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 Les 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 Guilford
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 10 years old.

The equipment was dedicated at 2 p.m. Thursday in the engineering east building. Students in the 84th wireless communications class passed during their lab activity for the dedication.

Students from the class are 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 Kaliski; 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 cellular phones 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 here."

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 Gun Whitten.

Whitten, 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.

Whitten 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," Whitten 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."

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 take longer than non-modified shells to break down and increased the risk of allergic reactions, he said.

When conducting their research, Whitten 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," Whitten said.

Whitten 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
SACRAMENTO (AP) — State lawmakers are trying to limit the aggressive marketing of credit cards on California college campuses.

A bill approved by the Assembly would ask the state's three college systems to adopt policies to regulate such marketing on their campuses.

The bill does not specify what the policies should be, but suggests colleges should consider limiting sites and prohibiting companies from offering students gifts for applying for credit cards.

The bill also recommends that colleges include "debt education and counseling" in orientation for new students.

The author, Assemblyman Paul Newman Catholic Center. He has seven years of experience in the continued from page 1.

...the faculty and the relevance of the curriculum. Tiernan said picking Cal Poly was also easy because 20 of Anritsu's 650 employees are Cal Poly graduates. A picture of these graduates now hangs on the laboratory wall.

Liu, the student who participated in the ribbon cutting, had an internship at Anritsu last summer. "I de-bugged boards for them to their radio communication analyzers and I wrote the test procedures for them," Liu said. "I'm thinking about working for Anritsu." Her father is an Anritsu employee.

Dylan Howes, an electrical engineering senior who is graduating in June, will start working for Anritsu at the end of July.

"I'm going to be working in the manufacturing engineering department," Howes said. "I'll be helping solve problems with the equipment."

The College of Engineering is looking for industry sponsors for its 80 laboratories because the cost of maintaining them without sponsorships would be prohibitive.

"We look forward to future donations," Tiernan said.
Take advantage of nature with birdwatching

By Byron Samayo

They look 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 outside 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 one of the trails in the area -- she frequents Bishop Peak.

"I actually get there so 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 seems to happen.""1

Trek 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 with 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 catching birds is connectivity with the world. Hanson said.

"It wakes you up in the morning," she said. "It's鳥の愛なら、その音が心を穏やかにする。" It makes you feel more part of nature," she said.

Convertino shared the feeling. She said she feels the birds watching is 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

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

(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 group averaged 12 inches wide in spots. Loo ming on either side were 20-foot drops. The wind blew at about 30 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 HPER returned from a 11-day trip to China and a five-day, 50-mile hike at China's Great Wall last week. It was the first official international hike permitted in the closed sections by China's Great Wall Commission.

The walk celebrated 10 years of friendship and cooperation between HPER and the Beijing University of Physical Education, which was represented by about 25 walkers. The partnership has promoted cultural exchange, including Chinese-American culture nights, and the old Wall.

One day during the walk, the group came across "men made of Coke cans, lined up like 'little soldiers,'" Tanner said. "It was just like the communist country."

The group passed a sign that read, "Birders welcome," and said it was more strenuous than she had expected but called every day she spent on the Wall "magnificent."

One day during the walk, the group came across "tiny men," made of Coke cans, lined up like "little soldiers." Tanner said she was struck by the contrast between modern art and the old Wall.

Tanner said her favorite activity on the trip was Tai Chi lessons.

"It looks very calm, 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 her preconception he had about China.

"I thought this is communist country," Tanner said. "But the people and the people are unhappy," Tanner said. "It's beautiful and the people are very happy."

The whole experience was touched emotionally by the warmth extended by the Chinese. By the end of the trip, people on both sides were crying.
Opinion

This week’s issue: Dealing with this week’s issue
Opinions bring change/These things don't work

Opinions are a part of life that can’t be avoided. People deal with them everyday, and they serve to shape many of the policies and laws we live by. Take Washington, D.C., for example. When Senator Jim Jeffords' political opinions conflicted with the Bush administration’s ideas, he stepped from the ranks of the Republican party and became an Independent. As a result the entire structure of the Senate changed as will, most likely, many of the specifics of legislation that will be coming out of it.

People have a vast array of different opinions. Most people will probably read that statement and ask themselves if this is a guest column from a sixth grader. But judging from indicators such as letters to readers not only calls attention to a particular subject but, to a certain extent, forces them to think about both sides of an issue. Looking at both sides of an issue is a problem that everyone deals with.

I have yet to meet someone who can look at everything from a totally neutral point of view. I myself am opinionated and am admittedly stubborn when it comes to changing my mind. One thing I can say for myself, however, is that I recognize this and try to remind myself to be open to other people if they are completely wrong.

Two excellent examples of people who have shown themselves to be extremely close-minded are members of both the College Republicans and the Young Democrats. After the election results in Florida had finally been sorted out, Cal Poly held a forum in order to distinguish members of political services, newspapers, religious organizations and the Nader campaign were brought to Cal Poly to discuss the election. The question-and-answer period featured several members of the College Republicans asking questions obviously designed to attack certain members of the panel. In several instances they even went so far as to interrupt their answers. It is understandable to disagree when an issue is controversial but considering other viewpoints would lead to a more organized and productive dialogue.

A similar occurrence took place when Ward Connelly, a respected conservative, was brought to Cal Poly by the College Republicans. Connelly discussed his opinions on race and more specifically affirmative action. I was ready to disagree with Connelly’s views but following the discussion found many of the things he was saying to be interesting and very worthy of consideration. This time it was members of the Young Democrats waiting to pounce on the speaker, asking attacking questions and frequently interrupting the answers.

While I’m not claiming to have an ingenuous solution to close-mindedness, I do think people can benefit from a pro and con feature in a student newspaper such as Mustang Daily. The student population could be a powerful force if it was equipped with an awareness of issues and an open mind to help communicate its beliefs.

We could probably take care of the old ladies running this town that Eddie Drake was talking about. Forget Ukiahville (no offense to Eddie), we could send the old ladies to Old Ladyville if we wanted to. We could also force Police Chief Gardiner to actually listen to something he has to say for once. The same goes for city council members passing alcohol ordinances that disrespect students and completely ignore their opinions. We could send them to Retireville if we would only educate ourselves and vote.

In my opinion, point/counterpoint arguments are a way to vent about how meaninglessness 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 their opponents are too afraid to reader to think in that same vein – does this really happen? Students either already have their minds 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 realm of their diets, 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 wait to slip into their vernacular, all the while putting forth half-assed points of view and obnoxious, cockeyed ideas about how to cherish all that is good in the world. These letters to the editor, columns and commentaries are tried – 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 whistling, 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.

So this is a definitive stance on point/counterpoint arguments – they are lame. There, it is said. What is mind boggling, however, is the fact that this assertion is indeed the core of a point/counterpoint argument – look to the left and the pro side of this argument lays on the other side of the cartoon ready for combat.

This is, in fact, the first time I have ever been compelled to write a point/counterpoint argument – how omniscient can this commentary be without existing in some sort of parallel universe of paradox? Somehow it made sense to see this particular forum as a way to vent about how meaninglessness these types of arguments can be.

Remember the good old days when your opinion didn't matter...

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

Opinion

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"I don't have a wife-beater to wear, so I'll have to go topless."
Finding your soulmate is hard to do, isn’t it now?

Editor’s Note: When it rains it pours. As opposed to previous column droughts, a series of computer glitches have intervened today, bringing with them a heavy harvest of angry letters. One so-called “hot tub incident” has brought Mustang Daily increasingly back-uped pages of remarks from diligent columnists. For your reading enjoyment, here is one such installation.

Finding your soulmate is no easy task. I've had the misfortune to meet men anywhere — between my couch cushions, under my car seat, in the back of Madison's — that didn't fit Jesus, though, and Jimmy Hoffa also. They say ‘hi.” Maybe I'm banking up the wrong tree. My friends tell me to look closer to the men already in my life. I scoffed, saying that gay friends are just that: friends. No hanky panky. But just how true is it? Is it possible for a man and a woman to be just friends? Well, heck, sure it is! Just look at my parents. They've been married almost 50 years. Was there WAS that time over summer (and the four after that). My other parent Zack is — oh, no! — the “hot tub incident.” Of 99 cuts him out. Hey, my two best friends are men — gay men. I'd LIKE to promise you that a friendship is a sure way to avoid sexual tension, but sadly, I find myself wanting to throw them down on the bed in a fluffy of Diesel jeans, Nokia 85020 and blonde highlights. Rarr. Isn't there ANY friendship safe from the clutches of desire? Some Negative Nellie's say no: Men and women are biologically attracted to one another for mating purposes. For those of us who don't speak from Mustang Daily, or any other newsworthy publication, for your constantly narrow-minded agenda? Today I opened up the Daily, read the front page, and eventually came across your latest column ("Jewish Holocaust could easily apply to homosexuals.") May 30. The topic was yet another of your countless attacks on anyone who opposes homosexuality. Considering there was no attempt to honestly not come up with anything else to talk about! You've had quite the quota of Jews around the issue. This time, however, you just went too far. Comparing homosexua­lism of today to what the Jews went through in the Holocaust is the most ludicrous thing I've ever heard of. We're talking about people who were taken from their families, forced into labor camps, executed, and then dumped by the thousands into mass graves. Ever heard of those who opposed homosexuality. This is hardly comparable to anything homosexuals have had to deal with at any point in our society.

Another thing I'd like to address is your closing statement, saying that homosexuals are "the most inopportune times. Man, if I had a nickel for every childhood playmate I ended up dating, I’d have three nickels and every one of them is the most inopportune times. Man, if I had a nickel for every childhood playmate I ended up dating, I’d have three nickels and ever..."
Assembly bill may toughen discrimination laws, statutes

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

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

The author, Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg, D-Los Angeles, said 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 transsexual worker to dress opposite his 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.

THE CAL POLY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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

$5,000 MEMBERSHIP RAFFLE WINNER IS...

Vicky Kopper
Liberal Studies Major
June 2001 Graduate

Educators raise concerns about tracking foreign students in U.S.
**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," Gartnet said. He has put in a core of five or six players who already earned a right to a starting place.

Junior midfielder James Newton, who reddisted last season, said returning players will have to fight to be a starter despite the solid group of upperclassmen. The coaching staff recently added 12 freshman recruits to the team.

"Young players come in with more heart," Matthews said. "They want to play better. They want to win.

"Gartner said the team is always good offensively, but he expects better ball handling, vision and possession defensively. Formerly Derrick Schuster, midfielders Francisco Marmolejo and recently added 12 freshman recruits to the team.

"Younger players come in with more heart," Matthews said. "They want to play better. They want to win."
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 jacket to ensure success next fall. With 12 new freshmen recruits and a recent promotion to the Big West Conference, Gartner and his players said they expect more high points in the upcoming season.

The team ended the 2000 season with a 3-0 victory against UC Santa Barbara, but their success against the Gauchos did not reflect their overall record. The Mustangs finished 5-12-1 and ranked No. 4 in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) after playing UCSC.

Gartner attributed this year's record to a lack of depth and difficulty finishing on scoring opportunities. Frustrations over two losing seasons added to the team's disappointment, Gartner said.

Even more debilitating was an unexpected injury to the team. Junior goalkeeper Brenton Junge broke his leg for the second time in the middle of the season, leaving the team with a weak defensive force. Freshmen Greg Blevins and Kurt Merli filled in as goalkeepers.

"The freshmen did an admirable job, but they were freshmen and they showed it on the field," Junge said. "But we're excited about the new kids coming in and we're hoping to keep the success of this year going down the road."

Wavy Contreras, member of Alpha Pi Sigma and construction management senior, said they currently have four teams signed up for the tournament. The majority of the team members are Cal Poly students, Contreras said.

The 22-member sorority, established last year, is putting this tournament on for the first time. Contreras said the idea stemmed from the volleyball tournament put on by the Central California Blood Center in Fresno. Contreras played in the tournament and saw the far-reaching benefits for the San Luis Obispo community.

"There is a need for blood here," she said. "Not many people are donating." She said they originally used the volleyball tournament to raise benefits for the San Luis Obispo community.

The tournament will take place at Biddle Regional Park in Arroyo Grande from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Prize will be awarded to the first- and second-place teams. To qualify for the tournament the teams had to donate blood at the Tri-Counties Blood Bank prior to the event.

"The event will create public awareness and just having the information available will get people to donate in the future," said Mona Kelman, Tri-Counties Blood Bank community relations representative.

Each team consists of eight members; only six play and at least two females must be on the court at all times.

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