Economy hits Asian students

Poly denies fee waivers for Southeast Asian exchange

By Louise Attard
Mustang Daily

In less than one year, biochemistry senior Arongin Virasiri went from living a comfortable life with a roof over her head to barely having enough money to feed herself. Like many Southeast Asian students on international exchange in the United States, Virasiri's family in Thailand was hit badly by the drop in the Asian economy. “I have to international student, having money for school and living here just stopped when the economy collapsed, just like that,” Virasiri said. “Where am I going to go? I have no money to pay the rent.”

Philip Bailey, dean of the College of Science and Math, and his wife Christina, a chemistry and biochemistry professor, took Virasiri into their home so she could

see ECONOMY, page 2

Biosphere: home to Poly students

By Kristin Dohse
Mustang Daily

Four Cal Poly students are studying abroad — in Arizona — on a one-of-a-kind environmental science project.

Todd Davidson, Nick Tolchin, Jenifer Cook and Joshua Kitner are studying at the Biosphere 2 Center as part of an interactive program called Earth Semester.

The center, a 250-acre campus created by Columbia University, is located about 10 minutes outside of Tucson, in Oracle, Ariz. Biosphere 2 is a completely enclosed glass

see BIOSPHERE, page 2
Biosphere 2 continued from page 1 and frame structure housing several miniature versions of Earth's many different ecosystems.

According to William Harris, president and chief biologist of Biosphere 2, there are seven ecosystems within the Biosphere. "By simulating conditions that exist in the wild, we hope to learn more about the effects they have on the environment, then this project will succeed in its purpose." Harris said biochemistry seniors Kristen and Cook are working in the rainforest ecosystem performing general experiments and testing. Davis, an ornamental horticulture senior, is working in the Biosphere at the intensive agriculture biome on expanding crop technology.

Tolchin said the Biosphere 2 project is very demanding, but he and the other Cal Poly students still manage to do a lot of fun things in their free time. The average student spends 30 hours each week between class and studying with a nine-hour lab. "We go on sightseeing and biking trips, and we have many potlatches and social gatherings within our student body of 50 students," Tolchin said. He and the other Cal Poly students have become good friends over the course of this semester.

The four Cal Poly students are doing well in their studies. Tolchin, a Biology senior, is working in the environment, then this project will succeed in its purpose. Harris said biochemistry seniors Kristen and Cook are working in the rainforest ecosystem performing general experiments and testing.

Some CSU's have done stimulating work where out of a campus this large students didn't expect their programs to amount to much. Tolchin said. "Maybe it was a larger number of students who would have been put toward it in the past, or long-term loans available in the future. But the money isn't there for the Asian students anymore. They are no longer eligible for financial aid. Some CSU's have opted to allow individual campuses to pay the students' tuition if universities meet up front. The other problem for the Asian students is that they can't pay their tuition fees until they have a program like this. The final analysis was that there are all kinds of students with all kinds of financial situations and this particular group shouldn't be in any special category," he said. "It won't be enough for the students. It was more the Asian students that they didn't realize you're taking a full load of courses, and have the option to offer tuition waivers to non-residents. Cal Poly's administration decided to place all foreign tuition into the university's general budget, causing fee-waiver grants to cease.

The Southeast Asian students had a crisis which was unforeseeable, which was not their fault and they're here trying to finish their degree programs with half the money they would usually have.

"It's such an enlightening education experience," Tolchin said. "It's such a great time that you don't even realize you're trying to do so much work and you're just doing four classes, and performing a semester-long research project that could be very important to the world. To find out more information or to request an application for the Biosphere 2 Center, call 800-992-4603.

Economy continued from page 1

On Wednesday, October 21, 1998

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continued from page 1

This need prompted Cal Poly to choose to upgrade its registers. Mustang Daily for Campus Dining, said Campus Director Don Gen in his memo­

randum on the AT&T one-card proposal. He is also concerned that students won't like being branded by AT&T, in the aftermath of the Pepsi agreement. 

"It is important to recognize that we need a networked card on this campus," he said. Hanley said that the university "won't like being branded by AT&T, because they have a huge logo on the back of their cards". Hanley said that the university "won't like being branded by AT&T, because they have a huge logo on the back of their cards." AT&T's program because they have a huge logo on the back of their cards. At Poly's one-card system is one of the most advanced in the CSU system. Many CSUs, such as Sacramento State University, tack on AT&T's program because they have a little in the form of card technology. Ron Grant, director of support services at Sacramento State, said the university installed AT&T's software last November. Before that, the university used Polaroids to identify students. Sacramento State also did not have a carded meal plan system. Cal Poly's photo ID card equipment is so advanced it can already carry out many of the applications other CSUs didn't even have before joining with AT&T, said Hanley.

Costs
In his proposal on the one-card system, Dignan said the one-time, first­

year cost to go with AT&T is estimated at $410,406, minus the $100,000 up front that AT&T is promising. To upgrade the current system, Dignan estimated the one-time first­

year cost to be $462,406, including server equipment, wiring and miscel­

lanous costs. The main departments involved are Student Life, Rec Sports, Library, Information Technology Services and Campus Dinner.

Yearly on-going costs would be about $70,105 for AT&T and $60,902 to upgrade in-house.

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Where's the warren?

Can you find Poly President Warren Baker on campus?

It's really no big deal to me.

"Considering this is a dry campus, it goes against our school policy. It ought to be a wet campus if they are going to do that."

Editor:

I am the student coordinator of the President's Box which is located directly beneath the press box on the home side of Mustang Stadium. As noted by Gino Panoni in his article last week ("President Baker's guests get too many privileges"), this section serves as the seating area for the President's guests during football games.

President Baker's guests include university officials, such as vice presidents, Advancement associates, and the Athletic Director. President Baker has a limited number of tickets which he allows to different organizations, on and off of campus, but these are not donors or contributors. In fact, if he finds that he has extra tickets for an event, he will give them as a gift to an organization on campus, such as the Foundation or an academic department.

These tickets are not purchased and no budget compensates for them. The food and drinks served within the box are purchased by a division of the Athletic department, Athletic Operations. The President's office covers these costs.

I do all of the ordering for the President's Box and it is no more than what would be used for any other club on campus for a party or gathering. I am an employee of Athletic Operations and assist in the coordination, set-up, and supervision of athletic events on campus. However, I have been known as the "workhorse" in the President's Box because I have seven years of waitressing experience. The parking spaces behind the visitor's side on California Boulevard are for those who have donated thousands of dollars to the university. The parking spaces on the south end of the stadium are for references, officials, and the media. Guests of the President's box near the Children's Center and Student Services which are, incidentally, in his front yard. Parking on campus during football games is handled by the Campus Police department. I would not call the services rendered to guests in the President's Box a "handout." At any major sporting event, collegiate or professional, there are VIP boxes.

Anyway, President Baker is a pretty nice guy. I encourage any students who are interested in becoming one of his "guests" to contact his office and ask about the University Seminar which he personally teaches or to get involved in ASI or other campus activities. Or just call the Athletic Department because I graduate this quarter."

Janelle Sargent is an English senior.

Editor:

I don't think it's right for certain activities to be deemed okay for alcohol and others not. If a decision is made they should stick with it across the board, no exceptions.

Brad Anderson

business senior

It is the only issue on campus that provokes what you've lost in the election. While campus officials, such as vice presidents, Advancement associates, and the Athletic Director, set up and supervise athletic events on campus, there are no donors or contributors.

I don't think it will be a good idea, but they should at least serve Samuel Adams. Even if they had to change more, I would buy it.

Melissa Reed

speech communication senior

What do you think of alcohol being served at Homecoming?

Brad Anderson: I don't think it's right for certain activities to be deemed okay for alcohol and others not. If a decision is made, they should stick with it across the board, no exceptions.

Melissa Reed: I think it will be a good idea, but they should at least serve Samuel Adams. Even if they had to change more, I would buy it.

Steven Prejean: Considering this is a dry campus, it goes against our school policy. It ought to be a wet campus if they are going to do that.

Megan Munday: It's really no big deal to me.

Bakers' workhorse defends his box and his guests

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INFO SESSION

Wed, Nov 11, 6:00-7:00 pm
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ON CAMPUS INTERVIEWS

Thurs & Fri, Nov 12 & 13

www.adobe.com/aboutadobe/employmenttopp/college/main.html

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KOENIG continued from page 8

Leslie Koenig, Joe Koenig's father, and become more focused on academics. He saw an opportunity to leave through a joint venture scholarship and sent Joe to Canada.

"People detest that my kids did so well," Leslie Koenig said. "I don't raise sheep, I raise leaders."

Their father in his drywall business helped install a strong work ethic from an early age, Karl Koenig said. Both brothers say they owe their success completely to their father, who raised them as a single parent.

"My father always understood college to me once in his life," Joe Koenig said. Leslie Koenig said he never pushed his kids in any direction. Vokas is the leather capital of Texas and a shoe-collar town. It is not the kind of place where you can advance, he said.

"The thing that I'm most proud of is that my kids have good hearts," Leslie Koenig said. "They would help anyone out."  

Joe Koenig doesn't plan on going back to Texas after graduation. He would be happy to stay in San Luis Obispo, or any other beautiful place, even if he wasn't making a lot of money. He said he would be satisfied with doing art for fun. The most important thing to him is being happy, not acquiring material things.

Creativity has been a gift. Joe Koenig has always possessed, according to his dad. He loved to draw from a young age and when he came to Cal Poly he took up glass blowing, airbrushing and playing guitar.

"When I'm stressed out, I love to play music. It has always been a big part of my life," Joe Koenig said.

Even though he was constantly inundated with country music, his taste in music does not reflect it. His favorite musicians range from the "Beastie Boys" and "Counting Crows" to the "Beatles" and Leon Russell. He usually writes a song a week and when he's back in Vokas he plays for his church.

"I told him to write some blues over the summer while he recuperated," Leslie Koenig said.

Joe Koenig uses his airbrushing skills in a business he started with a friend who shares longboards. Together they design longboards and Joe airbrushes customized designs. He also does freelance graphic design work in the community.

Surfing is another passion of Joe Koenig and has aided in his rehabilitation.

Even with all his other interests, Joe Koenig says he would not want to drop out of Vokas because of his dreams still lie. Friends and family don't doubt he will achieve everything he wants.

"He's really sensitive and humble individual," Wheeler said. "He's always looking to help someone out. I would have rather shared a room with him than had the room to myself."

Joe Koenig may face another set back in returning to pole vaulting. He has to have reconstructive knee surgery in the next weeks, which will leave him out for a while. Karl Koenig feels optimistic that his brother will come back from this as well as his back problems.

"There is no doubt in my mind that he will vault again," his brother Karl said.

"People detest that my kids did so well. I don't raise sheep, I raise leaders."

—Leslie Koenig Joe Koenig's father

Wednesday, October 21, 1998 7

"We believe we're going to reach agreement."

—Roger Titus  
prosecutor's lawyer

Tyson, accusers near financial settlements for fender-bender

GATHERSBURG, MD. (AP) — Mike Tyson and the two men he accused of punching and kicking after a fender-bender are near financial settlements, the men's lawyers said Tuesday.

There is no deadline, but the former heavyweight champion faces a Dec. 1 trial on assault charges. The charges would most likely be dropped if deals are reached.

"We are at the stage where we believe we are able to resolve our civil claims," said Glenn Calpepper, a lawyer forAbramis Sauders. Sauders and a third man, Hardick, accused Tyson of kicking and punching them after the boxer and his party hit their car.

Titus and Culpepper sent a letter last week to Hardick and Sauders' attorney, Roger Titus, Hardick's lawyer.

"We've had discussions where we believe we're going to be able to reach agreement," Titus said.

Titus and Calpepper sent a letter on behalf of Hardick and Sauders to the Nevada Athletic Commission supporting the reinstatement of Tyson's boxing license, which he lost 15 months ago for biting Evander Holyfield in a title bout. The commission voted to reinstate Tyson Nov. 4 or Monday to give Tyson another license.

None of the lawyers would reveal specifics of the negotiations. Titus and Calpepper indicated to the commission they would keep settlement terms confidential.

"We believe we're going to reach agreement."

—Roger Titus  
prosecutor's lawyer

"People detest that my kids did so well. I don't raise sheep, I raise leaders."

—Leslie Koenig Joe Koenig's father

Wednesday, October 21, 1998 7
Excluding the header information, this nighttime sports news page provides the following key information:

- **Sports Trivia**
- **Homecoming**
- **Friday**
  - Men's soccer vs. California in Mustang Stadium at 7 p.m.
  - Volleyball at Utah State at 6 p.m.
  - Women's soccer vs. Pacific in Mustang Stadium at 5 p.m.
- **Saturday**
  - Football vs. Western New Mexico in Mustang Stadium at 1 p.m.
  - Volleyball at University of Nevada at 7 p.m.
- **Sunday**
  - Men's soccer vs. Stanford in Mustang Stadium at 5 p.m.
  - Women's soccer vs. Long Beach State at 1 p.m.

**Briefs**

Tri-California is now accepting applications for Student Race Directors of the Wildflower Triathlons Festival.

The festival will be held at Lake San Antonio on April 30 to May 2, 1999. Applications are available in the Running Thunder office or by calling Colleen Bowman at 434-5094.

The application deadline is Nov. 2. Interrogation interviews will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 10 on campus.

**Sports Bar**

**Previously Published**

Yesterday's Answer

Low. From the ball rolling championship in 1987.

E-mail was down, so I couldn't get your e-mails. I'm sure there were several of you who got the correct answer!

Today's Question

Who was the last racehorse to win the Triple Crown and in what year was the feat accomplished?

Please submit answer to: jrohan@polymail.calpoly.edu

Please include your name.

**Make the Leap:**

Joe Koenig is working toward one of the biggest inspirations he ever had. Before the injury, he was ranked third on a team which has been ranked in the top three. Physical therapy has helped him recuperate quickly.

"He can push through the injury, as long as he can tolerate the pain," said Starkey.

"The focus and determination Koenig puts into pole vaulting reflects his personal and academic life. He was the only person from his graduating class to leave Texas and attend a four-year university. His inspiration and drive to leave Yoakum was fueled by his brother, Karl, who left for Massachusetts Institute of Technology at age 16.

"Joe and I never spent more than a day apart from the time he was born until I left for college," Karl, a pre-med senior, said.

"I'm glad he's back. I was probably one of the few people who believed in him from the beginning," said his father.

"He's a guy who can push through pain," said his mother, Starkey. "I know he can do it, but you never know until you try."