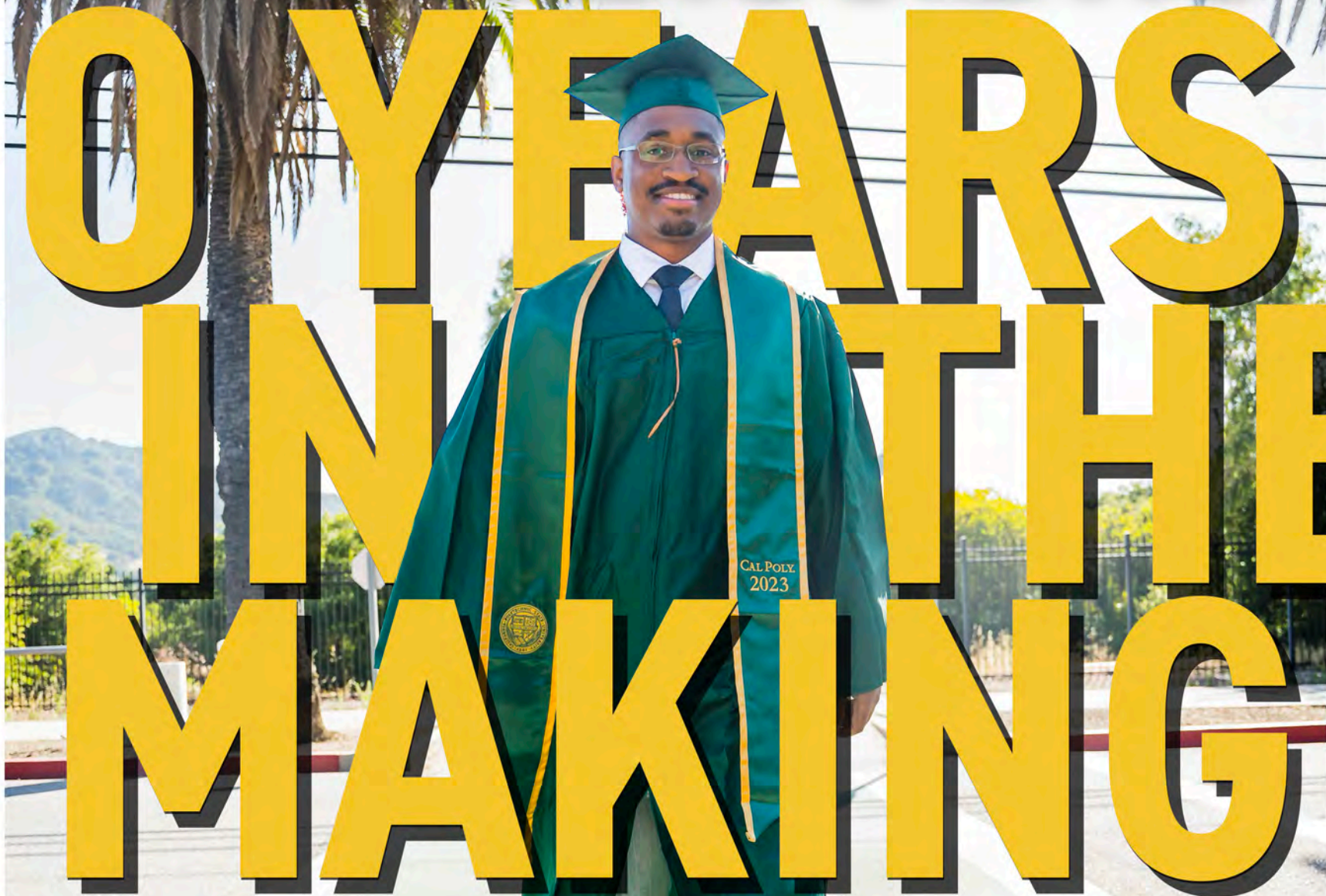


MUSTANG NEWS

10 YEARS IN THE MAKING

A photograph of a male graduate in a green gown and cap, standing on a paved walkway. The background features palm trees and a clear sky. The text '10 YEARS IN THE MAKING' is overlaid in large, bold, yellow letters with black outlines. The graduate's gown has a gold sash and a patch that reads 'CAL POLY 2023'.

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MEET THE "CHICKEN GUY" AND HIS SMALL BUSINESS

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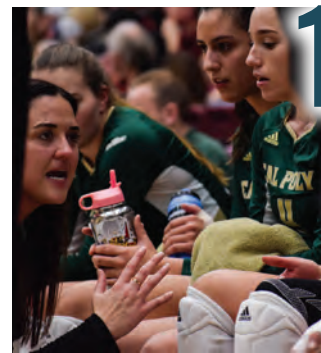
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Cal Poly is in tiłhini, the Place of the Full Moon. We gratefully acknowledge, respect, and thank yak?it'u tit'u yak tiłhini, Northern Chumash Tribe of San Luis Obispo County and Region, in whose homelands we are guests.

CLASS OF 2023 WORDS OF WISDOM

Graduating seniors share tips that every college student should know

WATCH HERE:
SCAN TO HEAR FROM
GRADUATING SENIORS



BY AVERY ELOWITT

1. "Go to office hours! Get to know your professors!!" - Matthew Leibowitz, physics
2. "Try to join a club/organization first thing!" - Zoe Boyd, journalism
3. "Join as many clubs as you can manage and stick with the ones that bring you joy!" - Megan Hunt, theatre arts
4. "Say yes to every opportunity. You're only going to be in college one time. And although it's four years, there's not a moment you're gonna want to miss. So take advantage of every single one." - Geneva, civil engineering
5. "Use the resources on campus!" - Alexis Morse
6. "Go to church!" - Sean Senn, history
7. "Don't be so stressed out and make sure to enjoy this time. You're going to figure it out, and have trust in that and try to just enjoy this because it'll come and go so quickly." - Genevieve Kessler, interdisciplinary studies
8. "Just enjoy the city of SLO as much as you can. Do as many things around, like enjoying the nature." - Izze Gunn, art and design
9. "Just take a minor... taking this minor would be a benefit to me and would help me expand my passions." - Kavana Gonur, biological sciences
10. "You don't need to figure it out right away. But you do need to start talking to people to get on track. I was a computer science major, but I figured it out and I'm happy." - Sebastian Eckhaus, liberal arts and engineering studies
11. "Try and stay on top of stuff." - Sabrina Slama, microbiology
12. "A lot of people feel like big fish in a really big ocean here, and that's a difficult feeling. So just know that it takes a lot of time. And the more you put yourself out there, the more that you'll feel comfortable with what you're doing." - Spencer Cova, philosophy
13. "[Don't] be afraid of pursuing a passion. I was scared about not finding work and making money in music but it was truly the one thing I was happiest doing. Work and money will come, just do something you love" - Jacob Sarmiento, liberal arts and engineering studies major



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with unlimited possibilities!



CAL POLY

Office of the Dean of Students

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CAL POLY

Bailey College of
Science & Mathematics



MAY YOU
ALWAYS
REACH
FOR THE
SKY AND
BEYOND.



10 Years in the Making: One Cal Poly student's unique path to a degree in Engineering



EYASU BETWOS | MUSTANG NEWS

BY CHLOE LOVEJOY

After 10 years of retaking courses at community college, late night studying and walks home after the bus had already terminated for the night, Derek J. Russell is graduating this Spring with a degree in computer engineering.

The standard track through Cal Poly's computer engineering (CPE) program has a suggested four-year academic track and 97 to 99 major units, 51 to 52 support credits and 44 general education requirements, according to the 2021-2022 CPE flowchart. But Russell's journey through college first started in 2013, when he began studying mathematics at Cal State East Bay (CSUEB).

"Every struggle, every [bit of] pain, all these different things is what makes it a unique story," Russell said. "If I didn't have this, I don't stand out."

Russell was enrolled in special education courses since he was a child, where his mom thought he had a better chance of being supported for his learning differences. At CSUEB, he had an Individual Education Planner and took every possible opportunity to attend office hours and get one-on-one's with his professors.

However, after a year at CSUEB, Russell had failed several classes and his parents decided he should switch to community college to save money. He enrolled at Chabot College in Hayward in 2014. Russell decided to research where exactly in the world of math and science he wanted to settle in – that's when he came across engineering. He realized, based on his academic track record, that deciding to pursue an engineering degree might take up most of his 20s.

"I remember my dad always said 'don't be a bus driver, like me, be a doctor, be a lawyer, be an engineer,'" he said. "I always took that to heart."

Russell had to start with pre-college level Algebra, eventually making his way through seven different math classes at Chabot.

"That's what was so crazy is when I look back on it and in those different moments, it seemed impossible for every class," he said.

He had met with now retired Chabot College professor and dean Timothy Dave to discuss his

class struggles and have a mediated conversation with another professor. Dave ended up staying in touch with Russell and eventually wrote him a recommendation to the Management Leadership for Tomorrow Career Prep Program which he was accepted to.

"You also have to realize, it's not about the time, it's about where your destination is and the journey itself," Dave said of Russell's journey. "The fact is, you'll have the knowledge, you'll have the degree, and that's that."

Toward the end of his first year at Chabot, Russell was still struggling in Procedural Programming (CS 14) and was going to have to retake it over the summer. At the same time, he was suffering from the loss of his father, who passed away on May 14, 2015.

Russell chose to stay in school that summer, dedicating his energy to passing CS 14. On his second attempt, he ended the course with an A. During that time, Russell became familiar with the janitorial staff from staying on campus so late, often accepting rides home from Chabot mathematics professor Kyle Ishibashi when it was dark out.

Despite never having Ishibashi as a professor, Russell regularly visited him in Chabot's STEM center for additional tutoring. They have remained in touch to this day – Russell's mom has made Ishibashi Thanksgiving dinners, on occasion.

"He literally is the most determined student I've ever seen. The amount of work he's put into getting to where he is, it's more than I think a lot of other people could do," Ishibashi said. "I think people would give up if they met as many hardships as he did."

After his father passed, Russell's cousin Zach Singleton decided to reach out. The two had never been very close, but Singleton lost his own father nearly a decade before and recalled how tough the loss was on his own life. He decided to take Russell and his brother on a trip of their choice, to open their eyes to somewhere new. They went to Miami for three days.

"We've been involved with each other, Derek and I, ever since," Singleton said. "I would say we after that trip went from being cousins to more like brothers."

Singleton was aware that Derek had academic setbacks, but that he also had “unparalleled work ethic.” Singleton worked at Google in strategic operations at the time and now serves as the Head of Product Management for Privacy, Equity and Safety at Uber. He saw Derek’s drive in school in the context of his own time working as a manager in the tech industry.

“When we’re hiring people, there’s a certain level of baseline competence you want someone to have, but you can never find on a resume, how hard working they are, how compassionate they’re going to be, how they’re going to respond to failure,” Singleton said. “But Derek has all those intangibles in droves.”

Singleton decided to stick by Russell’s side through community college. He took him on work trips, introduced Russell to his friends in various professional industries and helped him work through his personal challenges. The two instituted a daily practice they call “meeting time,” where they call to discuss strategy in career and school, dealing with setbacks and encouraging one another to keep reaching for new goals.

Singleton decided to start a mentorship program with his company called Uber Career Prep, designed to mentor underrepresented individuals interested in pursuing a career in STEM. Russell was able to attend workshops, but Singleton made sure he was fully prepared before applying for the full program. After four years, he applied and was accepted into the Class of 2021.

Russell remained at Chabot until 2020, on track to earn a second associate’s degree in engineering. Russell began to apply to four-year

universities, with Singleton by his side. The two went on campus tours and pieced through all options best suited to Russell’s goals in engineering.

He began considering his options. His top choice was University of Waterloo in Toronto, Canada, where Singleton lives.

As they toured universities and traveled around California, Russell and Singleton were together in San Francisco. There, Russell met OpenAI CEO Sam Altman – OpenAI being the home of the popular chatbot ChatGPT – who was speaking at the Instacart headquarters. The two chatted, with Russell asking Altman questions following the presentation.

They decided to attend a second information session, traveling to Canada where Altman was slated to speak at Waterloo.

“In San Francisco, I was like, ‘Well, he’s gonna remember [Russell] from that talk, [he was] one of the few people who went and shook his hand and spoke to him afterwards,’” Singleton said. “And it was a small, small setting anyway.”

Russell ended up reaching out to Altman on Twitter, eventually asking if he’d be interested in writing him a letter of recommendation to the University of Waterloo.

He got the recommendation, in which Altman wrote, “My interaction and relationship with Derek was brief and limited to the speaking event. However, he shared his personal statement essay with me and after learning about his ability to overcome his learning disability, personal hardships and successfully completing two internships at NASA, I am confident that Derek has the ability to thrive at Waterloo University.”



EYASU BETWOS | MUSTANG NEWS

Russell was accepted to Waterloo for engineering. But as he looked into attending the university as an international student, he saw that many of his credits from Chabot would not transfer.

The decision then came down to San Diego State University (SDSU) or Cal Poly. For Russell, moving away for college was never going to be about the parties, Greek life or even the extracurriculars. He had his eyes set on earning a CPE degree and decided that Cal Poly would provide him with the best curriculum and network to achieve a great job post-graduation.

When Russell came across Cal Poly, he was a bit skeptical of transitioning to a school that was both far from a big city and a predominantly white institution (PWI).

“I literally remember, like, sitting on my couch and watching vlog videos of what it’s like to be a student at Cal Poly,” Russell said.

Russell ended up accepting the admission to Cal Poly. But in the midst of the pandemic, his mom questioned whether he should move to SLO, or continue being a student remotely. Singleton encouraged him to move to campus, where he could be fully focused in his engineering curriculum.

One of Russell’s first interactions with people in SLO was not

a pleasant one. He and Singleton went to Sidecar, a bar and restaurant located on Broad Street. As they dined, they started up a conversation with two women.

They had asked if Russell went to Cal Poly and he replied yes, for CPE.

“She basically concluded, like, I got into Cal Poly provisionary because I was Black. They let me in because I was Black,” he said. “So once again, there’s that first interaction and encounter with subtle racism.”

Russell decided that if there was one thing he would never stop doing throughout his time at Cal Poly, it would be to remain true to himself.

“People make a lot of assumptions, thinking that I’m here just for sports and all that, that I’m not here for engineering,” he said. “Sometimes I come to class, sitting in the front row with my durag on just to fuck with people, but like, you got to be yourself.”

Russell also faced instances of racist remarks in the classroom. One of his professors, when asking about Russell’s senior project, suggested he develop a basketball app.

“I personally believe that, despite all of the negative things that I experience because of the color of my skin and who I am, at the same time, it has prepared me for the real world,” he said. “Talking to white people, dealing with white people – it’s a skill that

you got to develop.”

Director of the TRIO Achievers program Stacy Nyikos met Russell during the winter quarter of his first year at Cal Poly. He was seeking tutoring in a class and the two ended up working closely together over the past two years.

“I’ve just watched as he has finally been given the opportunities that maybe other students on campus get a little more easily,” Nyikos said. “I’ve seen him just grow as a human being, and be able to reach those goals more successfully or more smoothly, whereas before it didn’t feel like there were many people on campus on his side.”

Throughout his time in San Luis Obispo, Russell has pursued therapy which he recommends to those around him. If not therapy, he says it’s important to find a “safe space” somewhere off-campus. He’s found that managing his personal life has helped with how he engages with others in professional spaces.

Russell is set to graduate on June 18. He has a job waiting for him at the World Trade Center in NYC, working as a software engineer for Moody’s analytics.

“Going through [those] long 10 years, it was worth it,” Russell said. “Because look where I’m going.”



DEREK J. RUSSELL | COURTESY

Cal Poly Student Brings a Taste of Home to San Luis Obispo with His Own Taquero-Style Catering Business



BY LAUREN YOON

Sebastian Juarez bought a small red pickup truck with the help of his grandpa at 17. He celebrated the purchase of his first car by starting his own business instead.

It was the summer before his junior year of high school in 2018 when Juarez got the inspiration for his taquero-style catering business, El Taquerito.

"I just thought it would be a really cool opportunity for me to make some money, help out my family, make ends meet - and also just create a brand that I was proud of," Juarez said.

Born and based in Ventura County, El Taquerito is a labor of passion

for Juarez, who is currently an economics junior at Cal Poly. Since its start, the business has grown to serve Los Angeles, Santa

Barbara and San Luis Obispo.

"I'm the one who takes all the calls, does all the bookings and I send away my employees based on where they need to go. And I've hired them all myself," Juarez said.

Most of his employees are older than him, many of them being Hispanic men that he's met through years of working in the restaurant business during high school. Others are close friends from high school that assist him at events he attends himself.

"It's really cool to be able to provide a form of employment for them so that they can support their families," Juarez said. "Not that it's their main form of employment. It's just kind of a side job that they enjoy doing and take a lot of pride in."

Serving, hosting and bussing tables didn't only bring him a catering team he could trust, but also gave Juarez perspectives on the variety of cuisines he could incorporate into his own cooking.



"Trying all these different flavors and seeing how these businesses ran, it just really inspired me to create a business out of something that I knew how to do," he said.

Before he had an established menu, Juarez accommodated his menu for every flavor his clients requested, tending to "do all these different things and add whatever they requested," he said. After a while, Juarez learned not to stretch himself out too thin and decided to prioritize perfection of his dishes rather than having a larger menu.

The El Taquerito menu consists of the traditional carne asada, al pastor and chicken, but also provides the vegetarian options of elote and mushrooms. These base proteins can come in the form of tacos, quesatacos, quesadillas or mulitas. The service also comes with a full salsa bar, which includes several toppings and tortilla chips.

Though it may not be on the website, Juarez provides bulgogi-marinated carne asada as an alternative protein, with toppings such as asian pear, green onion and kimchi. Ironically, the menu item was a result of an early-on client request - the dish was such a hit that it became a regular.

Juarez had another early bump in the road before El Taquerito gained popularity: the pandemic. The crowded nature of catering events halted the business's growth, but Juarez didn't let that stop the business from operating. Instead, he

began bottling and delivering aguas frescas for revenue.

Juarez's high school friend and UC Davis biotechnology junior Vijay Kushwaha started working for the business when it first started. He continues to cater for El Taquerito as a cook in Ventura County.

started to gain noticeable traction towards the end of 2020. He said the moment Juarez started working with a Yelp employee to set up a page for the business was when he realized how much it was growing.

"I think he's grown a lot with his business, but it's not just his business. He's grown a lot as a leader and gained a lot of knowledge through trial and error," he said. "And then he's also very approachable."

The rapid expansion of El Taquerito has attracted media coverage, such as the Destination Channel, who had a sit-down interview with Juarez about the business. There is no release date yet, but it will be aired on KCBS Channel 2 in Los Angeles and available to stream on Roku in the near future.

Juarez looks forward to hopefully opening his own location sometime after graduation, but is currently focusing on a summer tech internship in Santa Barbara, along with a renovation project in Ventura with his older sister.

"I'm not waiting because I've always kind of created my own opportunities," Juarez said. "All the success that I've acquired is through what I've done. I don't want to say it's necessarily luck because I will make it happen. It's just a matter of time."

“

It's really cool to be able to provide a form of employment for them so that they can support their families. It's just kind of a side job that they enjoy doing and take a lot of pride in.

SEBASTIAN JUAREZ

Economics junior

"I was actually excited to work with him, but I was jumping into the unknown," Kushwaha said.

"I didn't know much about the business. I actually hadn't even had a job before I worked with them."

Kushwaha said that El Taquerito





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GRADUATING SENIORS SHARE POST-GRAD PLANS

AIDAN MCGLOIN | MUSTANG NEWS, 2019

BY CATHERINE ALLEN

Whether it be traveling, saving money for culinary school or jumping right into a dream job, Cal Poly's graduating Class of 2023 is getting ready to set out on new adventures.

There are 4,424 undergrad students and 594 grad students eligible to walk across the stage at Spanos Stadium June 17-18. In a poll sent out by Mustang News via social media, many graduating students said they felt hopeful and excited — but also slightly unstable and nervous for what the future holds.

Those graduating who applied as Cal Poly's Fall 2019 class made the cut despite a 27% acceptance rate. Representative findings from a survey from Harris Poll of the nationwide Class of 2023 characterizes this group as optimistic, satisfied with their degrees and pushing the limits of traditional post-grad plans.

According to the national poll, a little more than half of graduating students said their immediate plan is to start working — and 75% of students pursuing work in their field of study already secured work. But about 44% of students also said they'll be going to school for another degree, doing unpaid work or taking time off after graduating. These findings ring true for Cal Poly's graduating class.

Many students in the Class of 2023 witnessed the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown the spring of their freshman year, with their second year in college being mostly remote. Planning their futures at a time of global uncertainty altered some students' paths.

Maya Valree is graduating from Cal Poly's Master of Science in Higher Education Counseling / Student Affairs (HECSA).

"Honestly, though I came to Cal Poly as a grad student, I feel so lucky

to have been able to lean into 'Learn By Doing' in my program," Valree said in the poll.

To Valree, the pandemic gave her an opportunity to explore options outside of the path she was on. Instead of staying at UC Irvine for another year to complete a Spanish minor when school went online, Valree opted for taking a gap year.

"After doing research, I found the HECSA program (which seemed like a great fit) and applied," Valree said. "The pandemic gave me an opportu-

“

I'm excited to spend time doing something I love before starting my full-time career.

CAT LABELLA

Animal science grad

nity to dive into schools, leading me to Cal Poly."

Cal Poly's number of master's degrees awarded has grown annually since the 2018-19 school year, the university's Institutional Research database shows.

The pandemic inspired experience industry management graduating senior Delaney Jacobs to travel. Now, she's getting ready to explore Brazil and Iceland post-grad.

"I feel like if I got a job I wouldn't have been as inclined to travel," Jacobs said. "I'm definitely a little nervous about not having a job

locked in though, compared to my friends."

Animal science grad Cat LaBella said the pandemic threw her off the pre-veterinary track, as she's no longer planning on vet school.

"I'm excited to spend time doing something I love before starting my full-time career," LaBella said.

Anna Truong is graduating with a degree in nutrition. Though unsure what the future holds, Truong said she's planning to take a year off to save up for culinary school.

"[The pandemic] completely changed my idea of what I wanted to do as a career," Truong said.

Forestry grad Calvin Greenwood said he'll be working on a farm post-grad to explore one of his passions.

"Learning how to farm as a member of a farm crew at an award-winning organic farm is not something I intended to do, but something that I've always had an interest in," Greenwood said. "I have a passion for food systems and this seems like a unique opportunity to gain new insight."

Esther Need, equipped with her degree in biochemistry, is set to pursue a PhD in molecular pharmaceuticals at the University of Utah next.

"I'm confident about the program but nervous about all the 'adulting' involved with moving," Need said.

During Valree's time at Cal Poly, she said mentorship from education professor Tina Cheuk helped remind her "to not self-select out of jobs, as women of color tend to do." Valree was also hired by Dean of Students Joy Pedersen and Associate Dean of Students Blanca Martinez-Navarro to be the graduate assistant for the Students with Dependents program — one way she was able to practice Learn by Doing. As a mom herself, Valree said it showed they trusted that "those closest to the problem have the solutions."

Now, Valree is working as a policy analyst for The Education Trust - West, feeling "excited, nervous and hopeful." The organization advocates for academic achievement of California students, particularly for students of color and those living in poverty, according to its website.

"I'm nervous because my program wasn't in 'policy,'" Valree said. "But I'm confident that the skills and 'Learn by Doing' attitude I've acquired will help and support me along my professional journey."



By Emily Tobiason

Congrats, grads — you've made it! Allow this playlist to accompany the vast array of emotions you may be feeling as you celebrate the past and look forward to the future. KCPR wishes you well!

Listen to KCPR's Graduation Day playlist here:



The Transfer Experience is not Easy, but it is Always Supported

BY REBECCA CARAWAY

Rebecca Caraway is a journalism senior and the Mustang News opinion editor. The views expressed in this piece do not necessarily reflect those of Mustang News.

I often think about my junior year of high school self. How I cried at summer camp in front of my friends because I honestly thought I had no future. I don't remember what provoked such a dramatic outburst, but it was something I truly believed. If you had asked me then where I saw myself in five years, I wouldn't have known what to tell you.

Neither of my parents graduated college, and going to college wasn't a given like it was for my friends. My family never encouraged me to go to college; they wanted me to work hard in whatever I did but they never once told me I should go to college. If I brought it up, I was told I needed to do community college first.

So I did.

At the end of high school, I knew the only way to grow, to make something of myself, was to be independent. I knew I wouldn't be able to get through school if I stayed home, I wouldn't be able to figure out what I wanted. Thanks to my very kind and generous aunt and uncle I moved away from my hometown to attend a random community college in a town I knew nothing about, 217.8 miles away from home.

Most of my time at community college was spent on Zoom thanks to the pandemic, yet the experience had a big impact on me. It was the first time in my life that I felt I could do it, I could get through school, I could be a writer, I could have a life.

Things weren't easy all the time, especially when everything got moved online, but I knew how to find resources. I knew I always had the support of staff and faculty.

Thanks to those two years and the

solitude of the pandemic, I had the time and safety to figure things out. Who I am, what I wanted, to where I would transfer. It wasn't long until I got my Cal Poly acceptance email.

The challenges didn't stop when

me down.

There's not a singular magical moment where everything in my life got better. It happened slowly, day by day. Just like in high school and community college.

This year had plenty of challenges of its own. I was balancing three jobs, full course loads, a five-month-long poly plague, the loss of family members, all the while with a ticking time bomb in the background counting down to an unknown abyss of change.

But again, I got through it. Through it all, I was supported by the staff, faculty and peers in my department. My family and friends also supported me through every "bench crying" moment and every "pop the champagne" moment.

The

community of people in my life always believed in me, even when I didn't believe in myself.

The professors in my department welcomed me as a transfer student, and recognized that the path wasn't easy but they encouraged me to keep growing. They pushed me to be better

because they knew I could do it. Thanks to them, I'm more excited about my career than ever. I know it won't be easy, but I know I can do it.

To my fellow transfer students, take a deep breath. We made it. At times it seemed impossible, so soak in every moment of celebration. Know that the challenges we faced here have only better prepared us for what we face next.

To all those who helped guide our Cal Poly journey, thank you. Whether you're a family member, a friend, a boss or a professor; you helped to get us here. Your encouragement, patience and belief in us made today possible.



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REBECCA CARAWAY

Journalism senior

I got here. They got bigger and more complicated. My first year here was equally fun and exhausting. Friend groups came and went, I struggled to find my place in my department, and I faced my first career rejection.

By the end of winter quarter of my junior year I was crying on a bench behind Kennedy Library. If you know me, you know I don't cry easily, especially not in public, but the year had worn



REBECCA CARAWAY | MUSTANG NEWS

Meet Cal Poly's 'Chicken Guy'

One student turns passion for poultry into beloved on-campus business



GABRIELLE DOWNEY | MUSTANG NEWS

BY LIV COLLOM

When Andrew Dolan turned nine years old, his parents surprised him with pet chickens. His dad, a former 4-H kid, had been eager to get the family into raising livestock. The family's recent move to a new house on three acres of land just outside of Roseville was the perfect opportunity.

“

I care more about the community outreach or forming those relationships with people and providing them with a quality product more so than the money part of it.

ANDREW DOLAN

Agricultural business Senior

“My parents said they had a ‘special surprise’ in the backyard,” Dolan said. “Inside this little metal shed

there were six baby chicks. The rest is history.”

Thirteen-years-later, Dolan has become known as the “Chicken Guy”—one of Cal Poly's beloved on-campus characters. The agricultural business senior brings his chickens to social events and to Dexter Lawn, where he sells their eggs to students.

Dolan's three chickens—Sunnydaze, La Bou and Peaches—live in a specially constructed enclosure in his backyard in San Luis Obispo. When Dolan returns home from his morning classes, he lets the hens out of their hutch to roam throughout the enclosure while he collects their eggs and refills their food and water. The chickens are free to explore until sundown, then it's back into the hutch for the night.

Dolan gets two or three eggs a day between his “three girls,” as he calls them. When his hens started laying too many eggs for his household to consume, it was an easy decision to open for business.

“Why not sell these eggs that I have that people can actually see, and meet the birds that the eggs come from?” Dolan said.

Changes in the market have consumers ready for cheap eggs. An avian flu outbreak in 2022 has caused egg prices to reach record highs in this year. Hens in California took a big hit due to Proposition 12, a

2018 statewide measure that requires cage-free enclosures for animals in agriculture. With more open space comes more movement - and an increased spread of disease - among livestock.

Ricky Volpe, an associate professor in Cal Poly's agribusiness department said, “We've had record numbers of egg-laying hens in the United States destroyed. The capacity to produce eggs is a small fraction of what it normally is.”

The scarcity of chickens caused wholesale egg prices in California to jump to over \$7 per dozen at the beginning of this year, according to a report by UC Davis. Dolan sells a dozen eggs for \$5.

The price isn't the only factor that has people flocking to his business. Dolan's hens are Easter-eggers, mixed-breed birds that lay in hues of pastel blue, green and sometimes pink. The chickens themselves are also a draw, Dolan said. Customers enjoy being able to meet the producers of their food.

“Locally grown, Cal Poly learn-by-doing, you support local businesses,” Volpe said. “Consumers have a willingness to pay for that.”

Dolan, however, said his low prices aren't necessarily a business tactic.

“I care more about the community outreach or forming those relationships with people and providing them with a quality product more so



Andrew Dolan on Dexter Lawn.

than the money part of it," he said.

There's also the novelty of the birds. Chickens aren't a dangerous animal, but are still uncommon enough to spark amusement from the public.

"I get a lot of firsts from people," Dolan said. "People will be like, 'Oh, I've never seen a chicken out on Dexter or held a chicken before.'"

How about *partying* with a chicken?

Dolan caused a stir when he brought Sunnydaze to St. Fratty's, an infamous annual party among Cal Poly students to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Cal Poly Barstool, a popular Instagram account showcasing collegiate shenanigans, posted a video of Dolan on his roommate's shoulders, holding his bird overhead as the crowd chanted "Chicken! Chicken!" The post has over 7,000 likes.

"It was kind of like, 'Okay, y'all have seen the chicken, go ahead and follow her on Instagram if you want to keep up with her,'" Dolan said.

Although taking care of the birds may seem incompatible with a college student routine, having a chicken for a pet isn't too different from a cat or a dog, Dolan said. He takes his birds on walks downtown or brings them in the car for coffee runs. There's feeding, cleaning and

upkeep involved. Each hen has her own personality and role in the family unit.

"La Bou, she's kind of the feisty one, and kind of like the boss girlie," he said.



Locally grown, Cal Poly learn-by-doing, you support local businesses. Consumers have a willingness to pay for that.

RICKY VOLPE

*Associate professor
Cal Poly agribusiness*

Sunnydaze is "the timid one, kind of like the youngest child in a sense."

The family changed when his fourth hen, Woodstock, died after getting lost in a rainstorm this past March.



Eggs laid by Dolan's chickens.

After reaching out to the community on Reddit and Nextdoor and searching in the rain, Dolan found her a few days later outside the police station. He said he cherished the last couple weeks he spent with her.

"It was really cool getting to find her after three days of just being out in the cold and rain, just finally seeing my girl again in one piece," he said.

Dolan's chickens are as present in his virtual life as in his actual life. He posts their antics on the Instagram account @slo_chickendaddy. His Tinder profile reads "the guy with all

the chickens." He even has a chicken tattoo on his bicep.

"It's something I know I'll never regret ever," he said.

Graduating from Cal Poly this spring, Dolan said he wants to continue expanding his agriculture business. He plans to bring Peaches to walk the stage with him, since La Bou came with him to Bike Night downtown and Sunnydaze appeared at Saint Fratty's. That is, if the university lets him. But if not, Dolan's parents have accepted pet-sitting duties.

"And then we'll get to hold the

chicken during the ceremony," Steve Dolan, Andrew's father, said. "Or it will poop all over his gown, which, he won't care, we won't care. He's graduating anyways."

Whether Peaches walks or not, the birds are a fitting symbol for his transformation throughout college, according to Andrew's mother Cyndi Dolan.

"He's had a pretty introverted personality until college, so I think this helps him," she said. "I'm thrilled that he's taking them on campus and giving him an excuse to talk to people and just open up a little more."



Dolan points to his chicken tattoo.



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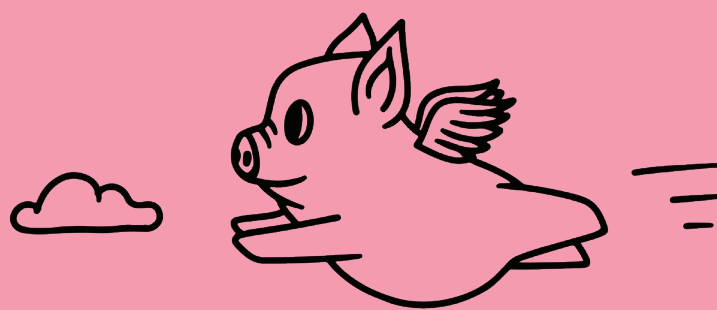
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The person behind the player: How Caroline Walters has impacted Cal Poly Volleyball

BY DIEGO SANDOVAL, MILES BERMAN AND DEREK RIGHETTI

Cal Poly Volleyball had just pulled off an upset over the University of Hawaii on Saturday, Oct. 15, 2022, with a sold-out crowd in attendance at Mott Athletics Center.

Embracing her daughter, Caroline Walters looked up at her wife in the stands and at the players on the court that she had come to love as daughters of her own, soaking in one of the biggest wins of her volleyball career.

"Volleyball has brought me everything," Walters said. "It brought me relationships with players that I consider to be friends and not former players ... It's brought me a sense of gratitude for the sport."

Walters has now been Cal Poly Volleyball's head coach since December 2018 and has been with the program for 14 years. In that time, the impact she has left on individual players and the program as a whole has transcended the sport she has played for her entire life.

From Player to Coach: How She Got Here

After playing baseball and other sports growing up, Walters described her beginnings with volleyball as being in "the right place at the right time."

Walters' parents were close friends with Kerri Walsh Jennings, a three-time Olympic gold medalist in beach volleyball, who encouraged a 10-year-old Walters to get into volleyball.

Eight years later, Walters was the starting libero on a club team, filled with highly recruited players, that had made the national championship game twice in three seasons.

After being recruited herself, Walters opted to attend and play volleyball at her parents' alma mater, Santa Clara University.

At Santa Clara, Walters was a three-time All-West Coast Conference Honorable Mention and set the school record in digs (1,932) and dig average (4.59). On top of her individual accomplishments, Walters and the Broncos reached the Final Four of the 2005 NCAA Championships, the best finish in program history.

"I'm really proud to be a part of that," Walters said. "I wouldn't trade it for the world. ... It made me the competitive female that I am."

Her competitiveness wasn't the only thing she gained from her time as a collegiate volleyball star. According to Walters, Santa Clara was where she first realized that she could have a future as a coach.

"I saw the game very differently

than my teammates in college," Walters said. "I remember being in drills and responding, and [coaches] would say, 'the game is slow for you.' I was always calm and directing people."

In 2009, after coaching a local club

team out of college, Walters interviewed for an assistant coaching position at Cal Poly. She was 23 years old, and she got the job.

"After 14 years, looking back on

KYLE CALZIA | MUSTANG NEWS

"It was baptism by fire," Walters said. "Being 24 and not even having a true sense of what my style was ... you're still trying to find what you truly believe in and you can't find that as a 24-year-old."

Following that season, Cal Poly hired Sam Cross as head coach, and Walters returned to her role as an assistant coach. Walters kept that role until 2018, when she took over the reins of the program as the head coach herself.

"It's been 14 years [since beginning coaching], and my coaching style has evolved and changed," Walters said.

Where that coaching style has developed the most, according to Walters, comes off the court with her players.

"What I've evolutionized into my coaching style is that it's all about these kids," Walters said. "The wins and losses are great ... but it's all about them."

Coaching off the Court: Maia Dvoracek

One of Walters' players was Maia Dvoracek, a recent Cal Poly Volleyball graduate who is now playing professionally in Hungary.

After an All-American season in



KYLE CALZIA | MUSTANG NEWS

Caroline Walters coaches her team during a game in 2019.

“

I coach to make sure that they're better [people] when they leave than when they got here.

CAROLINE WALTERS

Cal Poly volleyball head coach

that moment, I have to pinch myself," Walters said. "It's humbling to have been given that opportunity. This is not a job that you fall into that easily. ... It feels like it all had a purpose."

Two years into Walters being an assistant, the head coach was abruptly fired. At 24, she was named the interim head coach.



KYLE CALZIA | MUSTANG NEWS

Maia Dvoracek and her teammates celebrate during a game in 2019.

2019, Dvoracek contemplated leaving school early to pursue her professional career. In early 2020, Walters and Dvoracek came together and, after some convincing by Walters, Dvoracek decided to finish out her Mustang career.

Shortly after, Dvoracek suffered a serious knee injury. Trainers feared that she would never walk again, Walters said.

However, Dvoracek and Walters had the same goal in mind: to get Dvoracek back on the court.

"I was really adamant that I was coming back to Cal Poly ... to play for Caroline for one more season," Dvoracek said.

It wasn't that easy. Recovery required a year off the court, hours of physical therapy and time spent away from the team. It was during that period that the bond between coach and player went beyond the court.

"To see what she was able to do in her recovery ... it's a pride that goes beyond a player-coach relationship," Walters said. "We have a relationship that will be long lasting. ... She knows that I'll do anything for her."

Coping with a serious injury is challenging for any athlete, let alone one of Dvoracek's pedigree and potential. The conversation between a coach and an injured star player is often about rushing the athlete back onto the court, but it wasn't with Walters.

"Whenever [Caroline] asked how I was doing after the injury, it was always as a person," Dvoracek said. "Obviously as a player, volleyball comes into it, but the biggest thing always was if I was genuinely okay

as a person. Knowing that Caroline thought about that first was the biggest motivator."

Ultimately, that relationship — paired with Dvoracek's ability to "trust the process" — allowed Dvoracek to return to the floor in the fall of 2022 for her last season in the Green and Gold.

In that season, Dvoracek led the team in kills (406), points (510) and points per set (4.55) while starting all 30 games and played in all 112 sets, setting herself up for a contract overseas.

Putting the Person before the Player: Brooklyn Burns

While attempting to get Dvoracek back on the court, Walters also managed to nurture an incoming freshman who was dealing with an off-court battle for her life.

In February 2022, now-freshman setter Brooklyn Burns was diagnosed with Stage 2 Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a type of cancer that impacts the lymphatic system. The summer before, Burns had committed to play volleyball for Walters at Cal Poly.

With her volleyball career put on hold, Burns had to face her fear of telling Walters and the coaching staff about her diagnosis.

"I was terrified to tell [them], because when you think of college volleyball, you hear of kids who go through injuries and things like that and they just get dropped," Burns said.

Walters' response came as a welcome surprise.

"I don't think I've ever picked up a phone and called or texted someone that fast," Walters said about when

she heard about Burns' diagnosis. "I said, 'I don't know physically what you're going to do. ... I don't care. Girlfriend, you're coming here.'"

It was this sentiment that reassured Burns that Cal Poly was the place for her and that Walters was different from most college coaches in the way that she cares for her players.

"What stuck out to me was that she really cared about the person that I was," Burns said. "That was really different from other college coaches when they're so focused on your skill and what you're going to bring to the program volleyball-wise. With her, she just really wanted me here as a person."

That support off the court continued for Burns when she got to San Luis Obispo in the summer of 2022.

Not knowing whether or not Burns would be fully ready both physically and mentally to jump into collegiate volleyball, Walters made herself available for anything, from conversations after practices to joining her at doctor's appointments.

"[Caroline] said, 'You tell me what you need and I'll be there,'" Burns said. "I started from the bottom, and I'm slowly working my way up there, and [Caroline] has been there for everything if I need anything."

Her Lasting Impact on the Program

Dvoracek and Burns' individual stories are just two examples of how Walters runs her program.

"My favorite thing in being involved [with coaching] is watching these kids come in as freshmen, then

seeing how they leave as seniors," Walters said. "I coach to make sure that they're better [people] when they leave than when they got here."

Assistant coach Jason Borchin, who has been with the program for six years, sees Walters as a "tremendous role model outside of volleyball in life" thanks to her mindset and philosophy.

"In the end, she cares about them more as people than as athletes," Borchin said. "She's been through it all and can help these girls through anything."

Off the court, Walters' position as a role model has even extended to her sexuality, as she is a member of the LGBTQ+ community and has had a player come out to her before.

"I've had one player come out to me, and it was a cool moment. ... The coolest part was seeing how much more free and open she seemed after that, not just in conversations but physically playing on the court," Walters said. "I wish I had that when I was playing. It would have been interesting to see if my play would have evolved."

Both players and assistant coaches of Walters have made it clear that she is a successful head coach both due to her on-the-court experiences and her personality off the court.

"[Caroline's] such a good coach because she's such a good person," Brooklyn Burns said. "She loves us like her own children and has brought us into her own family."

With all she has given to the sport, Walters said that "volleyball has brought me everything."

Volleyball took Walters to Santa Clara, where she met her future wife and began a career that would eventually land her in San Luis Obispo. The sport gave her experiences with players and coaches along the way that would eventually shape her own coaching style.

However, perhaps above all else, volleyball has given Walters the opportunity to impact, care for and shape the lives of the young women that walk through Mott Athletics Center to play the sport they love.

"I always cared for my players," Walters said. "But now it's another vested level of care knowing that they are somebody's daughter and they have people looking at them the way I get to look at my daughter running across the floor to me after a win."

SCAN FOR A SHORT DOCUMENTARY ON CAROLINE WALTERS





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Cal Poly's volleyball team rejoices after win against Long Beach State on Sept. 29, 2023.



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Altar exhibits in the University Union Plaza, put on by Cal Poly's Latinx center to honor Día de los Muertos on Nov. 1, 2022.



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Photo of Bay Ledges performing at Shabang, SLO's live music and arts festival, on May 6, 2023.



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JSA club president and 4th year construction management major Eddie Pascua wears his cardboard gundam suit during Clubs Fair on Sept. 17, 2022.



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Cal Poly lines up against Sacramento State for the Homecoming Game, taken Oct. 1, 2023.



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Clusters of grapes thrive at J.Lohr Center for Wine and Viticulture, captured on Oct. 26, 2023, showcasing Cal Poly's new haven for aspiring vintners. This photo was taken for the story "Cal Poly opens new center for wine and viticulture: 'A head start on a great career.'"



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Students 'camp out' in their creations during Design Village 2023 on Apr. 28, 2023.



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Cal Poly Baseball hosted UC San Diego at Baggett Stadium on Apr. 28, 2023.



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Campus from above, taken on Feb. 1, 2023.



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Cal Poly athlete competes in the long jump during the March 3rd 'Cal Poly Open' track meet.



CHLOE KERN | MUSTANG NEWS
Student walks across the catwalk during Cal Poly's Sustainable Fashion Club's Fashion show, taken on May 13, 2023.

MUSTANG NEWS SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The Mustang News sports team had their hands full this year, from covering game recaps (sometimes around 20 in one week) to traveling to Tulsa, Oklahoma for the NCAA Wrestling Championships. Reflecting on a busy school year, sports reporters share each of their favorite moments in Cal Poly Athletics.

KYLIE HASTINGS - WOMEN'S GOLF WINS BIG WEST CHAMPIONSHIP

The sports moment that stood out to me the most was when the Women's Golf team clinched a spot in the NCAA Regional tournament by winning its third straight Big West Championship. They won the conference by 11 strokes, with Nicole Neale clinching an eagle on the 18th hole and the Mustangs getting another trophy to bring back to San Luis Obispo.



CAL POLY ATHLETICS | COURTESY

MATTHEW HO - BRANTLY STEVENSON DROPS 28 POINTS IN BIG WEST TOURNAMENT WIN

Coming off an 18-game, program-worst losing streak, the Mustang eked their way into the Big West Tourney because UC San Diego wasn't eligible for the postseason due to just moving up to Division 1. The previous game didn't make it better. Brantly Stevenson shot a layup with the team down three points against UC Riverside in the closing conference game. However, the Mustangs routed Long Beach State in this game, 88-68. Stevenson bounced back with a 28-point game. It was an astounding performance to watch, as the Mustangs hit 50% of their threes and simply outplayed Long Beach for a majority of the game.



OWEN ROBERTS
MUSTANG NEWS



DIEGO SANDOVAL - FOOTBALL WINS THRILLER OVER UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO IN HOME OPENER

Coming off a rough season in 2021, I wasn't sure what to expect in Cal Poly Football's season opener in 2022. However, I definitely wasn't expecting what we got in the team's home opener against the University of San Diego. After trailing for the entirety of the game against the Tritons, the Mustangs mounted a furious fourth-quarter comeback that included a pair of touchdowns. The second of those two touchdowns sealed the deal, as it was a 35-yard touchdown pass to Chris Coleman to take the lead at 28-27 with two minutes remaining. When the final seconds ticked off the scoreboard, the Mustang faithful in Spanos Stadium were on fire, and a glimmer of hope for the future of Cal Poly Football shined.

NOAH GREENBLATT - CHRIS COLEMAN SIGNS WITH THE DOLPHINS

My favorite Mustang sports moment this year was Chris Coleman singing with the Miami Dolphins as an undrafted free agent. While it's not something that actually happened during a game, I still thought it was really cool because not only was he the first Mustang to sign with a team in three years, but also because it was the payoff to his belief in himself and how good of a player he is. Lastly, I loved it because it allowed for football to end their year on a high note, especially after a season filled with downs that didn't go as well as people wanted it to.



DEREK RIGHETTI - WRESTLING COMPETES AT NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS FIRST LAST

My favorite sports moment this year was being able to cover the Wrestling National Championships in Tulsa, Oklahoma. It's not everyday that a program from Cal Poly takes part in a National Championship, and with the support of the Journalism department and Cal Poly Athletics, Diego Sandoval, Miles Berman and myself were able to report on the five Mustang wrestlers at this event in person. This was definitely a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and a great way to cap off my four years as a Mustang.

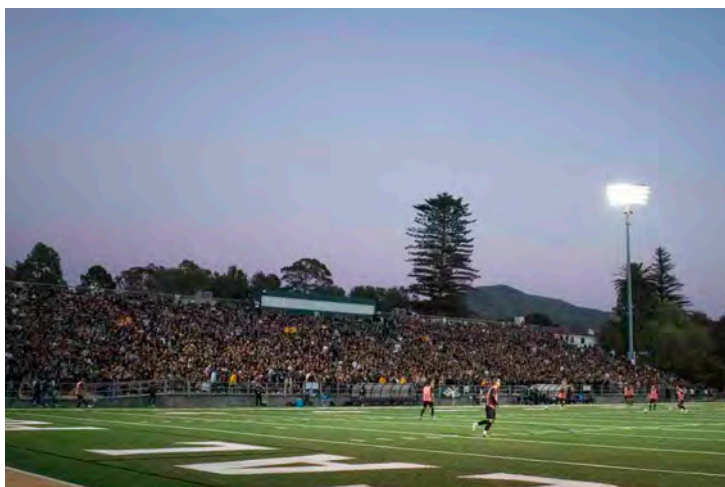
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JONATHAN SZE - BLUE-GREEN MEN'S SOCCER GAME IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COMES DOWN TO THE WIRE

One of the most striking sports moments to me was the home leg of the UCSB vs. Cal Poly Men's Soccer series. Cal Poly was down 1-0 with less than two minutes to play and they were desperate. Then "it" came. Drama, magic, whatever word you want to use. When captain Nate Colley slotted home the penalty it felt like heaven. Cal Poly had been on its back foot the entire game and just needed to hold on for 1:25 to salvage a draw.

It felt like the soccer gods were done writing the chapter, but the Greatest Rivalry in College Soccer held one more turn that night. UCSB found the game winner with 12 seconds to play and sucked the energy out of everyone in attendance. But for a few moments, there was no place like Spanos Stadium.



KAYLA STUART | MUSTANG NEWS

JACKSON INAGI - WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ENDS REGULAR SEASON WITH WIN OVER UC RIVERSIDE

My favorite Cal Poly sports moment this year was the regular-season finale for Women's Basketball. While not their most suspenseful or dominant win in an up and down season, it was great to see the team finish the regular season strong. Jazzy Anousinh had a career-high 16 points and Tali Ackerman had a career-high seven blocks too. Overall, I was happy to see the team have a solid win to end the regular season and the success of all the players, especially with all the program has done for me.



OWEN ROBERTS | MUSTANG NEWS

SERGIO ROMERO - JOE YORKE WALKS IT OFF AGAINST SAN JOSE STATE

Joe Yorke's walk off double over San Jose State would have to be the highlight of the year for me. Up until the ninth inning of that game, the Mustangs held a 5-3 lead before the bullpen allowed the Spartans to tie it up going into the bottom of the ninth. It felt like yet another game where Cal Poly would lose late in a rather disappointing season. But when Jake Steels drew a walk with one out and stole second with two outs with Big Joe coming up, there was a spark of hope felt in the stadium. The crowd erupted as soon as Yorke smacked the 1-1 pitch down the right field line as his teammates mobbed him at second base.



**EYASU BETWOS
MUSTANG NEWS**



KAYLA STUART | MUSTANG NEWS

NICK BANDANZA - BLUE-GREEN MEN'S SOCCER GAME IN SANTA BARBARA

Among a sea of Blue and Gold, I stood a lone soldier. An outlier amongst the foe, waiting for the moment to explode and make my Poly Green T-shirt with that galloping Mustang known. It had been a disappointing year up to that point for the Men's Soccer team. Struggling to find a win in the conference and head coach Steve Sampson retiring earlier in the week, a successful outcome appeared unattainable against the league-leading Gauchos. I maintained hope. Haunted by the 90th-minute game-winner a few months prior that ended a Mustang comeback, time winding down did not help my mental state that Saturday night.

Out of the fog of war (a blue flare), a streaking Noah Boettiger broke through the teeth of the defense in the 79th minute. With his golden left foot, 7,534 fell silent as I emerged with my arms to the heavens. That moment of glory, that two minutes of celebration, was my favorite moment this sports year. To revel in the sorrows of the Gauchos as our team triumphantly celebrated on the pitch. Granted, my exuberance was met with a game-tying goal eight minutes later, but that moment will stay forever.

MILES BERMAN - BERNIE TRUAX DEFEATS MAX DEAN AT NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

No. 2 Bernie Truax had just lost in overtime. His dream of being a national champion had been broken. Despite a full year of hard work, the 197-pounder fell to the consolation bracket. When you fail at your goal, it's hard to pick yourself back up and keep going. Yet Truax did. He secured a 4-2 victory to make himself a three-time All-American. As the whistle sounded, Truax turned to his family and teammates in the crowd, ecstatic, knowing what he just accomplished. Under him, I kneeled matside snapping one of my favorite photos of all time.

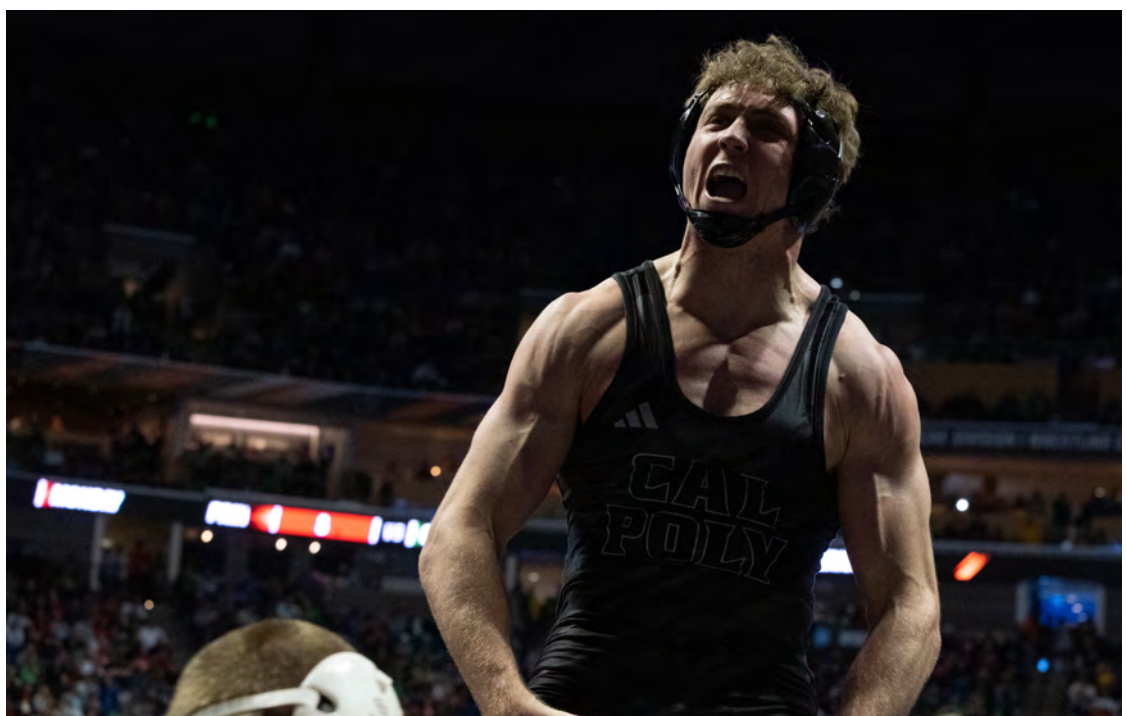
Still, the job wasn't finished. In the span of 45 minutes, before Truax could get a proper cooldown, he had to warm up again to face the reigning national champion, Max Dean, of Penn State. Truax pulled out a move he never did before, the Puppet Master, and won in overtime, 8-6. The bittersweet ending to it all, is now he is transferring to Penn State in hopes of earning his national title, like Dean.



JACK BYNUM - WOMEN'S TENNIS TAKES DOWN HARVARD

My favorite Cal Poly sports moment this year was Women's Tennis' 4-3 win over No. 64 Harvard. At the time, the Mustangs were on a five-match winning streak and had to grind hard for every match. The deciding match was on the shoulders of Peyton Dunkle, who was in a brutal three-set fight. With all the pressure on her and her team right there supporting, she pulled out a 7-6 (9-7), 6-7 (4-7), 6-3 win. This match victory set the tone for Cal Poly and boosted the team's confidence going forward in the year.

**OWEN ROBERTS
MUSTANG NEWS**



MILES BERMAN | MUSTANG NEWS

TOP 20 BEST VIDEO STORIES 2023

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH THIS YEAR'S TOP STORIES:



BY MNTV STAFF

CAL POLY STUDENTS HELP LOS OSOS COMMUNITY AFTER RAINSTORM

BROOKSHIRE FARM BRINGS 'AGRI-ENTERTAINMENT' TO SAN LUIS OBISPO



Big, small, orange, white... Brookshire Farms sold all sorts of pumpkins and gourds throughout October while offering entertainment for all ages. From hayrides, to pumpkin patches, to corn cannons, co-owner of Brookshire Farms Sean Callaway shared what the farm calls "agri-entertainment."

Residents of the Vista Court neighborhood in Los Osos received help after their homes were damaged by mudslides in the recent storm that hit California.

Mustang News reporter Madison Vernon showed us what the community did to clean up after heavy rains.

Mustang News reporter Avery Elowitz showed some of the experiences guests enjoyed at Brookshire Farm.

HEAR FROM HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR JOE ALEXANDER AS HE SPEAKS AT CAL POLY

CAL POLY'S KENNEDY LIBRARY TO CLOSE FOR RENOVATIONS, LEAVING STUDENTS LOOKING FOR NEW PLACES TO STUDY



After facing six years of forced labor, a dozen concentration camps and a death march, Holocaust survivor Joe Alexander shared his story with a new generation of students at Cal Poly. Hosted by Chabad of San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly, Alexander took the stage at the Performing Arts Center to discuss the hardships.

Mustang News reporter Avery Elowitz talks with Alexander and Cal Poly students after the event.

Cal Poly's Kennedy Library will be closing at the end of the spring 2023 quarter to undergo renovations. The project is expected to take two years and will bring the building up to California's state standards. This closure will leave students looking for new places to study.

Mustang News reporter RJ Pollock asked students how they felt about the renovations.

STUDENTS WORK WITH BABY HORSES DURING FOALING SEASON



Foaling season at the Cal Poly Equine Center is officially underway. Students enrolled in the animal science foaling enterprise class get a unique opportunity to experience every step of foaling season at the Cal Poly equine center. Mustang News reporter Madison Vernon spoke with students about how they're involved in caring for these baby horses.

Within Cal Poly's Music program is a full symphony of about 80 members who share a passion for performance. Members of the symphony get to showcase their skills each quarter in the form of soloist showcases.

Mustang News reporter Liv Collom got a look behind the curtain.



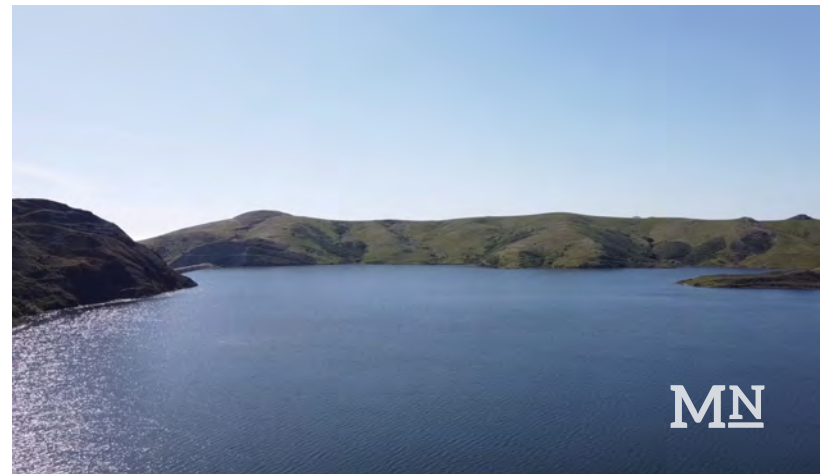
CAL POLY MUSIC STUDENTS PERFORM ORCHESTRAL MUSIC AT SOLOIST SHOWCASE

CAL POLY FARMS HOSTS U-PICK ORANGE PICKING



Cal Poly Farms hosts seasonal U-Picks throughout the year, and are open to the San Luis Obispo community. The U-Pick events take place on Saturdays in the Cal Poly citrus groves. Students and families can go out and pick a variety of citrus fruits including oranges, lemons and limes.

Mustang News reporter Gabrielle Downey took to the groves to see how people are taking advantage of this program.



CAL POLY'S RESERVOIR GAINS MULTIPLE YEARS OF WATER FROM WINTER STORMS

Cal Poly receives its water from the Whale Rock Reservoir in Cayucos. The recent rains this winter filled the reservoir to its, max and overflowed for the first time since 2005.

Mustang News reporter Matthew Bornhorst went to the reservoir to see what the reservoir being full meant for Cal Poly.



CAL POLY SHUTDOWN AFTER MAJOR STORM HITS SAN LUIS OBISPO

The city of San Luis Obispo shut down as a severe rainstorm dumped inches of rain across the central coast. With widespread flooding and road closures, the city issued a shelter-in-place order and urged people to stay home and avoid travel on the roads.

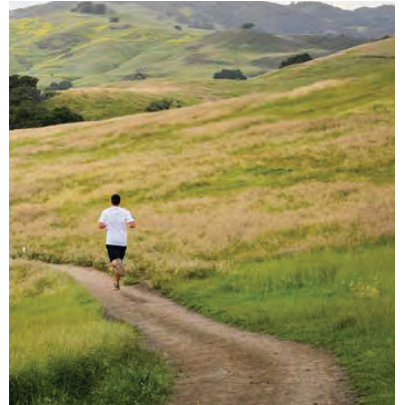
MNTV News Director Brady Caskey showed us how the community was being impacted by the storm.

SCAN TO ACCESS FULL VIDEOS! 

Congratulations Class of 2023!

San Luis Ranch

RURAL REDEFINED



A Home Grown Community Centered In SLO

San Luis Ranch has a home style for every lifestyle with farmland in your backyard, a vibrant downtown, and Cal Poly just a stone's throw away. On-site shopping and dining create a walkable community with easy bike and bus transportation built right in.



DIVERSE HOUSING



EXCEPTIONAL AMENITIES



SPECTACULAR LOCATION



FARM TO TABLE LIFESTYLE



SINGLE FAMILY HOMES
3 to 4 bedrooms
Some with additional housing units



TOWNHOMES
3 bedrooms
Open-concept floorplans



LOFTS
Studio or one-bedroom
Low-maintenance living



SINGLE FAMILY HOMES
3 to 4 bedrooms
some with additional housing units



CONDOMINIUMS
2 or 3 bedrooms
Outdoor decks



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THE
Wayfarer
SAN LUIS OBISPO
TAPESTRY COLLECTION
by Hilton™



find your way

Embrace a unique California journey with on-and-off-campus vibes at the forefront. From our redesigned, academia inspired guest rooms to our lively on-site restaurant and bar: Schoolyard, we encourage you to uncover new places, people, and points of view along the way. No matter what you seek, our hotel is designed for diving in.

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SCHOOLYARD

BURGERS & BREW

**BURGERS THAT WON'T
BREAK YOUR BUDGET**



- NOT YOUR TYPICAL STUDY HALL
- \$5 FOOD SPECIALS
- WEDNESDAY TRIVIA NIGHT
- WEEKEND BRUNCH

Congratulations Class of 2023!

Your hard work has paid off and we
couldn't be more proud.

—
Jeff and Sharon Armstrong



CAL POLY



2023 GRAD ADS

Congratulations to the class of
2023! Read some special
messages from your family
members in the pages ahead...

MMG MUSTANG
MEDIA GROUP

CLASS OF
2023



**HARPER
BROWN**

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
KINESIOLOGY
CONCENTRATION: SPORTS SCIENCE**

YOU DID IT!!

Congratulations to our brilliant, beautiful daughter! We are so proud of you and know this is the beginning of a very bright future for you. We love you!

Love, Mom, Dad, Carson & Holden



CLASS OF
2023



**ANDERS
GRIFFIN**

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

CONGRATULATIONS!

You climbed the mountain Anders. Celebrating you today...your many achievements, your kind heart, and of course your humor! Keep making the world a better place.

Love you, Mom, Dad, and your Sis



CLASS OF
2023

congratulations!

ROSSLYN LYELL



BACHELOR OF ARTS | SPANISH

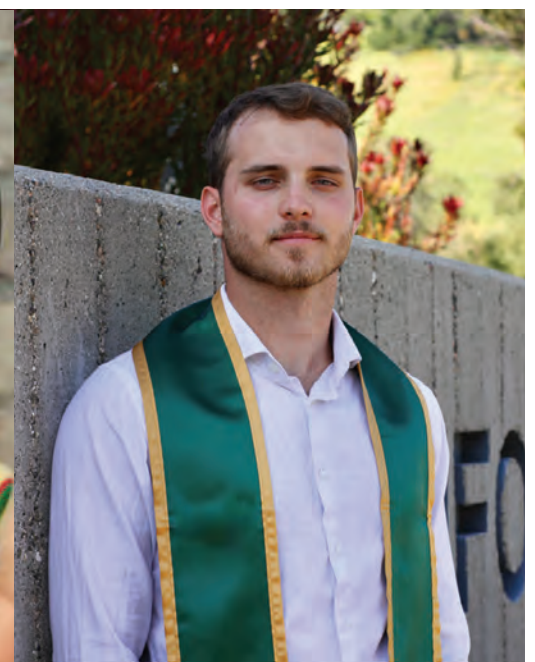
You Did It! Celebrate! We are so proud of you. Keep putting yourself out there and going after your dreams. The world is a better place with you in it.

Love, Dad, Mom and Stewart

CLASS OF
2023

congratulations!

OWEN KEOGH



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE | ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT & PROTECTION

CONGRATULATIONS YOU DID IT!!
Congratulations Owen! The best is yet to come!

Mom, Dad, Caroline & Patrick

CLASS OF 2023

congratulations!

JOSHUA MEANS



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE | BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

CONGRATULATIONS YOU DID IT!!

We are so proud of you! You navigate life with courage, boldness, creativity, joy and love. A visionary charting your own course, you shine brightly and will in your next adventure and always! We love you so much!

Mom & Jess

CLASS OF 2023

congratulations!

MADISON KASPER



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE | PSYCHOLOGY

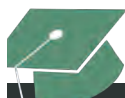


CONGRATULATIONS YOU DID IT!!

Madison, we are so proud of you, graduating college is a big deal. Your future is bright! Dream big, you have an amazing life ahead! We love you!!

Mom, Dad & Gavin

CLASS OF 2023



JORDAN SPRICK

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
EXPERIENCE INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT

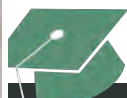
CONGRATULATIONS
JORDAN!!

We are so proud of you! May your future be filled with joy, success and all the good things you deserve! Remember to always keep learning, growing, and chasing your dreams.

Mom, Dad, Jacob & Jinjer



CLASS OF 2023



DIEGO SANDOVAL

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
JOURNALISM

CONGRATULATIONS!!

We are so proud of you, Diego! You have made the most of your experience at Cal Poly and we are so excited for what's next! The best is yet to come - We love you!

Mom, Dad, Joaquín, and Solana & the Big Ol' Happy Family



CLASS OF
2023



ISABELLA
NEVAREZ

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATION

YOU DID IT!!

We are so proud of your accomplishments. Embrace every moment, cherish every friendship, and let your passion guide you to a future filled with purpose and joy.

High School Class of 2020
—
Cal Poly Class of 2023

Dad, Mom, Elijah, Aiden, and Clayton



CLASS OF
2023



BLAKE
MESSMER

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
CIVIL ENGINEERING

YOU DID IT!!

Congratulations Blake! We are all so proud of you and your accomplishments! We wish you a happy prosperous future and the start of a new adventure!

Mom, Dad, Brea & Gabe



CLASS OF
2023



OLIVIA
OOMS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
PSYCHOLOGY

YOU DID IT!!

Congratulations Olivia! We are all so proud of you, keep following your dreams! Love you forever our California Country girl!

Mom, Dad, Chan + Gramps



CLASS OF
2023



PERRY
NEWMAN

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN
HISTORY WITH A DOUBLE MINOR
IN LAW & SOCIETY AND PHILOSOPHY

YOU DID IT!!

Felicidades!!! We are bursting with pride on your college milestone. Remember what you've achieved is rooted in determination and resilience. We love you, always.

Mom and Dad



CLASS OF
2023



BRADY
CASKEY

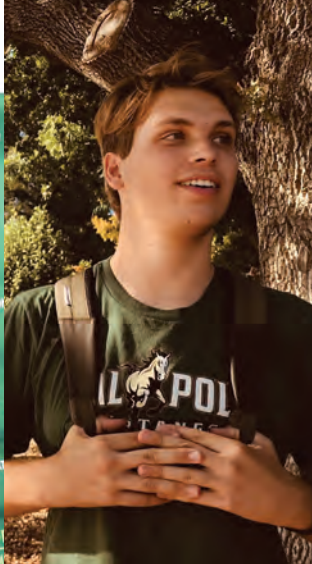


**B.S. JOURNALISM
MINOR IN MEDIA ARTS,
SOCIETY AND TECHNOLOGY**

CONGRATULATIONS!

Throughout your academic journey we have witnessed your unwavering dedication, relentless pursuit of knowledge, and unyielding passion for your field. But beyond your academic achievements, what truly fills our hearts with pride is the person you are! Your love for adventure is contagious and inspiring. Always remember you have a loving and supporting family standing behind you.

Mom, Dad, Brandon, Brooke & Haley



CLASS OF
2023



ETHAN
SCHROEDER

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

CONGRATULATIONS!

We could all not be prouder of the amazing, strong, smart, and kind man that you have become. Stay safe and be careful!

Love, Mom, Martin, Trevor, Keira and Emily



'23

Lauren Margaret Lue

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Business Administration
with a concentration in Accounting

CONGRATULATIONS LAUREN!

Graduating college at 20 years old and earning Magna Cum Laude with Honors while taking 18 units/quarter, working as a HR Student Assistant and Search Committee Member for ASI and Orfalea College of Business Career Peer Advisor, taking on leadership roles in CPAC, working as a summer research assistant, and interning for KPMG and Deloitte, being offered over 8 full time job offers from accounting firms, and being the recipient of KPMG Encore Cheers Award and Scholarship. WOW! Deloitte is lucky to have you, baby. We love you so much unconditionally and will always be your biggest "cheerleaders" in life. Never lose "sight" of God's blessings. This is just the beginning...enjoy this beautiful life of yours.

All our love, Mom, Dad, and Trisha



CLASS OF
2023

NATO
VILLA III

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE LIBERAL STUDIES

CONGRATULATIONS NATO!

My heart is bursting with pride. Watching you soar is one of my favorite things in life! Here's to the next chapter.

With all my love, Your Bert's



CLASS OF
2023

congratulations!

RYAN IANNACCONE



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE | BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

CONGRATULATIONS RYAN!

We have really enjoyed cheering for you and watching you swim the past 4 years at Cal Poly. We love you and are so proud of all your achievements!

Mom, Dad, Alan, Erick, Scotty & Stephanie

CLASS OF
2023

congratulations!

MADISON VALLADAO



BACHELOR OF ARTS | COMMUNICATIONS STUDIES

CONGRATULATIONS YOU DID IT!!

Maddie- We are all so proud of you and all that you have accomplished! Remember to always follow your heart and dreams. And most importantly, never lose your bright and shining spirit!

Love- Your Family XO

CLASS OF
2023

congratulations!

HALEY KONOVAL



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE | ANIMAL SCIENCE

CONGRATULATIONS HALEY!

We are beyond proud of you. Never stop achieving your goals and "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" We love you!

Mom, Tom and George

CLASS OF
2023

congratulations!

ANNA RAGO



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE | CITY & REGIONAL PLANNING

YOU DID IT ANNA! CONGRATULATIONS!

Now it's time to relax, enjoy and CELEBRATE YOU!

"If you can dream it, you can do it." – Walt Disney

*Love your very proud family,
Mom, Dad and Grace*



CLASS OF
2023



CHIARA SERAFINI

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND
PROTECTION MAJOR
SUSTAINABILITY MINOR

YOU DID IT!!

Chiara, congratulations on your dream coming true! We are so proud of you! Embrace the journey of new dreams and know that we are cheering you on forever!

Mom, Dad, Ali, and Enzo



CLASS OF
2023



CARLO BARTALOTTI

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS

CONGRATS CARLO!

We are so very proud of your hard work and dedication to your schooling at Cal Poly. On to the next adventure! With all our love, Mom, Dad, Gino, Nonno, Nonna, and Yaya



CLASS OF
2023



ADRIANA ELIZABETH MONTANO

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
MARINE SCIENCE

CONGRATULATIONS!

From the first day on campus, you were determined to embrace all that Cal Poly had to offer. You've done an amazing job! Continue to shine brightly for all to see. We love you!

Love Mom, Papi, and Emiliano



CLASS OF
2023



PERRY NEWMAN

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN
HISTORY WITH A DOUBLE MINOR
IN LAW & SOCIETY AND PHILOSOPHY

YOU DID IT!!

Felicidades!!! We are bursting with pride on your college milestone. Remember what you've achieved is rooted in determination and resilience. We love you, always.

Mom and Dad



CLASS OF
2023

congratulations!

SARAH GRAYCE CHAYET



BACHELOR OF ARTS, ENGLISH | MINOR IN STUDIO ART | DEAN'S LIST

CONGRATULATIONS YOU DID IT!!

Sarah, we are so proud of you for graduating from college! This a huge accomplishment, and you have worked so hard to get here. It seems like yesterday we were reading fairy tale stories to you. We always dreamed that you would grow up strong and independent, and you have surpassed all our expectations.

Love, Mom, Dad, Aaron, Tara, Kiva and Spritle

CLASS OF
2023

RYAN TOMLINSON

**MASTER OF
PUBLIC POLICY**

**HAPPY
GRADUATION RYAN!**

We are so proud of you and all you have accomplished at Cal Poly! Enjoy this moment and be excited about what the future will bring! We love you!

Mom, Dad, Mia and Kristi



CLASS OF
2023

JENSEN JALUFKA

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

CONGRATULATIONS JENSEN!

So proud of you and can't wait to see what the future holds! Keep crushing it!!!

*Love,
The Fam*



CLASS OF
2023



BECKHAM
SEGER
RICHMOND

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

YOU DID IT!!

"Life is just a leap of faith,
spread your arms and hold
your breath and always trust
your cape" - G. Clark

Congratulations on this
wonderful achievement!

Love Mom & Dad



IN PRISON
" & Chloe Lovejoy
"OTEST VIOLENC
AN WOMEN: 'HE
BE HEARD'
"elle Fagans
"S LIKE WH
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Emily Burrus
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& BIKES, THEY'RE BI
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"Lauren Emo
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PORATE SUSTA
PRACTICES
"WHAT YOU
SIC AND
E ON
Be a part of
our story.
MMG MUSTANG
MEDIA GROUP | MN
KOPR



Thank you for the memories to savor.
We look forward to dining with you as alumni!



CAL POLY
Campus Dining

Experience the Cal Poly
Recreation Center!

GRADS!

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BUY 2 MONTHS, GET THIRD MONTH

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Host family & friends to enjoy
summer fun at the Cal Poly
Recreation Center!

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To learn more, visit
bit.ly/CalPolyRecreationCenterMemberships

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Take advantage of the
Recreation Center's competitive
pricing & unrivaled amenities
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