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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly Science Café Presents ‘Pyroprints! Fingerprinting Bacteria’ on Feb. 7

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Cal Poly’s Kennedy Library will host “Pyroprints! Fingerprinting Bacteria,” a conversation with Biology Professor Chris Kitts, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Feb. 7

Kitts will discuss the adventures of collecting local E. coli samples for the Cal Poly Library of Pyroprints (CPLOP). The event is free and open to the public. It will be held in the Kennedy Library’s second-floor lounge.

Joining Kitts will be third-year biology student Maria Zuleta Alvarado. She will discuss her work collecting E. coli samples from bats. Together she and Kitts will lead guests in a brainstorm to solve one of E. coli researchers’ biggest problems: collecting wildlife samples that include origin confirmation.

Kitts is professor and chair of the Biological Sciences Department. With the help of students, he developed the CPLOP database to create a searchable, online database to help researchers identify the source of fecal contamination in water and soil, including at Pismo Beach and in San Luis Obispo Creek.

Professor Kitts is the recipient of a CSU Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology (CSUPERB) faculty research award for 2013 and the Cal Poly Distinguished Scholarship Award for 2011-12. His areas of expertise and interest include: biodegradation, microbial ecology of intestines, microbial ecology in bioremediation and spore-forming bacteria in milk powder.

The event is part of the Science Café series and is co-sponsored by the Center for Application of Biotechnology and the Biological Sciences Department.

For more information about “Pyroprints! Fingerprinting Bacteria” and the Science Café series, visit http://lib.calpoly.edu/science_cafe/pyroprints/

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