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## Meet Cory Jones

Corryn N. Haynes cnhaynes@calpoly.edu

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fornia has been said to be "The Happiest Place in America". Growing up here my entire life, I would have to agree. The ocean is near by, there are hikes and trails that guide you through countless rolling hills, farmers market downtown every week and it is a welcoming environment to be in. But San Luis Obispo, just like every other place on Earth today, is facing tremendous environmental threats. A man by the name of Cory Jones, is hoping

San Luis Obispo, Cali- that San Luis Obispo can be a leading example to other cities in the way of environmental consciousage college graduate but with a remarkable passion and drive to inspire the community around him. From growing up fishing with his father, early on tion with nature that has since grown stronger with a core group of friends who share the same ideals. Cory is one of the founders of One With Nature, a company that is based out

of San Luis Obispo. Their vision is

"In an effort to make carness. Cory is your aver- ing cool, we serve as an environmental collective promoting active outdoor lifestyles. We believe the more time you spend outside, the more connected you become to the natural he established a connec- world, inspiring people to act on behalf of preserving our ecology for generations to come. Our products & services foster environmental awareness and our efforts are focused on projects that advance







environmental progress." - One With Nature

Cory hopes that as the business takes off, One With Nature can be a platform to present community focused, local, non bias, issues and news that highlight proactive efforts.

In addition to One With Nature, Cory has taken personal action to get involved in making his voice heard within the community. In 2015, he stepped in as a speaker with the SLO Foam Free movement in front of City Council to adopt a ban of the use of Polystyrene – commonly known as Sty-

rofoam, in Pismo Beach, California. He then spoke again for this movement in Arroyo Grande, California. Both towns ended up banning styrofoam. That was just the beginning for Cory. He has since gone on to collect signatures to ban single use plastic water bottles in San Luis Obispo and pitched the idea to city council. They were responsive to this initiative and are currently looking into banning single use plastic bottles in general.

Council to adopt a ban of -"The concept of actually the use of Polystyrene - doing something about commonly known as Sty- the water bottles was

something that I was trying to spark in myself to actually step up and do for around the course of a year but then the second the action was actually taken, the process manifested pretty quickly. You just have to step up and accept the responsibility."
- Cory Jones

A more recent endeavor for Cory has been "Straws Upon Request". He had found that straws aren't recyclable and that in the United States alone, about 500 million straws are thrown away every single day. The idea of "Straws Upon Request"

is that restaurants could no longer set out straws or put them in drinks automatically, but they would still be available upon request of the customer. Cory is driven to encourage a mindset in people to be conscious over convenience. That is to say, people should be conscious that the straw they use, no matter how small it may be, adds up in the bigger scheme of things. We should take that environmental impact into consideration, rather that just choosing what is most convenient to us in the moment. Cory has introduced this idea

to the County Board of Supervisors and it is currently under review.

"We're going to be setting a completely new standard that communities throughout the nation can adopt because its that simple." -Cory Jones

As far as advice for others, Cory promotes recycling and using reusables whenever you can, but more than anything, he advocates going outside and surrounding yourself by nature to enjoy life. He believes that the more people go out and experience nature on a regular

basis, the more people will want to preserve and protect it.

In what is only the beginning of his life, Cory is an inspiration to those who want to make a difference. He shows that if you want to see a change, you have to lead by example and make it happen. Thank you for inspiring us Cory.