

The LAES Frontier

January 2026

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

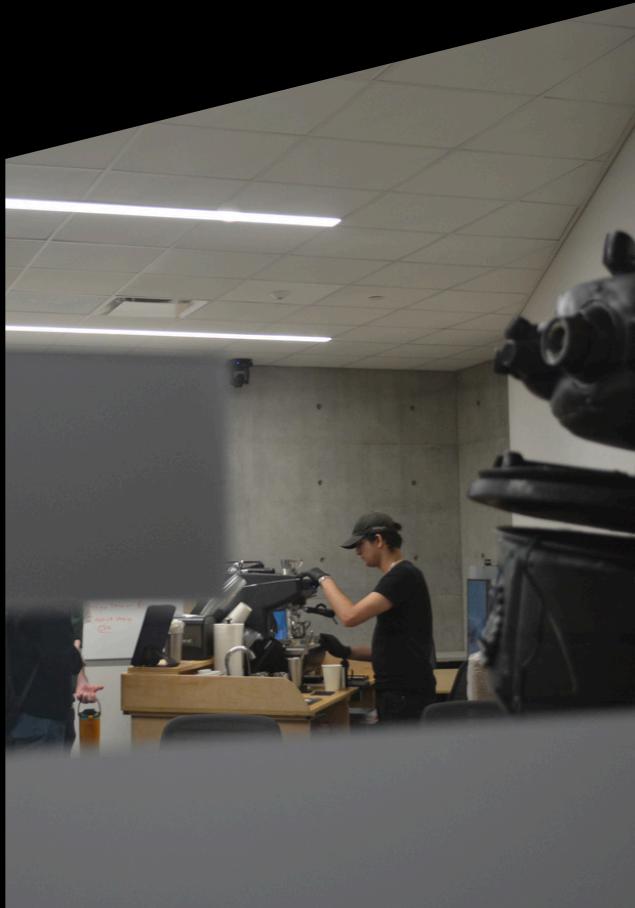
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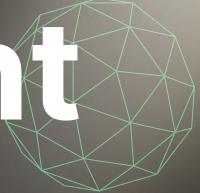
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Alumni Spotlight



Lexie Stroud

Designer at [Arrow Sign Company](#)

lexiestroud@gmail.com – [Connect on LinkedIn](#)



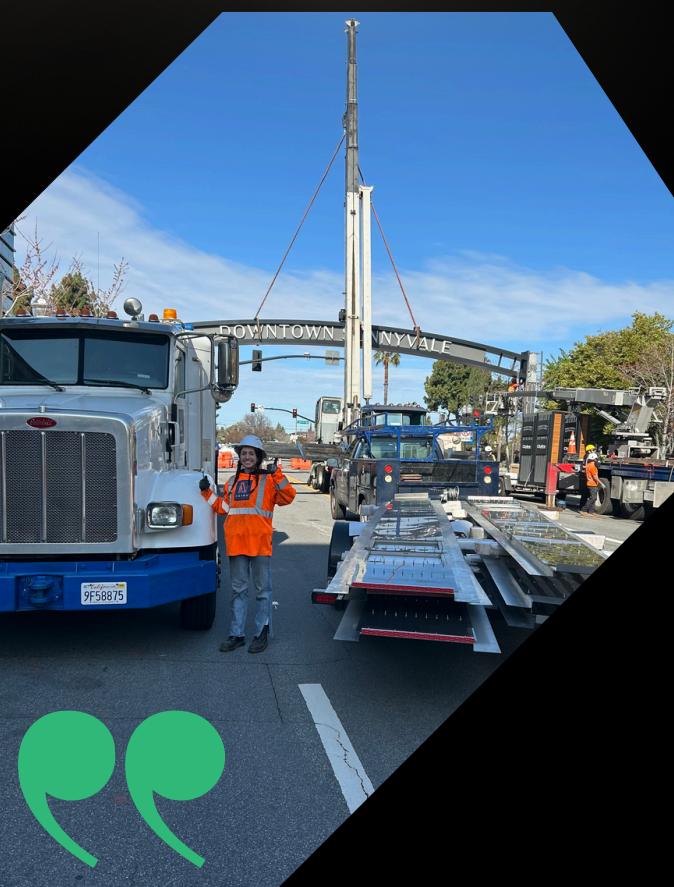
The classes I took all prepared me in ways I could not have expected!

“

- **LAES Class of 2020**, Graphic Design & Industrial and Software Engineering
- **About:** Lexie does design, fabrication, and install for a Bay Area sign company—designing anything from interior architectural signage to large electronic display signage. She is expected to use both technical and design skills daily. Her role has plenty of variety, creativity, and interdisciplinary aspects between the fields of signage, architecture, construction, and entertainment and exhibit design.
- **The Path:** Lexie worked a couple of odd jobs amidst the pandemic before finding her current role—one she feels fits her LAES background perfectly. Both her design and engineering courses have become extremely relevant. Her LAES courses were extremely helpful in understanding how to bridge the gap between creativity and technical skills.

More From...

Lexie Stroud Designer at Arrow Sign Company



I knew my LAES background and skillsets would open up so many doors in the future.

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- **Industry Insights:** “Vintage signs are making a comeback (think Vegas in the 60s and 70s). I recently designed a sign that was an ode to an old 1950’s pylon sign for a Vegas event center that was a lot of fun. Also neon signage (or rather faux neon, but sometimes neon as well) is making a comeback!”
- **Career Advice:** “It took me a while to find a role that fit what I wanted to do with my major. I felt discouraged for a couple of years. Then, I had the opportunity to switch into something I knew would set me back in my career temporarily, but I made the leap because I knew my LAES background and skillsets would open up so many doors in the future.”
- **Best LAES Memory:** “Visiting an escape room created by past LAES students! It was so neat to see the behind the scenes and it solidified to me that I was in the right major.”

More Alumni Needed!

LAES Alumni, we need
your help!

Please [Complete this
form](#) so we can spotlight
you. Thank you for your
time and support of the
program.



*Your words of wisdom
here. And some priceless
experience over here.*

”

Project Showcase



From Lab to Coffee Lounge

LAES Senior Xavier Carmona worked tirelessly in LAES 461 and 462 and beyond to start his own coffee cart company to serve SLO County. He treated fellow students to a free pop-up event last month in the LAES Lab to gather survey data on his service and drinks. Xavier served up delicious drinks to eager customers for two hours straight! Keep an eye out for the Gato Pescado cart around SLO or book him for your own event!

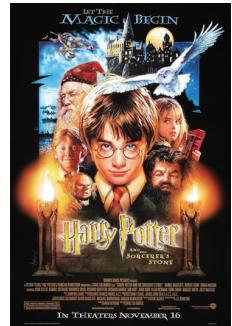


Website:
GatoPescadoCoffee.com

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



Upcoming Events



Jan. 14th, 8pm - Cal Poly LAES Club Movie Night: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

- Expressive Technology Studios (181-104)
- Join the LAES club for a casual movie night!



Jan. 15th, 1pm - LAES Advising and Social Event

- Expressive Technology Studios (181-104)
- Enjoy sandwiches and snacks while your questions are answered by the LAES directors, advisors, and staff. Followed by *Everything Everywhere All at Once* screening. Open to non-majors.
- Come for as much or as little time as you can!



Jan. 28th, 7pm - Visiting Artist Open Studio Discussion: ox&öl Collective

- Expressive Technology Studios (181-104)
- Informal presentation and discussion on work undertaken in studio with Simone Keller and Philip Bartels, Zurich-based music theater company



Mission Control

Stand by for transmission...



End of transmission.