

Subject: IS NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF 4/21

Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 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, isla-faculty@calpoly.edu

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

WEEKLY NEWS 4/21

NOTE FROM DR. RYALLS

We are very much looking forward to celebrating our graduates this year. Prior to the CLA commencement ceremony on Sunday, June 14th at 4:30PM, the department will host a mini-graduation from 1:30-3 in the ATL. If you have not already, be sure to RSVP [here](#).

And, speaking of graduation, we have green and white graduation cords for all ISLA graduates. Spring graduates can pick one up from the ISLA Office (Building 52, Office D) on Monday, Wednesday or Thursday between 9 and 4. We'll also bring some to the pre-Commencement ceremony.

This Thursday, the [SLO Film Festival](#) begins. There are lots of exciting film screenings and panel scheduled. Most importantly, this Monday (4/27) is the annual Short Cuts screening where students in Professor Barros's class show their short films at the Freemont. Student tickets are only \$5. Hope to see you there!

My office hours are Monday 2PM-4PM, Wednesday 11AM-1PM, and Thursday 10AM-12PM. During these times, we can meet in my office (52-D3) or via Zoom. Please be sure to schedule an appointment: <https://calendly.com/eryalls/dr-ryalls-s-office-hours>. 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 AND AKSHARA - YOUR ISLA STUDENT ASSISTANTS!**

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

Hello! I'm Akshara, a second year ISLA major with a concentration in Ethics, Law and Social Justice!

We create these newsletters, run our ISLA social media, and support events throughout the quarter. We are 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.

✉ **Our contact information:**

Keely: kfrobot@calpoly.edu

Akshara: amadabus@calpoly.edu

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

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.



The graphic features a green background with a dark green border. On the left is a logo of a running horse. To its right, the text 'MUSTANG FILM SOCIETY' is written in large, bold, dark blue letters. Further right is a yellow and black film clapperboard. Below the horse logo is the Instagram icon, followed by the text 'Instagram @mustangfilmsociety'. Below that is an envelope icon, followed by the text 'For more info contact eryalls@calpoly.edu'. On the right side, there is a rounded rectangle containing two yellow stars and the text 'CONNECT WITH PEERS INTERESTED IN FILM!' and 'BUILD IMPORTANT INDUSTRY SKILLS!'.

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

STUDENT SUCCESSES



The **Mustang Film Society** film, "Sticky," was just featured at the Pasadena International Film Festival, where it was nominated for **Best Student Film**.

Congratulations to the filmmakers: **Natalie Venable** (graduated 2025), **Gavin Hart** (graduated 2025), and **Josh Arrich** (current president of MFS).

CAREERS & INTERNSHIPS

Internships + Careers

Student PIRGs



Work on campaigns to protect wildlife,
address environmental pollution,
register voters, and more.

tinyurl.com/StudentPIRGs26



APPLY: Work on environmental + public health campaigns

Are you Looking to make an impact and learn skills in advocacy and organizing? The [Student PIRGs](#) are looking for passionate students to work on campaigns to protect the environment, address basic needs, and more.

- If you're graduating, they're hiring for Full time Organizing Positions to make a difference on important problems facing our communities.
- If not, get involved now to take on leadership on a campaign to protect the ocean.

[Fill out an interest form here to learn more!](#)

SEMESTER CONVERSION



A note about Cal Poly's Move to Semesters

Cal Poly will transition from the quarter system to a **semester calendar beginning Fall 2026**. This change will affect several things, including the length of terms, how courses are scheduled, and how students plan their academic year. Instead of three 10-week quarters, the academic year will include **two 15-week semesters (Fall and Spring)**. All students will be taking **semester-based courses starting Fall 2026**, and most students will take about **15 units per semester**.

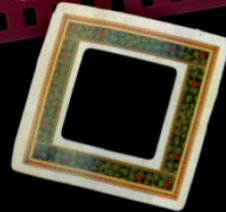
Because this transition will affect course planning and degree progress, it's a good idea to stay

informed and start thinking ahead about your schedule. The **CLA Advising Center** has resources to help you understand what the move to semesters means for you, including course equivalencies and planning tools. Visit the **CLA Advising semester conversion website** (See QR code) for updates and guidance, and follow **@CLAadvisingcenter on Instagram** for tips, reminders, and helpful information as Cal Poly prepares for the move to semesters.

EVENTS

short films by cal poly students

SHORT CUTS



CAL POLY
Art & Design
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS



CAL POLY
Interdisciplinary Studies
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS



CAL POLY
Center for Expressive Technologies
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Monday.

April 27

@ 7 pm



Lights, camera, Cal Poly! 🎬

Don't miss **Cal Poly Short Cuts**, a dynamic showcase of six original short films written, directed, and produced by students in ISLA 341 in collaboration with ART 483. These creative projects will premiere on **Monday, April 27 at 7 p.m.** at the Fremont Theater as part of the SLO International Film Festival. This is a unique opportunity to support student filmmakers and experience powerful storytelling on the big screen.

Tickets are just **\$5 for students**, so grab your friends and be part of an unforgettable night of film.

🎫 Get your tickets here: <https://slofilmfest2026.eventive.org/schedule/cal-poly-short-cuts-69bb731aaf14c474487626df>

🌐 Learn more and explore behind-the-scenes content:
<https://sloshortcuts26.wixsite.com/shortcuts2026>

CAN YOU NARCAN?



Tuesdays at 3:00-5:00pm

Thursdays 3:30-5:30pm

HEALTH CENTER (BLDG. 27)

**Interested in learning more about the life-saving benefits of
Naloxone?**

Training only takes 15 minutes!

Where else can you get Naloxone?

**Naloxone, test strip refills and overdose prevention kits are also available
by appointment.**

**Email wellbeing@calpoly.edu for more information or for group training
inquiries.**

Make an appointment here:



ODPREVENTION@CALPOLY.EDU



CAL POLY
Health Education
CAMPUS HEALTH
& WELLBEING

Opioid Overdose Prevention & Free Narcan Kits

Cal Poly's Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Prevention team is partnering with ISLA to support student safety and wellness. With fentanyl-related overdoses on the rise nationally and locally, it's more important than ever to know how to recognize an overdose and respond effectively.

Join us for a brief, interactive training covering:

- How to identify an opioid overdose
- How to safely administer Narcan (Naloxone)
- How to access free Narcan + Overdose Prevention Kits

Students can pick up supplies at Building 27 (Health Center) or during weekly distributions:

Tuesdays, 3–5 PM and **Thursdays, 3:30–5:30 PM** on the Health Lawn.

Want us to come to your space for a distribution or presentation? We're happy to schedule a time that works for you!

OPPORTUNITIES

Central Coast

PERFORMING ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS



For adults, kids, and teens. All skill levels.



Cash Scholarships | Tuition Scholarships
Grand Prize: 10-12 Week Film & TV Acting Class + Hollywood Showcase

TOTAL VALUE OVER
\$ 4,000

actorsedge.com/scholarships



by April 24th

Central Coast Performing Arts Scholarship – Apply by April 24!

Looking for funding to support your creative passions? *Actor's Edge*, a Film & TV acting studio based in San Luis Obispo, is now accepting applications for its **5th Annual Central Coast Performing Arts Scholarships**.

This year, **over \$4,000 in scholarships** will be awarded to performers of all ages across the Central Coast. Most awards are **cash scholarships** that can be used toward your artistic pursuits—whether you're into acting, dance, music, improv, filmmaking, or musical theater.

One standout applicant will receive the **grand prize**: a *full-tuition scholarship* to Actor's Edge's Summer Film & TV Acting Program, plus the chance to perform at an **end-of-summer showcase in Los Angeles** for industry professionals.

 **Deadline to apply: April 24**

If you're a creative looking for support and opportunity, don't miss this chance to invest in your craft!

 [Apply here](#)



CAL POLY

RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS NEEDED



This project is supported by the Center for Expressive Technologies and BEACoN Program

Open to all Cal Poly Students!

Help contribute towards attention restoration research by participating in a short, simple, and fun study!

Sign Up Here!



Research Details

- \$5 Amazon Gift Card
- 25-30 Minutes
- Building 181 (Frost Center), Room 211

<https://calendly.com/attentionrestoration>

CONTACT US:

attentionrestorationproject@gmail.com




Research Participants Needed – Earn a Gift Card!

Interested in contributing to research while earning a reward? A Cal Poly study on **attention restoration** is currently seeking participants!

This short, engaging study is **open to all Cal Poly students** and takes just **25–30 minutes** to complete. Participants will receive a **\$5 Amazon gift card** as a thank-you.

 **Location:** Building 181 (Frost Center), Room 211

 **What to expect:** A simple, fun study focused on attention and cognitive restoration
Spots are limited, so be sure to sign up soon using the QR code on the flyer!

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 projects, or even personal projects!!

OUR SERVICES

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

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



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.**

 **Spring Quarter Hours (Weeks 2–10):**

- Monday–Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 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!



CAL POLY

Robert E. Kennedy Library



Spring 2026 Workshops at the Digital Scholarship Studio

Apr 10 Intro to Git and Github

Apr 17 Data Discovery for Your GIS Project

Apr 23 Research Poster Design with Figma

Apr 30 Intro to Field Maps and GPS

May 7 Map Design and Cartography

May 15 Intro to Adobe Illustrator

May 21 Intro to Adobe Photoshop

May 28 Business Cards with Adobe InDesign



Everyone is welcome!

Details and registration:

guides.lib.calpoly.edu/DPL/workshops

Open Workshops at the Kennedy Library Digital Scholarship Studio

The Kennedy Library Digital Scholarship Studio holds weekly open workshops to introduce basic computing, design, mapping, and visualization topics. These workshops do not require any prior experience, and we welcome beginners and experts from all disciplines.

Additionally, the Digital Scholarship Studio offers consultation support for students, staff, and faculty working on projects and research involving data, design, GIS, and data visualization. Appointment times can be found [here](#). Meetings take place in-person at the Digital Scholarship Studio on Level 1 of Kennedy Library, or on Zoom.

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/>