

Subject: STS NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF 10/28
Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 12:00:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time
From: stsexecutivecommittee-request@calpoly.edu on behalf of Science Technology & Society Minors
To: stsmajors@calpoly.edu
CC: stsaaffiliates@calpoly.edu, stsexecutivecommittee@calpoly.edu
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY

WEEKLY NEWS 10/28

NOTE FROM DR. KIRBY

We are fortunate this year that we are hiring a new faculty member to teach courses in the area Ethics, Law & Social Justice including courses relevant for STS. This is an amazing opportunity for us to expand STS's areas of expertise. This is also a great opportunity for our students to help us decide which candidate to hire. STS students will have the opportunity to interact with each candidate at their public research talks, classroom presentations, and lunches. More information on these opportunities will be provided as we move closer but keep these dates in mind for when the three candidates will be on campus: November 18, December 2 and December 4.

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 Th 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 KEELY - YOUR ISLA/STS STUDENT
ASSISTANT!**



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

I create these newsletters, run our ISLA & STS social media, and support events throughout the quarter. I'm also here as a resource for you — whether you have questions about your STS minor, need help navigating course selection, or want to get more involved in the STS community.

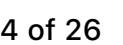
✉ My contact information: kfrobert@calpoly.edu

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

STUDENT SUCCESSES

A CAL POLY MUSTANG FILM SOCIETY PRODUCTION







STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: NATALIE VENABLE AT THE PORTLAND FILM FESTIVAL

Big congratulations to Natalie Venable, director of the short film *Sticky*, which was featured at the Portland Film Festival this fall! 🌟

Sticky was produced by the Mustang Film Society, showcasing the creativity and talent of Cal Poly students in film and storytelling. Natalie represented the film at the festival — way to go!

 Check out photos from the event and the official *Sticky* poster above!

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Can 'The Martian' Get Us to Mars?

Media researcher David Kirby explores the intersection of science fiction and real life space exploration.

By Gabby Ferreira

SHARE THIS ARTICLE:



DAVID KIRBY FEATURED IN *CAL POLY MAGAZINE*

David Kirby, Chair of the Interdisciplinary Studies Department and Director of the Science,

Technology, and Society Program, was featured in the Fall 2025 issue of *Cal Poly Magazine* for his article, "[Can 'The Martian' Get Us to Mars?](#)". In the piece, Kirby explores how science fiction films like *The Martian* influence public perception, policy, and innovation in space exploration through the concept of “diegetic prototypes”—fictional technologies that inspire real-world advancements.

STS - RELATED CLUBS



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](https://www.instagram.com/mustangfilmsociety)

EVENTS

Weds 10/29 2:10-4

Prochainement:



CLUB DE L'ETOILE
LE CINEMA AUTREMENT
Paris

TOURNÉE
DU
CHAT
TIGRÉ

Présente

EthnograFilm





ETHNOGRAFILM FESTIVAL

Join us for the first-ever Ethnografilm SLO Film Festival! This international festival, held annually in Paris since 2014, celebrates non-fiction and documentary filmmaking from around the world.

- **When:** Wednesday, October 29 | 2:10–4:00 PM
- **Where:** Expressive Technology Studios, Building 181 (Frost Center), Room 104
- **Pre-Film Reception:** Cheese and baguettes from 1:45 PM in the Frost Atrium

Enjoy six short films (≈80 minutes total) followed by an open discussion. Food is only in the Atrium—please no snacks in the studio.

Hosted by: ISLA, CET, and LAES.

PROP 50 PANEL DISCUSSION

Thursday, October 30
11:10am-12:00pm
Location: 038-123

On November 4, 2025, California voters will go to the polls to vote on Proposition 50 (The Election Rigging Response Act). If approved, the new law would implement the temporary use of new congressional district maps through 2030. Then in 2031, the (nonpartisan) Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission would resume drawing congressional district maps. The map drawn in Proposition 50 is a Democratic gerrymandering intended to offset the Republican-favored gerrymander in Texas.

The panel is designed to be an opportunity to engage students in conversations about voting, representation, and redistricting in a timely way so that everyone can become more informed about what is happening politically in California.

Professor Annie Frew,
Professor Michael Latner
Michael Herndon (UCLA Ph.D., candidate)

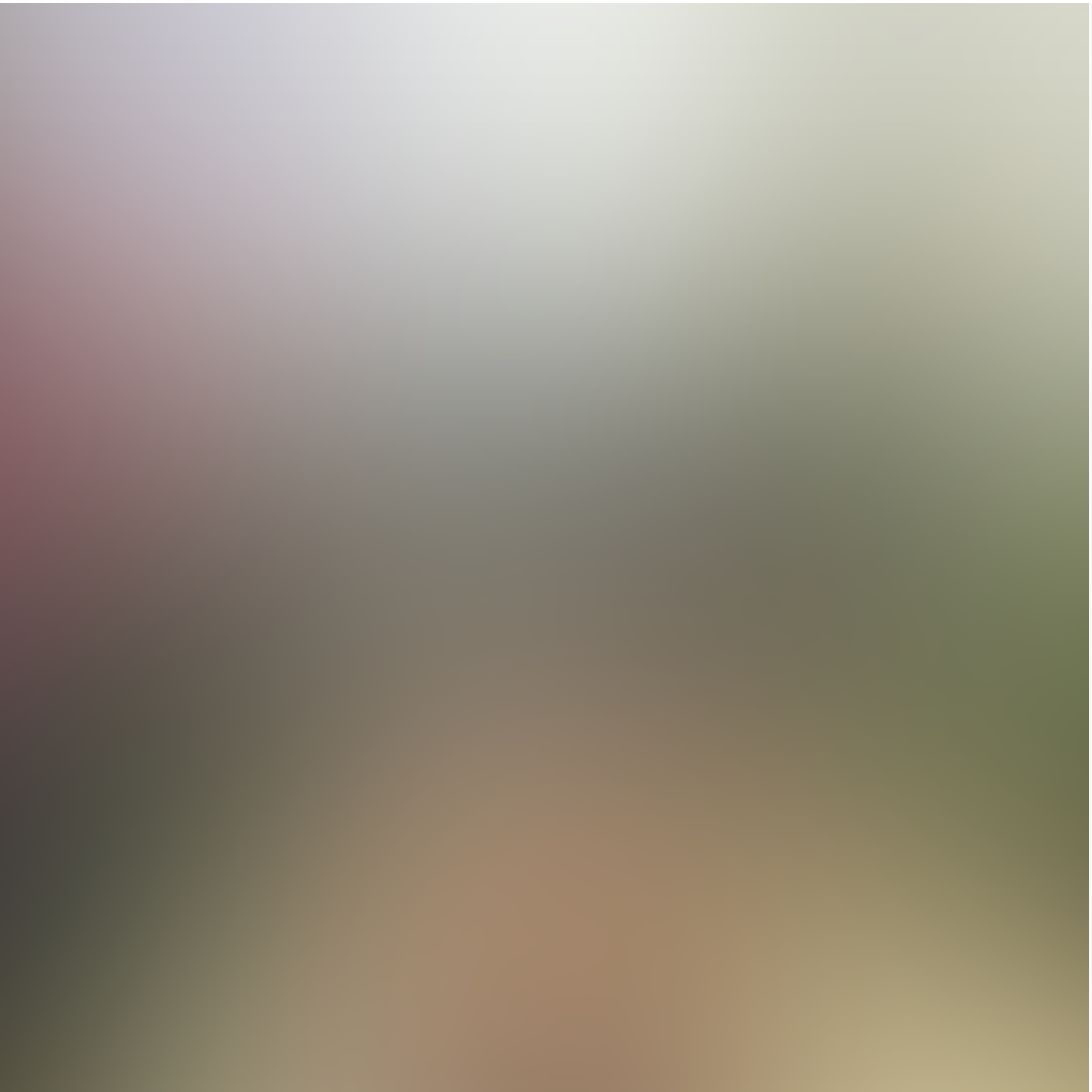
LET'S **TALK**
POLITICS
Lecture Series
SPONSORED BY
CAL POLY
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Thursday, October 30 | 11:10 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | Building 038, Room 123

Join us for a timely conversation on Proposition 50 (The Election Rigging Response Act) — a 2025 California ballot measure that would temporarily implement new congressional district maps through 2030. The panel will explore what this proposition means for voting, representation, and redistricting in California.

Featuring Professor Annie Frew, Professor Michael Latner, and Michael Herndon (UCLA Ph.D. candidate), this discussion offers an opportunity to better understand the politics of redistricting and engage with experts on one of the most important issues facing California voters this November.

Hosted by the Let's Talk Politics Lecture Series, sponsored by Cal Poly Political Science.



SEMESTER CONVERSION COUNTDOWN CARNIVAL - OCTOBER 30TH

Get ready for a carnival-style celebration on Dexter Lawn, 11 a.m.–3 p.m., as the Semester Conversion Team, College Advising Centers, Mustang Success Center, and campus partners help students gear up for Cal Poly's semester conversion!

Enjoy games, a photo booth, Insomnia Cookies, candy, silly prizes, and swag, while learning about academic planning and resources to make the transition smooth.

Don't miss out – bring your friends, faculty, and staff!

 Questions? Email: semester-conversion@calpoly.edu

 More info: calpoly.edu/semester-conversion

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



CAL POLY

Students, faculty and staff are invited to a special conversation
with a world-renowned designer and entrepreneur.

Stuart Weitzman

Hear firsthand how Stuart built an iconic brand, the lessons he
learned growing global businesses, and the experiences that
have shaped his life and leadership.

Monday, November 3
2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Center (PAC)
Pavilion

This event is free to attend.
Seating is first come, first serve and
limited to 200 guests.



STUART WEITZMAN COMES TO CAMPUS!

Monday, November 3 | 2:00–3:30 p.m. | PAC Pavilion

Join us for an exclusive conversation with Stuart Weitzman, world-renowned footwear designer and entrepreneur. Hear firsthand how he built his iconic brand and continues to shape the fashion industry. The event will feature an inspiring talk followed by an interactive Q&A session.

Space is limited to the first 200 guests—arrive early to secure your seat!

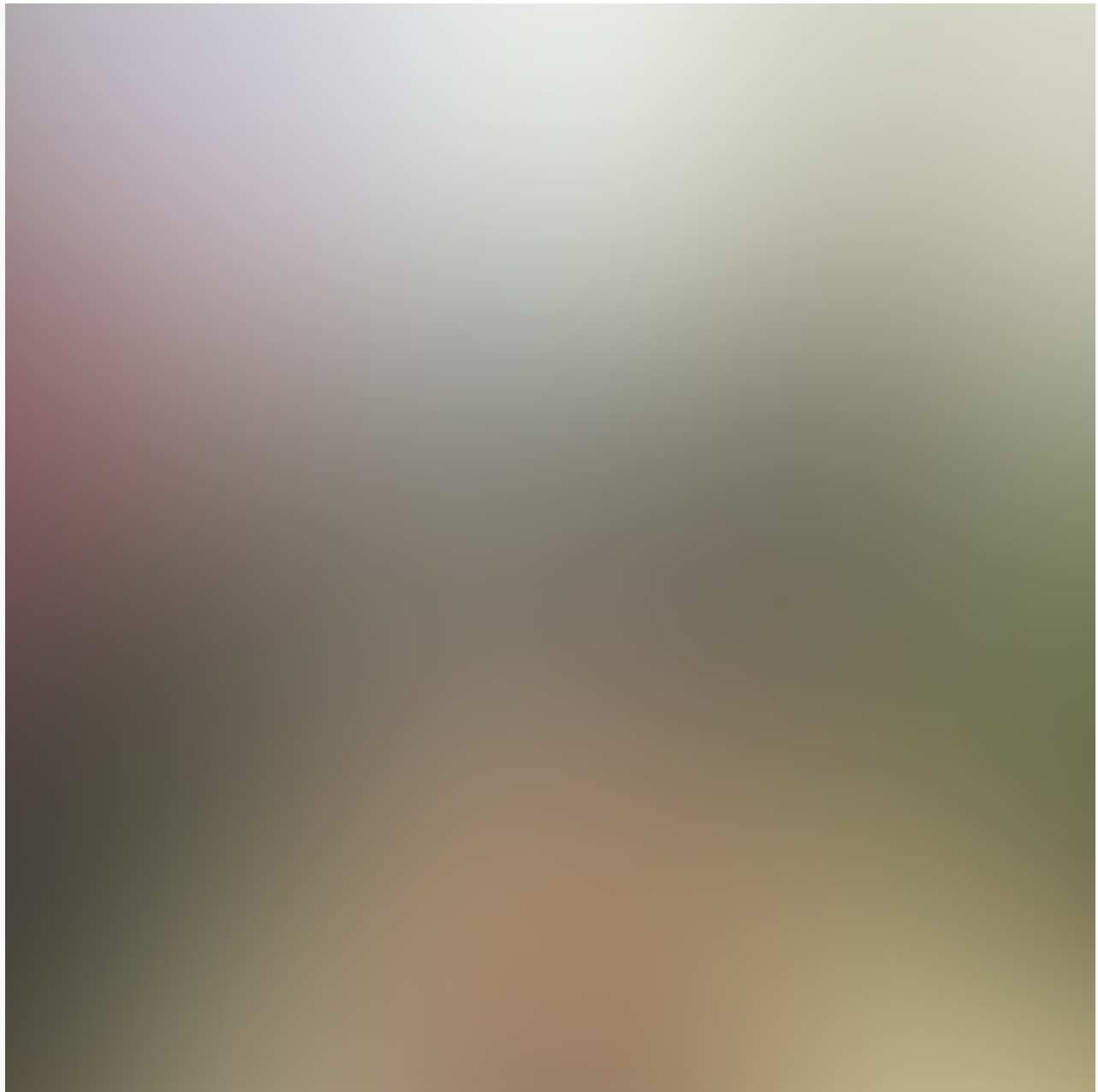
OPPORTUNITIES

STUDENT RESEARCH POSITION - 360 VIDEO AND VR

Dr. Sandy Shen and Keri Schwab with the **Experience Innovation Lab**, in collaboration with the Center for Expressive Technologies, are seeking **360° VR video filming and editing support** for a project studying attention restoration in natural and VR-nature settings.

We are looking for a **student skilled in creating 360° VR videos** to produce a five-minute immersive video of a natural area on campus. Filming will be done using a **Giroptic 360 Cam**, and the editing can be completed using whichever software the student assistant is most familiar with. If necessary, we can provide a subscription to the preferred editing software for the duration of the project. The position for the student assistant pays \$18 per hour.

Interested students should reach out directly to Drs. Shen and Schwab yeshen@calpoly.edu and keschwab@calpoly.edu



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CAL POLY CONSENT PROJECT

Looking for lesson
facilitators!

volunteer/internship opportunity

Teach elementary
students
boundaries, consent,
& communication!

INFO SESSION:
October 28th 3:10-4 pm
on the Health Center Lawn



If you can't make it or have questions, reach out to elkidd@calpoly.edu



GET INVOLVED: CAL POLY CONSENT PROJECT

Want to make a difference in local classrooms? The Cal Poly Consent Project, led by Dr. Christina Kaviani, is looking for lesson facilitators to help teach boundaries, consent, and communication to K–12 students across SLO County.

This is a volunteer or internship opportunity for students interested in education, social justice, or community engagement!



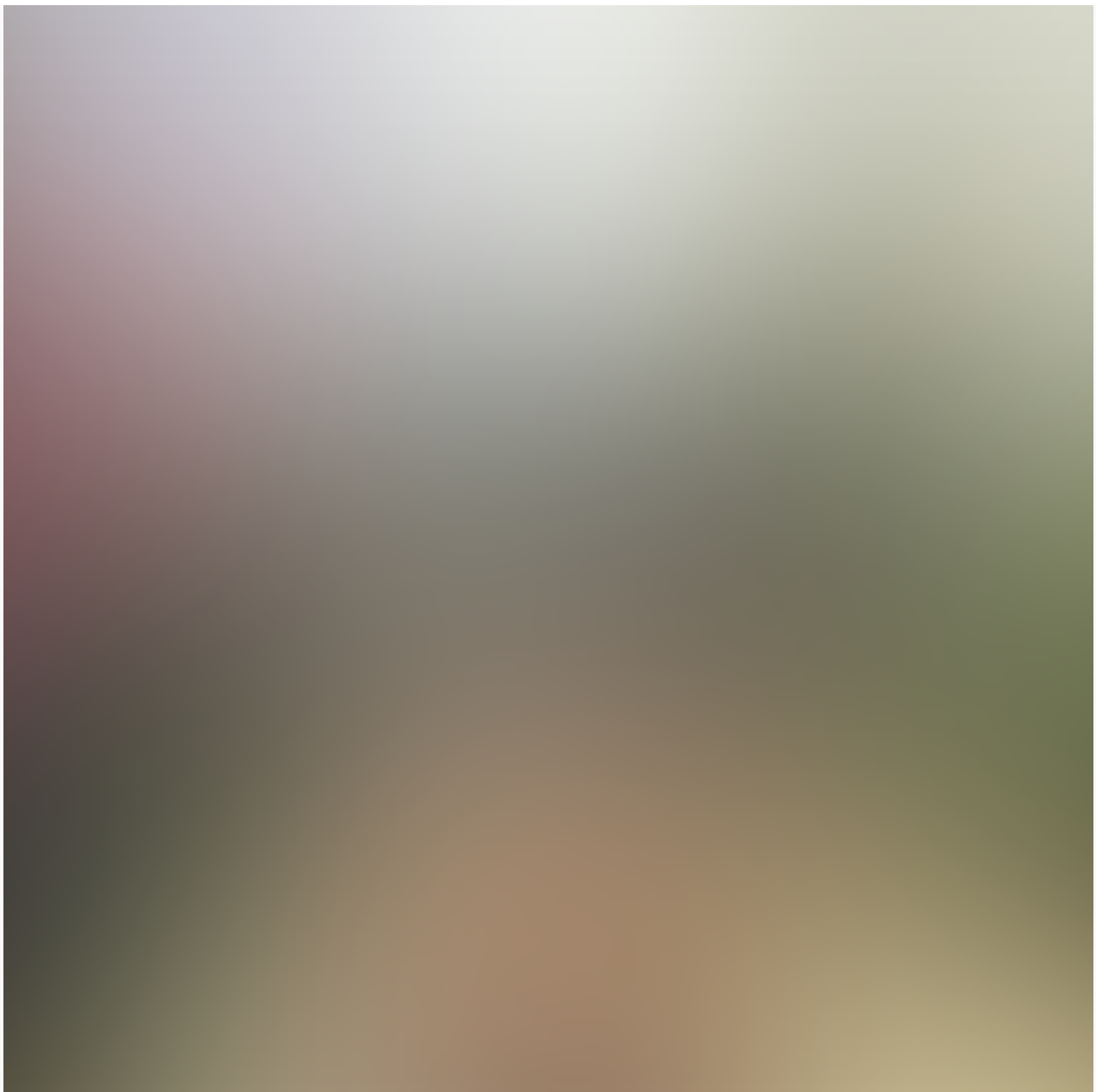
Info Session: October 28th | 3:10–4:00 PM



Health Center Lawn



Can't make it or have questions? Email elkidd@calpoly.edu



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.

 Fall Quarter Hours (Weeks 2–10):

- Monday–Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 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 calpolysshoptechs@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!



FALL 2025 WORKSHOPS AT THE DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP STUDIO

Looking to boost your digital skills this quarter? The Digital Scholarship Studio is offering free, open workshops on topics like:

- Intro to the Command Line (Oct 3)
- Map Design and Cartography (Oct 9)
- Intro to Git and GitHub (Oct 17)
- Intro to Figma (Oct 24)
- Effective Data Visualization (Oct 31)
- Intro to GitHub Pages (Nov 7)

- Intro to StoryMaps and GIS (Nov 14)
- Intermediate Figma (Nov 21)

💡 Everyone is welcome!

🔗 Details & registration: guides.lib.calpoly.edu/DPL/workshops

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 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/>