

#NOKXL

# Aztecs say no to Keystone Pipeline

**LEONARDO CASTANEDA**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

San Diego State students sent a message to President Barack Obama by laying down in front of the Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union on Wednesday, March 5 about 6:30 p.m. It took about 50 students gathering on the ground and waving their cellphone lights, but together they formed "NoKXL."

Those letters are a reference to the proposed extension to the Keystone XL pipeline. According to The Washington Post, if approved, the pipeline would carry tar sand oil from Canada to refineries in Port Arthur, Tex.—a 1,664-mile project. The State Department took public comments during a 30-day period that ended on March 7. The pipeline has become a key political issue for many environmental activists in the U.S.

Jordan Wells, Associated Students sustainability commissioner, organized the aerial photograph as part of "Go Green @ the Union," one of a series of themed days scheduled for the dedication week of the student union. Wells said members of Green Love decided to send a message to

**"We really want to bring attention to the issue. It's our future; we need to construct it without a pipeline."  
- Jordan Wells**



Members of Green Love spelled out "NoKXL" in front of the Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union. KEVIN SERRANO, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Obama because it was something they felt was their responsibility to be active about.

"We really want to bring attention to the issue," Wells said. "It's our future; we need to construct it without the pipeline."

The aerial photo idea coincided with their decision to invite photographer and activist John Quigley to deliver the keynote speech on sustainability for the day's events. Quigley, a 1988 SDSU dramatics art alumnus, said he was impressed when he was invited to speak on campus and noticed the advances in environmentalism at SDSU.

"I was so overwhelmingly impressed by all the sustainability work on campus," Quigley said. "I'm so proud of SDSU."

And he was willing to take his speech at

his alma mater one step further.

"I'm a man of action," Quigley said. "It's rare for me to do a talk without action."

Quigley, who said he strongly opposes the Keystone XL pipeline, was a timely choice to construct the message Green Love wanted to send, Wells said.

According to the Spectral Q photography website, Quigley has taken more than 150 aerial photographs, in every continent, of large groups of people creating messages or images with their bodies. He said students get excited about aerial photography because it allows them to be "part of something larger than yourself."

It took more than just the students attending the keynote speech to put the message together. As the time for the

photo came closer, Quigley called out instructions to Wells and the participating students from the roof of the student union. As Wells and Quigley called out for more volunteers and cellphone lights, passersby stopped to help.

"It's pretty cool having college students speak out and let the government know what we want," Rasha Anglo, a Hoover High student taking social work classes at SDSU said, as she watched her friends form part of the "NoKXL" message.

That kind of student involvement is what makes these messages so powerful, Quigley said.

"It's one of the tools to give voice to serious concerns," he said. "It can't happen without everyone's involvement."

#SRS2014

## Library holds student research competition

The Student Research Symposium lets students show off their research savvy.

**ADRIANA MILLAR**  
STAFF WRITER

San Diego State held the seventh annual Student Research Symposium on March 7 and 8. The event allowed students to present research projects and to compete for various awards, including a spot in the California State University system Student Research competition.

According to SRS Chair Keven Jeffery, about 50 awards were given, with monetary awards ranging from \$150 to \$500 dollars. The top prizes were the President's Awards, in which 10 recipients received \$500 as well as an invitation to represent SDSU at the CSU Student Research Competition held in May. Applications for the symposium opened last November.

"We've been fortunate to accept all applicants," Jeffery said.

Categories were divided by topic and grade level. This year, 375 students presented topics that ranged from computational modeling in biology to modern British culture, and were presented either orally or visually.

"It's a celebration of scholarly research," Jeffery said.

Cell and molecular biology doctoral student and SRS judge Brandon Kim said the symposium was a good way for students to gain experience explaining their work.

"I think it is an incredible opportunity, first of all, to practice presenting because if you stick around scientific fields or any other fields, you're going to have to give talks," Kim said. "Secondly, it's a competition, and it's nice to be rewarded for research you work hard on every other day, so if you're lucky enough to be an award recipient, it's really rewarding to yourself too, because you realize the stuff that you're doing, other people care about too."

Kim was one of the recipients from last year's President's Awards and went on to finish first place in the CSU Student Research competition for his research of Group B Streptococcus.



The SRS opened its doors to creative and performing arts for the first time this year. JORDAN OWEN, SENIOR STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER.

In an effort to make the event more inclusive to less research-focused majors, the SRS featured a Creative and Performing Arts pilot this year.

"We're trying to open up, to be more flexible so more students feel comfortable presenting," Jeffery said. On the second day of the symposium ten creative arts presentations were given, including dance, music, and stage design.

According to Jeffery, plans for the following year's symposium begin at the close of this year's program.

"We send out a survey of what can be improved," he said. "We've already booked space next year at the new student union."