

Subject: IS NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF 9/21

Date: Tuesday, September 22, 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

CC: isla-faculty@calpoly.edu

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

WEEKLY NEWS 9/21

NOTE FROM DR. KIRBY

It is Week 5, which is 1/3 the way through the semester. This is very weird to say (it used to be halfway through the quarter). Just a reminder that Dr. Diane Negra from University College Dublin will be giving a talk on Wed, September 23 from 4-5:30PM in the ATL on campus titled "I'm Sorry You Feel That Way: The New Cultures of Customer Service." Please join us for this special talk from an international scholar.

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 Wed 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 AKSHARA - YOUR ISLA STUDENT ASSISTANT!**

Hello! I'm Akshara, a third 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:**

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

ISLA
Club
IS BACK



Join our GroupMe
for updates about upcoming
meetings!

Follow us on **Instagram**
@calpolyislaclub

ISLA CLUB

We are so excited to announce the revival of the ISLA Club! The ISLA Club professional and social club focusing on ISLA majors and minors, but welcome to all majors! This club will host many events, including arts and crafts, info sessions about concentrations, study abroad details, and general interdisciplinary projects, discussions, and more! We hope you join ISLA Club!



MUSTANG FILM SOCIETY

Mustang Film Society is a 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](https://www.instagram.com/mustangfilmsociety)

ISLA LEARN BY DOING

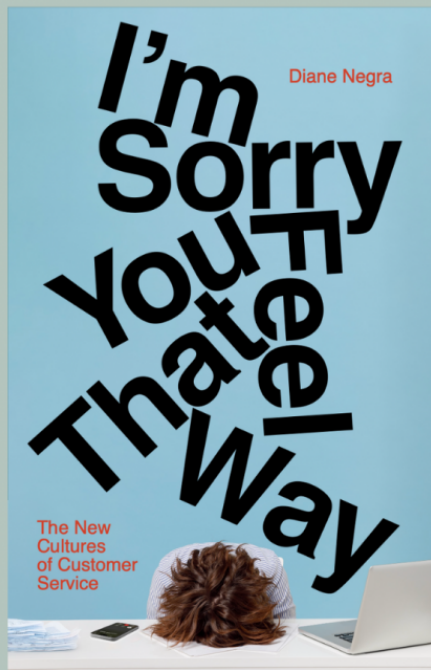


Students in Dr. Kirby's COMS/ISLA 3395 Science Communication class are partnering with the Morro Bay National Estuary Program to create a museum exhibit for its nature center and blog posts for its website. The class went on a field trip last week to kayak on Morro Bay and hike across the sand spit to the ocean. These firsthand experiences will help students bring a personal experience to their work and help them communicate the bay's science and significance to public audiences.

EVENTS

CAL POLY ISLA AND COMS PRESENT

I'M SORRY YOU FEEL THAT WAY: THE NEW CULTURES OF CUSTOMER SERVICE



**Dr. Diane
Negra**

Speaker from the
University College Dublin

📅 September 23, 2026

🕒 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

📍 Advanced Technology Laboratories



CAL POLY

College of Liberal Arts
Interdisciplinary Studies
in the Liberal Arts



CAL POLY

Communication Studies

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

ISLA AND COMS DEPARTMENT SPEAKER!

The ISLA and COMS welcome, Dr. Diane Negra from University College Dublin on Wednesday **September 23 at 4:00 PM**. She will discuss her book, "I'm Sorry You Feel That Way," and share about the new cultures of customer service. Please join us at the Advanced Technology Laboratories, next to Kennedy Library. We hope to see you there!

NEW FILM SERIES AT THE PALM THEATER

A new film series is being screened at the Palm Theater. Watch classic Disney films on the big screen, and learn a bit about how Disney turns those cinematic stories into the real-life park magic at the happiest place on earth, Disneyland. Dr. Troy Hiduke Campbell, the curator, is a former Disney Imagineer, Netflix researcher, consumer psychologist, and experience designer who works at the intersections of storytelling, human behavior, and immersion. The first screening of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs is on September 21. Click this [LINK](#) to learn more.

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

Mawtini Digital Storytelling

Compensation:	\$1,500 stipend per project
Project Period:	Fall 2026
Modality:	Hybrid
Eligibility:	Current Cal Poly students (undergraduate or graduate)

The *Mawtini* project seeks creative, technically skilled Cal Poly students, both undergraduate and graduate, to help develop innovative digital experiences that expand access to Arab American histories of migration and belonging. *Mawtini* is a community-led oral history and archiving project that documents and shares the histories, memories, and experiences of Arab Americans living in San Luis Obispo and the Central Coast of California.

Supported through a Cal Poly [Center for Expressive Technologies \(CET\) Seed Grant](#), these opportunities invite students to contribute to public-facing digital humanities projects that combine storytelling, visualization, and interactive design. Students will work collaboratively with the *Mawtini* project director, Dr. Farah Al-Nakib (Associate Professor of History), to develop tools and experiences that make our archival materials, oral histories, and exhibition content accessible to broad public audiences. They are seeking students interested in creative technologies, digital

storytelling, user experience design, interactive media, data visualization, digital humanities, and public scholarship.

Opportunity 1: Virtual Installation Tour

In Winter 2026, the *Mawtini* oral history collection was displayed at the Kennedy Library gallery in an interactive installation that included text panels, photographs, objects in display cases, maps, and audio excerpts from our oral history collection (accessible through QR codes). The *Mawtini* installation was documented through a collection of 360° gallery images, object photography, and other digital assets. The selected student will transform these materials into an interactive virtual installation tour using Kuula or a comparable platform.

The goal is to create a navigable digital experience that allows visitors to move through the gallery space while engaging with layered multimedia content. Display objects, photographs, wall texts, and audio materials will be integrated through interactive tags and pop-up windows, creating an immersive online experience that extends the reach of the physical installation. The virtual tour will be embedded in our *Mawtini* web app (www.mawtinislo.org).

Project Goals:

- Design and build an interactive virtual tour of the *Mawtini* installation.
- Integrate 360° imagery, photographs, text panels, and audio resources into a cohesive user experience.
- Develop an accessible, web-embedded experience for public audiences.
- Document workflows and design decisions for future project sustainability.

Opportunity 2: Interactive Migration Mapping

The selected student will develop an interactive migration mapping experience using Flourish or a comparable platform. The map will visualize the migration journeys of *Mawtini* narrators from the Middle East to San Luis Obispo, allowing users to explore individual stories and routes through an interactive interface. The project aims to produce a reusable mapping template that can support future *Mawtini* contributors and potentially be adapted by community organizations interested in visualizing migration histories.

Project Goals:

- Design and build interactive migration maps for website integration.
- Create intuitive user interactions that allow visitors to explore individual migration stories.
- Develop a scalable workflow for adding future narrators and migration routes.
- Produce documentation and reusable templates that support broader community adoption.

Qualifications for Both Opportunities

The *Mawtini* project welcomes applicants from a wide range of disciplines, including but not limited to Graphic Communication, Art and Design, Experience Industry Management, Architecture, Interdisciplinary Studies, Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies, Ethnic Studies, History, and related fields.

Required Qualifications

- Current Cal Poly student in good standing.
- Some experience with digital storytelling, web design, interactive media, or user experience design.
- Willingness to learn new software platforms and experiment with emerging digital tools.
- Strong organizational skills and ability to work independently.
- Excellent communication and problem-solving abilities.

Preferred Qualifications

- Familiarity with platforms such as Kuula, Flourish, ArcGIS StoryMaps, WordPress, Omeka, or related tools.
- Experience with multimedia production, mapping, data visualization, or digital archives.
- Interest in migration studies, oral history, community-based research, museums, archives, or public humanities.
- Ability to think creatively about audience engagement and digital experience design.

What Students Will Gain

- Hands-on experience developing public-facing digital projects.
- Mentorship from faculty working at the intersection of storytelling, technology, and community engagement.
- Experience translating archival and oral history materials into interactive digital experiences.
- Portfolio-quality work demonstrating skills in creative technology, digital humanities, and user-centered design.
- Opportunities to contribute to innovative CET-supported research and creative activity.

Application Materials

Please submit:

1. A brief statement of interest (500 words maximum) describing your interest in the project and how you meet the qualifications indicated above. You may indicate interest in one or both opportunities.
2. A résumé showing relevant experience, including relevant courses taken.
3. Links to relevant creative, technical, design, or digital projects (if available).

E-mail these materials to Dr. Farah Al-Nakib (faalnakib@calpoly.edu) by no later than 5pm on Friday,

September 11, 2026. Applicants who meet the requirements will be scheduled for a Zoom interview the following week. Project completion dates (within fall semester) will be discussed during interviews.

TEACH FOR AMERICAN CORPS

This Monday, August 3, applications open for the Teach For America Corps—a paid, full-time leadership opportunity for graduating seniors from all majors.

The program places recent graduates in public school classrooms for a two-year teaching commitment where they gain hands-on experience leading teams, solving problems, communicating across differences, and managing complex challenges from day one.

Students receive:

- A full salary and benefits
- Training and certification support
- Coaching and mentorship
- Relocation and financial assistance options
- Access to a nationwide alumni network across industries

No education degree or prior teaching experience is required.

Many alumni go on to careers in education, healthcare, law, policy, technology, business, and nonprofit leadership—often citing the corps experience as foundational to their growth and career direction.

If you know students who are collaborative, adaptable, and motivated to make an impact while building leadership experience, we'd appreciate you sharing the message below with them:

A Paid Leadership Opportunity for Graduating Seniors

Teach For America is hiring graduating seniors from all majors for a full-time, salaried, two-year teaching and leadership opportunity. Corps members receive training, coaching, certification support, and real-world leadership experience while working with students and schools.

No teaching experience required.

Applications open Monday, August 3. Learn more at teachforamerica.org/corps.

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



📢 COLLEGE POSSIBLE AT 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: Monday - Thursday 9am-7pm, Friday 9am-5pm.** Additionally, Weekly Drop-in Hours, Located in the lower level of Building 27 (Health Center) will take place **Monday/Wednesday/Friday 12:00-2:00 PM, and Tuesday/Thursday 9:00-11:00 AM.**

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](#).



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