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2020

## 2019/2020 Robert E. Kennedy Library Annual Report

Robert E. Kennedy Library

*California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo*

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# INSIDE 35

THE ROBERT E. KENNEDY LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20



CAL POLY



## *VISION*

We connect people and inspire learning.



## *PURPOSE*

We are a Learn by Doing library. We help every member of the Cal Poly community engage in open and informed inquiry and contribute through creation, innovation and collaboration to the quality of life of our community.

## *VALUES*

We value learning, innovation and the diversity of individual and group experiences and perspectives that make our community sustainable, compassionate and resilient.

These values commit us to being open, responsive and inclusive in the relationships we build across the entire Cal Poly campus and community — including our region, state and beyond.

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# LETTER FROM THE DEAN

## Greetings from Kennedy Library!

*Dear friends,*

*Last year when we re-branded our annual report as “Inside 35,” I had no idea that this year, Kennedy Library’s accomplishments would be realized largely outside 35. Since March 17, the beloved Building 35, along with the rest of Cal Poly’s facilities, has closed its doors to students, faculty, staff and community members — and those who form the beating heart of Kennedy Library. As I write this letter, the building is still closed, but I am hopeful that soon we will be partially re-opening to allow students the peace and quiet of the library’s study space on the first floor.*

*The library’s faculty and staff have risen to the challenge of keeping the library as the beating heart of Cal Poly. As you will see highlighted in the report, the Kennedy Library team has been successful in maintaining and supporting the Learn by Doing spirit, despite social distancing and remote work conditions, because of our incredible team’s creativity, passion and unwavering commitment to our students.*

*For example, one of our Digital Projects Lab student peer assistants helped an engineering student run a COVID simulation in Python to produce graphs and animations illustrating different scenarios. Another GIS student assistant worked with his peers in geography to overlay satellite imagery of NO2 emissions over New York City and explore the recent drop in emissions. Another project led by faculty in the Animal Science Department, who typically take students out to campus rangeland for hands-on GPS data collection, was adapted to stay-at-home conditions. Students conducted their field observations in their own neighborhoods, at local open spaces or parks, collecting GPS points with their smartphones. They created a common class map, and what came out was unexpectedly poignant.*

*Throughout this unusual year, our student assistants have played a crucial role in the library’s ability to deliver key services to Cal Poly students and faculty. With the physical building being closed, there was greater demand for virtual research assistance, via the library’s 24-hour chat service. The LibRATs worked from their homes all over the state and provided just as many responses as usual. The LibRATs did a great job, although there were occasional unlucky occurrences, such as attending to spaghetti noodles boiling over in the middle of a chat session. Our students also led Zoom “breakout” rooms for virtual instruction sessions, providing the unique student-to-student learning we’ve become known for.*



*A vaccine is in sight, however the challenges of the economic recession will be long enduring. Kennedy Library is not immune to the state budget shortfall, yet is proud that core services like our Digital Projects Lab and the LibRATS are partly funded by our donors. Now more than ever, we rely on the generous support of our friends to innovate and evolve to meet the changing needs of Cal Poly. The pandemic and recession affect each and every one of us in different ways, but I know that the love and commitment to Learn by Doing that we all carry in our hearts will overcome any challenge.*

*I wish you all a healthy and upbeat year.*

*Sincerely,*

**Adriana Popescu**  
Dean of Library Services  
Robert E. Kennedy Library

# LEARN BY DOING SCHOLAR AWARDS

## 2020 LEARN BY DOING SCHOLAR AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

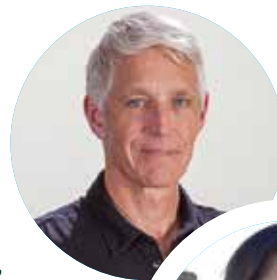
The Learn by Doing Scholar awardees are recognized for insightful research that contributes to the pedagogical understanding and practice of Learn by Doing. Two awards are presented each year: a “career award,” which carries a \$2,000 cash prize, an “early career award,” which includes \$1,000.

**The 2020 Learn by Doing Scholar Career Award winners are Architecture Department faculty members Robert Arens, associate department head and professor; Carmen Trudell, associate professor; and Brian Osborn, assistant professor for their project “Teaching Architectural Technology: A Scholarly Approach.”**

Their research formed the basis of the article “Testing is Teaching Too: Transitioning a Large-Lecture Course from Summative to Formative Exams,” which was published in the June 2019 conference proceedings of the Building Technology Educator’s Society.

Arens, Trudell and Osborn are transforming the three-quarter Architectural Technology Fundamentals sequence of courses to integrate the topics of site systems, energy systems and construction systems into a fluid curriculum. The activity portion of the course, where Learn by Doing thrives, has been redesigned as a collaborative teaching endeavor which provides students with a consistent, reliable base of knowledge and skills. The aim is to provide a supportive and inclusive learning experience and assign work that is meaningful and useful.

The researchers have co-authored three peer-reviewed papers, presented at three venues, and have been awarded two grants. Their goal, along with a team of activity instructors, is to drive refinement of their teaching methods, assignments, exams and course resources to improve alignment with updated learning outcomes and co-requisite architecture courses. This has led to more effective, deeper and more meaningful learning, as evidenced by many students reporting back that they were



well prepared for architecture internships and research assistant positions after completing second year. An example is documented in the “Testing is Teaching Too” paper. Because Architectural Technology Fundamentals is a large class, they had previously relied on machine-gradable exams. They realized this was a missed opportunity; exams should also be a Learn by Doing experience. They have transitioned to learning-focused vignette-style exams based in architectural critical thinking as demonstrated through drawing and writing. The impact of this, coupled with improved access to licensing exams earlier in a student’s studies, could prepare students extremely well for success toward licensure.

**The 2020 Learn by Doing Scholar Early Career Award winners are Chemistry and Biochemistry Department assistant professors Javin Oza and Katharine Watts for their project “Genetic Code in a Test Tube: Unlocking the Cell for Learn by Doing.”**

The researchers will evaluate whether advancements in pedagogy improve student learning of biochemical reactions underlying the genetic code, disseminate their findings, and make the Genetic Code Kit available to educators. Existing classroom modules in biology and biochemistry do not engage students through inquiry-based learning to test their conceptual models.

Oza and Watts (pictured) aim to advance the Learn by Doing pedagogy in biochemistry and molecular biology classrooms through technical innovations in two ways: The Genetic Code Kit is developed by undergraduate student researchers who have learned about biochemistry and biotechnology research, by doing. Developing the kit also provides one of the first Learn by Doing modules that enables inquiry-based learning of the biochemical processes that are central to life. Their work focuses on creating an active learning exercise on the fundamental reactions of the genetic code: transcription and translation.





They deployed the kit in CHEM 313 over two quarters and assessed learning gains. They collected pre- and post-questionnaires from over 50 students as well as from a randomized control group. Their unique, randomized control method allowed them to control for learning gains emerging from the lab manual alone. The data demonstrate that their technical innovation significantly enhances student learning gains.

Their work has resulted in numerous publications and presentations and has been supported by a National Science Foundation Research in Undergraduate Institutions. To see one of their publications that corresponds to the Genetic Code Kit, go to <https://bit.ly/genetic-code-kit>.

The Learn by Doing Scholar Awards, established in 2014, are funded by the Kennedy Library Dean's Advisory Council in recognition of the quality, significance and impact of Learn by Doing scholarship.

For more information, visit: <https://lib.calpoly.edu/faculty/learn-by-doing>.

*Cal Poly President  
Jeffrey D. Armstrong  
presented the awards  
to the winners at a  
virtual convocation in  
Fall 2020.*



# MEET THE NEW LIBRARY EMPLOYEES



## *JAIME DING*

Jaime Ding, the digital publishing research fellow, invests in accessibility to collections and changing systems of value through ideas of reading. Before joining Kennedy Library, Ding learned and worked primarily with trash, beginning in the History and Visual Arts departments at Princeton University. She earned an M.A. in decorative arts, design history at the Bard Graduate Center in New York City, learning from questions about cleanliness, beauty and value in material objects. She then worked in waste management, numerous museum education departments, and private corporate archives in Princeton, New York and Chicago, always working to rethink ideas about the “public,” accessibility and circulation of knowledge. Ding was raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and living on the Central Coast has given her a new appreciation of the sun, colors and the outdoors.



## *HILARY GRAVES*

After working in agriculture for 20 years, Hilary Graves was eager to begin her job as interim part-time librarian for the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences to “interact with people every day.” Things didn’t quite work out. “My first day was April 1, 2020, so I have been working from home from the start,” Graves said. “I have spent a fair amount of time learning about my job and how to do it! I interact with faculty and students via email, help them find the resources they need and teach via Zoom.” She admits there are challenges, but she remains steadfastly optimistic. “I look for silver linings,” Graves said. “The pandemic and working from home have allowed me to get a handle on my sleep problems — I’m productive at night. The flexible schedule lets me respect my body clock and do my productive work when I am inspired to do it.” Graves holds a B.S. in business administration from CSU Fresno and a Master’s in Library Science from Texas Woman’s University.



## *ROBERT HARKINS*

Former UC Berkeley historian and lecturer Robert Harkins joined Kennedy Library as a resource sharing and collections specialist in February 2020. With a background in academic research, writing and teaching, Harkins said Cal Poly seemed like a place where he could thrive and use his skills in research. “It’s been great working at Kennedy Library,” he said. “I’m part of an excellent team, and I love helping students and faculty find the resources they need.” Although the COVID pandemic hasn’t much changed the way Harkins works, he noted that electronic resources are even more important now. And he does miss seeing his coworkers. Harkins earned three degrees in history: a B.A. from UC Santa Barbara, an M.A. from Northwestern University, and a doctorate from UC Berkeley.

# STAFF AND FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## **JAIME DING**

Jaime Ding, digital publishing research fellow in Creative Works, was awarded a grant through the Center for Expressive Technology to be used with her work on the Digital Publishing Project. The grant will fund student work on the technical aspect of the project, specifically a part of the platform that will provide a common vocabulary for the project. Because language in the digital sphere itself is so in flux, working toward determining the best language to set standards is crucial. Student expertise and contributions will help publish this in an accessible, transparent form on the platform. Additionally, Ding will work with a team of software engineering students on a capstone project to create a means of visual peer review, expanding the ways people assess scholarship. “Rethinking ways of publishing and review and redefining nontraditional digital publishing will be crucial in changing the biased system of publishing,” Ding said. “I’m grateful to the Center for Expressive Technologies for its support of this project and its goals.”



## **SARAH LESTER**

Sarah Lester, librarian for the College of Engineering, presented her research paper, “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Teaching Practices Among Engineering Librarians,” at the American Society of Engineering Educators conference, which was held virtually in June. In her research she surveyed engineering librarians’ experiences with equity, diversity and inclusion in their library instruction, teaching and workshops. “This was a new topic for any conference, and it hadn’t ever been addressed in any articles or publications before, but it’s a conversation that needs to happen, and I hope I’ve helped start it,” Lester said. Looking forward, Lester hopes she can continue the conversation by looking at inequities related to research resources and materials in the engineering fields.



## **CONNIE LIEGL**

Conny Liegl, senior experience designer, authored an article, “Content KonMari: How to Curate Content on Your School’s Site to Spark Joy for Users,” which was published in Volt, an online magazine covering higher education marketing, communications and website strategies. The article expanded on conference presentations Liegl has previously given on the subject, which applies some of the principles of organizing consultant and Netflix star Marie Kondo to university websites. “I appreciate the support from the library to help us attend conferences and publish work that can move our fields in new directions,” Liegl said. “It shows the world that the Kennedy Library and Cal Poly are strategic and never afraid to think outside the box.”



## **CALEB NICHOLS**

Caleb Nichols, course reserves and circulation desk coordinator in Access Services, won Cal Poly’s Academy of American Poets Contest first-place prize for his poem “Ken,” which considers how to maintain awareness and connection in the current moment of primarily virtual interaction. Contest judge, former Cal Poly English professor Kevin Clark, said that “‘Ken’ is deeply inventive in sound, imagery and approach.” Nichols completed his M.A. in English at Cal Poly this year. “From library administration to the team in Access Services, I appreciate how supportive everyone was while I went through the program,” Nichols said.





### ***KATHERINE O'CLAIR***

Katherine O'Clair was named associate dean for Academic Services in October 2019. In this position, O'Clair plays a significant role in all aspects of library planning, budgeting, personnel management, operations, communications and policy development. Over the past months, she has been crucial in the library's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the university's move to virtual operations. In her previous role as librarian for the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, O'Clair was highly successful in leading and managing innovative programs, services and resources for students and faculty in the college. "I was honored to join Dean Popescu's leadership team and work with her and the entire library staff to ensure our library's position as a catalyst for student and faculty success at Cal Poly," O'Clair said.



### ***JEANINE SCARAMOZZINO***

Jeanine Scaramozzino, librarian for the College of Science and Mathematics and School of Education, was awarded a 2020-21 Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities (RSCA) grant for her project, "Revealing Swanton Pacific Ranch's History Through Artificial Intelligence." Through this project, Scaramozzino collaborated with computer science students and faculty and the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences to create a proof of concept for a "chatbot" to be deployed at Cal Poly's Swanton Pacific Ranch in Santa Cruz County. The chatbot will be programmed with information about the ranch and will learn to respond to various types of questions, even if those questions had not been previously asked or programmed into it. "The success of the concept opens up opportunities to move from one-way information sharing to interactive learning online and at historical places, libraries, museums and more," Scaramozzino said.



### ***MERCEDES RUTHERFORD-PATTEN***

Mercedes Rutherford-Patten, library services specialist for reference and instruction, completed her Master's in Library and Information Science (MLIS) in May 2020 from San Jose State University. Over the course of her program, Rutherford-Patten was able to apply what she was learning in her courses to her work at the library by co-developing library workshops, tutorials and instructional materials. She also found that her experience with online learning in the MLIS was helpful in transitioning the library's Foundational Experiences program to a virtual format. "My former and current supervisors, whom I consider mentors more than anything, were always supportive of my eagerness to create assignments and projects that would be beneficial to my work in the library," Rutherford-Patten said. "As I pursue my long-term goal to become an academic librarian at a university, I'm glad to have earned my MLIS and can continue my passions for lifelong learning and removing barriers in education."



### ***CASSANDRA SWARTZWELDER***

Cassandra Swartzwelder, resource sharing and collections specialist, completed her Master's in Library and Information Science (MLIS) through San Jose State University. By taking the program part time and online, Swartzwelder was able to continue her full-time work at Kennedy Library throughout the program. Having completed the leadership and management track of the MLIS, Swartzwelder hopes to continue to grow in her role at the library and ultimately lead a department. "I'm so grateful to the entire library team, and especially Adriana Popescu, Holly Richmond and Tim Strawn, for their support throughout this the whole process," said Swartzwelder.

# 'CHANGE THE SUBJECT' FILM SCREENING AND THE WORK FOR CHANGE IN LIBRARY CATALOGS

**In February 2020, Kennedy Library hosted a screening of “Change the Subject,” a groundbreaking documentary that aims to advance the rights and dignity of undocumented people by challenging the use of the term “illegal alien” as a subject heading in the library catalog.**

The screening was followed by a panel discussion with the Dartmouth College student activists and librarian who are featured in the film.

Panelists included Óscar Rubén Cornejo Cásares and Estéfani Marín, both featured in the film and members of the Dartmouth College Class of 2017, as well as Jill Baron, librarian for Romance languages and Latin American, Latinx and Caribbean studies at Dartmouth College. She also appears in the film and serves as co-director. The panel was moderated by Adrienne Garcia-Specht, financial aid counselor at Cal Poly and a member of the Central Coast Coalition for Undocumented Student Success Steering Committee.

The film tells the story of Dartmouth College students whose advocacy took them from Dartmouth’s Baker-Berry Library to Congress, demonstrating how an instance of campus activism entered the national spotlight and how a cataloging term became a flashpoint in the immigration debate on Capitol Hill.

“By bringing this film and conversation to Cal Poly, we can collectively challenge inaccurate, dehumanizing and racist labels,” said Catherine Trujillo, curator of Creative Works at Kennedy Library. “As a library, we have the opportunity to cultivate an academic environment for all students, staff and faculty, where individuals are not defined by prejudicial slurs. Most importantly, we can communicate that immigrants are welcome in our library spaces and respected in our library systems.”

In 2016, the Library of Congress responded to requests from the Dartmouth group and the American Library Association by proposing to remove “alien” and “illegal alien” from its subject headings. In response, for the first time, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives intervened over a Library of Congress subject heading and added a provision to its appropriations bill to require the library to retain the term “alien.”

“Our students have shared many stories of encountering this kind of language in their classes, textbooks and course materials,” said Katherine Zevallos Pastor, former coordinator of Cal Poly’s Dream Center. “These words can be incredibly harmful, especially when they’re left unaddressed and not properly labelled as the derogatory and racist terms that they are.

“This ultimately makes undocumented students feel unsafe in class, unsafe with their materials, unsafe attending office hours, and unsafe at Cal Poly,” she continued.

Despite the congressional intervention, other efforts to phase out the use of the terms “illegal” and “alien” have proven successful. The Associated Press, USA Today, ABC, the Chicago Tribune, and the Los Angeles Times have all committed to not using the word “illegal” to describe immigrants. In 2015, the state of California struck the word “alien” from its labor code.



*Digital publishing research fellow Jaime Ding shares with filmmakers Óscar Rubén Cornejo Cásares and Estéfani Marín the exhibit “Changing the Subjects at Kennedy Library.” The interactive exhibit was part of Kennedy Library’s Culturally Responsive Cataloging initiative.*

*Ten pages of the current Library of Congress Subject Headings were posted as an invitation for the Cal Poly community to annotate subject headings that may be dehumanizing, biased or obscure.*

Last year, the California State University library faculty and staff agreed with the Library of Congress resolution, which stated “the terms ‘illegal’ and ‘alien,’ when used in reference to people, have undergone pejoration and acquired derogatory connotations, becoming increasingly associated with nativist and racist sentiments.” Beginning in 2020, changes were made to the display and indexing of library catalog records in the CSU Libraries’ Unified Library Management System so that all instances of the subject heading “aliens” were changed to “noncitizens,” and the subject heading “illegal aliens” was changed to “undocumented immigrants.” This transformation allows the libraries to follow the law as mandated by the 2016 congressional provision, but offers an alternative to the dehumanizing language.

Kennedy Library information resources coordinator Carole A. Chapman, the team in Information Resources and the Resource Management Functional Group worked closely with colleagues in the CSU to ensure the technical changes could be made. Thanks to the early planning from these groups, once the CSU decision was made, it was a quick change for the libraries to make.

“I truly appreciate all the work and collaboration that happened in the library, around campus and with our colleagues at other universities on this,” Chapman said. “I’m looking forward to what more we can do in our systems to make them more responsive to our communities.”

Trujillo added, “So much credit goes to Carole and the catalogers for their work and ongoing commitment to change in their area. Keeping an ethic of care in mind when working with technologies like this is crucial for the future of libraries and universities. I feel fortunate we get to work on this together.”

To build upon the strides already made, Trujillo and many additional library staff members formed the Culturally Responsive Cataloging Working Group at Kennedy Library consisting of library staff and faculty members in the Ethnic Studies Department and School of Education. The group will examine labels, nomenclature and terminology across the library’s online cataloging platforms.

“We’ve seen the university show a commitment to improving the campus culture of diversity, equity and inclusion, and I believe a focus on inclusive language in our resources, archives and catalogs can be an important piece of that,” said Adriana Popescu, dean of Library Services. “The opportunity to build on this commitment through the Culturally Responsive Cataloging team can help ensure that the library and its resources are more inclusive for our undocumented students.”

Over the summer of 2020, the Central Coast Coalition for Undocumented Student Success awarded its Radical Changemakers Award to Óscar Rubén Cornejo Cásares, Estéfani Marín, Jill Baron, the Kennedy Library, the CSU’s Unified Library Management System Functional Committee, and the CSU Council of Library Deans. The honor recognizes the awardees’ collective efforts to advance the rights and dignity of undocumented people by challenging dehumanizing language.



Panelists from the February 2020 screening of “Change the Subject,” moderator Adrienne Garcia-Specht, and filmmakers Óscar Rubén Cornejo Cásares, Estéfani Marín, and librarian Jill Baron.



# DIGITAL PROJECTS LAB SUCCESS CONTINUES, AMID MOVE TO VIRTUAL

**In the Digital Projects Lab (DPL) on the first floor of the Kennedy Library, student tutors and data and GIS specialist Russ White are typically busy assisting students, faculty and staff with anything and everything related to data. Student peer assistants in the DPL come from various academic backgrounds and are hired to bring multiple viewpoints and specialties to the lab and to those who need assistance.**

When the coronavirus pandemic forced the library building to close, the DPL lost its first-floor foot traffic and the chance to collaborate in person but found the benefits of adapting to virtual operations.

Working with the Writing and Learning Center, also located in Kennedy Library, the DPL offers scheduled Zoom appointments with its tutors and staff through an online scheduling dashboard.

“The Writing and Learning Center did an amazing job with the virtual scheduling system,” said Kathir Gounder, a DPL student assistant and fourth-year computer science major. “Despite so much changing around the world and at Cal Poly, they really made the change pretty seamless for us.”

There are some benefits to operating virtually. Student tutors can work directly with their peers’ datasets using shared documents, spreadsheets and screens to help identify problems.

“I’ve been able to make minute-long videos on how to find certain research resources and guides for students,” said Brett Bodemer, the College of Liberal Arts’ librarian and coordinator of reference and of the DPL. “It’s a quick way to help students, and I’m sure that they don’t miss getting lost in the library trying to find my office.”

“At this moment in history, we’re seeing how important it is to be data literate and to know how to properly assess data and how it’s presented,” White said. “Everyone sees



charts about cases and hears about flattening the curve every day for their information and safety, that they know how to properly read and understand the data.”

The DPL’s student assistants are successful after graduating as well. Chenxi Xiao (Environmental Management and Protection, ’20), who worked in the DPL for over two years, works at the geographic information systems company ESRI. Prior to graduating, Xiao collaborated with Marilyn Tseng, a professor of kinesiology, on a research project in which Xiao used her spatial analysis skills to help understand where Chinese immigrants in the Philadelphia area lived in relation to health and human services resources that were available to them.

“The Digital Projects Lab exposed me to fantastic opportunities on campus, allowing me to use my expertise to help others,” Xiao said. “It was very rewarding to use GIS for public health purposes; I think we’ll be doing more and more of this in the future.”

Xiao recalled that working in the DPL was an excellent way to prepare for her career and one of her favorite experiences at Cal Poly.

“Working at the DPL never felt like a job but more of a learning experience,” she said. “It really makes a positive impact on the campus through interdisciplinary connections between departments and helping people find solutions to real-world challenges.”

The DPL continues to make an immensely positive impact on the individuals it serves, as well as on those who work in the lab.

“My favorite aspect of the DPL is the mentorship system. I feel like I’ve made some of my best friends working here,” Gounder said. “It’s also great to meet different students who need help, and even if I can’t help them, we can learn things together. It’s not just a tutor-student relationship, there’s a partnership there.”

Now a quarter into the 2020-21 academic year — a year unlike any other in the Digital Projects Lab or Kennedy Library — White and his student assistants are still looking forward to collaborating on new projects with faculty and students.



# SUPPORT US

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***A GIFT TO KENNEDY LIBRARY TOUCHES EVERY CAL POLY STUDENT.***

***WE ARE THE BEATING HEART OF CAMPUS AND SERVE EVERY MEMBER OF OUR COMMUNITY TO HELP THEM REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.***



#### ***BECAUSE OF OUR DONORS:***

- ➔ Research help is available daily through our online peer research assistance program.
- ➔ Kennedy Library is the only place on campus with open access to data tools such as GIS, and we offer one-on-one support and instruction.
- ➔ Students have access to unique collections, such as original drawings by famed architect Julia Morgan and memorabilia from every Poly Royal event.
- ➔ Online resources were swiftly expanded to support virtual research needs during the pandemic.
- ➔ Kennedy Library is emerging as a leader in digital publishing, specifically to amplify historically under-represented voices.

#### ***GIVE TO KENNEDY LIBRARY***

Support Learn by Doing by investing in Kennedy Library. Send your check payable to the Cal Poly Foundation or visit [giving.calpoly.edu](https://giving.calpoly.edu).

# CREATING A MORE WELCOMING CAMPUS COMMUNITY



**LIBRARIAN MARK  
BIERAUGEL DEVELOPS  
DIVERSITY AND  
INCLUSIVITY 'LIBGUIDE'**

**"I hope people learn something; I hope they take that learning into their lives and make the world a better, safer and kinder place,"** said Orfalea College of Business librarian Mark Bieraugel, who created **"Inclusive Excellence: Resources for Learning About Diversity, Equity and Inclusion"** to promote diversity and inclusion at Cal Poly and beyond.

After meeting with an expert on inclusive excellence, Bieraugel decided to do something positive for the campus community. "I saw where our unique strengths in curating resources and providing access to e-books and articles could help us 'get smart fast' about diversity topics," they said. "This means learning about your privilege, your place in society, how you've benefited and how you've been hurt by it. It also includes learning how others are hurt by our systems of oppression."

The "libguide" serves two purposes: it's a place where people can learn about issues facing students, staff and faculty, and it can help faculty create a more welcoming, positive and safe learning environment.

As a non-binary individual — someone whose gender identity is not strictly male or female — Bieraugel had a special interest in developing the libguide.

"I feel it's important to create an environment of safety and trust for everyone at Cal Poly. There's a lot of unkindness in our world. I hope this guide will give folks some empathy toward those who are different from them," they said.

The guide covers a wide variety of resources and information on advocacy and activism, racism, disability and ableism, gender, fat liberation, first-generation students and income and inequality, among other topics.



***"I FEEL IT'S IMPORTANT TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT OF SAFETY AND TRUST FOR EVERYONE AT CAL POLY. THERE IS A LOT OF UNKINDNESS IN THE WORLD."***

Bieraugel's passion for the project never diminished, even during its most challenging aspects.

"I'm a business librarian, so this broad range of topics is outside of my scope of work. But I'm a librarian first, so I worked to see where my mental gaps were and asked for outside eyes to double check things," they said. "I loved doing the work. It's a different process than I'm used to, but I'm happy with the guide. I want it to remain vital, up to date and useful for people."

Although the guide is designed as a resource for everyone, Bieraugel learned a few lessons along the way.

"It's hard to be humble -- to admit that you don't know something, especially when you feel you know a lot. This guide humbled me. I hope the new information it contains will change lives for the better," they said.

It wasn't a one-person effort. Bieraugel enlisted Special Collections student assistants Amanda E. Tejada, Keagan L. Scott and Courtney M. Thompson to search for streaming video content in the library's databases.

For a closer look, go to: <https://bit.ly/lib-inclusive-excellence>.

***Editor's Note: Nonbinary individuals may use the pronouns they/them/theirs.***

# PARADISE FOUND: BRINGING 'RE-ENVISIONING PARADISE' TO DIGITAL COMMONS

In early 2019, students in Kent Macdonald's and Stacey White's third-year architectural design studios began working on a project to reconceive the town of Paradise, California. The town had been devastated in November 2018 by the Camp Fire, the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history, with 86 lives lost and over 18,000 structures destroyed.

Over the course of two quarters, the students worked to re-envision Paradise as a more socially cohesive, ecologically sustainable and environmentally secure community while exploring how architectural building projects could realize these goals and additional priorities based on feedback from the city's residents.

In the years following the Camp Fire and the students' projects, Californians continue to face the threat of devastating wildfires. In 2020, over 25 lives were lost and 3.5 million acres burned through the end of September. Across the world, fires have raged in Alaska, the Amazon, Australia, Indonesia, Siberia and elsewhere, burning tens of millions of acres and releasing increasingly harmful levels of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Wildfires have become more common, deadlier and have spread to new corners of the world.

In October 2019, the work from Macdonald's studio and 16 individual building projects were uploaded to Cal Poly's Digital Commons, the university's institutional repository, making the work accessible to individuals and communities around the world. Administered by Kennedy Library, the Digital Commons collects, preserves and provides access to scholarly work created at Cal Poly.

The "Re-envisioning Paradise: Cal Poly Students Initiate a Path to Recovery" collections contain the course and assignment descriptions, group work with proposals for large-scale initiatives for Paradise and research on previous planning projects, and the students' individual building projects. It also includes Macdonald's students' work on planning research, precedents and goals — some of which include the work of White's students.

Uploading the work of an entire class was a unique project for the library team that manages Digital Commons. The library resource is known as a place for students to

upload their senior projects and master's theses, but it is rare for the work of an entire two-quarter course to be made openly available online through Digital Commons.

Macdonald wanted to highlight just how unique his students' projects were. "The project was so different from the kind that design instructors normally ask students to undertake," he said. "We often seek to engage the students with real-world projects, but it's obviously rare that a project will have the particular emotional resonance and immediacy of the one in Paradise."

To make this possible, a library team that included research, scholarship and publishing specialist Danielle Daugherty, College of Architecture and Environmental Design librarian Jesse Vestermark, College of Science and Mathematics librarian Jeanine Scaramozzino, and fourth-year architecture major and Kennedy Library student assistant Ali Chen worked to ensure that the class's work was accessible, discoverable and compliant with copyright laws while keeping the effect and spirit of the original presentations.

While the students in Macdonald's course had the opportunity to present their ideas to Paradise residents and lawmakers in person, the library team ensured that the information could be accessible and conveyed to viewers across the globe. To make the work ADA-compliant, all images and design drawings within the students' projects had to be described in words so that those with visual impairments could understand the content using screen-reader technology. Additionally, some posters needed to be reworked to change text sizes and uses of color and contrast. Throughout the process, the team consulted with John Lee, an assistive technology specialist in Cal Poly's Disability Resource Center, who provided guidance on the scope of accommodations needed and technical advice.

*"THE PROJECT WAS SO DIFFERENT FROM THE KIND THAT DESIGN INSTRUCTORS NORMALLY ASK STUDENTS TO UNDERTAKE."*





Chen (pictured), who was one of 36 in the architectural design studios, was brought on as a student assistant to provide graphical and textual editing of the student presentations, source and credit third-party images that were used in the student panels, and check and edit student work for online and digital accessibility compliance. Macdonald called Chen “the perfect choice” to perform the work.

“After working on this project for six months in studio, it was an exciting opportunity to help get my classmates’ and my work uploaded to Digital Commons,” Chen said. “I hope that our work can be a resource not just to the people of Paradise, but to communities around the world.”

Additionally, for the first time, Digital Commons offered thumbnail previews of documents that were available to be viewed and downloaded. As the work for the Paradise project was primarily visual, the library team needed to best present the original material in an online format.

Using a PDF preview to display each presentation keeps the visual nature of the project while still allowing readers and researchers to view and download the full projects.

Macdonald provided abstracts for each section of the course materials and worked with the library to produce key words to tag each individual project. These key words are the terms that are most important to each piece and make the documents and work discoverable by users outside of Cal Poly, especially through search engines like Google.

“I trust that all members of our campus community will view the students’ projects in Digital Commons and see that the library supports institutional repository offers to make all Cal Poly student and faculty work known to the world,” said Adriana Popescu, dean of Library Services. “I invite anyone beginning a new research project to work with the library at the outset and think about how we can partner to make sure Cal Poly’s distinctive Learn by Doing pedagogy and its outcomes can be freely shared by the library-supported institutional repository, Digital Commons.”

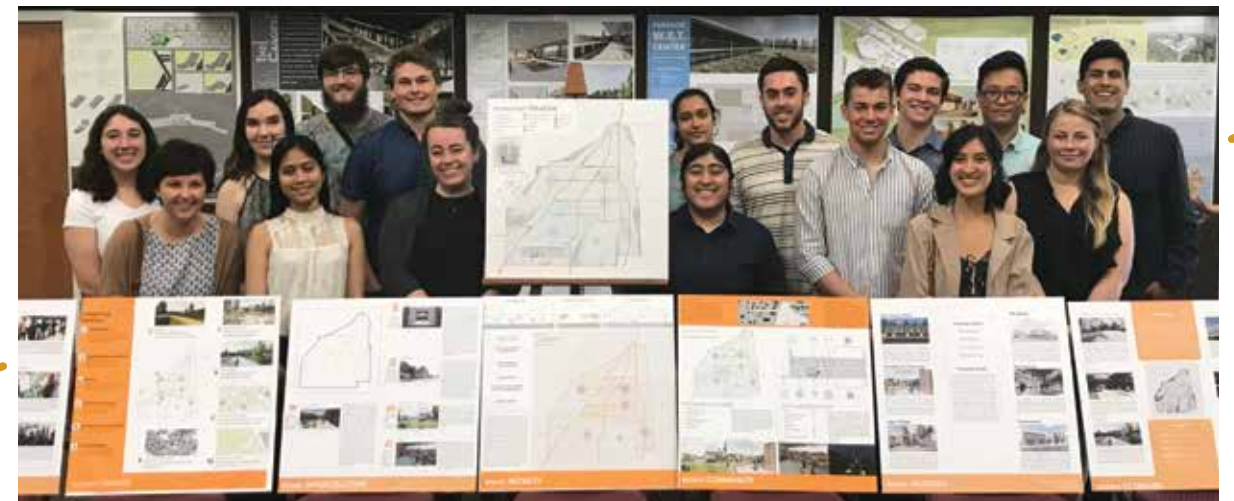
Since “Re-envisioning Paradise” was uploaded to Digital Commons in January of 2019, documents from the students’ project have been downloaded over 1,000 times by universities, research centers, and government agencies throughout the world, including Australia, Germany, Japan, Nigeria and many more. Within these geographical regions, the work has been accessed by universities, research centers, and even government agencies. What began as a project for a small California community has become a resource available across the globe for any community to utilize.

“It is truly humbling to be a part of this incredible collaboration that draws from the talents of my colleagues in the library and across campus,” Daugherty said. “‘Re-envisioning Paradise’ is an exemplary project in Digital Commons as it not only makes accessible the relevant and insightful research of Cal Poly students, it also demonstrates the possibilities and successes of worldwide open access to scholarship.

“I have no doubt that the impact of this project will be long lasting, and its breadth of reach across the world will be boundless.” Daugherty continued. “I hope that Digital Commons continues to shine a light on groundbreaking Cal Poly student and faculty research.”

Macdonald added, “Having this work in Digital Commons is a reminder of how we all need to think about the perils of climate change. Making this work accessible and sharing it with the world enables more of us to reflect on the circumstances that took us to Paradise to begin with, to remember the devastation we saw and the people we met.”

***“IT IS TRULY HUMBLING TO BE A PART OF THIS INCREDIBLE COLLABORATION THAT DRAWS FROM THE TALENTS OF MY COLLEAGUES IN THE LIBRARY AND ACROSS CAMPUS.”***



*Final presentation of the Paradise projects by the architectural design studios students.*



# 'IMPACT' EXHIBIT SHOWS POWER AND PREVALENCE OF VISUAL COMMUNICATION

In January, the Kennedy Library opened "Impact: The Visual Communication of Information" as an exhibit in the second-floor gallery space. Made possible by a gift from the Austin and Gabriela Hearst Foundation and in collaboration with the College of Architecture and Environmental Design, the exhibit focused on the diversity of visual communication created by students, faculty and staff across Cal Poly. On January 31, Kennedy Library faculty and staff hosted the Cal Poly Foundation Board members and their guests to a reception and special viewing of the exhibit, followed by a "Dinner in the Stacks."

The yearly exhibits in this library space seek to highlight the interests of faculty and provide an alternative means for them to present their research. For "Impact," the library partnered with Jennifer Shields, an assistant professor of architecture.

The project was curated by nine Cal Poly students, representing all six of the university's colleges. In addition to examples gathered from across campus disciplines, the curators were encouraged to create projects related to visual communication based on their interests and experiences at Cal Poly, especially their experiences interacting with visual communication on campus.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of the library building, "Impact" was unable to complete its full run through mid-April as planned. However, to continue the reach of the exhibit, Kennedy Library's Creative Works department has been working throughout the year to present the exhibit digitally.

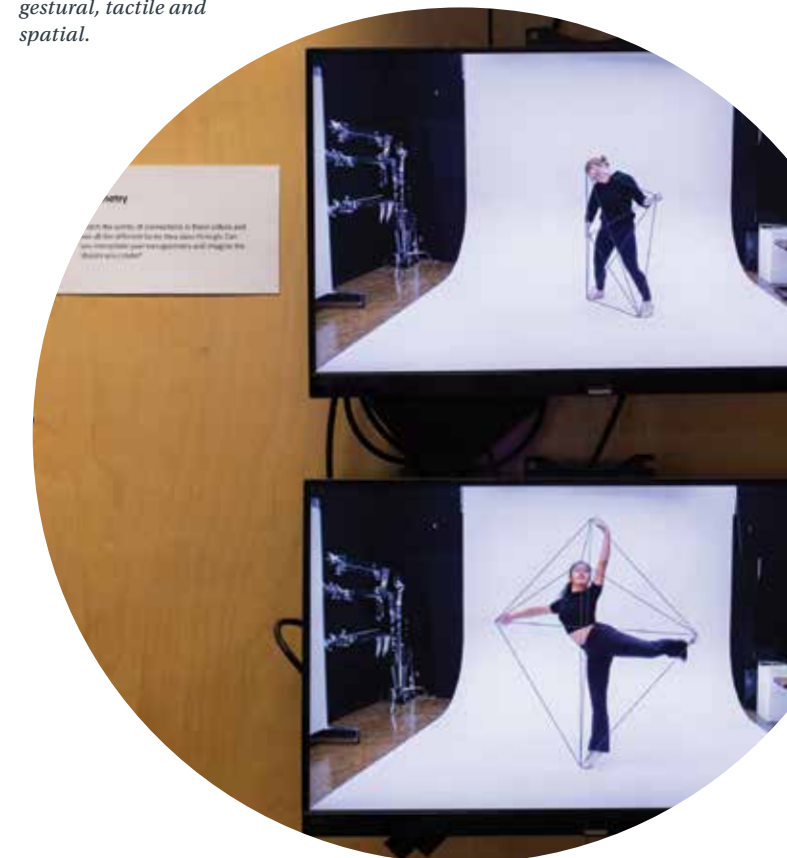
Creative Works student assistant Sasha Menshikova, who graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in art and design in June, has worked throughout the year to help organize the project and to produce a digital catalog of the exhibits and a series of oral histories with the student curators. The catalog, which will be published online and in limited print, will represent the projects and their creators.

"Throughout all the changes and challenges of this past year, this project was really great to work on," said Menshikova. "This was one of the truest examples of interdisciplinary collaboration I experienced at Cal Poly – talking through the projects and hearing the unique thoughts and experiences of each curator was a pleasure."



Wall installation from the exhibit "Impact: the Visual Communication of Information."

"Languages of Motion" was a project-inspired piece that highlighted the technicality of dance, often unseen and intangible, through the breaking down of three different movement phrases into geometry, continuity, and time. The installation was a cross-disciplinary student collaboration by Emily Chung (Architecture, '22), Jett Witlin (Art, '22), and theatre and dance students. Their modalities included videos, flip books and images that showed patterns of meaning that were visual, gestural, tactile and spatial.



# SHARING HISTORIES AT CAL POLY AND BEYOND: SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

Over the past year, Kennedy Library's Special Collections and Archives (SCA) team completed several projects in support of the library, the university, the Central Coast community and beyond. We are proud to share some of their work and the historical materials they work with daily.

*Left: Aerial photograph of Hearst Castle (San Simeon) by David F. Stevens and hand colored by Francis Miller, 1948.*



## HEARST CASTLE'S 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

As the Central Coast landmark Hearst Castle celebrated the 100th anniversary of its groundbreaking this year, staff members in Special Collections and Archives and at Hearst Castle collaborated on ways to honor the centennial. Throughout the year, Special Collections and Archives shared materials that were used in new exhibits, State Parks tours and education programs.

Reference and instruction specialist Laura Sorveti and SCA student assistant Alistair Fortson (M.C.R.P., City and Regional Planning, '21) marked the anniversary through a

Twitter account where the copious correspondence between client William Randolph Hearst and architect Julia Morgan is shared on the same day it was sent 100 years ago. The account explores the development of San Simeon through telegrams, personal letters and other records that document the construction of the castle, made possible by a two-year digitization and transcription project.

When the coronavirus pandemic forced Hearst Castle to cancel in-person tours, castle educators and curators were able to search through thousands of digitized photos and other materials on Julia Morgan from Special Collections and Archives that could be used virtually, including in the innovative and popular K-12 California State Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) program.

Follow along: <https://twitter.com/morganandhearst> or [@morganandhearst](https://twitter.com/morganandhearst).

## MAKING RESOURCES AVAILABLE THROUGH DIGITIZATION

Over the past year, Special Collections and Archives digitized and provided online access to over 200 architecture and landscape architecture drawings, posters and maps.

Given Special Collections and Archives' focus on California architecture and the built environment, the collections include thousands of oversized drawings and plans, which the Special Collections and Archives team are unable to digitize with their current equipment. Working with local photographer Forrest Doud (pictured), the team prioritized the digitization of high-use and high-demand materials and brought visibility to the work of architects and landscape architects who had no previous online presence.

Digitized materials included two of Julia Morgan's student portfolios from her time in France and works of landscape architect Arthur G. Barton, who designed the master landscape plan for Dodger Stadium. (See page 37 for more on Barton.)

"We've already seen a lot of use of these digital items from our students and faculty in the Architecture and Landscape Architecture departments, as well as from researchers from around the world," said digital archivist Zach Vowell, who worked closely with Doud on the digitization project. "This is something we'd never been able to do before, but the benefit to our students and to the library is clear. I'm very grateful we could do this and hope we have more opportunities like this in the future."



Explore the digitized materials at <https://bit.ly/lib-digitization>.

*Local photographer Forrest Doud and digital archivist Zach Vowell working together to position a large drawing for digitization.*

## 'EYE CANDY AND MIXED NUTS'

An expansive edition of the “Eye Candy and Mixed Nuts” exhibit series opened in fall of 2019 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Special Collections and Archives. With key contributions from student curators, the exhibit explored enduring themes and new directions in collecting over the past half century. The exhibit featured examples related to:

### ➔ California Architecture

Original drawings, construction photographs and publicity materials on the Farrar residence (1966; demolished 1996), a stunning oceanside home by architect Mark Mills; and records from the Julia Morgan Papers on the conception and development of Hearst Castle and environs.

### ➔ LGBTQ History at Cal Poly

Documents and memorabilia from the Cal Poly Pride Center selected by SCA intern Arianna Brown (M.A., History, '21), including excerpts from oral history interviews by history Professor Thomas Trice on the experiences of LGBTQ students.

### ➔ Book Arts

A limited-edition copy of “The Diary of Anne Frank” with slender etchings by Joseph Goldyne that evoke Frank’s confined living quarters; and sculptural books and fine bindings by Joe D’Ambrosio from a recent gift of over 60 works generously donated by William Ashley of Arroyo Grande.

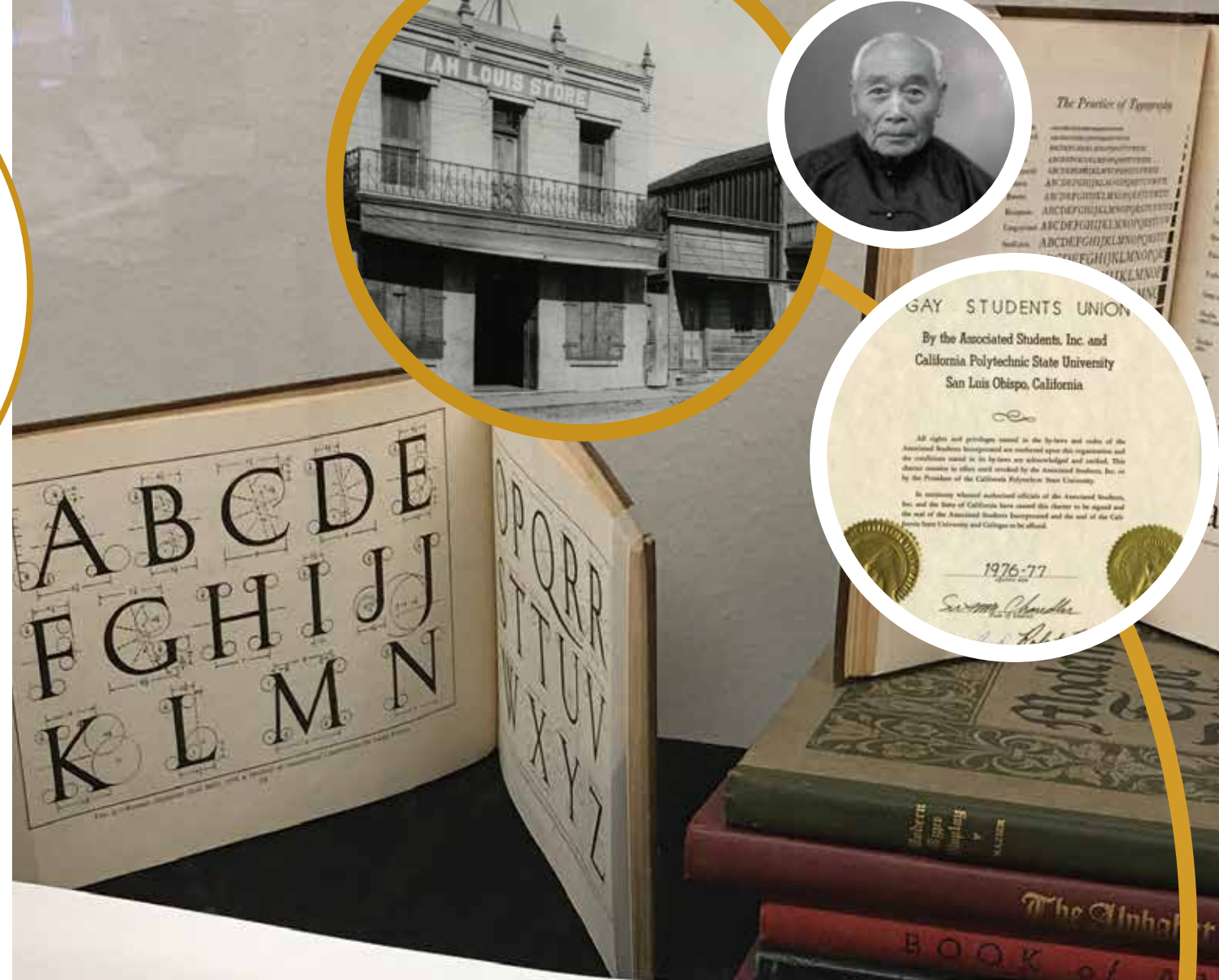
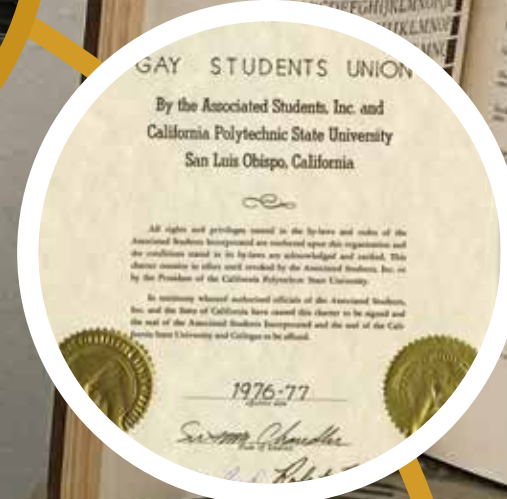
### ➔ Printing Technology and Typography

A page from Denis Diderot’s rare, Enlightenment-era encyclopedia containing one of the earliest images of a printing press in operation. 20th-century type specimen books next to examples of digital typefaces designed by Russel Maret for his artists’ book/treatise “Character Traits.”

### ➔ San Luis Obispo History

Photographs and documents from the papers of San Luis Obispo merchant Ah Louis, whose store in Chinatown sold goods to the community, including Chinese immigrants who built the local railroad and the Cuesta Grade; and a set of hand-colored lithographs from the 1880s that faithfully depicted local farms and dairies were paired next to present-day views of the same properties, geolocated in Google Earth by SCA student assistant Alistair Fortson.

Reflecting on the impact of “Eye Candy and Mixed Nuts,” Jessica Holada, director of Special Collections and Archives, said the exhibit achieved the team’s main goal: “To show our community — at Cal Poly and on the Central Coast — the breadth of original materials available to them for original research, teaching, personal projects and cultural enrichment.”



Background: “Character Traits: An Argument for Digitally Drawn Letterforms to be Considered a Distinct Classification of Lettering” by book artist and letterform designer Russell Maret, 2019.

Clockwise: Photographs from the Ah Louis Papers; Club charter for the Gay Students Union, 1976; 19th-century fern specimens from New Zealand; Charles Darwin’s 1862 work on orchids and insect fertilization; “Towards a Just Landscape,” by Anne Covell traces the 5,523-mile clear-cut border between the U.S. and Canada, 2015; and the Susan Eloise Hinton novel “The Outsiders,” a one-of-a-kind book designed, printed, bound, and lettered by Graphic Communications graduate David Jang, 2015.





## SHARING STORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES: THE WORK OF ARTHUR G. BARTON

Ella Ban (pictured left), a fourth-year Environmental Management and Protection major and SCA student assistant, created a GIS-based StoryMap on the life and works of landscape architect Arthur G. Barton, who designed over 2,000 projects over the course of his prolific career.

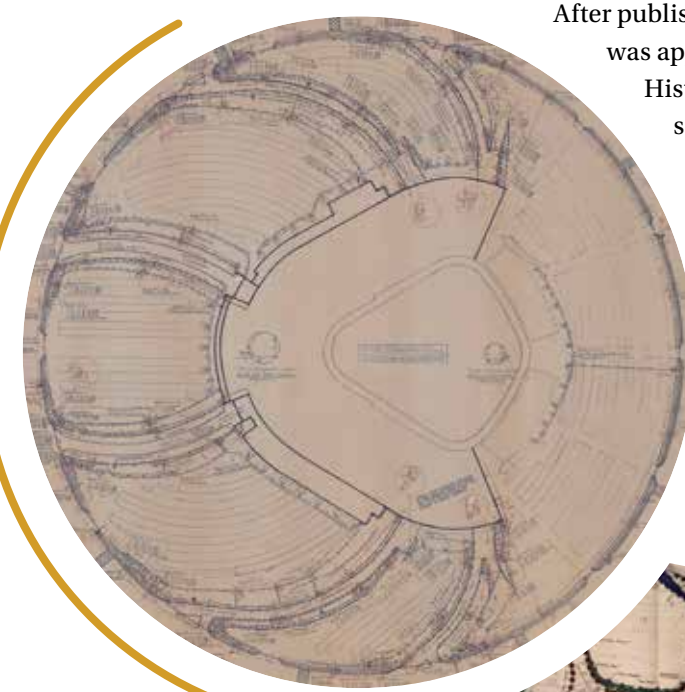
While working on a project to organize the Barton Papers, Ban was fascinated and intrigued by the hundreds of drawings and records related to Barton's work. Although Barton was an active landscape architect who helped develop the first licensure process for the profession, there was very little known or written about him. Ban proposed and developed a GIS-based project to bring awareness to Barton's career and work.

Barton's projects include several notable landscape designs, including Dodger Stadium, the State Capitol building, and the campus at the University of Southern California. Barton also worked for California native plants specialist Theodore Payne and included native and drought-tolerant plants in his landscape designs. Some of Barton's plantings are still thriving in their original locations, and the principles behind using native and low-water plants are even more popular today.

After publishing her research through the library website, Ban was approached by the California Garden and Landscape History Society to write an article on Barton for the society's quarterly journal, "Eden". Ban's research led to new discoveries, including articles in contemporary landscape architecture magazines written by Barton. Ban's article was published in the journal earlier this year.

"I've always been interested in the history of California and of architecture, and this was a great opportunity to learn more about a person whose work is so notable but doesn't get as much recognition as others," said Ban. "I'm really grateful to have had this opportunity, thanks to the archives!"

Explore Ella's StoryMap at <https://bit.ly/lib-barton>.



*Barton's drawings for Dodger Stadium.*

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