraged to show their university spirit by writing personal thank you notes to donors and participating in social media contests.

Sky Bergman (left) and Debra Valencia-Laver (right) holding promotional posters for the documentary, “Lives Well Lived.”
Special Collections and Archives exhibits
‘25–35’ art installation
The ability exhibit
“Don’t Believe the Hype: The Radical Elements of Hip Hop”
Special Collections and Archives exhibits

With the devastating effects of fire and rain that California experienced in 2017–18, the fall exhibit, “Picturing California: A Visual Tour Through the Golden State,” served as a poignant reminder of the vast, fragile ever-changing beauty of California as seen through the eyes of cartographers, advertisers, architects and artists. In spring, “Building the Cal Poly Campus: 1902–2022,” took a broad look at how the campus has been planned and built for Learn by Doing education. And an eclectic, rotating exhibit series, “Eye Candy and Mixed Nuts,” was launched to feature the best of new acquisitions and “discoveries” within the collections.

“Indio Hills” in California Hills and Other Wood Engravings by Paul Landacre. Los Angeles: Bruce McCallister, 1931. The dramatic views of the California desert and rugged coastline were expertly printed directly from the original blocks on a Washington hand press salvaged from the Gold Rush-era ghost town of Bodie, California.

Picturing California: A Visual Trip Through the Golden State

October 25, 2017 to February 27, 2018
Monday-Friday, 9AM to 4PM

Special Collections and Archives
Robert E. Kennedy Library
California Polytechnic State University,
San Luis Obispo
Visit us on the 4th floor


‘25–35’ art installation

Library student assistant Anna Teiche, an art and design major with a studio art concentration, created the “25–35,” an art installation in honor of Phil Bailey, dean emeritus of the College of Science and Mathematics and member of the Library Dean’s Advisory Council. Bailey founded and championed the “Study 25–35 Hours Per Week” principle: to succeed, students need to study two hours per unit each week, or the equivalent of 25–35 hours per week. Teiche’s piece is a visual representation of the activities in an average student’s day according to the Study 25–35 principle. Seven hexagonal panels each represent a day of the week, and smaller, painted hexagons symbolize the hours in a day. The installation was commissioned by Provost Kathleen Enz Finken and is located on the second-floor lobby of the Baker Center.

The ability exhibit

In recognition of October as National Disability Awareness Month, Kennedy Library partnered with Cal Poly’s Disability Resource Center and Assistive Technology Specialist John Lee to display “Allies for Inclusion: The Ability Exhibit.”

The interactive traveling exhibit promotes the inclusion of people with disabilities through respect for others, comfort during interactions, and awareness of disability issues using a series of multimedia stations.

More than two dozen volunteer docents helped guide visitors through the exhibit to learn about the many obstacles experienced by people with disabilities.
“Don’t Believe the Hype: The Radical Elements of Hip Hop”

“Don’t Believe the Hype: The Radical Elements of Hip Hop” was a collaboration between Kennedy Library and ethnic studies Professor Jenell Navarro. The exhibit, which debuted during Open House, showcased the five elements of hip-hop culture: graffiti writing, breakdancing, deejaying, emceeing, and knowledge production — utilized to speak truth and justice to social ills in the United States and beyond. Student curators from across disciplines explored each of the elements and placed them under a campus and regional lens to showcase the conscious roots of hip-hop culture. A large boombox-throne, radical interpretations of the five elements by student scholars, annotated lyrics, curated playlists, and interactive structures such as a life-size breakdancer were among the highlights found within the second-floor display.
Desert architect

William F. Cody was an AIA award-winning architect known for his mid-20th century commercial and residential designs in California’s Coachella Valley. In the 1980s, Special Collections and Archives received the first portion of the Cody papers; additional materials were received from the architect’s daughter Catherine in 2008–09, and again in 2016. This latest group of papers are now available for research, and they are rich in personal and professional documentation, including architectural drawings and project records, materials related to the Cody House where meetings and social events took place, and family photographs and film footage that add depth to the story of Cody as a father, husband, Palm Springs personality, and renowned modernist architect.
Detail of an annotated framing plan for the Cody Residence (1950), including the architect’s signature bubble lettering. This was one of 21 projects to be nominated for achievement when Cody became a Fellow of the AIA in 1965.

Collecting the Central Coast

Two major initiatives had their start in Special Collections this academic year: the Central Coast Queer Archives, a project led by Assistant Professor of English Steven Ruszczycky that focuses on documenting the local LGBTQ communities, and the Central Coast Wine and Viticulture Archives, which is broadly documenting the region’s wine industry. Collecting websites, oral histories, social network data, and a wide range of records from organizations, businesses and individuals are just some of the ways Special Collections is building collections that will benefit the region, enhance the Cal Poly curriculum, and celebrate people and place.

#CalPolyArchives

In the spring of 2018, the Julia Morgan Papers were featured in exhibits in Italy and France. The collection will be included in a Spanish television documentary on William Randolph Hearst, to be released in 2018–19. The Mark Mills Papers were highlighted in Janey Bennett’s book, “The Fantastic Seashell of the Mind: the Architecture of Mark Mills (2017),” the first major work on the late Carmel-based modernist Mark Mills. Across campus, historical materials from the University Archives were used for Commencement, the donor campaign on Facebook, as well as articles in the Mustang News, Cal Poly Magazine, and the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences magazine Cultivate.
A Learn by Doing library

Renovation highlights
A Learn by Doing library

Kennedy Library is where information, technology and community meet on campus. Kennedy Library supports knowledge creation and sharing, while embodying Cal Poly’s Learn by Doing ethos through engaging, practical and active learning experiences. The library provides the expertise, resources and services to facilitate student success in every discipline across the university.

The renovation plan reflects a commitment to better serve the students of Cal Poly.

Students deserve a space that is modern and mirrors the technologically immersive world graduates will soon join. However, Kennedy Library was designed and built before the wave of digital technology transformed the modern university campus. While the library of today is central in providing expertise and resources to the Cal Poly community, our facilities need to match the ingenuity for which this university is known.

Renovation highlights

This transformation encapsulates the Learn by Doing spirit of Cal Poly. The project will transform the building into an active exchange space. The new Learn by Doing library will showcase work across disciplines and energize the campus, connecting individuals to the opportunities that enrich their research and academic experiences.

Kennedy Library’s renewal will include modernized spaces while maintaining the historic integrity of the exterior. An operable greenhouse roof will be added, transforming the courtyard into flexible, year-round usable space. Multiple galleries and display spaces will exhibit student and faculty work and research. New electrical and mechanical systems will support sustainable thermal comfort.

Students will benefit from 15,000 square feet of recaptured space.

More efficient space planning allows for:

- 52 percent increase in user space
- Increase in seating from 2,400 to 3,500 seats
- 107 study rooms, a 65 percent increase
Five additional classrooms will support active learning activities and programs.

Services will be expanded to support student success in:

- Data analysis and visualization
- Development of cross-disciplinary research skills
- Academic skills development that foster career readiness

Stay up to date on the renovation by visiting our project website: renovation.lib.calpoly.edu