Alumni director to leave university

By Byron Samaya
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

There is going to be one less familiar face on campus this fall. After many years of dedicated service, Ben Beesley, Alumni Relations director, is leaving.

"Many of his co-workers will miss him," said Lynn Cook, event assistant at the university president's office. "He is well-liked by everyone and everyone knows him on campus."

Cook was Beesley's administrative assistant for seven years.

The Alumni Association is an organization that raises funds with the help of past alumni.

For the past seven years, Beesley worked with the sole purpose of building a stronger relationship between the university and graduated students, Cook said.

"He always received a lot of visitors, especially ex-Poly Reps," Cook said. "It's going to be odd for them when they come back and he is not here."

Beesley is a Cal Poly alumnus and has been associated with the university for many times. He graduated in 1986. Beesley has held many positions in the administration department, from member director and associate director of the alumni department to his current position of Alumni Relations director.

Ben Beesley is leaving Cal Poly after seven years as Alumni Relations director. He graduated from Cal Poly in 1986 and has worked here since then. He is taking a similar position at Loyola Marymount University.

see BEESLEY, page 2

Wireless equipment improves engineering lab

By Anne Guliford
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly's wireless communications lab is better equipped now that Anritsu has donated six units that test radio frequency to the College of Engineering.

The units are worth $50,000 each.

The new equipment, which is more versatile in its abilities than the older units, will supplement the equipment already in the lab. The current equipment ranges from one to 35 years old.

The equipment was dedicated at 2 p.m. Thursday in the engineering east building. Students in the 8FWireless communications class passed during their lab activity for the dedication.

Students from the class were excited about the new equipment and feel that it will improve their skills and education.

"When we graduate we'll be more up to date," said Bjorn Davis, an electrical engineering senior. "It's definitely more fun to use the new equipment than the ancient equipment."

The cutting of the ribbon was performed by Frank Tiernan, the vice president and general manager of Anritsu; the dean of the College of Engineering; Peter Lee, the electrical engineering department chair; Martin Kalisak; and Jennifer Liu, an electrical engineering senior. Representatives from the department of engineering and Anritsu were in attendance.

Students returned to their lab activities directly after the ceremony.

Among other things, Anritsu makes Vector Network Measurement Systems like the ones donated. These machines test radio frequencies like the ones that cell phone and pagers use. Anritsu's main facility is in Morgan Hill. They also dedicated a new satellite facility in San Luis Obispo on Thursday.

Tiernan said the decision to sponsor Cal Poly was "a natural choice" because of "the caliber of students and the cooperation by the department."

see DONATION, page 2

Altered food becoming less popular

By Rob Cassel
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

"We are what we eat," and two-thirds of the products consumers get from grocery stores are genetically modified, said Texas A&M political science professor Gus Whiten.

Whiten, who is studying how people form their opinions on genetic alterations in food, presented his findings to approximately 50 people in the science building Wednesday.

Whiten said genetically modified organisms (GMO) are found most prominently in corn and soy products and are used to change the actual genetic structure of food. An example of a GMO is a type of corn that is genetically altered to produce a pesticide and prevent the need to spray crops.

"The public is just starting to find out about this despite the fact that GMO's have been used since the mid-1990's," Whiten said. "This is largely due to the fact that Europe recently banned foods that use them. Our researchers are finding that most people don't have any idea that the products they eat have been subject to genetic modifications. The way the public reacts to this could dictate the future of GMO's."

In addition to the European ban, the U.S. public has learned more about GMO's as a result of an incident involving Taco Bell. A type of corn that was genetically modified and approved for animals, but not people, found its way into Taco Bell taco shells. The genetic modification caused the shells to break into larger than non-modified shells to break down and increased the risk of allergic reactions, he said.

When conducting their research, Whiten and his fellow researchers primarily use telephone surveys that allow each person in the United States who is 18 years or older an equal chance of being selected. If a person agrees to take the survey, he or she is asked 120 questions in approximately 20 minutes. The questions are centered on environmental, economic and public health concerns and make use of word association.

Respondents will be asked what comes to mind when they hear the word "biotechnology" while another is asked what comes to mind when they hear "genetic modification." The researchers have found that genetic modification receives a much more negative response. Variables such as time of response are also taken into account, yielding 170 total variables to be studied.

Whiten and his fellow researchers have identified four different groups of people in the United States through their surveys. Of the respondents, 35.3 percent think the risks

see GENETICS, page 2
beesley has also been a part of the newman catholic center. he has been associated with on-campus programs including week of welcome (wocw) and has held the position of alumni counselor. he said he will miss everything about the job, including his daily meetings and phone calls to alumni. he leaves with vivid memories stemming from his participation in the poly rep program and wocw. he said he used to receive a lot of mail from participants of both programs.

"ben has done a lot for this school," cook said. "he has made his mark on this campus.

among his accomplishments is the establishment of a week of leaving (awolc), which honors graduating students with activities and free food. he also was part of the committee that changed homecoming from just another day on the calendar to a major event.

but the program beesley will real ist in poly reps. "alumni has a saying, 'stay connected," beesley said. "i know i will, i am leaving with fond memories of poly reps."

even though he's going to keep in touch, many emotions are running through his head, he said. "i am leaving with both a feeling of anxiety and sadness," beesley said. "i am not sure what to expect in the new place."

starting in the fall, beesley will be an employee of Loyola Marymount University in los angeles where he will work in the alumni department. "everyone is going to miss him," cook said. "and, of course, i want to wish him the best in this new opportunity."

beesley's last day will be june 30.

If you are interested in business practices, fiscal management of the university and it's programs... then join the team!

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Take advantage of nature with birdwatching

By Byron Samayoa
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

They lurk in the bushes and blend well with their surroundings. Their ears are tuned to any sudden movements or songs. They wait quietly and patiently for the next bird to come into sight. Once it does, they focus and observe. They are not predators, they are bird watchers.

For students looking for outdoor activity this summer, birding might be ideal.

"It's actually very relaxing," said Tamara Convertino, ecology and systematic biology senior. "It gets you out in nature." Convertino explained that a routine bird outing for her consisted of a few things, the first being to wake up early.

"Birds are more active in the morning," she said. "They do most of their foraging (then)." A birdwatching day also consists of Convertino going on one of the trails in the area - she frequents Bishop Peak.

"I actually get there I tend to be very quiet," Convertino said. "I try to listen for birds and have patience." She hikes along the trail and pays attention to all the movement around her. After she feels satisfied with her progress she returns, and that's when most of the action starts.

"When you turn around, that's when you start seeing everything," Convertino said. "Without it, it always feels like there's nothing." Tricks usually last about one to four hours, but she said that it can be done anywhere at any time.

When planning an excursion, one of the first steps is choosing a destination. This is not a problem in San Luis Obispo, she said.

"San Luis Obispo is a hot spot for birds," Convertino said. "Almost all the birds of North America pass by here."

Students involved in birding should eventually get the "National Geographic Guide to North American Birds," a mandatory guide for students in ornithology. A pair of binoculars is suggested but is not required, she said. The best reason for watching birds is con­ nectivity with the world, Hanson said.

"It makes me feel more part of nature," she said. "Heather Dale Barcelona, SfPER's head librarian. Convertino stood the feeling. She said she feels she is studying something in a way to connect with the environment.

"The next time you see a bird, take a minute to watch it," Convertino offered as advice for first-time birders.

Students gain lasting memories from trip to China's Great Wall

By Cory Schouten
INDIANA DAILY STUDENT

(U-WIRE) BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Indiana University graduate student Dave Tanner said the fourth day of the School of Health Physical Education and Recreation's five-day walk of China's Great Wall was the most difficult.

"The group's water was running low, and the day's hike lasted seven hours," Tanner said. The path ranged to 12 inches wide in spots. Looming on either side were 20-foot drops. The wind blew at about 10 miles per hour.

The previous night, the group had camped out on the Wall, in an old guard tower.

"It was like magic," Tanner said of looking at the moon from the Great Wall.

Forty students, faculty and staff members with ties to HIPER returned from an 11-day trip to China and a five-day, 50-mile hike on China's Great Wall last week. It was the first official international hike permitted in the closed region by China's Great Wall Commission.

The walk celebrated 10 years of friendship and cooperation between HIPER and the Beijing University of Physical Education, which was represented by about 25 walkers. The partnership has promoted cultural exchanges and healthy lifestyles.

Despite the challenges of hiking along the wall and the training beforehand, participants said the trip was an amazing experience.

"It was the trip of a lifetime," said Mary Stroh, HIPER's head librarian.

Stroh said a highlight for her was walking along sections that had never been open to foreigners before. Most of the Wall in those parts was rubble, she said, but it was worth it.

Chinese-American student night filled with song, dance and food were another highlight for Stroh. As HIPER's librarian, Stroh donated six boxes of books to the BUFE library, which in turn donated Chinese books to the HIPER library.

During the trip, Stroh said the group passed through Tai Chi lessons.

"It looks very cool, but of course the people teaching us have done it since they were 6 years old," Barcelona said. "Once you start to do it, you realize it takes a lot of balance, skill and patience." Tanner said the trip shattered his preconception he had about China.

"I thought this is communist country, what do the people actually do?" Tanner said. "It's beautiful and the people are very happy. The culture was touched emotionally by the warmth extended by the Chinese. By the end of the trip the people on both sides were crying.

Industrial technology senior Kori Deardorff takes advantage of the sunshine to watch one of the various species of birds found in San Luis Obispo.

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Opinion

This week's issue: Dealing with this week's issue

Opinions bring change/These things don't work

Reading this commentary is pointless—really, it's true! In fact, what is going to be said is not going to do a damn thing but fill up white space next to a fabulous cartoon that only a handful of people will see.

Think this is a joke? Commentaries, editorials, columns and point/counterpoint arguments do not change the world with neoteric revelations. They are just the tip of the iceberg, though. Point/counterpoint arguments are just the tip of the iceberg, though.

So this is a definitive stance on point/counterpoint arguments—they are lame. There, it is said. What is oxymoronic can this commentary be without existing in some sort of parallel universe of paradox? Somehow it made sense to use this particular forum as a way to vent about how meaninglessness of these types of arguments can be.

Most of the time, the writers are challenged to choose a side of a controversial issue and argue the heck out of it until they have made their reader to think in that same vein—which does this really happen? Students either already have their own viewpoints made-up about an issue or really don't care if it doesn't affect them personally. It truly is sad that apathetic most students are when it comes to anything un-Greek, not sports-related or affiliated with getting laid and partying.

However, uninterested students are in anything worldly or outside the realms of their dorm, the opinion pages continue to be filled, making for an unintelligible chatterbox each day. Writers prance around issues with flowery language and big words they couldn't want to slip into their vernacular, all while pushing their weak and watered down arguments simply for the sake of spouting off about something they probably really don't care about anyway.

Point/counterpoint arguments are just the tip of the iceberg, though. The opinion page is just a superficial soapbox where students, professors, administrators and residents write in to bitch and moan about things that will never be changed on campus or in the city, or maybe it is just to see their names printed. At any rate, a forum where opinions are voiced is a luxury that is abused with half-used points of view and obvious, cockeyed ideas about how to cherish all that is good in the world. These letters to the editor, columns and commentaries are tired—how many times and different ways can students be told that homosexuality should be accepted or that it is unfair of administration to propose early morning classes or anything about politics?

Sure, Cal Poly deserves a voice. But please stop whispering, Cal Poly! Say something new, original, shocking—don't fall in line with the rest of the weary and worn sheep of the opinion pages.

Rob Cassel is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Friday, June 1, 2001
Volume LXV, No. 145
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Jenifer Hansen is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.
Letters to the editor

Look to bikes before attacking gas prices

Editor,

In response to Mr. Lambert's article ( "Keep the free market in gasoline " - May 23), I must say, I am sorry. I worry you have taken the advice of the alternative to gasoline-powered vehicles attacking back the bat, maybe ride a bike or take the bus, and be just thankful you are paying a little more as you are for this very limited resource.

Benjamin Volles is a mechanical engineering student.

Learn from history - gays died, too, Editor,

I'm curious, do Mustang Daily editors even read these opinion articles for any kind of factual accuracy? I'm referring to Mike Sullivan's column about the Jewish Holocaust ( "Jewish Holocaust could easily apply to homosexuals", May 23). The topic was yet another of your countless attacks on anyone who opposes homosexuality.

I'm barking up the wrong tree. My two best friends are men ... gay men. I'd like to promise you a friendship with a successful, happy homosexual to show you that gays and lesbians want to live that life too.

I think men and women can be less human than anybody else. I do not believe it is "valid" to treat them with any less consideration than any other human being. However, I have every right to dispose of their lifestyle or their actions. Let me get one thing straight: I do not consider homosexuals to be less human than anybody else.

I assume you objected to the subversive political statement exemplified in Sandy's article ( "I'm single", May 23). I am an honest person. I am sorry you don't realize that gay is a legitimate term to describe people who are not heterosexual. I am biding my time until I get the right to vote, to be able to vote for my candidates, and to be able to vote for a sexual orientation.

If you weren't white, straight and a male, would you still be here? I am a woman, a gay woman. This is not an issue of sexual orientation. This is an issue of freedom. And I am sorry you don't realize that gay rights are human rights.

Sandy 2.0, as we were apt to call her, was a staid little thing fashioned on a mash-up of your political correctness and some "we're just like you" sentiment. She was not a prostitute; she was an upscale-down flag on her back and a "USA2" clenched fist on her front side. Through short in statute, she often overshadowed those of the other motley crew of sandwich boards that vied for students' attention. Once an ember of promise, once a possibility, once a human being who would become the catalyst, she was "unrealistic" or "utopian". Her idealism was often derided in another day to get our message across.

If you're reading this, "colpfix", I ask you to consider that Sandy's life would have been greatly enriched had she been granted the unbiased students at Cal Poly. At a time when numerous clubs, including the Campus Crusade for Christ and the GLBU, have reported defacement and stealing of their clubs' respective property, I'm proud to say that the fascist culprits who hijacked after only five days of being displayed on I3exter lawn. That's one extra day more than any of the other four students' campuses.

I'm single. I'm biding my time until I get the right to vote, to be able to vote for my candidates, and to be able to vote for a sexual orientation. I will have three nickels.

My two favorite slogans are: "I think men and women can be less human than anybody else." I do not believe it is "valid" to treat them with any less consideration than any other human being. I am asking you to consider that Sandy's life would have been greatly enriched had she been granted the unbiased students at Cal Poly. At a time when numerous clubs, including the Campus Crusade for Christ and the GLBU, have reported defacement and stealing of their clubs' respective property, I'm proud to say that the fascist culprits who hijacked after only five days of being displayed on I3exter lawn. That's one extra day more than any of the other four students' campuses.

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Another thing I'd like to address is your closing statement, saying "I have every right to dispose of your culture". It is "to be critical of those who believe it is 'valid' to dislike gay and lesbian people - or their actions." Let me get one thing straight: I do not consider homosexuals to be less human than anybody else. I do not believe it is "valid" to treat them with any less consideration than any other human being. However, I have every right to dispose of their lifestyle or their actions. I believe that humani- ed by naysayers. At worst, she was criti- cal of the two-thirds majority to free the non-voting嵇国家. Ever since the negative reception given to her cousin, "Bernie the burn flag", who made his way up to the Cal Poly student union's open day during Open House in April, Sandy realized that a tough road lay before her. Without this love hap- tions, it was with great resolve that Sandy set out to spread her message of social and economic equality (something neither the "capitalist" Democratic and Republican student clubs were willing to accept as a viable goal). Her idealism was often tauted as "unrealistic" or "utopian" by naysayers. At worst, she was criti- cized as "irrational" (even though, as she realized, it may be the first time ever). Then it struck me: Cal Poly is indeed becoming increasingly tolerant! This is exemplified by the fact that the "co-situation" sandwich board was hijacked after only five days of being displayed on Hustler lawn. That's one extra day more than any of the other four students' campuses.

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Isaac Reed is a psychology graduate student.

Letter policy

Columns, cartoons and letters reflect the views of their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Mustang Daily. Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and length. Please limit length to 350 words.

Mustang Daily encourages comments on editorial policy and university affairs. Letters should be typewritten and signed with full name and address. Letters should be sent to: e-mailed letters can be mailed, faxed, delivered or e- mailed to MustangDaily@hotmail.com. A response may be attached. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

Commentary

Finding your soulmate is hard to do, isn't it now?

Editor's Note: When it rains it rains, so before it happens it rains, so before it happens it rains and I am sorry you don't realize that capitalism is antithetical to real "freedom," but that's another story altogether.

One thing I'd like to address is your closing statement, saying "I have every right to dispose of your culture". It is "to be critical of those who believe it is 'valid' to dislike gay and lesbian people - or their actions." Let me get one thing straight: I do not consider homosexuals to be less human than anybody else. I do not believe it is "valid" to treat them with any less consideration than any other human being. However, I have every right to dispose of their lifestyle or their actions. I believe that humani-
The bill would add actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, marital status, sex or sexual orientation discrimination law, which outlaws bias based on race, religion, color, physical or mental disability, marital status, sex or sexual orientation.

The author, Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg, D-Los Angeles, says the bill would help transgender people and those who don’t possess traits that are stereotypically associated with his or her gender. Those traits could include personality, clothing, hairstyle, speech or mannerisms, according to an Assembly analysis of the legislation. Under the bill, an employer could, however, still impose workplace appearance, grooming or dress standards that are related to the job. One opponent, Assemblyman Tim Leslie, D-Tahoe City, said the bill would allow a transgender worker to dress opposite their natural sex.

He said that would be “disruptive of various business places.”

The bill was sent to the Senate by a 41-31 vote, a bare majority of the 80-member Assembly.

Assembly bill may toughen discrimination laws, statutes

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Boses could not tell a woman worker to dress in a more feminine manner or harass a male employee because his slight build under a bill narrowly approved Thursday by the state Senate.

The bill would add actual or perceived gender to the state’s employment discrimination law, which outlawed bias based on race, religion, color, physical or mental disability, marital status, sex or sexual orientation.

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Memorandum of Understanding

The "American higher education is the envy of the world, but we put these obstacles in the way," Johnson said Wednesday.

The requirement for a computer database to collect information on foreign students and exchange program participants was part of a law passed by Congress in 1996. It was prompted partly by an allegation that a terrorist implicated in the 1993 trade center bombing in New York had originally entered the country on a student visa, Johnson said.

Evaluators raise concerns about tracking foreign students in the United States.

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Evaluators are concerned plans for a national computer database track foreign students, saying it was adopted in a climate of fear following the World Trade Center bombing.

With the U.S. share of such students declining, the government needs to make things easier for those who want to study in the United States — not more difficult, Victor Johnson, a policy official with NAFSA, Association of International Educators.

The United States remained the leading destination for foreign students, with $14 billion during the 1999-2000 academic year, Johnson said. However, its 30 percent share of international students has declined from 40 percent in 1992.

"American higher education is the envy of the world, but we put these obstacles in the way," Johnson said Wednesday.

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$5,000 MEMBERSHIP RAFFLE WINNER IS...

Vicky Korper
Liberal Studies Major
June 2001 Graduate

Congratulations to you and to all of the Class of 2001!

THE CAL POLY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Congratulations to you and to all of the Class of 2001!
SOCCER continued from page 8

"Last year we had a very physical team. We had strong and defensive players. This year, we may lose a little muscle, but we will more than compensate with playing ability," Gartner said. He is determined to play his final season at Cal Poly. He is currently working on his physical development, working out on his own and practicing with the team. The coaching staff also added two new goalkeepers to their lineup. The team was accepted into the Big West Conference this season, as well, which delayed until this season due to gender equity issues. Gartner said he hopes the team will thrive, already shown clear signs of becoming a stronger team, Gartner said. Although shaky at first, said team captain Hall, the team is always looking for improvement. The Mustang’s luck may be turning, he said. Paul Lizamis of the media-buying company TN Media in New York said that NBC and the NBA, which pays a proportion of ad revenues, aren’t燼ttracting the Lakers’ scouting performances.

Wolfgang Gartner men’s soccer head coach

Lakers record run costing NBC money

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Lakers’ winning performance in the NBA playoff series眼下 is costing the network a fortune.

The team has swept the first three rounds of the playoffs, which is bad news when it comes to ratings and advertising dollars for the network and revenue the NBA Basketball Association.

"In conference finals, each game is worth $2 million to $3 million in ad revenue," said industry analyst David Carter. "It’s a series that goes four games, six or seven games, but the risk of forgiving what could have been sold in ad space.

That could amount to about $52 million, Carter said. A rule of thumb is that a seven-game series means three games to break even, he said. The Lakers needed only four games to defeat San Antonio and Sonics, the games (lost) to defeat Portland. Out of a minimum 19 possible games, they have played six.

Los Angeles is four wins away from a second straight championship and an unprecedented perfect playoff series.

Paul Lazars of the media-buying company TN Media in New York agreed that NBC and the NBA, which pays a proportion of ad revenues, aren’t attracting the Lakers’ scouting performances. "There’s a double whammy with the kind of Blossom victories the Lakers have scored. There are not only fewer games, but also fewer exciting ones — and that means smaller audiences.

"A lot of viewers who aren’t regular season fans are going to watch a competitive game," Lazars said.

A case in point was Game 3 between the San Antonio Spurs and the Lakers, which was close until the middle of the third quarter and ended in a 111-106 Lakers win.

A local community group is keeping that in mind, sounding an optimistic tone as it keeps its eye on the Lakers.

"It’s an interesting debate because people love to watch history being made and watch dynasties developing. It also fun all the more to watch the Lakers do it again," said network spokeswoman Carmen Blanchard.

Mustang Daily... We like pizza. Donuts too.
Sports

Big West offers big test for men's soccer

A change in conference has provided the Cal Poly men's soccer team new motivation for next season

By Whitney Kellogg

Men's soccer head coach Wolfgang Gartner may not need to wear his lucky jack...