Poly grads take the leap

“Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge.”
Proverbs 25:12
GRADUATION
"The first day of the rest of their lives"

By Aaron Lambert
SUMMER MUSTANG CONTRIBUTOR

Saturday brought about heards and masses of pride and exuberant friends and family members to Mustang Stadium to see the 60th graduating class of Cal Poly.

With them came crowds of spectators who not only screamed and held signs in hopes of getting the attention of their student walking in the procession, they also called them on cell phones and talked to them as they flooded into the stadium with their respective colleges. While the phones gave some students instant contact with loved ones, the yells and cheers of others dominated the airwaves.

The first procession for graduation started at 9 a.m., and as expected, it was full of black gowns and caps with everything from small cities and oil rowers to provolets written on top. Even the green Cal Poly hard hats worn by some architectural engineering graduates were decorated with tassels.

Sam Aborn, former Associated Student Inc. president, opened his speech by talking about how Cal Poly had become their home for last four, five, six and for some, seven years, and how it will always be their home. He invited them to come back and share their knowledge and experience with future Cal Poly students.

The end of the morning ceremony brought with it a couple of innocent graduates from the College of Architecture and Environmental Design.

The afternoon ceremony brought new friends and family members with the same excitement and energy.

Of the attendants sitting in the sun on Saturday afternoon, those waiting from Northern California complained of the heat, while those from Central California praised the sub 100-degree weather. They all brought with them an extreme sense of pride to see their son, daughter, cousin, niece, nephew or friend graduate as they held up signs saying, "Good job!" "We're proud," as well as "Get a job."

By Aaron Lambert
SUMMER MUSTANG CONTRIBUTOR

Family and friends, above, watch as Cal Poly graduates, top right, and faculty flood Mustang Stadium on Saturday June 16, under the hot summer sun.

Architectural engineering graduates, right, beat the heat beneath their green Cal Poly hard hats.

ON CAMPUS DINING GUIDE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESTAURANT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Avenue</td>
<td>Located across from Student Union</td>
<td>Monday - Friday 7:00am - 10:00pm</td>
<td>Features an international selection of food with a range of options including salads, soups, and entrees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market</td>
<td>Located in Market Square</td>
<td>Monday - Friday 7:00am - 5:00pm</td>
<td>Offers a variety of ready-to-eat items and fresh produce.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maritz</td>
<td>Located in the Recreation Center</td>
<td>Monday - Friday 7:30am - 4:30pm</td>
<td>Serving a diverse menu including breakfast, lunch, and dinner options.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vista Grande Restaurant</td>
<td>Located near the entrance to the Student Union</td>
<td>Monday - Friday 11:00am - 2:00pm</td>
<td>Features a full menu of breakfast, lunch, and dinner options.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
June 21–June 27, 2001

This is the first in 10 weekly publications that Summer Mustang will release throughout summer quarter. With a new staff and magazine-style format, we will attempt to take a closer look at specific topics and issues affecting the Cal Poly community, while still providing an arena for opinions, letters to the editor, and a source of previews and reviews about arts, entertainment and sporting events. This first issue takes a brief look at Cal Poly graduates, the ceremony, statistics and the issue of Cal Poly’s ethnic diversity, or lack there of.

— Sonia Slatke, editor in chief

**NEWS**

**Poly Briefs**

**State employees picket on Cal Poly campus**

Disguised by a "take it or leave it" offer, California State Employees Association (CSEA) union members on the Cal Poly campus held an informational picket on Thursday, June 14 in front of the Cal Poly administration building to demonstrate their unity and support of alleged unfair labor practices by California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees.

Two other on-campus unions announced the protest against the CSU, which proposed a 1.93 percent general salary increase in compensation for three years, no equity pay and a zero percent cost-of-living allowance.

"All of this comes at a time when the San Luis Obispo cost-of-living index is 16 percent above the overall national average," said Sally Anderson, CSEA local chapter president. "San Luis Obispo County is a high cost area. The demands at the CSU table are unreasonable because they would not provide decent cost-of-living increases for employees.

The CSEA has been bargaining with the CSU since February with little movement toward an agreement. Though the current contract CSEA holds with CSU expires June 30, CSEA Division Director Paul Rohrback said that union members are committed to bargain a fair agreement no matter how long it takes.

"We are in this for the long haul and our members deserve a better contract," he said.

Representative protests decrease in Cal Grants

Assemblywoman Elaine Alquist is demanding answers to a report released by the Student Aid Commission revealing a decrease in grants awarded by the Cal Grant program.

Alquist, chair of the Assembly of the Higher Education Committee, recently co-authored a bill to increase the number of grants provided to students attending UC, CSU, community colleges and California Private Institutions. The legislature projected that the number of total recipients could decrease by 125,261 each year.

This year, more than 50,000 applicants qualified to receive grants, but the program is limited to 21,500.

"This is unacceptable," Alquist said in a press release last week. "Immediate action must be taken to remedy this serious situation."

**County changes bus schedules this summer**

Be aware, Cal Poly students and staff — a number of changes are coming to San Luis Obispo Transit beginning July 1.

The first change will be the introduction of a new transit service provider. First Transit will soon provide drivers, maintenance and all other supporting functions to all customers in San Luis Obispo.

The second change will be an introduction of new schedules and maps. The new route maps have a different look, designed to be easier to read and reflecting actual arrival and departure times. They will also include general service information for both buses and the trolley.

The last and most significant change will be the discontinuation of the "Pilot Late Evening Service," which runs from 7 to 11 p.m. This late-night service was implemented September 1999 as a six-month experiment. However, based on factors such as low customer usage and a 45 percent increase in service costs, the city chose to discontinue the service with the hope they would impact the least amount of customers possible. The alternative would have been to reduce weekend service during the day, which would impact a larger number of customers who depend on the local transit service for their daily commute.

After July 1, San Luis Obispo Transit will operate from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekends and holidays. For more information, new transit schedules will be available mid-June.

Poly IME department nominated for award

The Cal Poly department of industrial engineering and manufacturing has been nominated for the President’s Diversity Award by Helene Finger of the Women in Engineering Program.

The department was nominated June 7 for its efforts to recruit and retain talented women into the engineering field.

Over the past six years, the department has offered workshops for women and minorities in hopes of increasing the awareness of engineering as a career.

The nomination also recognizes former department chairwoman JoAnne Freeman and current chairwoman Sena Alptekcan for their roles over the past 10 years.

**SLO PD**

**Bridge the Gap**

**SUMMER READING BOOKS**

**EL CORRAL BOOKSTORE**

A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION SERVING CAL POLY SINCE 1933

www.elcorralbookstore.com

**EXERCISE GOOD JUDGMENT**

- Use the buddy system. Avoid jogging or walking alone at night. If you have night classes, always walk to and from the class with someone.
- Wear clothes and shoes that give you freedom of movement.
- Trust your instincts. If you think someone is following you, change direction and head for a public place.

*www.slopd.org*
Local performer pours heart into dance, music

By Erica Tower
SUMMER MUSTANG ARTS AND FEATURES EDITOR

Marsha Butler plays the flute in the local band Ooza during a performance for the ECOSLO Festival Saturday, June 9 in downtown San Luis Obispo.

Marsha Butler

"It was my dream to have a (dance studio) where kids and adults could go where there wasn't an instructor tapping a cane or a ruler to a beat."

Local performer pours heart into dance, music

By Erica Tower
SUMMER MUSTANG ARTS AND FEATURES EDITOR

At 8 years old, Marshaltina (Marsh) Butler was kicked out of ballet class after her teacher told her that she would never perform. Because she wasn'tlimber like her sister, who seemed more physically apt for ballet, she was only allowed to pull the cartoons during dance recitals. It broke her heart. When she expressed an interest in drums, her music instructor sternly disapproved stating that, "girls don't play drums."

She proved both of them wrong.

Today, that same little girl is an accomplished performer who co-owns her own dance studio, dances in an African dance troupe, sings lead vocals for a local band, and plays just about every musical instrument imaginable, including the drums.

"When my (dance) teacher said this to me as a young girl, I was done with dance for a while," Butler said. "But it killed me because I had always loved everything about dance — the people, the costumes, the expression."

Although Butler did not indulge in dance during childhood, she still had music to keep her artistic spirit alive. After she was told that girls do not play drums, she took up flute in elementary school and was heavily involved in band throughout high school in Napa.

"I had glasses and braces, and I think my classmates perceived me a little differently than I thought they did at the time," Butler said. "But I thought being in band was the coolest thing."

Butler's high school band director also rejuvenated her passion for music and the arts.

"He was so nurturing and giving that he completely renewed my spirit," she said. "He had mastered every instrument they had in the school, from the drums, to the clarinet, and could play any kind of music whether it was ragtime or jazz."

Though music became a staple of her everyday life, Butler bravely re-entered the genre of dance when she finally forced herself to take a jazz class at Napa Junior College when she was 19. Her 68-year-old dance teacher was a firm believer that dancing kept the body young. This theory seemed to hold true, because her teacher did not appear a day over 40, Butler said.

"When I first joined the class, I was scared as heck because I hadn't danced since I was a little girl," she said. "But like my band teacher, my dance teacher was also an incredible mentor who gave me confidence in myself and my abilities."

Indeed with this positive experience, Butler moved to San Luis Obispo and enrolled in Cuesta College where she registered for another jazz dance class. However, the scheduled dance instructor became pregnant, and another teacher was hired in her place. The substitute was an African drummer.

"At first, I was like what the heck is this?" Butler said. "But the next thing I knew, I really got into it. Initially, I took up drums and loved it. My heart would race every time I played because it was something that I had always wanted to do. I also learned that I could pick up different rhythms really fast."

Later she attended a drum workshop in Big Sur where she met James Maker and his wife who taught African dance in what Butler described as its "true form" and became interested in dance as an expression rather than a series of memorized movements.

Six years ago Butler started an African dance troop with dancer Tim Costa, entitled Higher Movement, which recently performed in downtown San Luis Obispo during the ECOSLO festival. Costa also started the singing group Goza, in which Butler is also heavily involved. When she bought her first dance studio one year ago with partner Jennifer Mitchell, she appropriately named her studio after the dance group because she felt that the term "higher movement" encompassed the true spirit of the expressionism that is dance.

"It was my dream to have a place where kids and adults could go where there wasn't an instructor tapping a cane or a ruler to a beat who put everyone in a line," Butler said. "I will have the same complex about dancing. I had when I was 8 years old, so I strive to always make my students feel as comfortable as possible even if they are not the best dancers in the world. It's more about having fun and smiling than anything else."

The Higher Movement Studio mostly focuses on dance styles that have a drum-based beat. Although Butler specifically teaches different forms of West African dance, the studio also offers lessons in salsa, modern dance, and tap for all ages.

In the future, Butler, who graduated from CSU Northridge with a degree in psychology and a minor in biology, said she sees herself continuing to teach and perform. Eventually she would like to go to medical school to study homeopathic and holistic medicine.

By Matt Smart
SUMMER MUSTANG CONTRIBUTOR

Summer has begun and the art display at Club 221 entitled "Roots Tidal Expressions" provided a chance for students to get into the mood for summer ocean pleasure.

The University Union art gallery played host to an array of ocean-related art by Cal Poly students, which was on display until June 16.

Six paintings, all of waves, primarily painted in acrylic by art junior Matt Allen, were displayed throughout the gallery. Allen's diverse painting abilities were shown in all of his paintings. From almost cartoon-styled worlds to feverishly stroked swells, Allen showed his views of the ocean's surf.

Heather Boots, biology fresh- man, had praise for Allen's untitled painting of a surfer dropping into a barreling wave. A barrel is a wave that breaks quickly so that it creates a cylinder in which a surfer can ride.

"It's quality, but messy," she said. "You look at it and would not see a guy coming in through a funnel. I like the method of it — the painting strokes."

Allen also displayed two surfboards that he painted. Pictures of Allen, and those of modern surfing icons, wrapped the surfboard and were glued to the bottom. These paintings were covered with a light green paint that added imaginary years to the art piece.

Kevin White, an art senior, displayed his color and black and white photography of the ocean, beach and tropical locales. White has traveled throughout the world and his pictures show surfing at its best. He also displayed his black and white portraits of famous surfing idols in their element.

"Surf's up' in the UU at Club 221

By Matt Smart
SUMMER MUSTANG CONTRIBUTOR

White's photos were framed using beach driftwood and Hawaiian-themed edging. With- out taking away from White's extraordin- ary photography, the frames comple- mented the atmosphere of the surf display.

One of White's photos was of B.C., a Hawaiian surfboard shaper, making a surfboard in his shaping room.
Jolie brings video game vixen to life with a bite

By Jenifer Hansen
SUMMER MUSTANG CONTRIBUTOR

Tomb Raider," the action-adventure flick of the summer based on the popular video game of the same name, Angelina Jolie stars as Lara Croft, Tomb Raider," the action-adventure flick of the summer based on the popular video game of the same name, Angelina Jolie stars as Lara Croft, the protagonist of the video game. Jolie is one of many actors who have brought the video game to life on the big screen, but Jolie's portrayal has been particularly well received.

Jolie is a talented actress who has proven herself in a variety of roles, but her portrayal of Lara Croft has been particularly impressive. Jolie has brought a sense of adventure and excitement to the role, and she has captured the spirit of the video game in her performance.

Jolie's portrayal of Lara Croft has been praised by critics and audiences alike. Many have noted her ability to bring the character to life in a way that is true to the video game, while also adding her own unique touch.

Jolie's performance has been particularly well received by fans of the video game. Many have noted that Jolie's portrayal is true to the character in the game, while also adding her own unique twist.

Jolie's performance has also been praised for its authenticity. Many have noted that Jolie's portrayal is true to the character in the video game, while also adding her own unique twist.

Jolie's portrayal of Lara Croft has been particularly well received by audiences. Many have noted her ability to bring the character to life in a way that is true to the video game, while also adding her own unique touch.

Jolie's performance has been praised for its authenticity. Many have noted that Jolie's portrayal is true to the character in the video game, while also adding her own unique twist.

Jolie's portrayal of Lara Croft has been praised for its authenticity. Many have noted that Jolie's portrayal is true to the character in the video game, while also adding her own unique twist.

Jolie's portrayal of Lara Croft has been particularly well received by audiences. Many have noted her ability to bring the character to life in a way that is true to the video game, while also adding her own unique touch.
Diversity calls for awareness

Based on statistics, reports and researches, it is apparent that not everyone feels welcome at Cal Poly. Yet most people do not seem to grasp why this might be the case. It isn't due to plain racism or open discrimination — even though students have mentioned both things happening in the community with racial profiling. Mostly, though, it is due to the lack of awareness, understanding and education. This awareness comes about from life seen through the eyes of someone from another culture, understanding that not everyone likes the Anglo-Saxon lifestyle and acknowledges the fact that institutional, social and educational discriminations and inequalities still exist today in the United States.

In a predominantly white city, certain things are taken for granted. Imagine going to a grocery store to buy make-up, hair dye or panty hose. There are plenty of brands, qualities and prices to choose from. But what if you are not white? Do local stores carry anything other than dark, light, or natural nude pantyhose? They don't, and the definition of nude applies only to white skin. The same happens with make-up and other color-specific products.

It is when the simple things of life become an inconvenience that people begin to feel out of place. But it isn't just that San Luis Obispo ignores the fact that Cal Poly doesn't try to fix the problem. The same is true for any predominantly white area. Nevertheless, things need to start somewhere and if it is the goal of this institution to increase diversity in its student population, things need to start changing.

One place to start is by changing the mentality that programs aimed at increasing diversity serve only as favor to minority students. It is the entire population that benefits, especially in such a compliant and safe environment as Cal Poly. Without diversity there is no questioning of beliefs — without questioning, the concept of awareness disappears.

Sonia Slutzki is the Summer Mustang editor in chief.

As the old saying goes, "nothing ventured, nothing lost." President George W. Bush arrived in Europe for the first time since the beginning of his presidency Saturday with the intention of allaying European concerns over his current policies. However, he didn't little to boost his reputation overseas. He talked in circles, made broad promises rather than concrete proposals, and again embarrassed himself and the United States by flagging important terms and names.

So what was the point of his visit? Your guess is as good as mine.

According to an article from Business Week, Bush's trip only heightened the disconnect between America and Europe, where in some countries like Sweden, Bush ranks somewhere down there with Saddam Hussein and Ariel Sharon. But who can blame them when it seems that Bush only intends to talk vague generalities rather than structured proposals and continuously attempts to push American values upon the rest of the world? But I digress.

When Bush spoke of the end of the cold war and his desire to update missile policy, one of the most heated international issues, he only reiterated what everyone already knew (that he is willing to go ahead with a missile defense system despite the 1955 Warsaw Treaty), leaving many other countries to ponder his actual work over the last five months. It also seems that Bush's statements were exhaustingly rehearsed, as if to avoid any language that might cause disappointment or disagreement.

He made broad promises of a universal missile shield without any sign of a defined plan, and asserted that his decision to back out of the Kyoto agreement, which aimed to reduce hazardous greenhouse gas emissions that are deemed responsible for the global warming phenomenon on an international level, was based on the fact that the science that supported the plan was "unsound."

Sadly, to the international audience, this statement rang more like an excuse than an incentive, as global warming is a scientifically proven occurrence. William Drudak of the Washington Post went even further to say that Bush's comment on Kyoto was "a slap in the face and an insult to their intelligence." I happen to agree.

However, it is not to say that Bush didn't make some friends on his first excursion overseas. He charmed NATO secretary-general (FIRST NAME) Robertson when he addressed him "Lord Robinson" and befriended the Spanish Prime Minister (along with millions of other Spaniards) when he mispronounced his name and many other Spanish words on national TV. He also gained many Ukrainian fans when he referred to their country using its old name before the fall of communism.

Though Bush's trip was designed to help him appear more "presidential" as well as help to develop key relationships with important international leaders, it only made him and his policies look even more dim-witted and far from before.

The 43rd president of the United States certainly needs to rely more on policy than personality if he intends to create a solid strategic relationship with Europe, which is essential to U.S. interests in the long run.

Erica Tower is the Summer Mustang arts and features editor.

Bushi's European visit was an embarrassment to U.S.

June 21-June 27,2001
Summer Mustang

Opinion

Finally graduated... Now what?

Wow, we're done! What's next?

Time to get a real job, raise a family, and then we can finally retire!

Man, we're done. Where to?

There's another party next door?

Sonia Slutzki editor in chief
Brian Mine sports editor
Erika Tower arts & features editor
Jennifer Hansen copy editor
Kraig Erickson photo editor
Shen Sakamoto graphics editor
Ryan Klisirski illustrator
Aaron Lambert assistant photo editor
Marvin Sosna faculty advisor

Rubin Horse sports editor
Tim Alisauskas staff writer
Sudha Valapakala staff writer

Cal Poly Mustang

GRAPHIC ARTS BUILDING, SUITE 226
CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93407

EDITORIAL (805) 756-1790
ADVERTISING (805) 756-1143
FAX (805) 756-6784

mustangdaily@hotmail.com

Printed by University Graphic Systems

I just want to cry.
Media reports misrepresent diversity reality

By Sonia Slutzki
SUMMER MUSTANG EDITOR IN CHIEF

Recent articles in the media reported an increase in African American and Hispanic applicants to most colleges and universities on the Western coast. These findings include Cal Poly.

In May, Cal Poly announced it had ranked 37 in the top 100 schools in the nation, awarding the most bachelor's degrees to Hispanics. A recent University Wire story reported "All nine University of California campuses are expected to see a rise in the total number for underrepresented minority students in the fall 2003 term."

But these reports failed to look at the fact that the percentage of minority students in California's higher education system is proportionately smaller than the percentage of the overall population in the state. Most schools have experienced a general drop of non-white students since affirmative action was abandoned. And statistics show that fewer than half of these minority students make it into the system graduate with a degree.

In the case of Cal Poly, unofficial numbers show an increase in the acceptance of African American and Hispanic students from last year — specific data has not been released yet and these numbers do not indicate how many students will choose to attend Cal Poly.

According to the Cal Poly fact book for 2000-01, the proportion of non-white students grew from 26.4 percent in fall 1995 to a high of 34 percent in fall 1998. In May, 2000, 26.4 percent of Cal Poly's undergraduates were non-white students.

7.8%
1.0%
1,679
69.6%
2,058
9,465
1.0%

Ethnic Origin | Fall 1990 | % of Fall 1990 Total | Fall 2000 | % of Fall 2000 Total
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
African American/Black | 309 | 1.5% | 160 | 1.0%
Asian | 1,762 | 10.6% | 1,879 | 10.6%
Mexican Descent | 1,268 | 7.8% | 1,221 | 7.7%
Native American | 157 | 0.9% | 161 | 1.0%
Other Hispanic | 524 | 3.2% | 505 | 3.2%
Other Non-White | 306 | 1.8% | 461 | 2.9%
White | 11,510 | 69.6% | 9,465 | 59.6%
Ethnic Origin not Specified | 616 | 3.7% | 2,058 | 13.0%
International Students | 73 | 4.4% | 157 | 1.0%
Totals | 18,545 | 100.0% | 15,867 | 100.0%

Note: Students are not required to report their ethnic origin. The Other category is comprised of students whose ethnic origin does not fall into a specific category. The No Response category for students not indicating their ethnic origin. For Fact Book purposes, Filipinos and Pacific Islander are included in the Asian Category.

Institutional Planning & Analysis Quarterly Enrollment Report.

SUMMER MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

By April Pack
SUMMER MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

For most people their idea of the natural flow to life includes going to college right out of high school, starting a career, and then getting married and having children.

For some students on the Cal Poly campus and other colleges everywhere, these things fall in a different order by beginning their college career after raising children or even after retirement. These people are called re-entry students.

Paula Huston, a lecturer in the English department at Cal Poly, went back to get her degree at the age of 32 in 1984. At the time, Huston was employed on the campus library part time as a clerical worker. Since taking classes as an employee, she used this as an opportunity to go back to school.

Huston said she was not nervous about going back after such a long period of time.

"When you're in your 30's, you're not completely alone because there are so many other single moms going back to school," she said.

Huston was unable to go to school earlier because she had married and had children. Living as a single mom for a few years made it impossible to go to school and work, however, it did not stop her from educating herself at home. Huston taught herself how to write novels.

She said she did this by reading hundreds of short stories and studying their flow of language.

After teaching herself the skills, Huston wrote a novel, "Daughters of Song," which she worked on after she entered school. It was published in 1995.

After getting remarried in 1985, Huston was able to go to school full time to pursue her bachelor's degree in English. In her last senior spring quarter, Huston took 27 units so that she could get done in time to pursue her master's. After she received a bachelor's in 1988, she immediately started the master's program at Cal Poly. Through this program she was allowed to be a teacher's aid for one class a quarter — she discovered that she loved teaching.

"Teaching is what kept me going through school," Huston said.

Huston also said that her family is what kept her going. She said that without their support she wouldn't have been able to pursue the requirements of being a parent, having a new marriage and schoolwork.

"It was a team effort to do it, and I think it encouraged my kids to do things later in their life," Huston said.

Connie Suddah, another re-entry student and one of Huston's English students last quarter, went back to school after she retired. After retiring from working as a grocery clerk, she went to work for a professional speaker doing public relations. Suddah said she realized she needed help with her grammatical and writing skills. She decided to go back to school part time at Allan Hancock in Santa Maria to refine her skills.

At Hancock, Suddah became very proficient in writing and was even asked by one of her teachers to be a tutor. She got hooked on learning at the junior college and so decided to further her education by enrolling at Cal Poly in 1991, where she has been ever since. Suddah will be graduating next year.

"At first I was a little bit anxious about going back, but then I would get excited when there was a new semester, and I would feel sad when it ended," Suddah said.

She said she would encourage anyone one to go back to school later in life. Suddah explained that it made her life more meaningful because she met wonderful people along the way that have opened doors to her.

"When people are in a classroom and learning the same thing, age is not a factor," Suddah said.
Walking away

Nagging foot injury forces basketball standout Caroline Rowles to put career in rearview while she still can

By Brian Milne
SUMMER MUSTANG SPORTS EDITOR

All her life, basketball player Caroline Rowles has known the stumbling blocks were merely steppingstones in disguise.

Just this past season, Rowles overcame a foot injury that forced her to sit out her entire sophomore season. She also battled back from an irregular heartbeat (later diagnosed as Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome), the heart surgery to correct the disorder, and lifted the Mustangs into a quarterfinal berth in the conference tournament.

For the longest time, the California-born post player resisted the obstacles, evolving into one of the fiercest forwards in the Big West Conference and the Mustangs' leading scorer. But during her last post-season run, Rowles hobbled the floor with blinders on, ignored an assortment of injuries and the fact that an all-to-familiar pain was creeping up the side of her foot.

Then suddenly, without explanation, reality hit Rowles, the way her medium-rights jumper seemed to smack the glass and ripple the nylon in Mott Gym. Her health. The ability to walk through life without the pain.

These things finally became more crucial than trying to capture another trophy, yet stellar season in green and gold.

"I sat down and took a lot of time and thought about it," said Rowles, who last month informed her team that she was leaving Cal Poly two years early because of the nagging foot injury. The injury resulted from deteriorated cartilage, which causes bones in her right foot to grind together every time she runs.

"I love the game so much ... and I thought about two more years, but I'm sure if I played it would cripple me for the rest of my life," she said. "It comes to a point where you have to be real with yourself."

Rowles realizes it now, admitting to the notion that her central challenge during her days on the hardwood wasn't the opposition, but her own 6'11-inch frame. The same frame that led to a pair of all-conference selections, but never awarded her with a full-season of her fikt. "I don't think I went through one practice this year without getting out a drill," said Rowles, who has been plagued with injuries since undergoing knee surgery at the age of 9. I tried to take five weeks completely off from everything and not work out on it, but when I decided to give it a go during a pick-up game, (the pain) was just too much to handle."

Now the Mustangs will have to figure out how to handle life without their leading scorer.

"She's been our go-to player ... our franchise player, and it's going to be tough to go on without her," said head coach Faith Mimnaugh. "She was the key to our run last season and we're going to lose a sizable chunk of that. I don't think we have a single player who can replace her, but we're going to have to continue to restructure and try to fill that void." The void is huge, given Rowles had to trouble leading the team in scoring (10.3 points a game) and rebounding (6.6 rebounds a game) despite averaging just 22 minutes in 22 of the team's 29 games.

Then there is trying to replace what she brought to the program off the court.

"Caroline is one of the cornerstones that we built the program around since I've been here," said Mimnaugh, who is in her fourth year with the program. "She's just the epitome of a student athlete and she takes both sides very seriously. She's the total package, whether it's her work ethic or her skills. She's what we want our people to be like. It's just disappointing, because Caroline is such a great person. But she wants to be able to walk when she's 62." The void is even bigger off the floor.

Rowles' days as an athlete are far from over, though. She is returning home to West Vancouver, British Columbia, to be with her family, finish her schooling at the University of British Columbia, and said she hopes to remain active by rowing, swimming, cycling, or mountain biking in her spare time.

"It's been a very sad month, because I'm losing the biggest thing in my life," Rowles said. "It's heartbreaking to be leaving, and if I could have my way, I'd still be playing and working toward winning a Big West Championship. But life is funny that way, and now it's time to explore all the things I've been interested in but have had to put on hold for the last 12 years."

Like Rowles, the Mustangs — coming off their best season since moving to Division 1 — hope to turn the loss into a steppingstone.

And Rowles, who knows all about overcoming obstacles, has faith her former team won't stumble.

"They'll be fine," explained the kinesiology junior. "The program is on the rise. They get some outstanding recruits, the returns are incredible as we saw this year, and I'm looking forward to following them."

When healthy, Caroline Rowles was one of the top past players in the conference. Now the Mustangs must replace their leading scorer and rebounder.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Games</th>
<th>Minutes</th>
<th>FG%</th>
<th>PPG</th>
<th>RPG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1998-99</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>.495</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-01</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>.435</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wrestling program inks a pair

Local wrestling standout Jeff Owens will take his talents to the mats of Mott Gym next season.

The Arroyo Grande High School graduate was among the pair of wrestlers signed by Cal Poly head wrestling coach Lennis Cowell last week.

Robb Maxwell (Salt Lake City, Utah) was also inked to wrestle for the Mustangs next winter.

The 133-pound Owens was a three-time Northern League champion and was a CIF state champ this past winter.

He was also a top-12 finisher at the National High School Wrestling Championships and was a three-time placer at Matsters.

"Jeff is an excellent technician on his feet and scores a lot of points and is exciting to watch compete," Cowell said of Owens, who will join another 133-pound Arroyo Grande product in sophomore Nate Ybarsa pounds next season. "His desire to excel will add to the depth that was very needed in the lower weights."

Coming up just a bit short

PEBBLE BEACH — One stroke.

That's what kept Cal Poly golfer Tim Wood out of a sudden-death playoff and one of the last remaining spots in the 32-player field of the 90th CGA State Amateur Championships.

After winning his CGA qualifier May 15, Wood carded a 72 in Tuesday's first round at Pebble Beach and turned in a 79 in the day's second round at Spyglass to miss the playoffs by one shot.

His two-round 151 was good for a 38th-place tie.

LONG GROVE, Ill. — Cal Poly golfer Staci Davison was also one stroke off the cut Tuesday in the first round of the 26th U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links Championship at Kemper Lakes Golf Course.

The freshman recently shot an 80 at the par 72 Members' Club (5,354 yards) in Murrieta to advance in the championship.