Open House

April 20-22, 2001

Mustang Daily
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
Poly style
Six students share their daily lives with Mustang Daily.

By Evann Castaldo
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

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. Teasing 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. Meital Manzuri, political science sophomore, wakes up at 6 a.m. two days a week to serve hazels at Bayels Café.

The rest of the week, however, doesn't start as early for her.

"I've never had class before 10 or 11 a.m," she said, "except for one class at 9 a.m. a year ago."

This quarter is also the first quarter in a year that she has classes on Friday, she said. Being a student in the College of Liberal Arts has a price, though, Manzuri estimates she is assigned 120 pages of reading each week. Waking up at dawn? Reading hundreds of pages in textbooks each week? At first it might sound unappealing, but both students claim it isn't. For Tasker, the best thing about her major is all the hands-on work students do.

"It's not just hearing about what you would be doing - you're actually out there working with the animals," she said.

Manzuri likes "learning about people rather than numbers," she said. Though some people have criticized the College of Liberal Arts for not "specializing" students in any one area, Manzuri said she doesn't see it that way.

"I think it's good that it makes you flexible," she said. "Obviously if a liberal arts student couldn't be an engineer, but in the business world you would know how to deal with people."

Though Manzuri doesn't usually have class on Fridays, the big rumor that circulates around Cal Poly is that business majors never have a five-day week.

This isn't true for Laura Chandler, a business junior.

"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 - her group is Burger King - in order to improve its sales. Chandler estimated 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.

On any given day, Clow might spend six hours or more working, either as an audiovisual technician for Associated Students Inc., a system administrator for Information Technology Services, or a theater technician. On top of this, he spends 10 to 20 hours a week on homework, he said, "ranging from programming to circuit analysis to writing papers."

Some rumors about engineering students are that they spend a lot of their time doing homework, studying or going to class. Based on the schedule of Mike Sullivan, computer engineering junior, some of this is true.

"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 aid 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," he said. "Why do I think gay and lesbian people can't get married?"

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 also 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 Honors Program. For this program, she completes at least five hours of community service each quarter. So far she has volunteered at Woods Humane Society and Habitat for Humanity, she said.

When Manzuri is not in class or doing homework, she might be working for ASI's executive staff, where she is director of student opinion. In this position, she helps out with events or makes up surveys for students to fill out. She also plays intramural soccer on a team called the Flying Wombats.

Nate Sanchez, biology senior, is involved with two activities totally unrelated to his major - the Motorcycle Club and the Logging Team.

"The logging team does all the stuff you see late at night on ESPN," he said. "The team competes with other schools in such events as log rolling, tree climbing and axe throwing - events Sanchez and the team practices 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 absolutely love (quarter at sea)," he said. "I think it's cool that it makes you accept things that you're not familiar with."

By Evan Casaldo
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 O'Brien, 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, O'Brien said and class will not be canceled on Fridays. 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 Brown, assistant coordinator of orientation programs.

"Open House presents Poly Royal" will be a show-case of clubs and activities, O'Brien said.

"It will be a celebration of Cal Poly, alumni, students and faculty, as opposed to having a party," O'Brien said.

Poly Royal is part of a long tradition at Cal Poly beginning in 1904, according to the newly released book, "Cal Poly: The First Hundred Years." The first version of Poly Royal was called "Farmers Institute and Basket Picnic." It was the first Open House event held at Cal Poly on May 24, 1904. Noted educators and prominent citizens addressed the people.

At the first Open House, 200 visitors toured the new buildings, ate barbecue and listened to speeches, according to "Cal Poly: The First Hundred Years." The Farmers' Picnic became so popular that by 1910 the Pacific Coast Railway offered reduced fare to San Luis Obispo. The 1910 picnic saw 887 visitors, according to Cal Poly, the first Hundred Years.

The tenth anniversary of Cal Poly saw 1,000 visitors of the effectiveness of vocational education.

In 1933 Julian McPhee, then president of Cal Poly, supported the idea of an annual event to publicize the school and prepare agriculture students for state level judging. Carl "Gus" Beck, advisor of the Agriculture students and faculty created Poly Royal. The event was billed as "A Country Fair on a College Campus." In 1933 film star Will Rogers attended the event. Parade, stock judging, exhibitions of farm projects and machinery, tours of the shops and a baseball game were all part of Poly Royal, according to "Cal Poly: The First Hundred Years." President McPhee wanted Poly Royal to be a popular enhancement of Cal Poly's learn-by-doing philosophy-proof to visitors of the effectiveness of vocations.

During World War Two the event was downsized and canceled in 1945 due to gas rationing. Then, in 1980 after the success of the event had grown again, noting occurred. Police blamed alcohol and overdrinking due to 100,000 visitors, according to the book. President Warren J. Baker called for a reassessment of the event and celebrations were canceled until 1994. Open House was approved as a small version of the traditional event. The focus returned to student programs and accomplishments of the school. This year, Poly Royal is being reinstated as the theme to Open House.

An aerial view of Cal Poly from late 1954 shows the beginning of the campus core from California Blvd.

Spanning a century of history

By Byron Samaya
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

With the recent release of a commemorative book detailing Cal Poly's history, stories of Cal Poly's first 100 years have been resurrected. "Cal Poly: The First Hundred Years," put together by the campus, and shines light on the history that made the university what it is today.

The book, which recently hit El Corral Bookstore, was used as a major source for this article.

The Cal Poly of today was created at the beginning of this century as a polytechnic, vocational high school.

The city of San Luis Obispo, where the campus was founded, had only 1,031 residents in the early 1900s. Like today, the town was primarily a small agriculture town. The original scholastic plans for the area were to have a teacher's college. Myron Angel, a journalist, helped rally the town behind the idea.

"Partnerships with the community have been part of the school from the beginning," said Daniel Howard-Greene, executive assistant to University President Warren Baker.

Eventually, San Luis Obispo supporters changed their request and started lobbying for a polytechnic school. Like the proposal before, this was met with opposition in state legislature because California already had enough higher education institutions.

It was not until 1901 that the California Senate and House of Representatives approved the third proposal and started the polytechnic high school with $50,000. From the beginning, Cal Poly, which did not become a college until April 1940, had an emphasis in agriculture and mechanics.

Another aspect that has been with Cal Poly from the get-go was its motto, "learn by doing." The motto, which today has become synonymous with Cal Poly, was the philosophy of Angel and the town.

"From the beginning, the supporters wanted to establish a technical school to prepare students head and hands," Howard-Greene said.

The first student to arrive at the school was F.A. Hill. Hill was part of the 20-student class that was first taught at the polytechnic vocational high school. The early student body consisted of both male and female students and represented the ethnic diversity of the state. However, at the beginning of the depression of the 1930s, women were not allowed to enroll. The school cited lack of funds to build female housing as a reason for not allowing women to enroll.

Much like today's students, the students from the first class also spent most of their free time in the surrounding areas of San Luis Obispo in places such as Poly Canyon, El Pismo Beach and Morro Bay.

One difference over the years has been in tuition fees. When the school opened, $52 would cover tuition for funeral expenses for a quarter. The student-funded senior projects have also changed over 100 years. When they were first implemented in 1925, they were called "student projects."

"Senior projects were enterprise-like today," Howard-Greene said. "Many students' projects started small businesses."

Most projects in agriculture would involve the selling of eggs, milk and poultry. The funds raised were directly given to the school. Maybe because of the differences in curriculum or just human nature, "the Poly" as it was first called, had a rivalry with San Luis Obispo High. This rivalry inspired the addition of a prominent Cal Poly landmark, the hillside "P."

The "P," which started as prank from San Luis Obispo High School. The school placed large He, made of limestone all around the hilltops of Cal Poly.

In retaliation, Cal Poly changed the hill into a logo. This was back and forth until Cal Poly concentrated solely on the "P" we now know.

Even though the campus and town were small, global issues still affected the students on campus, the most life threatening being the numerous wars the United States were involved in. At the beginning of World War I, the campus was pretty much turned over to naval aviators," Howard-Greene said. "The school takes a lot of pride in its role during the war."

During the war, the navy bought officers to train aeronautical engineering students into pilots. If students enrolled in the naval program, they would be tested for their skills. If they failed, it was a one-way ticket to active duty. If they succeeded, advance training was available. Along with all the global tragedies that occurred in the past 100 years, Cal Poly was also affected personally.

In October 1960, a plane carrying the Cal Poly football team crashed and burned after takeoff. A series of football games were played to raise money for the funeral expenses. Like every other problem, the school eventually overcame it.

Cal Poly has come a long way since its opening in 1901. Today, the university offers 67 bachelor's degrees, 18 master's degrees, 49 minors and 10 credentials within the six colleges. The campus has physically grown from its original 261 acres to 625 acres today.

"Cal Poly has emerged as one of the most highly regarded universities, one of the top undergraduate universities," Howard-Greene said.
Club sports capitalize on Royal crowds

By Aaron Lambert

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 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 12 p.m. until 5 p.m.

Funding is another reason for the club booths, said Alison Rash, 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
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“My junior year football season, I started getting letters in the mail,” Pittman said. “The letters were con­ cerned.”

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 be in playing for the Mustangs.

“We have to back it up with our pro­gram and environment,” Ellenson said.

The faculty who teach your classes are concerned about the future of the California State University. The way that educational policy decisions are now being made and resources for your education are allocated threaten to erode the quality of the education you receive.

53,000 NEW STUDENTS, ONE NEW FACULTY POSITION

Between 1994 and 1999, student enrollment in the CSU increased by 53,000 students. That is like adding a whole new campus bigger than CSU’s largest, San Diego State. During the same time, CSU as a system added only one new tenure-track position!

All the other faculty who were hired to teach that huge student increase were employed on a temporary, usually part-time, basis. These lecturers receive less pay and fewer benefits and protections than tenure-track faculty. And, they receive little professional support from the university.

BIGGER CLASSES MEAN LESS TIME FOR EACH STUDENT

Many classes are getting bigger and you may have increasing difficulty finding faculty available to help you individually. That is because fewer permanent faculty administer growing programs and many lecturers must travel to other campuses to make a living.

BALLOONING ADMINISTRATION

Over the last five years, the number of administrators has increased by 24%, while the number of students has increased by 14% and the number of instructional, tenure-track faculty went up by only .001%. Rising administrative costs mean less money for your instruction.

Soon, our union, the California Faculty Association will begin bargaining a new contract for faculty. We hope to address issues that directly affect you, the students, as well as the faculty. For that reason, we are writing to share with you these concerns. We expect the coming contract negotiations with the CSU administration to be tough.

WE NEED TO STICK TOGETHER

Students, faculty, and the support staff who work on our campuses need to stick together. After all, our working conditions are your learning conditions. We believe you deserve a great education. We are committed to that goal.

We ask your support in keeping quality education the number one priority.

STANDING UP FOR THE CSU! California Faculty Association

1994/95 TO 1999/2000 NET CHANGE IN FULL-TIME FACULTY BY EMPLOYMENT GROUP

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While the student body increased by 53,000, only one permanent faculty position was added.

More than half the CSU faculty are new lecturers with only temporary appointments.

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Campus officials reflect on recent deaths, mysteries

By Janelle Fossett
Associate Editor

San Luis 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 four major crimes. That has left many residents questioning their safety.

Cal Poly student Kristin Smart disappeared 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 unsolved.

Rachel Newhouse disappeared Nov. 12, 1998 after leaving Tortilla Flats in downtown San Luis Obispo. As she walked home on Mission Street, she was abducted by Rex Allan Krebs, who later murdered the 22-year-old Cal Poly student.

Aundria Crawford, a 20-year-old Cuesta College student, was abducted from her San Luis Obispo residence on March 11, 1999. After being presented with overwhelming evidence against him, Krebs confessed to the murders of Crawford and Newhouse. A Monterey jury recently found 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 15 minutes from San Luis Obispo, on April 9, 2001. She had just broken up with her boyfriend, William Weilante, who also disappeared and was found dead on the next day. Police later confirmed his death as a suicide.

Behind the facts and figures, however, are people who have been greatly affected by the intense nature of these crimes. Although media attention has focused on the families and friends involved, many Cal Poly officials have also experienced the devastating impact of these unfortunate 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 Detwiler, interim vice president of Student Affairs, has been the link to student life on campus since September 2000. As an administrator, he said he has witnessed the apprehensive attitude toward 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."

"These crimes are most powerful in the initial stages, when the feelings about the unknown are at their highest," he said. "But it follows that in this case, it may be 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.

Detwiler 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, Detwiler said he was moved by the downright inhumanity he saw in the case. "Kristin Hogan's murder case was concluded within a week after authorities found her body in Montaña de Oro. Detwiler said although it was not too late, its 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 don't have fun, and it's not saying give up your enjoyment of life 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, Detwiler said there is no evidence that they have impacted enrollment or Cal Poly's reputation.

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

The safety perspective

Cal Poly's Chief of University Police, Tony Aulds, 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 once investigated homicides.

From a police perspective, Aulds said the disappearance of Smart was particularly trying for the organization involved, because it was never concluded. He said the heartfelt resolution, 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, Aulds said it is the uncertainty involved in the first few months of an investigation that is always difficult. "This was a true "who-done-it," 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, Aulds said there was a positive sense of closure knowing that the police had found the right person.

Aulds 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, Aulds said the rapid development of the case brought it to a quick conclusion after the recent trial and conviction of Krebs.

"It's the lack of closure that makes it powerful in the initial stages, when the feelings about the unknown are at their highest," he said. "People know this is a safe community."
Great aminints ot time, effort and safety. Aeilts even compared such conclusions. "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 lighting.

"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.

Serious questions about women, he said, "are the questions about them," he said. "We have to develop a certain veneer to be able to deal with this professionally."

The cases are in your mind and so are the questions about them," he said. "You have to develop a certain veneer 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 tears 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 unresolved 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.

Tim Riley
Realtor

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Making the transition from a big city

to the not-so-big Cal Poly community

I understood 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 Thousand Oaks, not the Valley and certainly not Orange County.
Los Angeles is the 24-hour traffic jams, 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 UC 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.

I wasn’t sure about any of the colleges, and I left the decision to the last possible
moment. In what I can only call a moment of insanity, I signed the Cal Poly enrollment
form. I became a Mustang.

With the culture shock, deadlines and forms, I forgot a crucial part in choosing a
college: I forgot to visit the campus before signing, although I had seen it in pictures.
I eventually did visit the campus, after I signed. I saw the campus for the first
time in a moment of insanity, and I was more than a little anxious about the
campus. I didn’t know what this campus was like... I visited some University of
California campuses before attending Cal State campus, and there was an adequate amount of
cultural representation. I assumed Cal Poly was the same.

I was wrong.

Along with the culture shock, the other aspect of Cal Poly to which I had to get
accustomed was the small town atmosphere. All I knew about small towns I learned
from television shows, movies and the internet... This was a small town.

I didn’t know where I was, in a metropolitan area. I knew that there were no tall
tall buildings 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
questions 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 roommates.
I never really interacted with my roommate in the dorms, because he was never
there. Therefore, I had to learn to live with two other students my second year. It took
unusual to get used to and to learn how to share a living space, but it worked out.
I spent most of my free time studying and meeting new people. The second year, I also
met a more acclimated 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 col-
lege experience. Along with my upper division courses, I started taking classes that had
always interested me, but didn’t quite fit into my flow 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 call myself, “What were the chances of me learning Japanese and gloss
ing after college?”

Among the classes I took outside of my major curriculum were journalism courses. I
have always been more of a writer than a reader English than speaking it. Along with taking
random classes, I also decided to study abroad. Through the department of biological
sciences, I went on the Golden Bear, a 500-foot ex-cargo ship. The program, which I
highly recommend, takes about 85 Cal Poly students on a trip 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 my fourth year, 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 to say that I will definitely be attending the master’s program next year, 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 a 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 my parents from panning like they do at
other schools. Give Cal Poly a chance.

One last thing— in the dorms, always wear flip-flops. Athletes’ feet are prevalent in
those places.

Byron Samayoa is an ecology and systematic biology senior and Mustang Daily staff
writer.
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When it comes to being in the spotlight, Jason Sullivan would rather be on the sidelines.

Sullivan, assistant athletics 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 for sports information, said it is rare to know anyone with as much dedication as Sullivan.

"He’s 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 to work hard.

"I learned from him," Sullivan said. "He told 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 athletics 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 athletics and it supports the student athletes first and foremost."

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, coach or staff member. The sports information office sends out press releases to more than 700 media contacts, Sullivan said.

Additionally, an alumni newsletter is sent to approximately 5200 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 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 Mustang Stadium. Sophomore wide receiver and All-American Kasim Osgood finished the game with 176 yards receiving, breaking the national Division I-AA record for yards in a game.

"I’ve described Sullivan as the perfect person for his job," said Kevin Bromley, head coach, said he sees a huge difference between Sullivan and other sports information directors at other universities.

"He is the best sports information director in the conference," Bromley said. "He provides so much information about our players and our programs. He’s a relentless worker and does an unbelievable job with every sport. He’s very patient, diligent and puts in the time and effort."

Sullivan provides the team with crucial statistics throughout the game. Bromley added that Sullivan’s hard work allows him to talk quickly and intelligently to the team during and after the game.

"Other schools don’t do that," Bromley said. "Jason finds a way to get things done. He’s the best in the league."

Bromley said he also appreciates Sullivan’s consideration for his coaching schedule. While Sullivan makes sure that Bromley is available for interviews with the media, he recognizes that Bromley must also have uninterrupted time to coach the team.

Cal Poly women’s basketball head coach Faith Mimnaugh said she believes Sullivan is one of Cal Poly’s greatest assets.

"Jason is recommended only committed to excellence," Mimnaugh said. "He is a great person. He is professional in every regard. He is an advocate for the athletes and always wants to represent them in a favorable light."

Cal Poly’s athletes are excellent role models, which makes it easy for them to be portrayed in a positive manner, Mimnaugh added. Sullivan agreed that the athletes make his work easier for him.

"All the athletes speak well to the media," Mimnaugh said. "They’re all intelligent, they’re very cooperative, and they’re polite."

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

"So we know he has game," Mimnaugh said. "He’s one of the blessings of Cal Poly — a super guy."
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Recruiting is big business for Cal Poly football

By Matt Szabo

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 I-AA limit is 63, so the team is not fully funded in expenses.

"The recruiting budget for football is a little over $20,000," McCutcheon said that a budget to fund recruiting travelTry to get the best player."

Ellerson named quarterback Seth Burford, wide receiver Kasim Osgood, offensive lineman John Lloyd and defensive lineman Billy Belo. Ellerson should know about Arizona-level talent, since he was defensive coordinator at Arizona for four years prior to coming to Cal Poly. The confidence he has in his current squad is important to his approach.

"We generally recruit 99 percent within California," McCutcheon said. "That's where we think we'll be most effective. It's a double process."

After a disappointing 3-8 record last year under former head coach Larry Walsh, 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 list," he said. "We were not going to be thorough with our Cal Poly connections."

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

"All the things you might have to address, that's one of the easier ones," he 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 for the team to build around.

"There's a bunch of guys playing for us next year that Arizona would love to have," he said.

Ellerson 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 Thousand Oaks, a small town near Santa Clarita.

"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 Penman was also heavily recruited out of high school.

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.

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"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 Denik Stollmeyer, Jason Holmes and Adam Martinez.

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 little different profile player," Ellerson said. He said he looks for people who will value academics, San Luis Obispo and the Central Coast community.

That same 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 Thousand Oaks, a small town near Santa Clarita.

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