DEPARTMENT SERVICE

LIBERAL ARTS AND ENGINEERING STUDIES

Building Homes, Building Lives

The HO:ME Project

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lberal Arts and Engineering Studies (LAES) students, under Professor and LAES Director David Gillette, have been busy carrying out detailed documentation for the HO:ME Project – Housing Opportunities through Modular Environments in San Luis Obispo. The 19-unit single-resident project is a collaboration between the Housing Authority for the City of San Luis Obispo (HASLO), a local building/project-management firm called Conscious Build, and the Cal Poly Architecture Department.

The HO:ME Project will provide a sustainable housing complex for low-income residents. The modular homes will be built from repurposed shipping containers made from 14-gauge Cor-Ten steel (corrugated weathered steel, with a continuous weld to protect against harsh weather). “Houses built from these shipping containers have double the energy efficiency of traditional wooden frame houses,” said Gillette.

The estimated timeline for the HO:ME Project is from 2011 to 2013. The last of the design stages were finalized this year, and construction began summer 2011 on a site close to the railroad station near downtown San Luis Obispo.

The LAES students have documented the entire process for the project, including video and audio interviews. Once completed, the documentation will be a major component of the project, with the goals of helping other communities build sustainable, energy-efficient housing and enabling them to learn from, replicate and improve upon the HO:ME Project in San Luis Obispo.

Architecture Professor Thomas Fowler and Gillette were awarded the Cal Poly President’s Service Learning Award for their work on this project in 2010.

JOURNALISM

PG&E Grants New Learning Experiences in Journalism

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n the Journalism Department, recording and editing news are now accomplished with an easily transportable robotic camera featuring a remote control unit and a mixer board capable of handling 12 microphones. These technologies not only help students capture breaking stories but can transmit them to the public in a cyber second.

A $38,189 grant from Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (PG&E) was used to purchase “some of the most modern audio and video technology available in the journalism profession,” said Harvey Levenson, interim chair of the Journalism Department. “This is the essence of putting into practice Cal Poly’s well-known Learn by Doing educational philosophy.”

The Journalism Department acquired four Sony robotic cameras, a remote control and cables; camera stands from McClaffin Mobile Media; a dozen Shure desktop microphones, and two wireless microphones; a TriCaster Studio system plus monitor and backup hard drive; a Mackie Audio Mixer; an Anchor Liberty public address system; a Mac-mini server, monitor and backup hard drive; and an Epson 1400 printer.

“We’re proud to partner with Cal Poly in giving students the opportunity to learn on technology relevant to today’s communication.