Aaron Thiele graduated from Cal Poly’s political science department in 2011. He currently works as an Advance Representative in the Office of the Secretary for the U.S. Department of the Interior. He was drawn to this position after working in Secretary Zinke’s Congressional Office for two years as a Senior Policy Assistant. In this position Aaron worked on policies relating to foreign affairs, military, judiciary, and veteran issues. When Secretary Zinke was confirmed as Secretary of the Interior, Aaron was asked if he was interested in transferring over to the Department of the Interior, which he enthusiastically embraced and accepted. Working as an Advance Representative served as good experience for Aaron, allowing him to learn the issues of the Department and giving him the opportunity to travel to some of the country’s greatest places. Aaron chose to attend Cal Poly because of its reputation and
Outside of work, Aaron plays softball (a frequent interview question in the government), as well as recreational soccer. Aaron’s advice to current Political Science students is to learn to constructively disagree with people. There are many people who you will meet in politics that may subscribe to a more radical political point of view than the one you hold; however, just because you may not see eye to eye with someone on every issue does not mean people cannot work together on contentious issues.