



The LAES Frontier

April 2026

A monthly newsletter keeping the Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies program connected and informed.

Explore this Issue

In Case You Missed It: 3rd Annual Spatial Audio Listening Party - **pg. 1**

LAES Club HQ: General Meetings - **pg. 2**

Project Showcase: Aerospace VR Project - **pg. 4**

Upcoming Events: Virtual Reality and Music Coming to the ETS - **pg. 5**

Alumni Spotlight: Spatial Audio Tech Inventor - **pg. 6**

Mission Control: LAES Lab Upgrades, Contact Info - **pg. 8**



In Case You Missed It

The ETS Hosts 3rd Annual Spatial Audio Listening Party



For three years, Dr. Julie Herndon's Music 312 class, Sound Art and Advanced Production Techniques, has ended their quarter of hard work on original pieces of spatial audio by sharing them with the campus community in the Expressive Technology Studios. What makes their music spatial? Each of the 27 students made full use of the 32 speakers in the studio, specifically designing where each sound moves or sits around the room. The result is full immersion into music and sounds of all genres with quality that can't be beat.

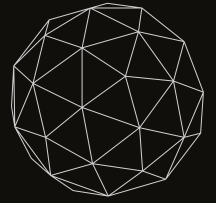
Noah Bettelheim
Theo Borys
Jake Cook
Kathleen Dunbar
Kat Griswold
Millie Harrison
Michael Hong
Rayhanah Johnson
Isabelle Koenig
Riley Petrocco
Elias Slusser
Geoffrey Jetta Smith
Cameron Ung
Ethan Wood
Matthew Blam
Neil Bedagkar
Ro Cumber
Daria Delwig
Juan Diaz
Andre Duldulao
Sophia Koruga
Max Kwan
Connor Lu
Hunter Smith
Mandy Tran
Amir Williams
Alex Yannelli

LAES
Major!



Keep an eye on
announcements next year
to catch number 4!

LAES Club Headquarters



General Meetings are Up and Running

Thursdays from 11:10am-12:00pm in the Frost Center LAES Lab (181-101)

Come to the lab and enjoy ample study space with power outlets, whiteboards, screen mirroring at every table, comfortable chairs, and fellow LAES students! Networking and project opportunities are on their way. All are welcome.

Keep up with us on Instagram!  [@calpolylaesclub](https://www.instagram.com/calpolylaesclub)

calpolylaesclub —
Cal Poly LAES
11 posts · 265 followers · 281 following

Education
Liberal Arts & Engineering Studies @calpoly
Meetings - Thursday @ 11:10-12pm in Frost LAES Lab
Projects · Events · Networking
Join our community
laes.calpoly.edu and 2 more

Following Message

Opportunities Club Events Club Meetings Club Updates Projects



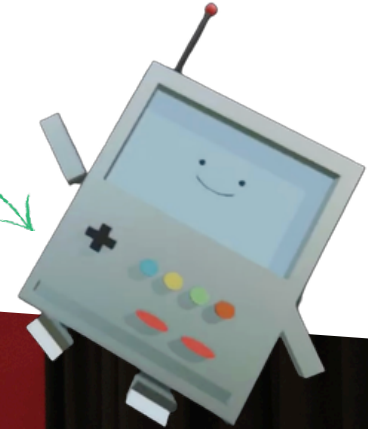
Aerospace VR Project

T-minus 10... 9... 8... 7... There's no time to wait! Teams of Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies and Computer Science students are on their way to completing a huge milestone for the Aerospace VR project: User-testing at the [Aerospace Museum of California](#) in McClellan, CA. This museum will be the final home for the project, and seeing how real guests interact with the cosmic virtual experience will be invaluable to making it a lasting and meaningful addition to the museum's initiative to get new generations interested in STEM careers.

Authentication Challenge Storyboard:

<p>① Copy the Sequence:</p>	<p>② Copy the Sequence</p>	<p>③ Copy the Sequence</p>
<p>Action: Fade to black, the player is now in front of the authentication screen. The sequence does not play until the player presses play.</p>	<p>Action: One color flashes on the light bulb and button simultaneously, playing a unique note.</p>	<p>Action: Another color flashes its designated button, playing a different note.</p>
<p>④ Copy the Sequence</p>	<p>⑤ Copy the Sequence</p>	<p>⑥ Copy the Sequence</p>
<p>Action: The player presses the first colored button that played in the sequence.</p>	<p>Action: The progress bar lights up green when the correct button is pressed.</p>	<p>Action: The player presses wrong scans button in</p>

Houston, your friendly guide through the experience!



Upcoming Events

April 7th, 7:30pm

Breaking the Mold: A Concert of Innovative Compositional Techniques with Rachel Beetz

- Frost Center Expressive Technology Studios (181-104)
- Seating is limited to the first 40 attendees
- Learn more about the event [here](#)
- Recently praised in *The Wire* magazine, learn more about Rachel [here](#)

April 30th, 7:30pm

Composing with Intermedia: From Audiovisual Piano to Virtual Reality with Jarosław Kapuścinski

- Expressive Technology Studios (181-104)
- Learn more about the event [here](#)
- Learn more about Jarosław [here](#)

All listed events are **FREE**

Please email
laes@calpoly.edu with
any event questions

Alumni Spotlight

Nathan Gollay

Founder/CEO of Wavefront Audio

ngollay36@gmail.com



LAES allowed both my creativity and engineering sides to come through in projects, which led to forming my own production style and company

- **LAES Class of 2024**, Machine Learning and Ethics & Technology
- **About:** While a LAES student, Nathan worked as a Lab Manager. This gave him access to reference grade sound and theater technology and allowed him to work with donor and veteran of the film industry, Jack Cashin. Post-graduation, Nathan patented several inventions that became the basis for Wavefront Audio, a speaker technology and IP company. His technology centers around sound isolation (isolating sound to a single person in a room) and single device Spatial Audio (including rear audio effects from a soundbar in front of the user). He deals with product design from concept to prototypes to manufacturing engineering, and collaborates with an IP law firm to protect and license his tech.
- **Advice:** Go abroad. Be in the Expressive Technology Studios the rest of the time.



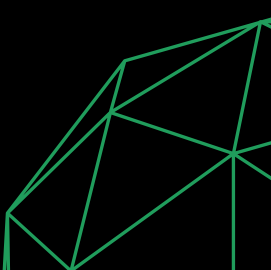
Nathan Gollay

Founder/CEO of Wavefront Audio

ngollay36@gmail.com



- **Industry Insights:** Spatial Audio is a licensing war zone on the software side, and hardware companies are under-developing their technology. Coupled with a decline in movie theater visits, the result is poor audio everywhere. There is an opportunity now to introduce quality technologies to middle and high end income consumers in home theaters and similar spaces. Manufacturing for small businesses is in an interesting state with a volatile tariff market. Any plastic parts are typically injection molded and thus have to come from a manufacturing power house like China. ICs and other electronics also typically come from China. Production of these components, especially for newer technologies, simply does not exist in the US. The result is a very difficult to model import strategy, especially for low Cap-ex business.

- **Best LAES Memory:** The first movie night in the Expressive Technology Studios where nothing was working until a few hours before and seeing FRIDA speak at LAES Graduation.
- 

Mission Control

Stand by for transmission...

LAES Lab Renovations Complete

A whole new presentation and teleconferencing system

Located in the Frost Building, the LAES Lab (181-101) is where LAES 301/302 major courses are held and serves as a project, study, and work space for students. The room features four large tables with eight presentation screens and advanced teleconferencing equipment for collaborative teamwork, near and far. Read about a recent collaboration with Birmingham City University in the UK in next month's issue!

More Alumni Needed for Newsletter Spotlights

Help us build our LAES community

LAES Alumni, we need your help! Please [Complete this brief form](#) so we can spotlight you. Thank you for your time and support of the program.

Mission Control

Stand by for final transmission...

Want to Connect?

Advising

-

Make an appointment with a LAES advisor from their Calendly links on the LAES Website:

<https://laes.calpoly.edu/contact-us>

LinkedIn

-

Keep up with LAES on our [LinkedIn Page](#) and connect with other students and alumni in our [LinkedIn Group](#).

Faculty/Staff Office Hours

Spring 2026

*subject to change

-

Dr. Michael Haungs, Co-director

(181-221)

M/W 2:10-4pm (in person and Zoom, W is Zoom only)

Zoom Link:

<https://calpoly.zoom.us/my/mhaungs>

Dr. David Gillette, Co-director

(181-219)

M 2:30-4:30pm; T 2-3:30pm (in person and Zoom)

W 3:30-4:30 (Zoom only)

Email for zoom link.

Alessandra Gardner, Technical Coordinator

(studio use/tours, equipment rentals)

181-104

T/Th 12:30-2:30pm

"Add me on LinkedIn!" - Dr. Michael Haungs

End of transmission.