After spending three years at Cal Poly, it has become evident that there is a symbiotic relationship between those that inhabit the campus and the entity of the university. It is quite obvious that Cal Poly influences the students and those that work here—as a school, it houses educational experiences and as a workplace, it's used as a venue to gain professional experience.

This being said, there is another side. The people that come to campus every day directly influence the direction in which the university moves. The students, the faculty and the staff have a profound impact on the decisions that are made and the day-to-day activities that shape Cal Poly.

This year, Mustang Daily's Open House edition is concentrating on the people at Cal Poly. After all, they are the pieces of the university's puzzle.

Adam Jarman, editor in chief
By Evann Gastaldo
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Six students share their daily lives with Mustang Daily.

Computer engineering junior Mike Sullivan.

Electrical engineering graduate student Brian Clow.

Animal science sophomore Sarah Tasker.

Political science sophomore Meital Manzuri.

Business junior Laura Chandler.

Biology senior Nate Sanchez.

For some students, the day begins before the sun rises. For one week, Sarah Tasker, animal science sophomore, met with classmates at 6 a.m. to "tease" mares for her equine reproduction class. Testing a mare involves walking her by a stallion and letting the stallion sniff her, Tasker said. From the mare's reaction, students determined whether she was in heat.

"The mare might pee or try to kick the stallion," Tasker said. "So sometimes whoever was holding the stallion got sprayed."

Other students wake up early for another important fact of life - their job. Metal Manzuri, political science sophomore, wakes up at 6 a.m. two days a week to serve hazels at Bayel. "It's a big part of my classes."

"I have an obsession with efficiency," he said. "I think other majors can (schedule homework) just as easily as us."

This isn't true for Laura Chandler, a business junior. For one week, she has class on Fridays, the big rumor that circulates around Cal Poly is that business majors never have a five-day week.

"It seems like all of the classes I do have on Fridays are business classes," she said. "I think other majors can (schedule four-day weeks) just as easily as business majors can."

The business major is separated from other majors, Chandler said, by the large amount of group work done in business classes. For her Principles of Marketing class this quarter, Chandler is involved in a group project to develop a marketing plan for a company - the home of Burger King - in order to improve its sales. Chandler estimates she will spend three to four hours a week working on this project with her group.

"I like (my major) a lot," she said. "My classes are definitely what I expected and what I want to learn. They're challenging, but not so challenging that I'm totally miserable and stressed out."

For some students, the daylight hours are filled by jobs, not just classes. Brian Clow, electrical engineering graduate student, has three jobs, one related to his major and two to his minor, theatre.

"I absolutely love (quarter at sea)," he said. "The team competes with other schools in such events as log rolling, tree climbing and axe throwing - events Sanchez and the team practice every Friday."

Though his extracurricular activities aren't related to biology, one of the best experiences Sanchez said he has had in college was his quarter at sea.

"I probably spend about 30 hours a week on homework," he said. "But my classes provide two hours of homework every day, and my lab reports are usually a three- or four-hour endeavor."

Sullivan also has class at 8 a.m. every morning, which, surprisingly, doesn't bother him.

"I have an obsession with efficiency," he said. "Having class at 8 a.m. gets me up and productive."

Sullivan estimates he is on campus until 4 or 5 p.m. every day, between attending classes, going to the gym and working at his on-campus job designing and maintaining Web sites, and doing palm pilot support. Sullivan doesn't spend all his time doing engineering work, though. He writes a column for Mustang Daily and speaks publicly on issues of equality and acceptance for gay and lesbian people.

"I like to challenge people to think, 'OK, why do I think gay and lesbian people can't get married?'" he said.

Sullivan is also the secretary of the Young Democrats, a club that was re-established this year.

"It's exciting to be a part of something new," he said.

Clubs are a big part of many students' lives. Clow, in addition to his three jobs, is active in clubs. He is the co-chair of the food committee for the Wildflower triathlon and the treasurer for the Zen Room, which puts on a showing of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" each quarter.

Tasker is also involved with Wildflower, as well as serving as secretary for Running Thunder, a Cal Poly spirit organization, and is a part of the Honor Program. For this program, she completes at least five hours of community service each quarter.

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Bringing back the 'Royal' treatment

By Lyndsay Lundgren
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Poly Royal is back, sort of. "Open House presents Poly Royal" is a way to celebrate the history and tradition of Cal Poly in its centennial year, said Amy Grace, student program coordinator.

Poly Royal is being attached to Open House as a theme and will be different from past celebrations. Only admitted students will be touring campus on Fridays, April 20 and 22, 2001, O'Brien said and class will not be canceled on Friday. Club booths will fill Dexter Lawn and other areas of campus on Saturday and the Alumni Golf Tournament will take place on Sunday, O'Brien said.

"We're expecting about 6,000 people on Friday and Saturday," said Barbara Beaumont, assistant coordinator of orientation programs.

"Open House presents Poly Royal" will be a showcase of clubs and facilities canceled on Friday. Club booths will fill Dexter Lawn and other areas of campus on Saturday, Beaumont said. "It will be a celebration of Cal Poly, alumni, students and faculty, as opposed to having a party feel," Beaumont said.

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Club sports capitalize on Royal crowds

By Aaron Lambert
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

This weekend's open house boasts the return of Poly Royal, as well as the biggest recruiting opportunity for Associated Students Inc. sports clubs.

Club booths will line University Drive selling everything from t-shirts, and stickers, to tri-tip and foam swords. The booths will be set up Saturday and will allow the clubs to show the visitors and incoming freshmen what their club is about. "I want to reach out to people who would be interested in the club, but in other ways they wouldn't know about it -- open house is a good chance to do that," said industrial technology junior Robin Hess, the vice president of marketing for the ski club.

The ski club is planning to have a booth to sell club apparel and tri-tip, as well as a separate booth to give the visitors a feeling of what the club does. "We want to promote a lot of the places we've been to the prospective freshmen," Hess said.

In order to reach out to the prospective members, clubs are using Saturday's Open House to promote their clubs through booths aimed at explaining what they do as well as showing demonstrations. The wheelchair club will have bicycle demonstrations, as well as a pair bike race, which puts anyone who desires onto children's bikes to compete on a short course including ramps and small jumps. The women's lacrosse team, which holds first place in Southern California, has two scheduled games on Saturday at the sports complex. The first is against Claremont at 12 p.m., and the second is at 2 p.m. against University of California, Los Angeles.

The badminton team will hold an exhibition in Mott Gym from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. and Pittman considered San Jose State University, which holds first place in Southern California, Los Angeles. The men's volleyball team, which is ranked No. 22 in the nation, will showcase their talents at 12:30 p.m. at Mott Gym. The men's water polo team will demonstrate why they are third in the nation at 2 p.m. in the recreation center pool.

Fencing will be performing all day at their booth as well as a stage on club row. The sailing team will display a boat as well as give demonstrations. The gymnastics team will be demonstrating their skills at Condramall gym at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Fund raising is another reason for the club booths, said Alison Bash, collegiate sport club team supervisor. The money the clubs make through the sales of food as well as club merchandise will go toward funding club trips and events.

"The more capital that we pull in the better trips we can take," Hess said.

RECRUITS
continued from page 15

"My junior year football season, I started getting letters in the mail," Pittman said. "The letters were constant."

Pittman considered San Jose State and Fresno State, as well as Montana and Utah State -- although he canceled tours of the latter two due to their distance from his home in Walnut Creek. He decided to orally commit to Cal Poly, in part because former head coach Andre Patterson had told Pittman his scholarship spot might be taken if he didn't commit.

"It's a great school, academic-wise and location-wise," Pittman said. For some, Cal Poly is instantly the right choice, but other players need to be convinced that they will fit in playing for the Mustangs.

"We have to back it up with our program and environment," Ellerson said.

"Do we have two beds? Actually, we got a trampoline and trapse."
By Janelle Fossett
Managing Editor

Sun Lus Obispo is known for great weather, a relaxed environment and the feeling of small town living. In the last five years, however, this community of approximately 43,000 people has been rocked by several major crimes, that have left many residents questioning their safety.

Cal Poly student Kristin Smart disappeared on the night of April 20, 1996. The 19-year-old freshman was last seen walking back to the Cal Poly dorms after attending an off-campus party with her friends. After years of investigation, the case is still unresolved.

Rachel Newhouse disappeared Nov. 12, 1998 after leaving Torilla Flats in downtown Sun Lus Obispo. As the walked home intoxicated, she was abducted by Rex Allan Krebs, who later murdered the 25-year-old Cal Poly student.

Audria Crawford, a 20-year-old Cuesta College student, was abducted from her San Luis Obispo residence on March 11, 1999. After being present with overwhelming evidence against him, Krebs confessed to the murders of Crawford and Newhouse.
A Monterey jury recently found Rex Allan Krebs guilty, and he now faces the death penalty.

Cal Poly student Kristin Hogan was found dead at Montaña de Oro State Park, which is 13 miles from her home. In 1999, she had just broken up with her boyfriend, William Weidland, who found her body that late afternoon the next day. Police later confirmed his death as a suicide.

After the facts and figures, however, are people who have been greatly affected by the intense nature of these crimes. Although much attention has focused on the families and friends involved, many Cal Poly officials have also experienced the devastating impact of these unfortunates incidents.

Three different people with unique responsibilities to Cal Poly - the interim vice president of Student Affairs, chief of University Police and the Women's Center coordinator - recall how these unexpected crimes influenced their lives.

An administrator's view

Bob Derswal, interim vice president of Student Affairs, has been the link to student life on campus since September 2000. As an administrator, he said he and understand the apprehensive attitude around campus after the tragedies.

"The concern was not limited to the female students on campus," he said. "To be blunt, the administration was fearful as well about what was going on."

Derswal said these crimes are most powerful in the initial stages, when the feelings about the unknown are at their height. Later, or after the initial appearance, he said that makes it even more painful than the other cases," he said.

After Newhouse and Crawford disappeared, this same fear of the unknown started again, he said. However, the case finally unfolded months later when their bodies were found and identified on April 24, 1999.

Derswal said it was hard to see the anguish in the students and the emotional sacrifice they suffered because of these crimes.

After the recent trial and conviction of Krebs, Derswal said he was moved by the downright inhumane way he saw in the case.

The Kristin Hogan murder case was concluded within a week after authorities found her body in Montaña de Oro. Derswal said although it was not too long ago, it's quick resolution brought closure to the community sooner than the other cases.

"Since she was murdered by her boyfriend in a domestic dispute, somehow it's less frightening," he said.

"It's not saying not have fun, and it's not saying give up your enjoyment of life if in fear of being a victim," he said. "It's simply understanding that no place is completely safe, and it's foolish not to take common sense precautions."

Regardless of the crimes, Derswal said there is no evidence that they have impacted enrollment or Cal Poly's reputation.

"Applications are at all-time highs," he said. "People know this is a safe community."

The safety perspective

Cal Poly's Chief of University Police, Tony Aeilts, has been with the department since Dec. 1, 1999, so he was not here at the peak of these cases. He too has been affected by them, however, and he understands the multitudes of emotions associated with such crimes, since he has investigated homicides.

From a police perspective, Aeilts said the disappearance of Smart was particularly trying for the organization involved, because it was never concluded. He said the heartfelt transition, time and effort put into these cases are very difficult for the police, who want the case to be resolved for the families and community as soon as possible.

In response to the Krebs case, Aeilts said it is the uncertainty involved in the first few months of an investigation that is always difficult. "This was a true "whodoneit," he said. "The fear was thinking that we weren't going to figure out who did it." Once Krebs was apprehended and the evidence against him was so overwhelming, Aeilts said there was a positive sense of closure knowing that the police had found the right person.

Aeilts showed concern for the connection of alcohol to crimes. "Alcohol impairs judgment and safety," he said. "In this case, it played a role in both the victim (Newhouse) and (Krebs)." Concerning Hogan's murder, Aeilts said the rapid development of the case brought it to a quick
conclusion." As ugly and tragic as it is, in terms of the investigation, that is the best way for it to happen," he said. Aeilts voiced many of the same concerns as Detwiler, saying that San Luis Obispo is a relatively safe community, yet this does not mean students and community members should be any less informed about safety. Aeilts even compared such tragic crimes to being struck by light­ning.

"No one expects it to happen, but it can," he said. "It's not a statistical probability."

In response to the gravity of these crimes, Aeilts said campus police take every missing person report very seriously. He said there were 55 Cal Poly students reported as possibly missing last year, and all 55 were addressed immediately and resolved. Great amounts of time, effort and money go toward looking into these cases, he said, but the first hours of any potential missing person's case are crucial.

"Any time we get a phone call about this, that's our priority right away," he said. "We connect a caller with a Cal Poly emergency dispatcher every hour of the year. The phones have existed since the early 1980s, and more phones are placed around campus each year."

Aeilts said being a police officer means paying a personal cost, since it is easy to carry what he sees at work home with him.

"The cases are in your mind and so are the questions about them," he said. "You have to develop a certain tenor to be able to deal with this Professionally."

In respect of women

Suzanne Kelley has worked in the Women's Center since 1997, and she has been the coordinator of Women's Programs and S.A.F.E.R. (Sexual Assault Free Environment Resource program) since fall quarter 1999. The Women's Center has been a resource for students in times of tragedy over the last few years. Its main goal is to provide safety education and to act as a referral service for those students who need counseling. Kelley recalls when Newhouse and Crawford first disappeared, the Women's Center had many calls from concerned parents whose children attended Cal Poly.

"They wanted to know what kind of a university their children were at," she said. "I let them know that it is a tragedy that it happened but we do live in a safe community."

She said she understands the fears of parents, since she is a mother.

"I could not imagine that happening to my child," she said. "I really felt for the families and for the women involved."

In the wake of the unsolved Smart case and the disappearances of Newhouse and Crawford, the Women's Center became actively involved in creating the ReMEmber program, which began as a week of action and awareness in regards to safety issues. Once the students' bodies were found, however, the program was quickly changed to a memorial for the two women.

Kelley said being so involved in these programs was difficult, because she never had grieving time of her own.

"After ReMEmber week, I took the day off, because the emotions and intensity in the Women's Center were just too much," she said.

Kelley said the community really came through for her with phone calls and cards thanking her for organizing the ReMEmber program.

Kelley never met Newhouse's family, but she did meet Crawford's mother and grandmother when they came to Cal Poly to see the ReMEmber program.

"Supporting her family was intense," she said, "but I really enjoyed talking to them."

Kelley said when the Krebs trial began, it was too much to absorb since she had been so inundated with the case for so long.

"Part of me just didn't want to relive that," she said. "I didn't watch the trial because I didn't want to know anymore."

Although these crimes might make people feel powerless, Kelley said they cannot live in a state of fear.

"It's a part of life to go back to thinking about the positive things in life," she said.

When Kelley first heard Kristina Hogan was missing, she wondered "how much more can this town go through?" She soon learned, how­ever, that the Hogan case was very dif­ferent. Since Weiland committed suicide, at least Hogan's family will not have to go through the long process of arrests and trials, Kelley said.

"They can hopefully put it to rest and move on," she said.

The Women's Center helped Hogan's friends put together a memorial service. In the wake of Hogan's murder, Kelley began researching programs on dating vio­lence that the Women's Center can integrate into its programs.

The Women's Center also has the S.A.F.E.R. program, which tries to decrease the number of sexual assaults through education and which provides response to those who have been victimized. The S.A.F.E.R. programs sponsors the Real Men and Real Women groups on campus as well. Real Men and Real Women are two separate groups of students, faculty and staff, which put on workshops and pre­sentations to educate students about rape and sexual assault.

This year's ReMEmber week is April 23 to 27. The Women's Center is attempting to change the program back to an action and awareness week, rather than just a memorial for the two students. Although Newhouse and Crawford will be linked to the program, Kelley said the Women's Center will always remember Kristen Smart as well.

"The cases are in your mind and so are the questions about them."

Tony Aeilts

chief of University Police
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Making the transition from a big city to the not-so-big Cal Poly community

I understand my experience at Cal Poly and the city of San Luis Obispo. I should tell you some of my background. My parents come from Guatemala, and I am originally from Los Angeles. When I say Los Angeles, I mean the city of Los Angeles - not Thousands Oaks, nor the Valley and certainly not Orange County. Los Angeles is the 24-hour traffic jam, the LAPD and Starbucks. For 17 years, I called this place home.

The ecology and systematic biology program originally attracted me to Cal Poly. Cal Poly is the only state college that offers this major. I also considered UC Santa Barbara and U.C. San Diego. In addition to considering academic programs, I also considered distance from home. I wanted a school that was far enough from home that I felt I was on my own, but close enough that it wouldn't be a three-day adventure to get back.

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The term "fast food" is the second. There are no drive-thru windows, hence slowing down the tempo of "fast food." The second was that there are no tall buildings. The tallest building in the city is the university library.

Along with the culture shock, the other aspect of Cal Poly which I had to get accustomed was the small town atmosphere. All I knew about small towns I learned from television. Being an inner-city kid, I hadn't visited many small towns.

I knew I was no longer in L.A. or a metropolitan area when I found out two things. The first was that in San Luis Obispo there are no drive-thru windows, hence slowing down the tempo of "fast food." The second was that there are no tall buildings. The tallest building in the city is the university library.

For me, the move was a huge change. I spent my first year learning and getting used to the small city. I wasn't doing a good job, and would visit home as often as my class schedule would allow. I seriously considered transferring to another campus after my first year. To this day, I don't know why I didn't do it. I guess I wanted to give Cal Poly another chance.

When I returned the following year, I realized that I wasn't the only one who had doubts about the campus. Many of the people I met in my first year did not come back. Some students transferred because of their dislike of the campus. Other students went home after getting kicked out for bad grades. Some students got kicked out, but didn't tell their parents and went to City College until they were allowed back in to Cal Poly.

Since the dorms were too small for me, and the dorm food didn't always agree with my digestive system, I decided to live off campus my second year. As most students can tell you, finding affordable housing is a pain in the ass.

After getting over that initial hurdle, the next challenge was roommate. I never really interacted with my roommate in the dorms. I guess he was never there. Therefore, I had to learn to live with two other students my second year. It took awhile to get used to them and to learn how to share a living space, but it worked out. I spent most of my time new people and meeting new people. The second year, I also got more accustomed to Cal Poly and the city, but I still didn't feel like it was my town.

After talking to other students and friends, I have concluded that most students take an average of two years to become fully adapted to Cal Poly.

When I came back for my third year, I was determined to make the most of my college experience. Along with my upper division courses, I started taking classes that had always interested me, but didn't quite fit into my flat sheet. To date, some of my favorite classes at Cal Poly are the ones I have taken outside of the College of Science and Math. I took myself, "What were the chances of me learning Japanese and gloss after college?"

Among the classes I took outside of my major curriculum were journalism courses. I have always been more attracted to writing English than speaking it. Along with writing random classes, I also decided to study abroad. Through the department of biological sciences, I went on the Golden Flea, a 500-foot con-rural ship. The program, which I highly recommend, takes about 20 Cal Poly students on a cruise at sea. The year I went, we traveled to parts of Central and South America and went through the Panama Canal. It was an awesome experience.

Now, in retrospect, I am fully relaxed and at ease in San Luis Obispo. My trips to Los Angeles have decreased each year, from about every two weeks as a freshman to major holidays and family birthdays now. I'm really getting attached to this campus and city - not so much that I'll miss it when I graduate, but I will look back at this place with a fondness.

So, what advice can I give incoming freshmen?

It takes time. Whether you are from a large city or small town like San Luis Obispo, it might take time to find a niche in this campus. Many parents like this town because of its size, but small town stigma doesn't prevent parents from partying like they do at other schools. Give Cal Poly a chance.

One last thing - in the dorms, always wear flip-flops. Athletes' foot is prevalent in those places.

Byron Samayo is an ecology and systematic biology senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

If you haven't noticed, Cal Poly isn't exactly the most diverse place

That the United States of America, described as "a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal," began as a slave society in a profound historical Pity. The "original sin" of slavery has left an indelible imprint on our nation's soul. Hundreds of thousands were slaughtered in the Civil War. The price this new democracy had to pay to rid itself of that un-democratic tradition.

"Being one of the few Assyrians at Cal Poly, I know what it feels like to be different, not only in culture, but being categorized as a minority. Many of my friends were in the same grade, class, with low values. I was told by a white male that the only reason I got accepted to Cal Poly was because I was a minority. I resent that notion, because I worked very hard to get into this college, and achieved a lot of my goals through school. My male friend also told me that he didn't understand why his sister didn't get accepted to Cal Poly and I did. Being a racist isn't something I look for in friends, but my reply to him was simple: Don't be a jealous bigot because you are becoming the minority now.

A good example of recent racial issues was when a white man of evidence desire and ability was wrongfully denied admission to the medical school of the University of California at Davis because 16 places out of 100 in each entering class have been reserved for qualified members of racial minorities. The struggle for racial equality is old, but the constitutional question presented by special admissions to colleges and graduate schools are now.

Through the 1930's and 1940's the cases that now to the U.S. Supreme Court were concerned with the exclusion of Blacks from segregated professional schools. In the 1950's and 1960's the court was occupied first with its great decision in that black student not allowed in Georgetown public school, also known as the Brown case. Segregation in public schools was declared unconstitutional.

The case of the tenured professor at Georgetown public school, also known as the Brown case. Segregation in public schools was declared unconstitutional.

The case of the tenured professor at Georgetown public school, also known as the Brown case. Segregation in public schools was declared unconstitutional.

Adrenna Benjamin is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.
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By Laura Vega

When it comes to being in the spotlight, Jason Sullivan would rather be on the sidelines.

Sullivan, assistant athletic director for media relations, oversees the compilation and distribution of statistics and information for Cal Poly athletics. Along with two staff and three student assistants, Sullivan works closely with Mustang athletes, coaches, staff and media.

Brian Thurmond, assistant director of sports information, said it is rare to know anyone with as much dedication as Sullivan.

"He is the hardest working individual I've ever worked with," Thurmond said. "Visiting media love coming to Cal Poly because he makes sure things are taken care of for them. He is an outstanding role model for students to work with because of his professionalism. He has motivated me by example to do a better job at what I do."

A typical day for Sullivan begins at 8 a.m. He writes press releases and deals with media requests until noon, eating lunch at his desk and meeting with head coaches in the afternoon.

If it is a game day, he then prepares a pre-game press release, distributes statistics to the media during the game and coordinates media interview requests after the game.

Sullivan said it was his father, Dennis, who set the example for him. Sullivan said. "He taught me as long as you enjoy what you're doing, it won't really seem like work. So I'm not afraid to put in extra hours, roll up the sleeves, dig in and contribute."

Sullivan graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 1993 with a communications degree. While at New Hampshire, Sullivan assisted with television and radio broadcasts of the university games. He found that he enjoyed working behind the scenes and helping the media.

Sullivan came to Cal Poly in 1993 when he filled an internship position in the sports information office. Over the next four years, he moved up and was eventually named assistant athletic director of media relations in 1997.

Support from the community, campus and media members makes his job much easier, Sullivan said.

"My job is getting the word out on these athletes," Sullivan said. "The media has really been cooperative in providing some great feature stories on our athletes. The community takes the athletes in as part of their family. The campus really supports athletes and it supports the student athletes first and foremost."

Support from the community, campus and media members makes his job much easier, Sullivan said.

Sullivan spends part of his day updating information for the Cal Poly Athletics Web site, www.gopoly.com. Other parts of his day are devoted to upcoming games and media guide preparation.

Sullivan said the best part of his job is promoting the accomplishments of Mustang athletes, team, coaches and staff member. The sports information office sends out press releases to more than 150 media contacts, Sullivan said.

Additionally, an alumni newsletter is sent to approximately 1500 people via the Internet.

"There is always something good to promote with Cal Poly athletics," Sullivan said. "Sending out a hometown press release about a standout student-athlete who was named All-American or who earned an academic scholarship - that's what I like the best."

One highlight for the Mustangs and Sullivan was last year's football game against Northern Iowa in Mustad Stadium. Sophomore wide receiver and All-American Kasim Osogbo finished the game with 175 yards receiving, breaking the national Division I-AA record for yards in a game.

"He is possibly the hardest working athletic director in the conference," Bromley said. "He was the first person to call Osogbo at home to tell him he had been named All-American. Osogbo said he appreciated Sullivan's support in working with the media.

Cal Poly athletics director John McCutcheon said Sullivan has always supported the efforts and needs of Cal Poly coaches as well. That is not easy to do, since the university athletics department consists of 21 sports programs, McCutcheon said.

"Sullivan would not be one to try to put himself in the spotlight," McCutcheon said. "He would use his role to bring attention and bring information out about the team, the coach and the department. That's really what the goal of a positive, good sports information director should be."

In addition to his role as sports information director, Sullivan is teaching a course on Macintosh computer applications this quarter at Cal Poly. Sullivan has previously lectured in journalism courses at the university.

Sullivan said technology has created the biggest impact on the sports information office over the past years. The Internet provides fans, alumni and reporters with quick information on Cal Poly athletics. Many reporters request press releases sent by e-mail.

Cal Poly women's basketball head coach Faith Minnaugh said Sullivan understands his job.

"Sullivan's support in working with the media has really been cooperative in involving the athletes," Sullivan said. "They're all intelligent, they're very cooperative, and they're polite."

Minnaugh began working with Sullivan in 1996 during her first year at Cal Poly. At the time, Sullivan traveled with the women's basketball team. Minnaugh said Sullivan has always been personable. The team would even get him out on the court to shoot some baskets, Minnaugh said.

"So we know he has game," Minnaugh said. "He's one of the Blessings of Cal Poly - a super guy."

Faith Minnaugh

Cal Poly women's basketball head coach

300 Mustang Daily Staff Writer

Jason Sullivan, assistant athletic director for media relations, has been with Cal Poly since an internship in 1993. He is responsible for all press relations between the athletic department and the media.
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Recruiting is big business for Cal Poly football

By Matt Szabo
USSCSCAL DAILY STAFF WRITER

Before most Cal Poly football players throw their first pass, make their first tackle or score their first touchdown, they must first agree to play for the team. It sounds like common sense, yet many fans are unaware of the art of recruiting.

A combination of many different factors can often mean the difference between landing the big recruit and coming up empty.

“We don’t have a set formula,” said Rich Ellerson, new Cal Poly football head coach. “We’re going out there to try to get the best player.”

Getting the best player could initially be seen as a difficult process with the limited resources Cal Poly has to fund the recruiting process. The Cal Poly football team currently has 55 players under scholarship, said Athletic Director John McCutcheon.

The NCAA Division 1-AA limit is 63, so the team is not fully funded in expenses.

“The recruiting budget for football is a little conservative compared to what other schools have.”

Since most of the recruits come from California, that figure is sufficient, even though many of the University of California football programs typically spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to bring in high school players from around the nation.

“We generally recruit 99 percent within California,” McCutcheon said. “That’s where we think we’ll be most effective. It’s a doable process.”

After a disappointing 3-8 record last year under former head coach Larry Welsh, Ellerson had his share of problems spending that recruiting money as a new coach. McCutcheon said that most of the out-of-state recruits for the football team come about as a result of a connection to the school or the team itself. Because Ellerson is a new coach, building upon those connections was difficult. “We were late, and we didn’t have a recruiting line,” he said. “We were not going to be through with our Cal Poly connections.”

Ellerson plans to rework the offense this year, making the running game more prominent and introducing the option play. Yet there was never an attempt to radically change the characteristics of the team through recruiting despite last season’s record.

“We still think the things you have to address, that’s one of the easier ones,” Ellerson said. “Traditionally, athletics at Cal Poly have been strong. What is difficult is if the university itself has problems.”

Ellerson said he sees a solid nucleus within his current squad is important to his approach.

“You never want to assume that somebody’s going to come in and save you,” he said.

Still, there is reason for Ellerson to be happy about his recruits because they fit the profile he was looking for. This year there are 14 new football student-athletes, including local players Kenik Stollmeyer, Jason Holmes and Brett Gauld. Stollmeyer, a defensive back from Morro Bay, was a two-time All-Western State Conference selection at Hancock College in Santa Maria.

Holmes, a wide receiver from Paso Robles High, was the San Luis Obispo County Player of the Year last year while pulling in 48 receptions for 928 yards. Martinez, a running back also from Paso Robles High, rushed for 1,272 yards and 25 touchdowns.

Stollmeyer is one of only four recruits from a junior college; the other 10 are coming from high school.

“A junior college player traditional fills a different need,” Ellerson said.

“You’re looking for a player to fit in right away. More of them play, and play well, in their first year.”

It is no accident that some of the recruits are from the local area. Recruits see Cal Poly as an excellent academic school, and that can often factor into the decision. Cal Poly is marketable as a good place to go to school and not just a good place to play football.

“We have a style of play that allows us to recruit a different profile players,” Ellerson said. He said he looks for people who will value academics, San Luis Obispo and the Central Coast community.

That sense of community was a big factor for junior defensive back Dave Woods when he chose to play for the Mustangs.

Woods was contacted by seven or eight schools during his junior year of high school and had dinner with several of the coaches from those schools. Finally, during his senior year, Woods had narrowed his choice down to UC Davis, San Diego State, Southern Methodist University and Cal Poly.

The proximity of Cal Poly was helpful to Woods, originally from Tustin, a small town near Sorrento Valley.

“From there, it’s just a matter of choice,” Woods said.

He added that Cal Poly had the right atmosphere, was a good place to live and close enough to his hometown. Senior offensive lineman Ryan Pinman was also heavily recruited out of high school.

see RECRUITS, page 5
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