

On behalf of the Partners Program, we welcome the new incoming students and the returning students to this academic year. Freshmen, we hope you enjoy the welcome packets you received via mail. The start of each year is generally accompanied by changes and we are sharing some of these updates in this newsletter. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at: partners@calpoly.edu. Also, find us at Poly Partners on Facebook!

*Donna Davis, Partners Program Coordinator
Shariq Hashmi, Grad Intern/Program Assistant
Connections for Academic Success*

Graduating Seniors - Visit: almostalumni.calpoly.edu/checklist for information on preparing for graduation. Don't forget to submit your "Graduation Evaluation Request" to the Evaluations Office (Bldg. 01- Room 218).

Juniors - Fulfill your Graduation Writing Requirement as soon as you're eligible to do so. **Don't put it off until your last year!** For information about this requirement, go to: <http://writingskills.calpoly.edu/gwr/>.

Welcome Event

Join us for ATOG (Another Type of Groove)

On Wednesday, October 5th, the Partners Program will have a "meet and greet" session in Chumash Auditorium at 6:45 p.m. (before the doors open to the general public at 7:30p.m. for ATOG). Pick up snacks to enjoy during ATOG and enter a drawing for prizes. One of the prizes will be a free **bowling and pizza party** for you and up to 5 of your friends. Feel free to join us even if you can't stay for ATOG.

ATOG brings some of the top Spoken Word poets to campus and provides a venue for Cal Poly students to perform their poetry as well.

RSVP via facebook or partners@calpoly.edu

What's New in Academic Advising

There have been several great additions to Cal Poly's academic advising staff. First and foremost, the university has hired an Assistant Vice Provost for University Advising, Carter Hammett-McGarry. Ms. Hammett-McGarry will coordinate and support Cal Poly's advising resources and student success initiatives.

In the *College of Agriculture, Foods and Environmental Sciences*, two new Academic Advisors, Dianne Korth and Rachel Johnson, join Craig Hooper and Brad Kyker. The college has also restructured their advising services. Each major will be assigned to one of the four staff advisors. Check with your department if you're not certain who advises your major.

The *College of Science and Math* also welcomes new members to its advising staff. Megan Farrier-Nolan and Michelle Macintyre are Academic/Health Professions Advisors. Heather Peng is a Graduate Intern/Academic Advisor. Heather will be assisting students in the Partners Program. Look for an email from her, offering her assistance with your advising needs.

An **Academic Advisor's** role is similar to that of a High School Counselor. Your advisor can:

- assist you with understanding and interpreting academic policies and procedures;
- help you track your degree requirements; and
- refer you to support services, especially if you experience academic difficulty.

We strongly encourage you to connect with an advisor to focus on expected progress toward your academic goals and to make the most of your college experience. For additional details about academic advising at Cal Poly, what you can expect from your advisors, and what your advisors expect from you, see pages 28 and 29 in the 2011-2013 catalog. For a complete list of Advising Resources, including information regarding all the College/Department go to <http://advising.calpoly.edu>.

IMPORTANT DATES and EVENTS

September 28: Last day to drop, swap or add classes (with Permission Numbers) via CPreG

October 12-13: Fall Quarter Job Fair

October 25: PASS opens for Winter Registration

November 4: Last day to petition to withdraw from a course/term (except emergencies)

November 8: CPreG opens for Winter Registration

November 11: Academic Holiday, Veteran's Day

November 23-27: Academic Holiday, Thanksgiving Break

December 5-9: Finals Week

Special Announcements

Career Extravaganza - October 6

(Located at Career Services, Building 124)

Resume Review Event (10:30 am-12 pm, Front Lawn):

Over 30 corporate representatives will be available to review resumes with students. Great prizes, ice cream, and free career advice!

Interview Skills: Employers Tell All (2:10 pm-3 pm, Room 117): A panel of hiring managers will share what they look for in candidates and how to stand out in an interview.

Making the Most of the Career Fair: An Employer Perspective (3:10 pm-4 pm, Room 117): Hear insights from employers on how to be successful at the Career Fair.

Study Abroad Fair - October 6

Learn about study abroad opportunities. (10 am-2 pm, Dexter Lawn)

Program Spotlight: Multicultural Engineering Program (MEP)

MEP is an academic support program that assists students enrolled in engineering curriculums successfully obtain their bachelor's degree. MEP provides the necessary bridges for students' academic and professional success. Some of their services include scholarship opportunities, social and professional networking, volunteer opportunities, and professional and academic development workshops, as well as academic, career, and personal advising. If you are interested in participating in MEP, apply online at <https://mep.calpoly.edu>. Email mep@calpoly.edu or call 805-756-1433 if you have any questions.

Welcome Shariq!

The Connections for Academic Success program that coordinates the Partners Program has a new staff member, Shariq Hashmi. Shariq is a Graduate Assistant and is currently completing his Master's Degree in Counseling and Guidance at Cal Poly. He is a very welcome addition to the program. He replaces Linley Park who graduated spring quarter. Look for communications from Shariq as he assists in supporting your academic success.

Roommates: Nice to Meet You?

One of the most important factors in having a successful freshman year, is your relationship with your roommate. Here are some practical suggestions for developing a relationship and adjusting to college.

Communicate: This is the most important component of a roommate relationship. Be open to compromise, but if your roommate is doing something you don't like, express your feelings. It might feel awkward, but it's usually better to air concerns, immediately.

Know your rights: Knowing your rights can encourage equality in a relationship and provide a signal to communicate if they are ignored. Discuss rules and rights with your roommate to help establish a clean, safe environment in which to live, relax, and study.

Be involved: A study of roommate pairings suggested that an "other-orientation" can help with building a relationship. Try participating in activities together like attending a campus event or use friendly nicknames to foster closeness.

Balance scholarship and leisure: In a study at a large Canadian university, researchers found that students whose roommates brought video games tended to study a half-hour less per day and had GPAs that were 0.2 lower on average than students without video games. Another study suggested that students whose roommates drink regularly tended to study less and had GPAs 0.25 to 0.66 lower on average than students that did not drink. Remember: *balance*.

Reach out: If you feel unable to find a community, reach out to campus resources and advocate for your own happiness. Be assured that there are clubs, organizations, staff, faculty, administrators – literally, a small army of people – who genuinely care about your experience at Cal Poly. Contact your RA, advisor, or Shariq Hashmi (partners@calpoly.edu) for opportunities on how to get connected.

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