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Author and Director Stephen Chbosky to Speak Oct. 5 at Cal Poly

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The Robert E. Kennedy Library presents a conversation with Stephen Chbosky, author, screenwriter and director of “Perks of Being a Wallflower,” from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5 at Chumash Auditorium, as part of the library’s celebration of Banned Books Week.

The movie is based on Chbosky’s book of the same name about the experiences of a high school freshman. The book was third on the [American Library Association’s](#) list of the ten most frequently challenged books of 2009 for reasons including its treatment of drugs, homosexuality, sex and suicide.

This event is free and open to the public and will be followed by a book signing. Chbosky will be introduced by ASI President Katie Morrow.

Chbosky is also featured in a podcast series created as part of Kennedy Library’s Banned Books Week celebration. The series, “I’m with the Banned,” features 12 podcasts that explore the American Library Association’s “Top 100 Banned/Challenged Books: 2000-2009” and their themes. The podcasts will be available on the library’s blog, Kennedy Library Out Loud, on Sept. 18. (The blog can be accessed at <http://lib.calpoly.edu/blog/outloud/>.)

The Kennedy Library is one of eight national recipients of the 2012 Freedom to Read Foundation’s Judith F. Krug Fund grant, which supports the 30th anniversary of Banned Books Week. From Sept. 30 through Oct. 6, 2012, Banned Books Week celebrates the freedom to access information while drawing attention to the harms of censorship.

“Banned Books Week may be 30 years old, but protecting the right of people to think for themselves is timeless,” said University Librarian Anna Gold. “We celebrate and protect that right, knowing we will always learn even more from our differences than from our similarities.

The Oct. 5 author event is co-sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts, Pride Center, MultiCultural Center and Student Ombuds Services.

Student assistants at Kennedy Library have created online interactive and print infographics to celebrate Banned Books Week. For more information or to download the infographics, go to <http://lib.calpoly.edu/books/banned>.

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