



2015-16

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# ROBERT E. KENNEDY LIBRARY

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ANNUAL REPORT

*California Polytechnic State University  
San Luis Obispo*



## **KENNEDY LIBRARY VISION**

We connect people and inspire learning.

## **OUR MISSION**

We are a Learn by Doing library. We help every member of the Cal Poly community engage in open and informed inquiry and contribute through creation, innovation and collaboration to the quality of life of our community.

## **OUR VALUES**

We value learning, innovation and the diversity of individual and group experiences and perspectives that make our community sustainable, compassionate and resilient. These values commit us to being open, responsive and inclusive in the relationships we build across the entire Cal Poly campus and community — including our region, state and beyond.

# CAL POLY

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# DEAN'S WELCOME



Every year, every season, at every time of day, Kennedy Library is pulsing with life. At the end of the school year, when students retreat to spend time with family, friends and professional pursuits, one may think that the library returns to a more traditional state of silence and decorum.

That is not the case for Kennedy Library. Summer brings about a flurry of building renovations and programmatic shifts to improve our services in the coming year. We are elated to share with you some of the exceptional transformations made over summer 2016.

The Student Success Fee Allocation Advisory Committee last year allocated \$500,000 in student success fees to the library that allowed us to move forward on the 24-hour study room expansion outlined in the library master plan. The result is Hub24, a space where students can connect and get support in all aspects of digital learning, scholarship and creative activities.

This is a student-focused and student-driven change. Students continually asked for additional late-night study space. With the allocated funds, we were able to provide it.

We are always looking to stay ahead of the curve, but some things in Kennedy Library remain consistent. Faculty and staff are dedicated to using their tremendous talents and creativity to generate a positive experience for all students. We are committed to being responsive and flexible to the changing needs of our student body. And we have pledged to be a meaningful academic partner across the university and throughout the community.

What we accomplished last year is only another link in a chain of progress. We envision even greater opportunities in the future to assure the library remains at the heart of our students' educational experience and the faculty's scholarly endeavors.

We thank you for your support as we continue along the path of excellence.

**ADRIANA POPESCU**

*INTERIM DEAN OF LIBRARY SERVICES*



# *Robert E. Kennedy Library Staff*

FALL 2016

DigitalCommons@CalPoly, the library's repository of faculty and student research, reached 10 million downloads on Sept. 24, 2015.

Artist and inventor Tim Jenison visited Cal Poly to demonstrate how he used engineering and science to create Vermeer-like paintings.

Cloudpaging technology was implemented on library computers, making Kennedy Library the first U.S. academic library to apply this innovative and affordable solution, offering students faster performance and a deep catalog of campus-licensed software applications.

AT



SUMMER

FALL

WINTER



7,000+ issues of Cal Poly's student newspaper were digitized.

Fine arts and architecture book collections shifted, creating a new architecture reading loft with additional seating and open study space on the third floor. New low-shelving showcases architecture thesis projects, furniture prototypes and models.

New databases added: media streaming service Kanopy and Statista, a comprehensive database of over 1 million statistics-spanning disciplines.

The Student Success Fee Committee voted to allocate \$500,000 to renovate and double the library's 24-hour study space.

Research Help Desk relocated to the second floor, increasing its visibility and the number of questions answered.

# 2015–16

## A GLANCE

### SPRING



Library staff collaborated with the University Honors Program to teach a new spring quarter course on library research methods.

Kennedy Library hosted the third annual, uniquely Cal Poly, and ever-popular cuddle session with visiting baby goats on May 18, 2016. Take 5, Kennedy Library's initiative to lower student stress, coordinates multiple "Cuddle Your Stress Away!" events during midterms and finals.

Special Collections and Archives published a digital edition of former Cal Poly President Robert E. Kennedy's memoir, "Learn by Doing," making the out-of-print book available for



# 2015–16 STUDENT LIBRARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC) is a student-run committee offering student perspectives about Robert E. Kennedy Library's services and priorities. SLAC works on immediate improvements to the library, develops a yearly student opinion survey and helps set long-term library priorities.

## 2015–16 SLAC MEMBERS

**Rachael Donahue** | *Biology, Co-chair*

**Marcus Pereira** | *Mechanical Engineering, Co-chair*

**Alex Kost** | *Mechanical Engineering, Vice Chair*

**Shae Langley** | *Business Administration, Secretary*

**Allison Brumbaugh** | *Civil Engineering*

**Mariana Diaz** | *Architecture*

**Aja Frost** | *English*

**Alejandra Garcia** | *Mechanical Engineering*

**Stefanie Lee** | *Business Administration*

**Jason Marks** | *Biology, Associated Students Inc. (ASI) Representative*

**Jay Miley** | *Mechanical Engineering*

**Lauren Tang** | *Business Administration*

**Ashley Tovar** | *Liberal Studies*

**Theodore Tsanakas** | *Mechanical Engineering*

**Emily Wang** | *Art and Design*

## 2015-16 ADVISORS:

**Katherine O'Clair** | *Librarian for the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences*

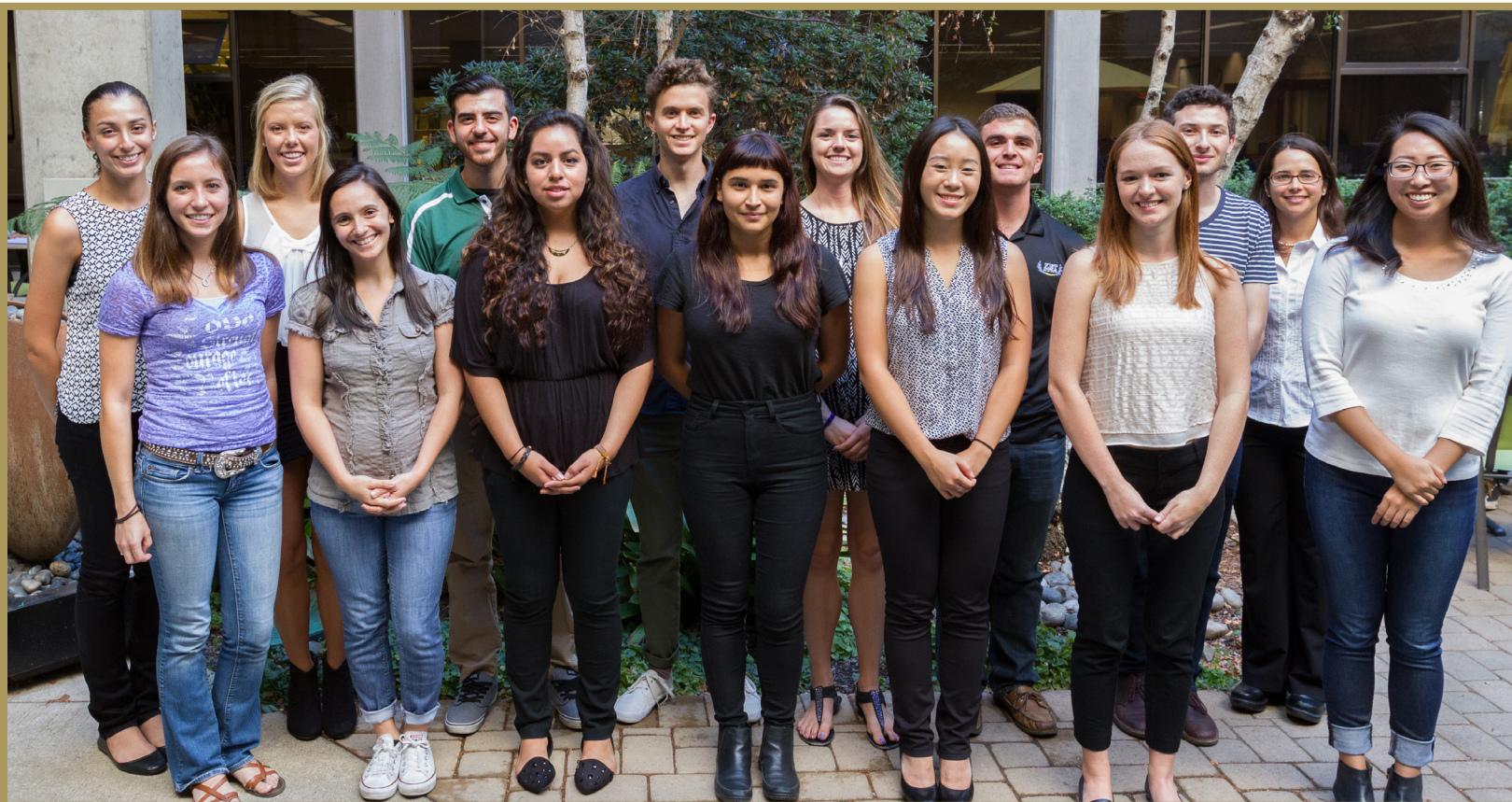
**Sarah Sayeed** | *Technology and Media Coordinator*

Special thanks to library student assistant Natalie Massa, who served as SLAC's program assistant, providing administrative support for the weekly meetings and ongoing activities.

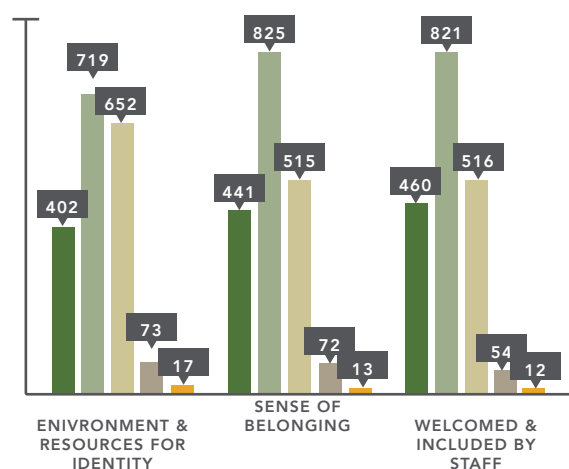
We thank each SLAC member and look forward to the advice of the 2016-17 council.

SLAC is a highly engaged and passionate group of students. The council's enthusiasm continues to be a source of inspiration and motivation in the library. SLAC established three subcommittees in 2015-16 — Facilities, Technology, and Marketing and Outreach — allowing members to work closely with library employees, and to focus on specific activities for improving student library experiences.

SLAC's annual student survey received more than 2,600 responses, a nearly 250 percent increase from 2014–15. To inform Cal Poly's commitment to diversity and inclusion, SLAC introduced new questions addressing students' sense of belonging in the library. The majority of student responders indicated they "agree" or "strongly agree" that Kennedy Library provides an environment and the resources that help them relate to and connect with their identity. More than 96 percent of respondents feel safe at Kennedy Library, an overall rise from last year's survey.



## 2015-16 SLAC SURVEY RESULTS



We are thrilled that students see Kennedy Library as a safe and inclusive space. Students continue to rank the library favorably, while asking for more study space and more comfortable temperatures.

Some exaggerate, "I LIVE HERE." Most are direct, "Add more seating." "It is really hot." "More seats." "More tables and space." "Better temperature." "MORE SEATING." "It gets crowded and hot in there!" Some offer ambiguous solutions, "Make it bigger somehow." While others cushion their criticism, "more puppies and chairs."

Ultimately, students enjoy their library, "I love bumping into my friends at the library and socializing while working in the fishbowls."

The library and SLAC are committed to meeting students' needs, working with facilities operations to bring temperatures down while adding new seating.

Read more about "Cooling Kennedy Library" on page 17.

**QUESTION:** Cal Poly strives to have a campus environment that is inclusive and supportive of all individuals, regardless of identity (may include but is not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, veteran status and/or differing ability). As part of the Cal Poly community, Kennedy Library prides itself on being open and welcoming to all, and we are seeking feedback on how effective we are in fostering inclusivity at the library and across campus.

# LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

## BOARD MEMBERS

**Peter Booth Wiley** | *Chair*

**Christine Young** | *B.A., Social Sciences, 1967*

**Dennis Grant** | *B.S., Mechanical Engineering, 1982*

**Bob Tapella** | *B.S., Graphic Communication, 1991*

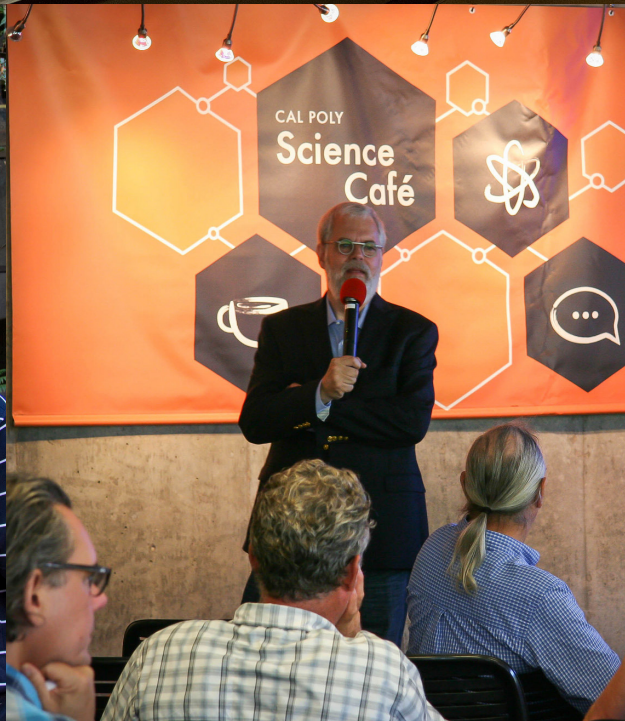
**Bob Kitamura** | *BArch, 1975; M.S. Architecture, 1993*

The members of the Kennedy Library Advisory Board serve as individual and collective advocates for Cal Poly and for the Robert E. Kennedy Library. These industry leaders and experts offer advice and counsel to the Dean of Library Services and the library's leadership team.

We are grateful for their unwavering support and advocacy.



*The Library Advisory Board, generous with its philanthropic contributions, has supported many initiatives, including Earn by Doing student assistantships.*



# LIVING LIBRARY

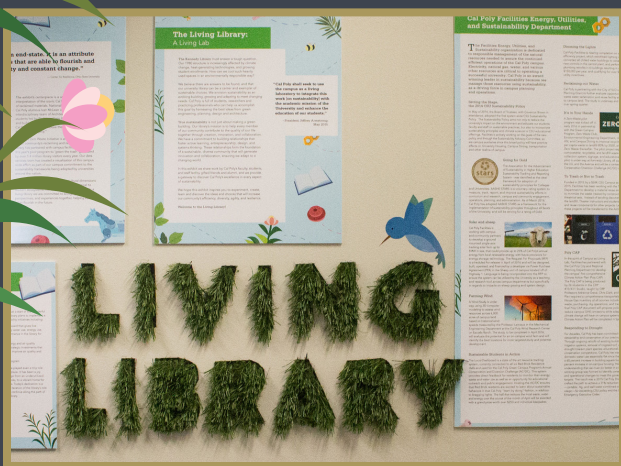


The Living Library philosophy grew out of a challenge set forth by the Kennedy Library Advisory Board at its November 2015 meeting: How could the library become a “green lab” for Cal Poly students, faculty, and others, and exemplify the university’s commitment to sustainable research and learning?

The Living Library initiative responds to this challenge, and embodies our commitment to whole-systems thinking, reuse, entrepreneurship, and collaborating to find holistic and multidimensional solutions to shared problems. As a library, a university and a community, we can develop a network of creative solutions to strengthen our investments of time and resources.

Kennedy Library embraces the idea that worthwhile sustainable practices can meet the needs of the present without compromising the future. We will work to create the comfortable, inspiring and flexible space that our students need today, but are mindful not to limit opportunities for future generations.

We introduced the Living Library initiative to the campus in spring 2016 at a collaborative exhibition in the library featuring campuswide sustainability programs and library initiatives, including reimagined storage spaces for special collections. Through the creative use of resources and coalition building, we are becoming a living library.





## REINTERPRETING CAL POLY'S ICONIC MUSTANG

### AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

Engineering and art came together as students reinterpreted the iconic Cal Poly Mustang, creating a bold and massive sculpture using reclaimed and found materials. Created as the centerpiece of the library's spring exhibit, the reclaimed mustang and its colorful green floral setting brought to life important elements of the Living Library initiative: sustainability and collaboration.

Ivan McLean, artist and Cal Poly alumnus known for his "Spheres" sculpture at Cal Poly's Performing Arts Center, worked with an interdisciplinary senior project team of 12 students from architectural engineering, architecture and art and design to design and build the mustang sculpture, in a collaboration led by architectural engineering professor Dr. Craig Baltimore and library exhibit curator Catherine Trujillo.



Students experimented with various types of metal skin techniques to define the horse, trying out different concepts to display its active stance and ways to balance the mass of the horse. The student team explored a range of possibilities, ultimately choosing a frame structure surrounded by a metal skin using reclaimed steel and recycled metal.

The design was chosen for its structural integrity, its interpretation of the equine form and its constructability. To maximize the project's scale and integrate it into the library's second floor gallery space, students fabricated the mustang in several pieces, and bolted the pieces together on-site.

After the exhibit, the students sent a proposal to the Cal Poly Art Acquisition Committee recommending the sculpture be permanently relocated on campus. The students hope this project leaves a legacy for future generations of Mustangs.



*The Horticulture Club created an indoor environment to complement the sculpture, including succulents, Cal Poly student Enterprise Project plants and flowers and a swing.*

## SMART SPACE USE FOR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

In January 2016, a secure room in the library that once cooled computer servers was repurposed to house a popular teaching collection of limited edition artists' books, Californiana and printing history. The additional 2,000 linear feet of compact mobile shelving freed up space for teaching, research and exhibits in the fourth-floor Special Collections reading room.

Special Collections and Archives was able to expand its storage infrastructure and preserve student workspaces using a generous donation from Frank Romano, a visiting graphic communication faculty member and former printing industry leader with a passion for libraries and the graphic arts.



LAB member Dennis Grant shared his thoughts on the Living Library philosophy.

"THE LIBRARY IS A FOCAL POINT FOR LEARNING. WHETHER AS A GATHERING PLACE FOR INTERACTIVE RESEARCH, OR SIMPLY QUIET TIME AND A SANCTUARY FOR DEEP THINKING, THE LIVING LIBRARY CONTINUES TO EVOLVE. NOT ONLY IS IT FUELED BY TECHNOLOGY IN ITS SYSTEMS AND PROGRAMS, THE CORE OF THE LIBRARY EMBRACES AND REACTS TO FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES IN A PREDICTIVE MANNER JUST AS MANY BUSINESSES UTILIZE R&D PROGRAMS."



*Smart planning—a new space-conscious vault was designed for Special Collections that preserves precious resources for student instruction and research.*

## ZERO WASTE PILOT PROGRAM

### CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Midway through fall 2015, the library became one of the four campus locations piloting Cal Poly's Zero Waste program, making a commitment to divert 80 percent of waste away from landfills, with an ultimate goal of achieving zero waste. Kennedy Library is an enthusiastic partner in facilities operations' work to implement this component of the CSU Chancellor's 2014 Sustainability Policy.

The new receptacles in the library include recycling, landfill and compost bins, as well as pizza box recycling stations. All the coffee grounds from Julian's Café and countless students' study snack scraps can be composted instead of going into landfills.

The pilot program tested signage, educated occupants and tested composting strategies across campus. The work started in the library has already influenced the next generation of zero waste locations being added across the campus.

"I LOVE THAT THE LIBRARY HAS SO MANY REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE STATIONS AND THAT THERE ARE NEW TRASH SORTING BINS. THOSE HAVE REALLY MADE IT EASY FOR PEOPLE TO RECYCLE OR COMPOST."

— SLAC 2016 SURVEY



## COOLING KENNEDY LIBRARY



Kennedy Library is one of the most popular buildings on campus that is regularly in use 24 hours a day. However, a combination of large single-pane windows, seats filled to capacity, increased use of technology and inadequate ventilation mean study spaces get very warm some days. Year after year students and faculty report that Kennedy Library needs improved thermal comfort. With our commitment to the Living Library, we are focusing on low-cost, high-impact modifications that can improve temperatures immediately.

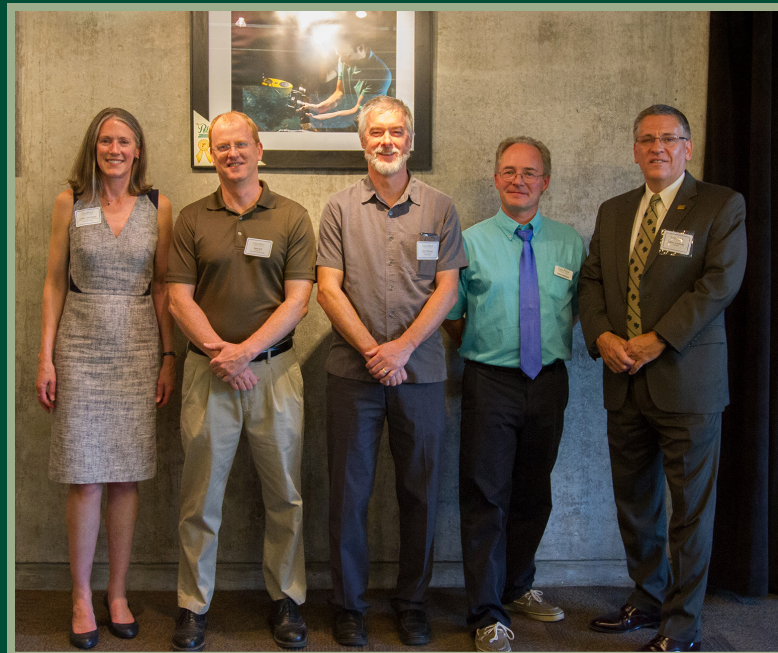
In partnership with facilities operations, we have already found ways to make the library much more comfortable in the warm summer months. The mechanical system was reprogrammed to do a nightly “flush:” exhausting the day’s heat, taking in the cool evening air, then closing off the intake prior to sunrise. Summer 2016 was significantly more comfortable on all five floors with lower building temperatures throughout the day.

We’ve continued to monitor building temperatures, with more than 60 dataloggers tracking temperature throughout the building. We are working with Cal Poly and industry experts to develop a whole building energy data model to help us make continued strategic environmental improvements.

# CELEBRATING MILESTONES



*Chemistry and biochemistry faculty Gregory Scott (left) and Alan Kiste. Photo credit: Daniel Sanderson*



*Provost Kathleen Enz Finken, (from left) mechanical engineering faculty Brian Self and James Widmann, Associate Dean Fred DePiero, and President Jeffrey Armstrong celebrate at the New Faculty Welcome Reception.*



## 2016 LEARN BY DOING SCHOLAR AWARDEES HONORED

Cal Poly mechanical engineering faculty Brian Self and James Widmann, and chemistry and biochemistry faculty Alan Kiste and Gregory Scott, were named 2016 winners of Cal Poly's Learn by Doing Scholar Awards for their outstanding contributions to the field of Learn by Doing. Self and Widmann were recognized for their work in the category of completed research. "Inquiry-Based Learning Activities in Dynamics" explores what activities help students achieve conceptual understanding and why.

Kiste and Scott were recognized for their work in the category of planned and in-progress research. Their

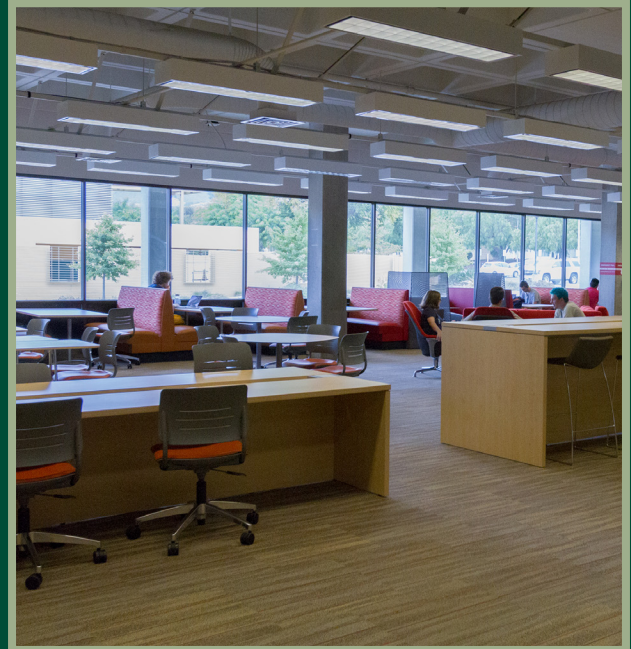
research on "Cal Poly Studio Chemistry: An Examination of Student Outcomes" promises to provide new levels of understanding about studio learning environments' impact on learning outcomes, including learning attitudes, content knowledge, grades, retention and faculty evaluations.

The Learn by Doing Scholar Awards, established in 2014, seek to inspire and recognize formal scholarship into Cal Poly's signature pedagogy. The 2016 awardees were recognized at the library's New Faculty Welcome Reception in October 2016.

## 2

## STUDENT SUCCESS FEE BUILDS HUB 24

The Student Success Fee Committee voted unanimously to allocate \$500,000 to improve Kennedy Library's study spaces, responding to years of student surveys requesting more access to 24-hour study spaces and additional group study rooms. Because of this funding, we were able to build Hub 24, an expansion that almost doubles the usable 24-hour area, adds four group study rooms, includes a virtual meeting room and relocates the One Button Studio (a presentation practice room) for 24/7 access.



## 3

## OCCUPANCY MAPS

In a space as popular as Kennedy Library, finding an open seat or available computer can be a challenge. To help students, we launched a series of real-time maps showing students available computers and open seating on all five floors of the library. The maps are available on Kennedy Library's website, [lib.calpoly.edu/maps](http://lib.calpoly.edu/maps), the Cal Poly mobile app and on flat screen TVs throughout the library.



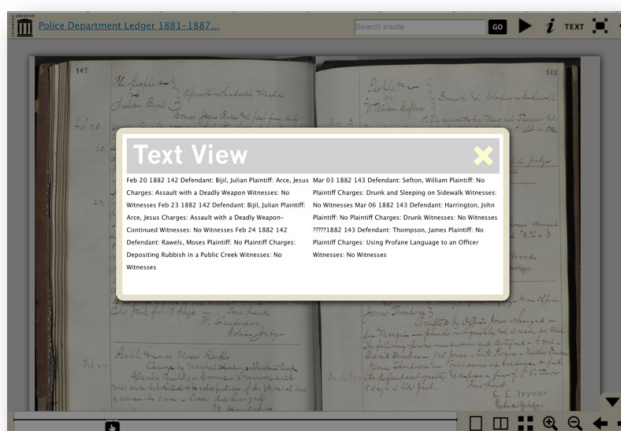
# COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT: CRIMES OF THE 1880S REVEALED!

## CROWDSOURCING THE DIGITIZATION OF PUBLIC RECORDS 1881-1978

In 2014, the San Luis Obispo City Council agreed to donate 36 handwritten, leather-bound police ledgers to Special Collections and Archives. Dating from 1881-1978, the police blotters record crimes of all types; 'Drunk and Disorderly' being the most common, and 'Stealing an Opium Pipe' being perhaps the most unusual. 'Fast Riding in Streets' is a novel offense to the modern eye because it was speeding, not in a car, but on a horse. As the city's infrastructure improved, 'Riding on Sidewalk' replaced the 'Streets' as a recurring moving violation before the introduction of automobiles. The collection complements an earlier donation of sheriff ledgers in Special Collections.

With the announcement of the donation, the San Luis Obispo Tribune newspaper ran an article describing Special Collection's plan to digitize the earliest ledger, as the original would be loaned to the Police Department for long-term display. Hearing this news, the San Luis Obispo County Genealogical Society (SLOGGS) contacted Special Collections, offering to index the 480 scanned pages and transcribe names, dates, offenses and verdicts. Because optical character recognition (OCR) software cannot distinguish the vagaries of individual penmanship, an index would provide researchers with the ability to quickly search and extract key information from the ledger online. Special Collections gladly agreed to this arrangement, and once the ledger was available online, the SLOGGS assigned different parts of ledgers to various members for indexing.

The ledger is available online now. Clicking 'Text' in the upper right corner of the viewer window displays the genealogical society index to the corresponding page spread. Simply browsing the pages brings its own discoveries: in 1885, "Public Drunkenness" could set you back \$3 bail or land you in jail for three days.



University and research libraries are using social media to tap the knowledge of specialists from around the world — scholars and citizens alike. Rather than waiting for the right on-site expert, this crowdsourcing approach helps libraries gain a better understanding of the who, what and where of obscure objects in their collections. Thanks to SLOCGS, this ledger has been successfully crowdsourced — an effort that will enhance the usability of this unique local resource and opens the possibility for similar community-based collaborations in the future. A student intern processed the entire police ledger collection, which is now available for research.

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW: HANNAH PANNO



## FROM STUDENT LEADER TO SUCCESSFUL PROFESSIONAL

Hannah Panno (Geography, '13) spent her four years at Cal Poly deeply ingrained in the fabric of Kennedy Library. Here, she developed her leadership skills through the Student Library Advisory Committee, and she also worked as a student assistant helping deliver and support library services. Panno shared her transformative experience, as she found her place in data visualization and helped bring change to the library.

*1. You had the chance to help pilot several new library programs. What was most interesting to you about being a part of something new? Were any of your ideas directly implemented?*

I was part of the founding chapter of the Student Library Advisory Committee (SLAC). I participated as a member, then secretary and eventually the chair. I shared my ideas to make the library more comfortable and inviting. SLAC used the term “coziness” in meetings regularly, and I felt little butterflies knowing that I had helped shape that concept. Initially my ideas were small — to add plants and maybe more lighting. Little did I know this would feed into bigger changes throughout the library — beautiful and functional patio furniture, bean bag chairs in the study rooms and a photo contest to display student art. The term “coziness” may seem trivial on its own, but the idea of customizing the library to the students’ needs and desires was huge. Place and environment are very important. To help make the Kennedy Library “our” library, the students’ library, was very rewarding.

*2. How did your time working at the library influence your studies? Were there any particular opportunities that meant a lot to you?*

Working as a GIS (Geographic Information Systems) student assistant, I helped students from many disciplines find resources, gather data and create map products for their finals and capstone projects. I loved that each student came to me with a unique geospatial question; every new case was a new challenge!

This work inspired me to go after a GIS minor and to pursue a career as a GIS professional. Working as the GIS student assistant at the Kennedy Library was arguably the most important step in my career, because it was the first step.

*3. What’s one lesson or insight you have taken with you from the library to your post-graduation career?*

Simply, the importance of support. I met so many wonderful people at the library who I still keep in contact with, who believed in my dreams, saw my potential and wanted to see me succeed. I’ve found that success and happiness are largely due to the support of others. I experienced this time and time again in the library, and I want nothing more than to be that pillar of strength and support for others chasing their goals and dreams.

*4. What professional achievement are you most proud of? What are you most excited about for the future?*

I recently joined Cal Fire as a GIS research analyst — a dream job for me. The way we work together, employing innovative and creative solutions to help protect lives and the environment, is just incredible. I am thankful that Cal Fire supports my desire to continue to develop new skills and use creativity to solve problems and innovate. I am thrilled to continue my professional life in this beautiful city of San Luis Obispo. Lastly, I’m excited for all of the unknowns the future holds. The best is always yet to come!

# LIBRARIAN INS



MARK BIERAUGEL AND JESSE VESTERMARK

## GET TO KNOW OUR NEWEST TENURED FACULTY

As the 2015–2016 academic year closed, Kennedy Library learned that two more of our six college librarians had achieved tenure — a mark of professional distinction and accomplishment. Each librarian supports their college through research consultations, in-class instruction, and through research of their own. Jesse Vestermark, College of Architecture and Environmental Design, and Mark Bieraugel, Orfalea College of Business, recently sat down and discussed their roles on campus and how each creatively engages students.

**JESSE:** *How has the culture of Kennedy Library allowed you to pursue your strengths as a librarian?*

**MARK:** Outside my core role of instruction and research consultations, there is a bit of space and time for me to work on passion projects. I've focused on students' career readiness, thinking beyond what we do with students for the time we have them on campus. As a business librarian, I'm really interested in helping students prepare for using information for the rest of their life.

I always say we wear a lot of hats here at Kennedy Library. I worked at three startup companies, and you try a bunch of different things. The culture here is similar; try it and see if it works, assess it, and if it does work, keep going. If it doesn't, try something new.

**MARK:** *What drew you to academic libraries, and what keeps you here?*

**JESSE:** I enjoy the culture of learning and the

# RIGHTS

eclecticism of the liberal arts. All the disciplines are in one place. I like helping people learn, and I learn by helping them — both about how to research better and about the topics they're researching. The culture is accepting of my type of energy and my level of curiosity. It allows me to try things out, like you do. I'm allowed to be creative on the job.

**JESSE:** *How does your creativity factor into your work here?*

**MARK:** The structure of my job allows me to inject some creative, fun elements into instruction, consultations and outreach. I did a poster session for a conference on diversity in libraries. The theme was organizational "fit" in a job search, but I took that a step further and tied in the theme of "fit" in terms of shoes. To reinforce the reoccurring shoe motif, I affixed 300 tiny Barbie shoes to my business cards to hand out. I am able to take something relatively bland and put a little zing in it. It lets me infuse the work with my personality.

**MARK:** *What new things are you working on?*

**JESSE:** Having recently achieved tenure, I am able to step back and do some big-picture thinking. I have about a dozen ideas, and so far the most exciting thing I've done was to diagram them out on this meta-level grid. It's a classic librarian activity, to classify your thoughts; but I also put them on a spectrum between service-based and creative-based ideas, with a second spectrum representing my personal versus professional interests. I'm excited to find something that's significant and valuable to the library, the campus and the profession that also gives me creative satisfaction.

**JESSE:** *When you imagine looking back on your legacy as a librarian, will there have been a cohesive vision that you'd like to be remembered for, or would*

*you be happier making multiple and eclectic, but smaller impacts to the library and the profession?*

**MARK:** What continues to give me a lot of energy is the experience of new incoming students and what they go through while they are here. I really want to make an impact on their individual lives: to help them understand the world of information, know that they can leverage that information for life and career decisions, and to be able to do it well. Working with underrepresented minorities on campus is another important part of my career. I feel I can make a direct contribution to their success while at Cal Poly and as they continue on. Those two pieces, my work with the population of business students and entrepreneurs, and the outreach to underrepresented minorities I reach out to — specifically EOP and GLBTQIA students — give me a tremendous amount of satisfaction.

**MARK:** *What work with students are you most proud of?*

**JESSE:** My visceral answer is very clichéd, it's when the students "get it." The irony is that once they get it, they don't need you anymore. After I teach a class, there's often a period when they come to me for help. I can tell some of the students didn't get it at all, and then others, I realize, "Oh, this student's smarter than I am." It's gratifying that no matter where they are in understanding research principles, I'm helping them to be more self-sufficient and to better understand the challenges and intricacies of the information world.

We can all Google something, but there's a whole range of other ways to get information. Information is hiding from you, and you might not realize it. When the students see that, it makes me feel good. It's as simple as that.

# IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE: NORMA SINTON, 1920–2014

For over a century, the Sinton family has been ranching in San Luis Obispo County. James and his wife, Norma, began raising cattle on the Avenales Ranch near Shandon in the 1940s, and in 1972 they began growing grapes when the family formally started Shell Creek Vineyards.

Long known as dedicated preservationists, the Sintons also have a passion for history, for education and for understanding the interconnected stories of those who steward the beautiful rolling lands that inspire us all.

Forty years ago James and Norma Sinton began a decades-long relationship with Cal Poly and the Kennedy Library, through their many generous and visionary gifts. They have been a source of continued inspiration and support for Kennedy Library's archive of historical records about ranching and land management in our region.

In 2004 James and Norma Sinton gave Cal Poly a gift in support of a new thematic collecting area for the library: Links to the Land. Nearly 10 years later, in April 2013, James Sinton and his family — Jane and Steve, Megan and Dan — joined us to celebrate the library's spring exhibit, Links to the Land, a vivid tribute of the county's agricultural heritage illustrated by a wealth of material held by Special Collections and Archives.

Through oral histories with local farmers, marketgoers and organizers, and an array of historic documents, this student-designed exhibit brought to life the culture of ranching and farming in San Luis Obispo County, and highlighted the ecological stewardship of the area and the impact of local farmers markets on our lives today.

Two years ago in December 2014, we were saddened to hear of the loss of Norma Sinton. Her beautiful presence, her love of learning, and her love of these lands have left an indelible mark on Cal Poly. These have strengthened



our ability and resolve to continue to grow what she and Jim began: a living “links to the land” archive that reflects and reaches every part of our Central Coast community.

We are grateful for the extraordinary trust that Norma and her husband, James, have placed in us, as we continue to extend the reach of these archives, ensuring that tomorrow's students will learn from the vital work of land stewardship of past generations.



## CREDITS

### PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Robert E. Kennedy Library  
 Administrative Services Office  
 California Polytechnic State University  
 1 Grand Avenue  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93407-0600

*Photos courtesy of Robert E. Kennedy Library,  
 unless otherwise noted.*



### LAYOUT/DESIGN

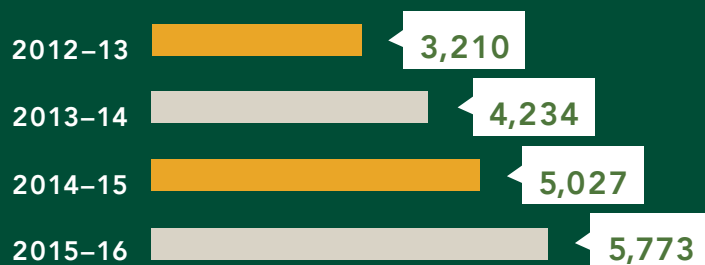
Shania Cheng  
*B.F.A., Art & Design, 2017*

### LIVING LIBRARY ILLUSTRATIONS

Habib Placencia  
*B.F.A., Art & Design, 2017*

# KENNEDY BY NUMBERS

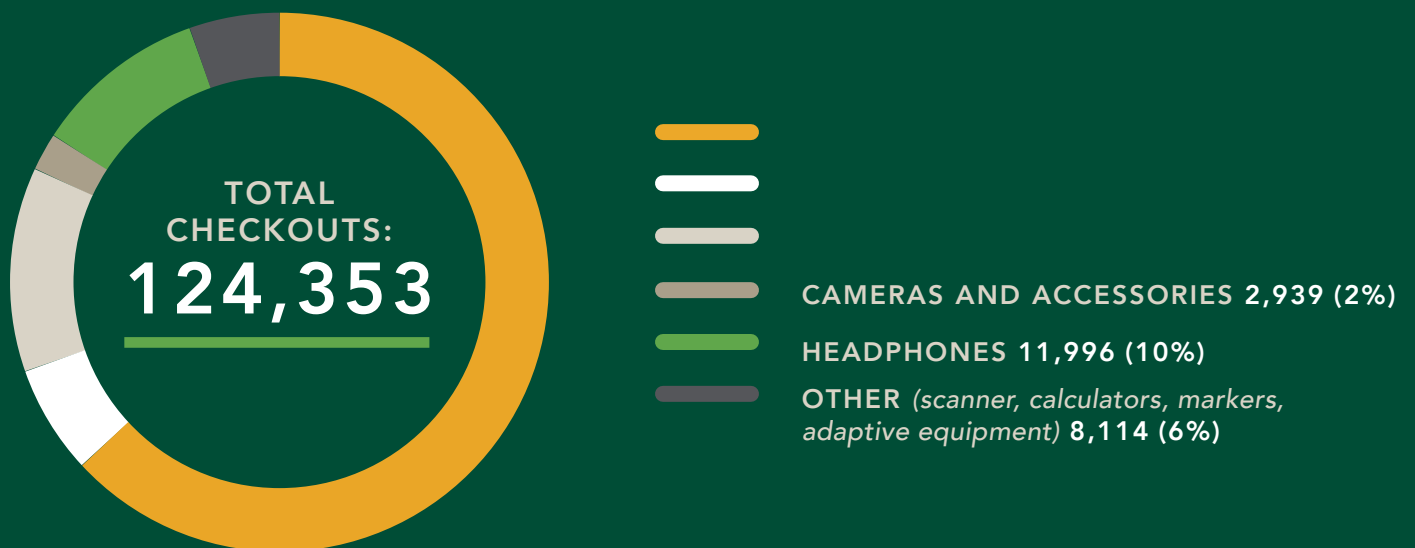
## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PRESERVED IN DIGITAL COMMONS



**1,886,015**

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP  
DOWNLOADS IN 2015-16

## LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY CHECKOUTS



Textbook matching program saved students a cumulative **\$1,2 million** between fall 2014 and spring 2016.

ACADEMIC YEAR	# OF COURSES	# OF TITLES	# OF STUDENTS	*\$100/ TEXTBOOK
2014–15	78	95	2,924	292,400.00
2015–16	257	282	9,081	908,100.00

**\$1,200,500.00**

## PEER TO PEER LEARNING

Kennedy Library's Peer to Peer Learning program, supported by student employees known as LibRATs, focuses on instruction in general education courses and research fundamentals, allowing librarians to devote more time to subject specific and upper division research.

### INSTRUCTION SESSIONS



12 LIBRATS *reached*

**3,013 PEERS**



10 STAFF *reached*

**9,580 STUDENTS**

### RESEARCH QUESTIONS



12 LIBRATS *answered*

**1,432 QUESTIONS**



10 STAFF *answered*

**2,489 QUESTIONS**

## THE BIG PICTURE

VISITORS 2015–16: **1,520,955**

TOTAL SEATS IN LIBRARY: **2,466**

# OF STUDY ROOMS: **36**

# READY TO MAKE AN IMPACT?

Visit us at <http://lib.calpoly.edu/giving> to make your contribution online or download a giving form.



# CAL POLY

Robert E. Kennedy Library

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San Luis Obispo | CA | 93407

