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California Polytechnic State University

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Summer-Long Construction at Cal Poly University Union Reveals New Student Epicenter Three-Year Union Renovation Plans to Continue

SAN LUIS OBISPO - The southeast wing of the Julian A. McPhee University Union underwent a huge enhancement this summer with the addition of the Epicenter, an all-new student programming and services area allowing for improved, faster service to the campus community.

"This new Events, Programs and Ideas (EPI) center is a direct result of surveys distributed after the ASI fee increase passed in November 2001," said Dave Edwards, Director, Julian A. McPhee University Union. "Students asked for more entertainment, increased services to clubs, and additional outdoor adventures - the Epicenter is a new hub for many of ASI's fee-funded programs."

Students will immediately notice and benefit from the centralization of services and information and increased staffing with longer service hours. The areas most affected by the outgrowth are ASI Events, which has scheduled three live concerts and a new movie series for fall quarter; club programming and services, which will offer event planning, workshops, officer training and club mailboxes to more than 350 active Cal Poly clubs on campus; and Poly Escapes, which has just added new equipment available for rent including surfboards and wetsuits.

The Epicenter also provides information regarding the Craft Center, Cal Poly Rose Float and University Union Reservation Services.

"Patrons of the Union will notice continued construction through October of a brand new Information kiosk centrally located on the second floor," said Josh D'Acquisto, Assistant Director for UU Operations. "In the meantime, the temporary information desk located on the second floor of the plaza entrance will continue to be 100 percent operational."

San Luis Lounge, a popular study area, has been relocated to UU221, and the Week of Welcome (WOW) office can now be found in Student Life and Leadership in UU217.

Funding for these renovations is estimated to be approximately \$475,000. "This money was already allocated for facility upgrades; it's just that we changed the scope and focus of the project as determined by the University and advised by the University Union Advisory Board in spring 2002 to align with students' requests following the fee increase," Edwards said. "Absolutely no referendum monies were spent on this transformation."

Additional upgrades to the Union that occurred over the summer include a new lighting system and renovated performance stage for Chumash Auditorium.

The elevator received a facelift with a fresh coat of paint and some technology advancement in that it is now completely controlled by an electronic microprocessor.

Future enhancements for the Union include conference room and restroom upgrades. ASI is also working closely with Cal Poly Foundation to integrate McPhee's Games Area and BackStage Pizza for a combined mecca entertainment venue as requested by the students.

"Since the Union is more than 30 years old, it is in need of some significant improvements," Edwards said.

"ASI is currently reviewing the facility master plan process, which hopefully will bring the Union into the 21st century and provide the Cal Poly community a very student-focused, state-of-the-art union."

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