What Drives Miss Daisy?
For this business student, it’s accounting and taxes
BY STACIA MOMBURG

Cisneros's competitive spirit and community-service work were recognized during her first year at Cal Poly. Because of her excellent grades in high school — she had a grade point average of 4.16 — the Orfalea College of Business awarded her a Partner Program scholarship. The program provides the Santa Maria native with an annual scholarship of $2,000 per year for three years.

In 2003 the Orfalea College of Business began offering four $8,000 scholarships with funds provided by the $15-million Orfalea Family Endowment. The scholarships are awarded to the brightest students from high schools in low-income areas that typically send fewer graduates to four-year colleges.

"The variety of social and economic backgrounds that these students bring to the Orfalea College of Business lends to the diversity of the college and helps create a diverse academic experience," said Dean Dave Christy. "This broad range of backgrounds helps produce graduates well prepared to enter the global work force."

Cisneros, who just turned 21, mentors new Partner Program students, sharing her experiences and recommending clubs, classes and professors.

Cisneros plans to keep up the good work. For her senior project, she will participate in Cal Poly's annual VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program, preparing taxes for underserved community members.

VITA prepares taxes for low-income individuals and families, including senior citizens and military personnel. "I'm really excited about participating in the program. I know it sounds weird, but I just love doing taxes," she said.