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Welcome to Mustang Daily
Deep in the heart of the Cal Poly campus there is a tarp-covered lagoon punctuated by a stench and a sound that can only mean one thing: cattle are close.

No, the San Luis Obispo housing crunch has not imposed itself on the animals. It is actually one of the agricultural engineering department's most notable projects.

The lagoon is the pet project of Douglas Williams, professor in the bio-resource and agricultural engineering department. The lagoon generates electricity by using manure from Cal Poly's dairy farm. This alternative source of power will not only save the university money on energy bills, but it will also reduce pollution.

Williams said that the project, which was completed in summer 2001, will eventually pay for itself, saving the university $10,000 to $15,000 in energy bills. The newest additions to the project are the meters attached to the turbine, which provide readings of the amount of energy being produced.

Williams said that interest in the project has fluctuated over the years, but is at its highest during energy crises like the one the area is currently in.

"Poly likes it because we're contributing to it being a green, sustainable campus," Williams said.

According to the Greenpeace Clean Energy Now website, using environmentally sound technologies like Williams' will reduce our dependence on unacceptable sources of energy by cutting consumption. In turn, this makes our energy more affordable and sustainable.

The generator is ideal for small dairy farmers who are looking to cut rising energy costs. Williams said.

"The dairy farms are going to turn into small power plants," he said.

"The energy being produced is going to power the lagoon, collecting measurements and monitoring temperatures. The next goal Williams has for the project is altering the generator," Williams said.

"In the future, every dairy will have something like this," Smith said.

Students in Williams' classes have performed a wide variety of tasks, including helping to install the tarp over the lagoon, collecting measurements and monitoring temperatures.

The next goal Williams has for the project is altering the generator, so that it is able to create hot water as well as electricity. Additionally, Williams said he would like to concentrate on educating farmers about how they can create their own power generators.
Norman Pillsbury has spent his summers in Sequoia National Park. Unlike other visitors to the park, he is not spending his time camping but is running his resort.

Pillsbury, the head of Cal Poly's forestry and natural resources department, and his wife are the owners and operators of Silver Creek City Resort in the high Sierra recreation area of the park. The resort has been in his wife's family for more than 20 years and is said to be one of the last, rustic summer, cabin resorts left in the U.S.

Pillsbury and his wife also invite Cal poly forestry students to the resort to work in the restaurant or to do their senior projects.

Jeanne Dawson, a forestry senior, is a member of the logging team and loves the opportunity to go up to the resort.

"Norman's love of forestry drives him and makes him the best he can be," she said.

Pillsbury said he always dreamed of owning his own resort.

"Being a forestry professor, that's what we do up here," Pillsbury said. "I am right back here in my element."

The Silver Creek City resort is a place where people can go to get away, he said.

"The road up here is 21 miles long," Pillsbury said. "If you're a person who doesn't want to get away, then you most likely won't be here."

Pillsbury spends much of his time catching mice, chasing away bears, and maintaining the 14 rental units.

see Pillsbury, page 14

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By Laura Dietz

Many professors have more genuine motives for writing their own textbooks other than just the additional income.

Several Cal Poly professors said that publishing a textbook is rarely a profitable venture. The money from royalties, the percent of the profit an author receives for every textbook published, is a small amount when textbooks are first published and when students resell them.

"I don't get anything unless they buy it new," said Carroll McKibbin, who has written two textbooks for his political science classes.

McKibbin has made very little money since first publishing his books over 10 years ago, he said. "We're not talking tens of thousands of dollars," McKibbin said. "In the hundreds (of dollars), but not as the thousands." McKibbin only made $66 in the past year from the more profitable of his two books, but he said this small amount is given to a scholarship fund at Cal Poly, which is where he said he donates his royalties to every year.

"I would feel uneasy profiting when I assign the book," McKibbin said. The real motive behind writing is to tailor the textbooks to their students' needs.

Handkerfs, social science professor, originally began publishing his textbooks because of a lack in quality books in the area his classes covered.

"When I started writing, the other ones were too out of date or didn't include the right theoretical perspective," Kerko said. "I couldn't draw them out, so I wanted to get some more action."

He said that his response to the lack of good textbooks was making a workbook like textbook in which students have to take stands on issues and back them up intelligently. Now, he said, students participate so much that he has trouble getting in enough lecture time.

Lack of quality books can also be due to difficulties in trying to publish material, said Emmir Bud Evans, Jr., a lecturer in the political science department. The process of publishing original work through a publisher other than El Coral Bookstore is about a year long and involves submitting chapters and having them read and reviewed by other professionals in the field before they are sent back with approval to be edited and revised, he said.

There are some perks, however, for the professors that do decide to publish their own material. Credibility and prestige from writing increase a professor's visibility. Cal Poly is not as strict about requiring professors to publish journals or books as other universities, said Kerko, who uses the profits from his books to pay for daughters' tuition. But it has been worthwhile for him to write for other reasons. He attributes his invitation to teach at the University of Vienna, Austria for two quarters to the recognition for helping write and edit a series of books.

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Professor receives Presidential Early Career Award from NASA

By Bonnie Guevara

Cal Poly biological science professor Mark Moline has been recognized by NASA as the 2001 recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE).

Moline, 37, is among 60 young scientists and engineers from across the nation who will be recognized for this award.

"We are very proud of Mark and all his accomplishments," said V.L. Holland, chairman of Biological Sciences Department. "This award reflects well not only on the biology department but also on Cal Poly."

NASA announces these annual awards for scientists and engineers in the early stages of their professional careers. Selections are based on the innovative and integrative character of proposed research in areas that will benefit NASA's understanding of the Earth, the solar system and the universe, the exploration and development of space, or the development of advanced aeronautics and space technologies, according to the National Science Foundation website (www.nsf.gov).

NASA nominated Moline for this award because of his exploration and extensive studies of phytoplankton, ocean sea plants and primary producers of energy.

Moline's research explained how these tiny plants convert the sun's energy into energy the entire ocean's ecosystem can use. These plants help signal scientists to changes occurring in the oceans, such as pollution. In his phytoplankton studies, he used NASA photos to indicate locations of the sea plants in the ocean. The photos revealed phytoplankton is most abundant on the continental shelf.

Moline also researches bioluminescence (plankton in the ocean). He doesn't stop at just testing the water for this plankton, but takes his research to the next level by using an AUV (autonomous underwater vehicle) to help him and his students.

This underwater torpedo-shaped vehicle is 7 feet long and 8 inches in diameter. The AUV dives beneath the ocean on a particular course, records data, and then services to the top. Moline and his students then download the AUV's bioluminescence information onto computers.

The underwater vehicle is being used right off the coast of Avila Beach at the Cal Poly pier. Some of Moline's students currently work off the pier on various projects. The pier will be open to biology classes this fall.

"Mark is very deserving of the award," said biological science graduate student Shelley Blackwell. "He emphasizes the fact that learning is not only restricted to books but makes an effort to get students out in the field; this is by far another level."

Moline's research is funded by NASA, National Science Foundation, and the Office of Naval Research. He teaches marine biology, physiology (study of algae) and other courses.

Moline has been teaching for five years at Cal Poly.

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News

Horse Unit receives new look

By Laura Dietz
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The Horse Unit on campus is getting a long needed face-lift to modernize the facilities and handle the increasing numbers of students using it.

Roger Hunt, an animal science professor and equine specialist, said the current facilities were used before they moved the Horse Unit in the 1960s. There are four different projects in various stages of construction and planning, Andrew Thulin, the head of the animal science department, said. The projects are part of a five-year plan to improve all facilities in the animal science department.

Much of the emphasis is on improving the breeding facilities, which a majority of animal science students show an interest in, as well as making the Horse Unit usable year round

Mike Lund, professor of equine classes, said, “We are trying to keep up with the industry so we are at least almost as good, so students have the proper training when they go out in the industry,” Lund said.

A hay shed large enough to hold 500 tons of alfalfa hay is expected to be the first project finished by late fall.

Thulin said. Last year the hay was kept in the horse barn on campus because the small shed at the Horse Unit cannot hold enough hay for the 200 horses. It is being paid for by money from the Foundation and will be repaid through sales of horses raised as part of enterprise projects and fees from outside people who breed their horses to stallions owned by Cal Poly.

Remodeling and expanding the lab due to be completed by Dec. 1, Thulin said. It requires tearing apart the current facility, expanding each area of the lab, Lund said, as well as adding new equipment. The lab will have an ultrasoundography machine and a video microscope that will allow more students to view the procedures on a television when they are not participating.

Hunt said that the students in his classes during the summer quarter were excited about the projects going on.

“They would like to see it very much as it is a benefit to them,” Hunt said. “They are probably wishing it happened yesterday.”

Plans for the lab have been sent to different companies, Thulin said, and they are waiting for the bids to come in. Parts of the lab have already been torn down.

“There are cleaning up the area, and it looks good,” said Kathryn Cemy, an animal science junior.

Another pending project is the donation of a $585,000 indoor arena, expanding each area of the lab, Lund said, as well as adding new equipment. The lab will have an ultrasoundography machine and a video microscope that will allow more students to view the procedures on a television when they are not participating.

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Another pending project is the donation of a $585,000 indoor arena, with 18 stalls, Thulin said. The donor knew a student at Cal Poly who was the former president of the Cal Poly Equestrian Team and felt it would be a good opportunity for students to have the barn, he said, allowing students to ride all winter. In previous years, it has happened for two to three weeks at a time and students could not ride, Thulin said.

The last project is the building of two 40-stall barns that would replace the smaller existing barn, Thulin said. The first barn is expected to be finished by next summer. The second barn is due to be completed by the end of the year.

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22 YEARS OF QUALITY EYEWARE...
Cal Poly obstacle course gets new look, name in coming months

By Andrew Parker

Change is in the wind for the Chumash Challenge obstacle course, according to Nancy Clark, fitness program coordinator for Cal Poly Rec Sports.

The course, located on a dirt road in Stenner Canyon near College of Agriculture land, will be receiving a new name and a new look in the coming months. The changes are being funded entirely by ASI.

The Chumash Challenge program includes physically challenging elements involving harnessing, climbing and belaying.

"We brought in a national inspector," Clark said. "They didn't like what they saw, so we're rebuilding the course."

The program hasn't been heavily promoted to Cal Poly students in the past, but that is about to change, said Clark.

"At first it was focused outside of college students - lots of local schools, county youth-at-risk groups, Americorps," she said. "We are now gonna turn the focus to the Cal Poly community. We're gonna push it with clubs, departments and classes."

Groups wishing to participate in the program schedule a workshop date to be guided by an employee facilitator. A one-day workshop usually lasts about six hours. It costs $225 for a Cal Poly-affiliated group of eight to 15 people to complete the course, while a community group of the same size pays $675, Clark said.

The original Chumash Challenge course was built in 1995 with assistance from PG&E, which has also been involved with the course's redesign.
From time to time is a Me to hike his favorite trail up Mineral Peak, he said. “Even though the mountains are relentless and can make a hike pretty tough, I love them,” he said. “They are my place.”

Pillbury said many people come from all over the world to enjoy the resort and meeting them is one of his favorite aspects of his job. “I love working with the public,” he said. “We get to meet people from different countries and they are some of the greatest people I ever met.”

Pillbury said that he is glad he picked teaching or nursing over medicine. “I think I would rather do: teaching or nursing,” he said. “They are relentless and can make a hike pretty tough, I k)ve them,” he said. “They are my place.”

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