

Subject: IS NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF 10/21

Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 12:00:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: isla-faculty-request@calpoly.edu on behalf of Interdisciplinary Studies Cal Poly

To: ismajors@calpoly.edu

CC: isla-faculty@calpoly.edu

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

WEEKLY NEWS 10/21

NOTE FROM DR. KIRBY

We have hit the halfway point in the quarter. I hope everyone is happy with how their classes are going. Some of you are probably already thinking about your classes for the Winter quarter. If you have any questions about what courses you can take or any substitutions you would like to make then please feel free to contact me. Or you can discuss your course decisions with the advisor for your concentration as indicated on our [concentration page](#).

If you are a First-Year student then you will be automatically enrolled in some of your courses:

- ISLA 201
- WGQS 270 (which is really ISLA 1101) (2 units)
- an A general education (GE) class
- an area F GE class

If you have already taken an area F class and/or all of your A GE courses (AP credit is sometimes used for these) then you will only be booked into ISLA 201 and WGQS 270/ISLA 1101. If you have any questions about this feel free to contact me or the Mustang Success Center to discuss.

If you have any news or events that you would like to share with your fellow IS majors then please let us know at is@calpoly.edu.

My office hours this quarter will be Tu 1-3PM and Th 1-3PM. You can drop by my office (note my new office: 52-D4) at these times or you can contact me via Zoom using this link: 6247671135. As always, I am also happy to set up other meeting times if you are not able to make these office hours. Just send me an email and we can arrange a day/time.



👋 MEET KEELY - YOUR ISLA STUDENT ASSISTANT!

Hi everyone! I'm Keely, a fourth year ISLA major/STS minor. I am also the ISLA student assistant!

I create these newsletters, run our ISLA social media, and support events throughout the quarter. I'm also here as a resource for you — whether you have questions about the ISLA program, need help navigating course selection or declaring a concentration/minor, or want to get more involved in the ISLA community.

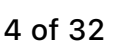
✉ My contact information: kfrobert@calpoly.edu

I'd love to hear from you — don't hesitate to reach out, connect, or say hi around campus!

STUDENT SUCCESSES

A CAL POLY MUSTANG FILM SOCIETY PRODUCTION







🎬 STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: NATALIE VENABLE AT THE PORTLAND FILM FESTIVAL

Big congratulations to Natalie Venable, director of the short film *Sticky*, which was featured at the Portland Film Festival this fall! 🌟

Sticky was produced by the Mustang Film Society, showcasing the creativity and talent of Cal Poly students in film and storytelling. Natalie represented the film at the festival — way to go!

📸 Check out photos from the event and the official *Sticky* poster above!

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Can 'The Martian' Get Us to Mars?

Media researcher David Kirby explores the intersection of science fiction and real life space exploration.

By Gabby Ferreira

SHARE THIS ARTICLE:



DAVID KIRBY FEATURED IN *CAL POLY MAGAZINE*

David Kirby, Chair of the Interdisciplinary Studies Department and Director of the Science, Technology, and Society Program, was featured in the Fall 2025 issue of *Cal Poly Magazine* for his article, "[Can 'The Martian' Get Us to Mars?](#)". In the piece, Kirby explores how science fiction films like *The Martian* influence public perception, policy, and innovation in space exploration through the concept of “diegetic prototypes”—fictional technologies that inspire real-world advancements.

ISLA ASSOCIATED CLUBS



Cal Poly ISLA Club

Instagram
[@calpolyislaclub](https://www.instagram.com/calpolyislaclub)

Slack



ISLA CLUB

A group of students has founded the ISLA club as a space for ISLA students to meet and connect! The first meeting has been held, but meetings will continue across the quarter.

Follow the Instagram @calpolyislaclub or join the GroupMe for more updates.



MUSTANG FILM SOCIETY

Mustang Film Society is a new club on campus aimed at fostering a community around film and providing students interested in film with opportunities to connect to others in the film industry and explore their interests! This may be of interest to any MAST minor students.

If interested, please contact Dr. Emily Ryalls at eryalls@calpoly.edu or follow the Instagram @mustangfilmsociety

EVENTS

Weds 10/29 2:10-4

Prochainement:



CLUB DE L'ETOILE
LE CINEMA AUTREMENT
Paris

TOURNÉE
DU
CHAT
TIGRÉ

Présente

EthnograFilm

SLO

Building 181-104





ETHNOGRAFILM SLO 2025 - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29th

Join us for the first-ever Ethnografilm SLO Film Festival! This international festival, held annually in Paris since 2014, celebrates non-fiction and documentary filmmaking from around the world.

On Campus:

- **When: Wednesday, October 29 | 2:10–4:00 PM**
- **Where: Expressive Technology Studios, Building 181 (Frost Center), Room 104**
- **Pre-Film Reception: Cheese and baguettes from 1:45 PM in the Frost Atrium**

Enjoy six short films (≈80 minutes total) followed by an open discussion. Food is only in the Atrium—please no snacks in the studio.

Hosted by: ISLA, CET, and LAES.



CAL POLY

Treats!



Games!

SEMESTER CONVERSION COUNTDOWN CARNIVAL

NO TRICKS, JUST TREATS

OCTOBER 30TH

11 AM - 3 PM ON DEXTER LAWN

**PLAY GHOULISHLY GOOD GAMES, SNAG SOME
SWEET PRIZES, AND DISCOVER THE SECRETS
OF SEMESTER CONVERSION!**



SEMESTER CONVERSION COUNTDOWN CARNIVAL - OCTOBER 30TH

Get ready for a carnival-style celebration on Dexter Lawn, 11 a.m.–3 p.m., as the Semester Conversion Team, College Advising Centers, Mustang Success Center, and campus partners help students gear up for Cal Poly's semester conversion!

Enjoy games, a photo booth, Insomnia Cookies, candy, silly prizes, and swag, while learning about academic planning and resources to make the transition smooth.

Don't miss out – bring your friends, faculty, and staff!

 Questions? Email: semester-conversion@calpoly.edu

 More info: calpoly.edu/semester-conversion

 Instagram: [@calpolycountdown](https://www.instagram.com/calpolycountdown)



CAL POLY
College of Liberal Arts



SPONSORED BY

SPORTS TALK WITH SARAH SPAIN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24
4:00 - 5:30 PM
BUILDING 6, ROOM 124

MEET Sarah

Don't miss the chance to hear from Sarah Spain — an Emmy, Gracie, and Peabody **Award-winning sports journalist, podcaster, and activist** who's changing the game in sports media. Sarah is the host of the **first-ever daily women's sports podcast** and a passionate advocate for gender equity in sports. A former heptathlete and co-captain of the Cornell Track & Field team, she knows firsthand what it means to lead, compete, and break barriers.



GUEST SPEAKER - SARAH SPAIN

Join us for an inspiring talk with Sarah Spain, host of the first and only daily women's sports podcast, *The Good Game with Sarah Spain*. She also hosts the annual ESPNW Summit and is the author of *Runs in the Family: An Incredible Story of Football, Fatherhood, and Belonging*.

When: Friday, October 24 | 4:00–5:30 p.m.

Where: Phillips Hall, Building 6, Room 124

Sarah will share her experiences in sports media and discuss her journey as a leading voice in the industry. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from a trailblazer in sports journalism!

GILEAD SPEAKER SERIES ON HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Repairing What's Broken



*From Toxic E-Waste to
Sustainable Futures*

**PETER C. LITTLE AND
LIZ CHAMBERLAIN**



OCT. 23

11:10 a.m.-Noon

Building 180, Room 101

Peter C. Little is a professor of anthropology at Rhode Island College and author of *Toxic Town: IBM, Pollution, and Industrial Risks* (2014), *Burning Matters: Life, Labor, and E-Waste Pyropolitics in Ghana* (2022), and *Critical Zones of Technopower and Global Political Ecology: Platforms, Pathologies, and Plunder* (2023). Peter is also the President of the Northeastern Anthropological Association (NEAA).

Liz Chamberlain is Director of Sustainability at iFixit (and former professor of rhetoric). She advocates for repair-friendly legislation around the world, testifying in statehouses, coordinating repair advocates, and developing reparability standards. Her writing on e-waste and repair has been featured in the *Wall Street Journal* and *Wired*, and she's spoken about repair on NPR, the BBC, and Vox.

Please join the NRES Department for this special talk followed by a Q&A session!



 **SUSTAINABILITY SPEAKER SERIES: THE GLOBAL E-WASTE TRADE & RIGHT TO REPAIR**

Join us for the second installment of the NRES Department's Sustainability Speaker Series,

organized by Dr. Seeta Sistla and Dr. Christina Kaviani, on Wednesday, October 23rd.

 Featuring:

- **Peter Little (Anthropologist, Rhode Island College) — discussing the global e-waste trade and its impacts in West Africa.**
- **Liz Chamberlain (Sustainability Director, iFixit) — highlighting Right to Repair legislation and iFixit's sustainability efforts.**

This event will explore how technology, sustainability, and social justice intersect — a conversation relevant to all members of the Cal Poly community.

 Date: Wednesday, October 23

 Time: University Hour (11:10 AM – 12:00 PM)

 Location: Building 180, Room 101



THURSDAY

October 23, 2025

1:00 PM

KENNEDY LIBRARY

Room 103

The creators of the new mural at the entrance of Kennedy Library will participate in a Q&A in conjunction with the official reopening celebration of the library. Artists Joshua Lawyer and MJ Lindo-Lawyer will discuss their newest public painting, *Grounds for Growth*, as well as answer questions about their practice as professional artists.

A reception with snacks and refreshments will follow in the James P. Sargen Courtyard.

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

Q&A WITH MURAL ARTISTS



CAL POLY

Robert E. Kennedy Library



MEET THE KENNEDY LIBRARY MURALISTS – Thursday, October 23

Celebrate the official ribbon cutting of Kennedy Library's new mural, *Grounds for Growth*, and join the artists for a live Q&A about their work and creative process.

When: Thursday, October 23, 2025 | 1:00 PM

Where: Kennedy Library, Room 103

Reception: Snacks and refreshments in the James P. Sargen Courtyard following the Q&A

This event is free and open to all. Don't miss this chance to see the mural up close and hear directly from the artists!

OPPORTUNITIES



CHANGE THE WORLD

The Systems Thinking Challenge



Change The World: The Systems Thinking Challenge is a student innovation program that empowers students to apply systems thinking tools to design impactful solutions for complex, real-world challenges. Through cross-disciplinary teamwork, milestone stipends, faculty mentorship, and structured training, students will progress from preliminary proposals to final presentations, culminating in a public showcase in May 2026.

DEADLINE:

October 31, 2025



APPLY
HERE

This campuswide cross-collaboration opportunity will bring

5

FACULTY
MEMBERS

10

TEAMS

4

STUDENTS
EACH

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

1. Mandatory Kick-off Meeting

All participants must attend the in-person kickoff on **November 15, 2025**, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM – pizza lunch at 11 AM included

2. Weekly Mentor Office Hour:

One member from each team must attend the **Thursday mentor office hour**, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Attendance will be recorded

3. Special Systems Thinking Training Sessions:

All participants must attend faculty-led workshops covering:

- Iceberg Diagram
- Context Diagrams
- Causal Loop Diagrams
- Stakeholder Analysis
- Risk Assessment Tools

MILESTONES & STUDENT STIPENDS:

Each student participant will receive a stipend for successfully completing each milestone:

\$250

Preliminary Proposal
Presentation
January 2026

\$350

Conceptual Proposal
Presentation
March 2026

\$400

Final Proposal
Presentation
April 2026

FINALS:

4 teams selected to present at the Finals:

\$5000

1st Place

\$3000

2nd Place

\$1500

3rd Place

RECOGNITION

HONORABLE
MENTION



From left, Grace Kathryn Hurley (manufacturing engineering), Lea Joan Graham (natural resources management and environmental sciences) and Zoila Anuri Kanu (computer science and software engineering) won first place in the 2025 Change the World Challenge for their product, Buzz Off.



CHANGE THE WORLD: SYSTEMS THINKING CHALLENGE

Cal Poly students of all majors – here's your chance to tackle real-world problems, work in cross-

disciplinary teams, and get mentorship from faculty!

Apply by: October 31, 2025 → [Apply Here](#)

Kickoff: November 15, 2025 | 9 a.m.–12 p.m. (Pizza included!)

Prizes & Stipends:

- Proposal milestones: \$250–\$400 per student
- Final Showcase: \$5,000 | \$3,000 | \$1,500 | Honorable Mention

Bring your ideas to life, collaborate across disciplines, and make a real impact. Apply today!



CAL POLY CONSENT PROJECT

Looking for lesson
facilitators!

volunteer/internship opportunity

Teach elementary
students
boundaries, consent,
& communication!

INFO SESSION:
October 28th 3:10-4 pm
on the Health Center Lawn



If you can't make it or have questions, reach out to elkidd@calpoly.edu

Want to make a difference in local classrooms? The Cal Poly Consent Project, led by Dr. Christina Kaviani, is looking for lesson facilitators to help teach boundaries, consent, and communication to K–12 students across SLO County.

This is a volunteer or internship opportunity for students interested in education, social justice, or community engagement!



Info Session: October 28th | 3:10–4:00 PM



Health Center Lawn



Can't make it or have questions? Email elkidd@calpoly.edu

NEW MUSTANG MAKERSPACE

OPEN TO ALL CAL POLY STUDENTS!



ABOUT US

A completely free space open to all students, regardless of major. No engineering experience necessary. Work on class projects, senior project,s or even personal projects!!

LOCATION

In Bonderson,
Building 197, Room 110



HOURS

Fall Quarter, Weeks 2-7
Mon-Fri: 10-7pm
Sat: 9-6pm



CONTACT INFO

Email:
calpolyshoptechs@gmail.com



OUR SERVICES

- 56 easy-to-use 3D printers ●
- Lasers for wood, acrylic, vinyl and more ●
- Embroidery and Sewing Machines ●

Link to
our
website



MUSTANG MAKERSPACE

The Cal Poly Machine Shops (College of Engineering) are excited to welcome students to the Mustang Makerspace, **located in Bonderson (Building 197), next to Mustang '60. This free, all-major space is your go-to hub for digital fabrication, creativity, and hands-on learning.**

Inside you'll find **56 3D printers (Bambu, Prusa, Elegoo, Formlabs, MarkForged), 4 laser cutters, an embroidery machine, an industrial Cricut vinyl cutter, and sewing machines.** Whether you're working on a class assignment, a senior project, or just a personal idea, the Makerspace has the tools to help bring your vision to life. **No prior experience is needed—our shop techs are here to teach you, answer questions, and support your projects.**

 Fall Quarter Hours (Weeks 2–10):

- Monday–Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
-

3D printers are open to everyone without training, but you'll need a Red Tag Certification for lasers and some other equipment. Learn more and sign up for trainings at machineshops.calpoly.edu.

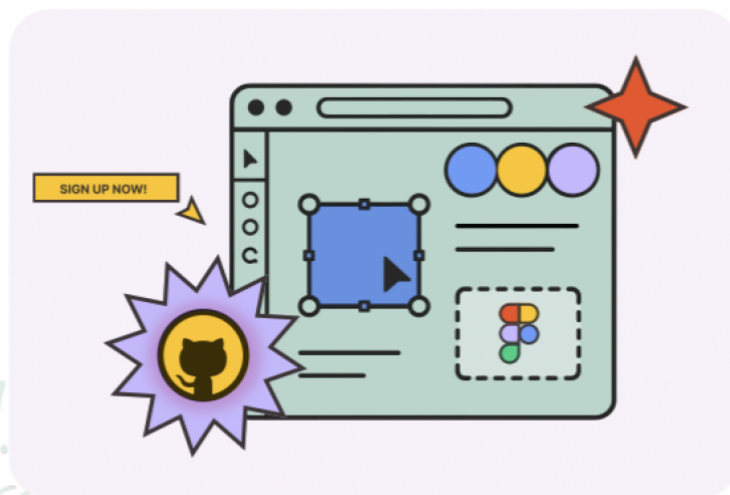
 **Questions? Email calpolyshoptechs@gmail.com |**  **Aero Hangar: (805) 756-2266 | Mustang '60: (805) 756-5634**

Come explore, create, and make your ideas a reality—see you in the Makerspace!

FALL 2025

Open Workshops at the Digital Scholarship Studio

Intro to the Command Line	Oct 3rd
Map Design and Cartography	Oct 9th
Intro to Git and GitHub	Oct 17th
Intro to Figma	Oct 24th
Effective Data Visualization	Oct 31st
Intro to GitHub Pages	Nov 7th
Intro to StoryMaps and GIS	Nov 14th
Intermediate Figma	Nov 21st



Everyone is welcome!
Details and registration:
guides.lib.calpoly.edu/DPL/workshops





FALL 2025 WORKSHOPS AT THE DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP STUDIO

Looking to boost your digital skills this quarter? The Digital Scholarship Studio is offering free, open workshops on topics like:

- Intro to the Command Line (Oct 3)
- Map Design and Cartography (Oct 9)
- Intro to Git and GitHub (Oct 17)
- Intro to Figma (Oct 24)
- Effective Data Visualization (Oct 31)
- Intro to GitHub Pages (Nov 7)
- Intro to StoryMaps and GIS (Nov 14)
- Intermediate Figma (Nov 21)



Everyone is welcome!



Details & registration: guides.lib.calpoly.edu/DPL/workshops

STUDENT SUPPORT

contact info

Office:
Building 47, Room 36E, 3rd Floor
College of Liberal Arts

Emails:
Aguti168@calpoly.edu
Lrami113@calpoly.edu

Instagram:
[@calpolycollegepossible](https://www.instagram.com/calpolycollegepossible)

CAL POLY



The College of Liberal Arts partners with College Possible's Catalyze program to connect students with near-peer success coaches. Coaches support academics, study skills, financial literacy, career exploration, wellness, and more.

Learn more by contacting Multicultural Academic Advisor Alejandra Cebreros at alcebrer@calpoly.edu or check out the attached infographic.



FINANCIAL AID FOR FOOD: GET UP TO \$250 A MONTH FOR GROCERIES

The CalFresh Outreach Team can help connect you with up to \$250 a month to buy groceries at your favorite stores and many farmers' markets! Get money to buy food, eat better, work less and focus more on school. It's easy to set up an appointment with a CalFresh Student Advocate to determine your eligibility, walk you through the application and answer any questions you may have.

Visit calfreshcalpoly.org/ to schedule an appointment today! **Hours are: M-W 10am to 7pm and TH 10:00am to 5pm.**

Although you can [apply online](#) on your own, we encourage you to apply with the help of the CalFresh Outreach Team to help with any questions or concerns.

Follow the CalFresh team on Instagram @calfreshcalpoly



SLO Solutions



SLO SOLUTIONS CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Are your students having a hard time focusing on schoolwork due to roommates or neighbors disagreeing about issues around noise, dishes, or house rules?

Students can find themselves overwhelmed by conflict with landlords, roommates, and neighbors! We can help! SLO Solutions may be able to help students and residents with access to FREE conflict resolution and mediation, funded by a partnership between the City of San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly, Cuesta College, and Creative Mediation. For more information, click [here](#).



Morning, Mustang



MORNING, MUSTANG - NEWS SOURCE FOR CAL POLY STUDENTS

Carly Heztel, a second year journalism student, has published a news source for Cal Poly students that summarizes every day's most important campus, San Luis Obispo and California stories in two-minute emails. Carly is working in cooperation with the nonprofit College Brief to create accessible and relevant news for college students.

Read some of the stories [here](#).



KEEP UP TO DATE WITH CAMPUS NEWS!

Interdisciplinary Studies Students and Staff! Are you eager to be in the know about the latest campus news and updates? Do you want the most up-to-date headlines conveniently sent to your email? Look no further! Subscribe to the Mustang News Roundup today! Our Roundup newsletter brings you the freshest Mustang News and KCPR content, and is delivered straight to your inbox every Monday through Friday of the school year. Don't let this opportunity to stay well-informed pass you by!

Subscribe here: <https://mustangnews.net/the-roundup/>

Created in  publicate

Thank you.

Interdisciplinary Studies in the Liberal Arts
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