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October 6, 2014

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Cal Poly to Host Oct. 15 Panel Discussion on 'Out in Athletics'

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly will host a panel discussion on "Out in Athletics" from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 15, in the Graphic Arts Building (No. 26), Room 10.

"Despite positive high-profile news of gay athletes, including openly gay football player Michael Sam's draft into the National Football League and tennis legend Martina Navratilova's proposal to her longtime girlfriend at the U.S. Open, it is still challenging for athletes and coaches to be 'out' in athletics," said Penny Bennett, former chair of Cal Poly's Pride Faculty Staff Association.

The panelists will discuss the fears, stigmas and stereotypes that gay athletes experience and what can be done to facilitate change.

Panelists will include Susan Rankin, senior research associate with the Center for the Study of Higher Education at Pennsylvania State University; Bailey Brown, talent manager with Left Lane Sports and former athletic director at Mission Prep High School in San Luis Obispo; and Camille O'Bryant, Cal Poly professor of kinesiology; and Matt Crivello, Cal Poly assistant football coach.

A video of the presentation will be available after the event on the Cal Poly Pride Faculty Staff Association

website: <http://deanofstudents.calpoly.edu/content/lgbtfsa/index>.

The event is free and open to the public. It is co-sponsored by Cal Poly Athletics, the university's Women & Gender Studies Department, Pride Faculty Staff Association, and Cross Cultural Centers.

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