Subject: IS NEWS FOR THE WEEK OK 9/28
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 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 9/28

NOTE FROM DR. KIRBY

I don't want all of my Chair's messages to be about the switch to semesters. But to everyone new to the semester system there are some notable changes to the flow of our classrooms. Unlike on quarters, Week 6 is generally the time when the semester's momentum becomes visible to everyone. Projects are now taking shape that would have been already done under quarters. I am hopeful that everyone is benefitting from the more measured pace that semesters provide as more time can be spent cultivating and developing projects. There is no rush to get it done in 10 weeks. Hopefully this is helping both our students and faculty to generate even more impressive classroom projects.

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!

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

I'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 eyalls@calpoly.edu or follow the Instagram @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.

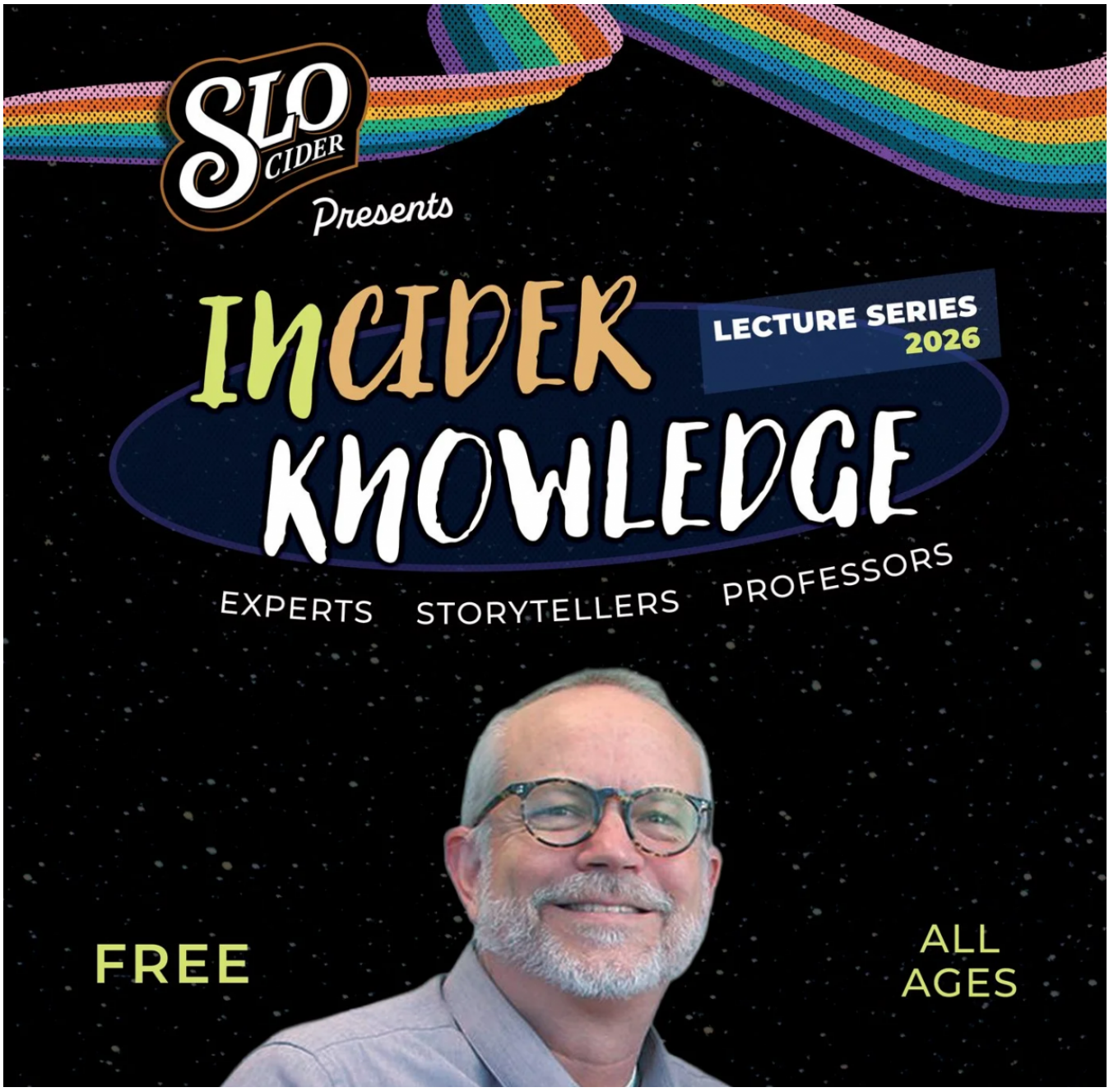
EVENTS

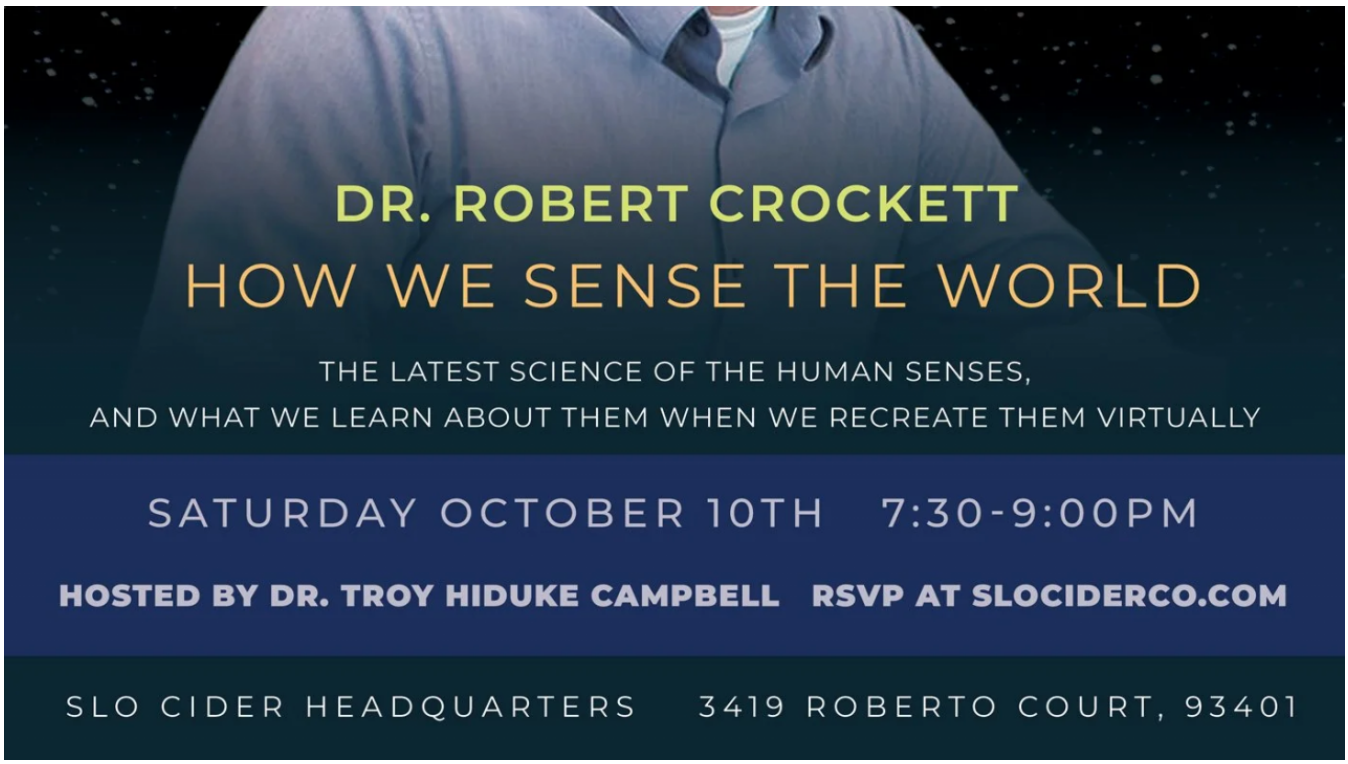


A Playful Worldbuilding and Game Design Workshop

Exhibiting artist Shing Yin Khor leads a hands-on workshop about collaborative worldbuilding, design, games, and physical artifacts on **Friday, October 16 from 1:00-3:00 PM in Dexter 34-150.** Drawing from playful models of creation, such as TTRPGs, LARP and board game design, participants will create small games, engage in quick writing exercises, and construct props within a collaborative universe in order to develop a shared community lineage and history. Additionally, the exhibition HOW TO PLAY: is currently live and on view! It includes games of all kinds, as well as a participatory installation of Shing's game *A Mending*: https://artdesign.calpoly.edu/how-play%C2%A0

Link to register: https://forms.gle/eJHgwnMxT2M76ZrD7





How We Sense The World

Join us on **Saturday, October 10 from 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM** at the **SLO Cider Main Tasting Room**(3419 Roberto Court, San Luis Obispo, California, 93401) for Dr. Robert Crockett's talk on "How we Sense the World." Speaker Dr. Robert Crockett is a longtime Cal Poly biomedical engineering professor, former interim dean of the College of Engineering, entrepreneur, and co-founder of HaptX, which develops technology for physically interacting with virtual environments. The event will be hosted by **InCider** curator **Dr. Troy Hiduke Campbell**, a researcher, former Disney Imagineer, and behavioral science professor who studies the psychology of feelings and experiences. Come out for a tour of your own body, demos with technology, and just a really fun time with one of Cal Poly’s longtime and most beloved professors. Link to RSVP here!

Cal Poly's Writers-at-Work Presents

Sony Ton-Aime

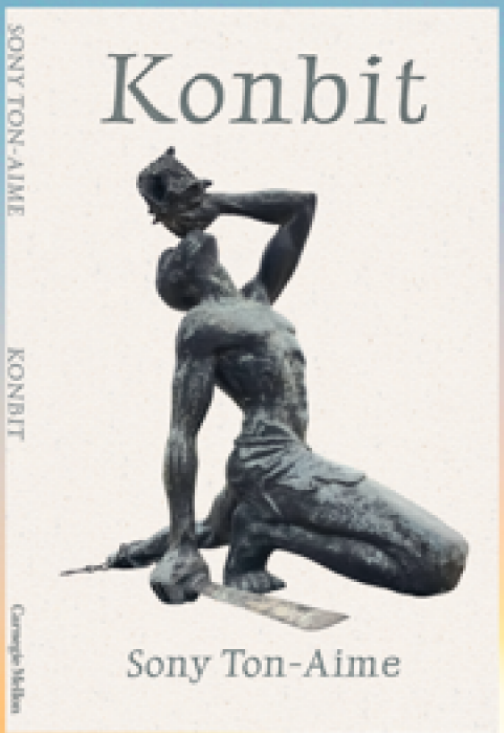


Poetry reading & craft talk

September 30, 2026
noon, on Zoom

Free & open to the public

"Sony Ton-Aime's *Konbit* is a marvel." —Percival Everett



Sponsored by Cal Poly's English Department & College of Liberal Arts

Zoom link
https://calpoly.zoom.us/s/82501507515
or scan QR code at left

Reading and Craft Talk by Poet Sony Ton-Aime

This event will take place on **Wednesday, September 30, at noon on Zoom**. Poet Sony Ton-Aime be reading from his book new book *Konbit*, and it's a stunner. The collection of poems revolves around the Bois Caïman ceremony of August 14, 1791, considered the impetus of the Haitian Independence Revolution. "I am attempting to imagine and bring to light what would give my ancestors the confidence to arise against those that held them in slavery for some 300 years," Ton-Aime writes.

The event is part of the Writers-at-Work series and is free and open to the public.

EVENT
Date & Time: Wednesday, September 30, 12 pm (noon)
Zoom link: https://calpoly.zoom.us/j/82501507515

BIO
Sony Ton-Aime is a Haitian poet, translator, and art administrator. His poetry collection *Konbit* was published by Carnegie Mellon University Press earlier this year. He is also author of the chapbook *LaWomann* (2019) and the Haitian Creole translation of *Olympic Hero: The Lennox Kilgour's Story*. Ton-Aime serves as Executive Director of Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures and is co-founding editor of ID13 Prison Literacy Project.

CAL POLY AANHPI* INITIATIVES

*Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander

ASK ME ANYTHING:
THE LOCAL SERIES

Food Industry Professionals in SLO County

THERESA BUYCO
She/Her
Owner of Ube Soul



CHRISSILDA BADAYOS-BROWN
She/Her
Winery Sous Chef



JUSTIN CHAN
He/Him
Owner of Sequel Tea



*FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED

Fri. Oct. 2. | 4pm-5pm | Multicultural Center

Ask Me Anything: The Local Series (Food Industry)

Join us on **Friday, October 2, at 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM in the Multicultural Center (University Union, Room 111F)** for the AANHPI Initiatives AMA series to ask Food Industry Professionals in SLO County anything - food provided! We'll be featuring three speakers! Theresa Buyco (she/her) is the baker and owner of Ube Soul, the only ube-focused micro-bakery in San Luis Obispo. Chrissilda Badayos-Brown (she/her) is a chef and serves as a Sous Chef at a winery in Paso Robles. Justin Chan (he/him) is the owner of Sequel Tea, California's first cold brew boba tea concept shop in San Luis Obispo. We hope to see you there!

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:

CAL POLY Health Education
CAMPUS HEALTH & WELLBEING

ODPREVENTION@CALPOLY.EDU

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

BELIEVE, EDUCATE & EMPOWER, ADVOCATE, COLLABORATE, NURTURE

BEACoN
RESEARCH SCHOLARS

STUDENT APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

DUE BY 11:59 PM
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5TH





WHAT IS BEACoN?

BEACoN stands for **Believe, Educate & Empower, Advocate, Collaborate, Nurture** and is a program run by Culture and Institutional Excellence (CIX).

Centering underrepresented students, but open to all undergraduates, BEACoN seeks to make research accessible, providing students with **funded research opportunities working with faculty mentors**.

Selected students will work with their faculty mentors throughout the academic year (~10 hours per week) and receive a **$4,000 financial aid award**.

SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

tinyurl.com/beacon-26-27

Questions? *Send an email to* ***beacon@calpoly.edu****.*

CAL POLY
Culture & Institutional Excellence

Applications for the 2026-2027 BEACoN Research Scholars are live!

The **BEACoN Research Mentoring Program**, from the department of Culture and Institutional Excellence (CIX), is looking for its next cohort of BEACoN Scholars, with research projects within all six colleges! Centering underrepresented students, but open to all undergraduates, BEACoN seeks to make research accessible, providing students with funded research opportunities working with faculty mentors. In addition to research experience, BEACoN Scholars gain access to professional development workshops and community events, fostering a sense of belonging.

Selected students will engage with faculty during the final five weeks of Fall semester and all of Spring semester and **receive a $4,000 stipend ($1,000 during Fall and $3,000 during Spring)** distributed via financial aid.

The student deadline is **Monday, October 5th at 11:59 pm PT**

Please view all available research projects at https://diversity.calpoly.edu/2027-beacon-research-projects and apply at tinyurl.com/beacon-26-27.

Please learn more about the program by attending any of the events below:

- BEACoN Boothing in UU Plaza
    - Friday, 9/25 from 11 am-1 pm
    - Wednesday, 9/30 from 12 pm-1:30 pm
    - Thursday, 10/1 from 12-1 pm
- BEACoN Interest Mixer and Application Workshop - Open to all! Ask questions about your application, meet potential mentors, and learn more about BEACoN (RSVP here!)
    - Friday,10/2 from 11-1 pm in 15-124

Please email any questions to beacon@calpoly.edu!

ATTENTION ALL NATIONAL COLLEGE STUDENTS



Do you love the art of filmmaking?

LEARN FROM THE PROS FOR FREE!



SBIFF
Film Studies
PROGRAM

APPLY for Santa Barbara International Film Festival's FREE 2027 Film Studies Program at sbiff.org/filmstudies by October 23rd, 2026

ATTEND the 2027 SBIFF (February 5-7) with priority access to 50 films, panel series, filmmaker Q&A sessions, and tribute events

LEARN from private sessions with filmmakers and national media professionals in a classroom environment.

EXPERIENCE a unique mix of guided and self-guided opportunities, led by SBIFF sanctioned film educators, emphasizing film appreciation, criticism, and analysis.

APPLY NOW AT SBIFF.ORG/FILMSTUDIES

Santa Barbara International Film Festival Film Studies Program!

SBIFF's Film Studies Program is a three-day symposium open to all undergraduate students from around the United States. The program *emphasizes film appreciation, criticism, and analysis. Led by SBIFF-sanctioned film educators,participating students experience a packed program with access to SBIFF's many events and opportunities,*including:

- The opportunity to view some of the 250+ films with priority access.
- Attend the highly acclaimed Panel Series, where notable industry professionals come together for discussions spanning directing, producing, writing, and women in the business.
- Hear guest filmmakers participate in intimate Q&A sessions.
- Partake in private sessions with filmmakers and national media professionals in a classroom environment.
- Experience the red carpet at one of SBIFF's Tribute Events – an hour and a half of raw conversation about the honoree's career.

The 2027 Program Dates are February 5th – 7th, 2027.
Students accepted into the program are expected to arrive in Santa Barbara on Thursday, February 4th, and depart on Monday, February 8th.

NATIONAL STUDENTS:
All accepted students from OUTSIDE Santa Barbara County will receive complimentary:
– Priority Festival access
– Overnight accommodations Thursday through Sunday
– $500 travel stipend

To apply, you must submit the following no later than **Friday, October 23rd, 2026.**
– Application
– Statement of Intent
– Unofficial Transcript

Apply here: https://sbiff.wufoo.com/forms/qgzs1vw0xshjuv/

About SBIFF's Film Studies Program: https://sbiff.org/education/film-studies-program/

Applicants will hear back by early/mid-December.

Direct questions to audrey@sbiff.org

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 (falnakib@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.

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR AN ADHD RESEARCH STUDY

SURVEY QR CODE

A Cal Poly student researcher is conducting a study about how gender stereotypes and diagnostic biases may affect the recognition and diagnosis of ADHD in women.

You may be eligible if you

- **Are 18 years of age or older**
- **Live in the United States**
- **Identify as a woman or were assigned female at birth**
- **Have been clinically diagnosed with ADHD**

What does participation involve?

- An anonymous online Qualtrics survey
- Approximately 5–15 minutes
- Questions about your ADHD symptoms, diagnostic experience, and experiences with gender stereotypes
- Participation is completely voluntary. You may complete the survey without participating in the optional interview. No payment or incentive will be provided.

Questions?

Sydney Betancourt
Student Researcher, Cal Poly
smbetanc@calpoly.edu

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR AN ADHD RESEARCH STUDY

A Cal Poly student researcher is conducting a study about how gender stereotypes and diagnostic biases may affect the recognition and diagnosis of ADHD in women. Qualifications are listed in the flyer above! Reach out to Sydney Betancourt (Student Researcher, Cal Poly) at smbetanc@calpoly.edu with questions.

Link to Survey HERE

STUDENT SUPPORT


contact info
Office:
Building 47, Room 36E, 3rd Floor
College of Liberal Arts
Emails:
Aguti168@calpoly.edu
Lrami113@calpoly.edu
Instagram:
@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/Thurday 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 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/

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