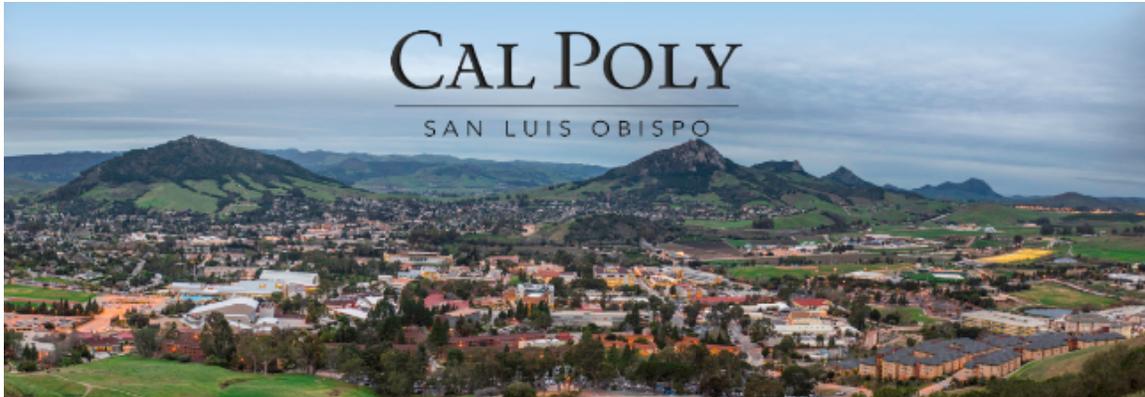
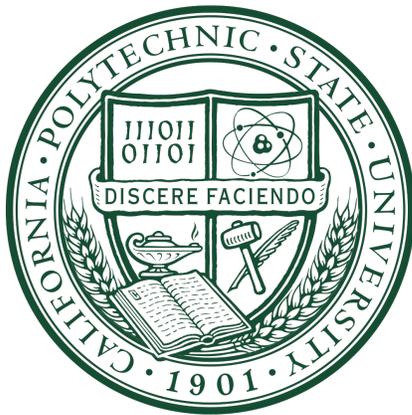


Slayage San Luis Obispo



San Luis Obispo is a charming town on California's beautiful Central Coast. It is located "somewhere near Santa Barbara" which is where Marti Noxon pointed when Jane Espenson asked her to locate *Buffy's* Sunnydale on a map. Like Sunnydale, San Luis Obispo is near (but not on) the beach, has a Spanish mission, is home to the Chumash Native American tribe, and hosts a large state University.



"Don't speak Latin in front of the books!"



"Weird Al" Yankovic, KCPR, c. 1980

California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) is a comprehensive polytechnic university with undergraduate enrollment of about 20,000. Slayage San Luis Obispo would take place on Cal Poly's scenic campus.

Cal Poly has long been at the forefront of Whedonism and popular culture in general. Jim Kouf graduated from Poly in 1974 with a BA in English and a minor in History; he went on to write for *Angel*. In 1979, Cal Poly architecture student "Weird Al" Yankovic recorded his first song, "My Bologna," at the KCPR campus radio station.

Cal Poly has a lovely modern campus with excellent conference facilities. We have several large lecture halls suitable for plenary sessions (e.g. keynotes and featured speakers). We have a variety of smaller classrooms suitable for panel presentations. The usage fees are \$100 per day for a large lecture hall (capacity 100+) and \$50 per day for a mid-size classroom (capacity 50-100). Classrooms could be booked beginning in Spring 2020. The conference would occur during Cal Poly's Summer Quarter, when classrooms would be widely available and easily scheduled. All Cal Poly classrooms are equipped with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment: projectors with VGA and HDMI interfaces, speakers, and DVD players suitable for playing that crucial scene from *Buffy* or *Much Ado About Nothing*. Wireless Internet is available throughout campus; visitors can set up free guest accounts. All classrooms have high-speed Internet access via Ethernet. Cal Poly's University Store carries a wide selection of scholarly books and could set up a satellite location to sell Whedon Studies books at the conference.

Cal Poly's College of Liberal Arts (CLA) houses 15 departments in the arts, humanities and social sciences. CLA offers Master's degrees in History, English, Psychology and Public Policy. CLA faculty and students would attend and present at the conference. The Slayage conference would attract students and faculty from a number of programs and disciplines, including English, History, Theatre, Philosophy, Psychology, Political Science, Sociology, and Women's and Gender Studies. Graduate students could provide volunteer support for the conference.

Lewis Call would be local arrangements chair for Slayage San Luis Obispo. Lewis is a Professor of History at Cal Poly. He has written extensively on sexualities in the Whedonverses and was a featured speaker at Euroslayage. The History Department, the College of Liberal Arts, and Cal Poly would provide logistical support for the conference. Cal Poly and CLA communications staff would help coordinate press coverage and marketing for the conference.

Cal Poly's Conference and Event Planning Office would reserve classrooms for conference presentations, provide on-campus lodging options, and provide catering for the conference. The following cost estimates are based on an estimated conference attendance of 100. All estimates are based on current prices; prices are subject to change prior to Summer 2020. Conference and Event Planning charges an Event Management fee equal to 10% of total expenses (excluding housing). The minimum management fee is \$675.



Poly Canyon Village.

On-campus lodging would be available in Cal Poly's Poly Canyon Village student housing complex. Poly Canyon Village features spacious, four bedroom suites with one twin bed per bedroom, two full bathrooms, and a relaxing living room. Towels and bed linens are provided, with beds made upon arrival. The apartments are equipped with kitchens (but no dishes, pots or pans). The complex has a swimming pool and an exercise room. The cost to stay in Poly Canyon Village is \$88.25 per person per night.

Campus Catering could provide breakfast for 100 conference attendees for approximately \$1,200. Lunch would cost approximately \$1,900. Coffee service would cost approximately \$400, including cookies (mmm, cookies!). Campus Catering could cater the Friday night banquet for approximately \$3,500, including wine and beer. It would be necessary to rent a venue for meals. The Chumash Auditorium would be suitable. The rental fee for Chumash Auditorium is \$1,190 for a whole day, and \$712 for a half day. Vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options would be available for all meals. Approved off-campus vendors could also be hired to cater conference meals.



Apple Farm



Madonna Inn

There are several cozy hotels near campus, such as the Apple Farm, the Sands Inn and Suites, and the newly renovated Kinney Hotel. Cal Poly Conference and Event Planning has negotiated discounted group rates at some of these hotels. The discounted rate for a Single Queen at the Apple Farm is \$119 per night Sunday-Thursday, and \$159 per night Friday and Saturday. The discounted rate for a Single or Double at The Kinney is \$185 per night. These hotels are on Monterey Street, near the historic site of America's first motel, the Motel Inn. There are several good restaurants within walking distance of these hotels, including Splash Café (casual breakfast/lunch/dinner), Buona Tavola (fine Italian dining), and Raku (for the traditional Whedon Studies noodle run).

Buses run every half hour from Cal Poly campus to San Luis Obispo's downtown area. The fare is \$1.50. Lyft and Uber are widely available. Ride-On Transportation offers for-hire bus service suitable for transporting large groups of Whedonists to and from off-campus venues. Downtown San Luis offers a wide variety of cuisines at a number of excellent restaurants. Top notch seafood and first-rate sushi are abundant. There are several excellent Thai restaurants. Vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free meals are widely available, at restaurants such as the award-winning Big Sky Café. Carnivores can enjoy Santa Maria style tri-tip (a local delicacy) at restaurants like the Firestone Grill. The Friday night banquet and sing-a-long could either be held on campus, or at an off-campus banquet facility such as the kitschy but fun Madonna Inn. San Luis Obispo County produces a wide variety of excellent wines. Numerous local wineries offer wine tasting. Several local craft breweries brew a selection of delicious beers. Foamy!



San Luis Obispo train station.



"A big honking castle."

San Luis Obispo is easily accessible by plane, train and automobile. San Luis is home to America's easiest airport. Located less than a mile outside town, San Luis Obispo Regional Airport has the fastest security line around. Daily flights are available to and from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Phoenix, Seattle, and Denver, with additional flights available next year. Amtrak trains serve San Luis Obispo's old-school train station, with regular service on the northbound Coast Starlight and southbound

Pacific Surfliner. San Luis sits at the intersection of the US 101 freeway and California's scenic coastal Highway 1.



Avila Beach.

San Luis is near some of California's most beautiful beaches, ranging from the more touristy Pismo (the Chumash word for tar!) to local favorite Avila to the more anarchistic nude beach Pirate's Cove. Surfing opportunities abound at these beaches. The breathtaking cliffside trails of nearby Montaña de Oro offer extensive hiking opportunities. The harbor town of Morro Bay is adjacent to Morro Rock, "the Gibraltar of the Pacific." Morro Bay offers whale watching cruises and deep-sea fishing expeditions. Hearst Castle, the baroque home of newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst, is located in nearby San Simeon.



Morro Rock.