**Male-dominated majors receive a woman's touch**

Some female Cal Poly students feel no gender bias in majors in which they are a minority.

Tiffany Dias

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**CALENDAR**

**Weather**

High 63°F
Low 46°F

**Events Calendar**

**What:** Take Back the Night. Join the Women's Center in the annual Take Back the Night celebration. Festivities will begin with the female, alternative-rock band the Women's Org in the annual tour and a drum circle. There will be food and artwork as well. Come out and unite and take back the night.

**When:** Saturday, 3 p.m.

**Where:** Santa Margarita Ranch

**More Info:** Call Molly at 544-5039 or e-mail mollycp3@yahoo.com. Tickets can be purchased at the event or on the Web site at www.safetynoon.amidshouruk.com

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**Triathlon**

Triathlon coach Rick Ellis will coach his last Wildflower T "s{T he W o m e n' s O n te r in the annual Festivities will begin with the evening of full moon yoga and music at the Sycamore Mineral Springs on Sunday.

Fran Dukhart is the founder of the Integral Yoga Center, which works with hospice groups and hospitals using yoga as medicine.

**Recap**

**Wednesday**

Female students in fields such as engineering are few. "They can definitely de-stress. What happens with yoga is first you will get a spinal alignment," instructor Fran Dukhart said. "When you practice yoga, you learn to practice and plan things in a better way. When you begin to feel stressed, you know ways to relax and calm your-off to help you, help your-sell."

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**SIFE team sweeps regionals**

Students in Free Enterprise at Cal Poly became overall champions for their proposal to support first generation Latino students.

Thao Tran

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**Weather**

High 63°F
Low 46°F

**Volume LXVIII, Number 107**

**Thursday, April 28, 2005**

**Mustang Daily**

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**Mustang Daily**

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**Weather**

High 63°F
Low 46°F

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**Weather**

High 63°F
Low 46°F

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**Weather**

High 63°F
Low 46°F
Yoga began in 1970. She discovered The Integral Yoga Center, which has developed into an organization that works with hospitals and hospice groups treating yoga as medicine.

"I have a lot of fun setting these things up," Dukehart said. "Foe me it's like a play."

F瞰's methods are far from traditional.

"I think it's important that you make a plan and then I adjust based on what's presented to me," Dukehart said. "Dare to listen to your own inner guidance and be courageous enough to follow that."

"I wanted people to really get a free bowl."

"We're down something that you're holding onto that you want to let go," Dukehart said.

"I felt this very innocent joy from what Dukehart called the "yoga smile.""

"I'm part Indian and they used to make a plan and then I adjust based on what's presented to me," Dukehart said. "Dare to listen to your own inner guidance and be courageous enough to follow that."

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"I felt this very innocent joy from what Dukehart called the "yoga smile.""
JERUSALEM — Greeted by brandishing Israeli officials, Vladimir Putin on Wednesday became the first Kremlin leader to visit the Jewish state, capping a historic trip, was also hoping to restore his standing in the region and the world, bringing with him a fresh proposal for a conference to be held in Moscow in the summer.

Baghdad, Iraq — Iraq's prime minister-designate presented his proposal for a broad-based Cabinet that draws on the country's main ethnic and religious groups to the presidential council on Wednesday in a step toward ending a crippling political stalemate. The announcement came hours after an Iraqi legislator was shot and killed by militants who stormed into his house as a middle-class neighborhood in eastern Baghdad, underscoring fears that the political impasse has emboldened insurgents to step up deadly attacks in recent weeks, after a lull following the Jan. 30 elections.

Blagnac, France — Recognized for its utility on the microlevel soot nationwide m unhealthy air recorded by monitors in 106 counties with unhealthy air recorded by monitors dropped to 595 from 10 in the last report — the first significant decline in six years, according to the group.

LOS ANGELES — Sales limits on the amount of gas emissions in the Los and other cleanup efforts have reduced air pollution from smog and microscopic soot nationwide in recent years, the American Lung Association said in its annual air quality report. The number of counties with unhealthy air recorded by monitors dropped to 595 from 615 in the last report — the first significant decline in six years, according to the group.

Friday, April 29, 2005

#24 BASEBALL vs. SACRAMENTO STATE (6 PM)

SATURDAY • SUNDAY

Track and Field 5 Way Meet

#24 Baseball vs. Long Beach State (12:45 PM)
FIRST 100 PEOPLE RECEIVE PM DUSHTS

#24 Baseball vs. Sacramento State (6 PM)
FIRST 100 PEOPLE RECEIVE CAL POLY PEANUTS

#24 Baseball vs. Sacramento State (6 PM)
FIRST 100 PEOPLE RECEIVE CAL POLY VISORS!

POLY STUDENTS FREE!

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Biotech Industry Career Day
Thursday, May 5, 2005

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Panel: "Biotech Jobs and How to Get Them"
11:10 am to noon
Science North, 53/215
Reception: "Meet the Industry"
2:10 to 4:00 pm
Fisher Hall, 33/285
Meet with company representatives in an informal setting to discuss the Biotech Industry, and career and internship opportunities.

PARTICIPATING COMPANIES
Baxter BioScience*
E&J Gallo Winery
FziomEd, Inc.*
Genentech, Inc.*
Promega Biosciences*
QST Consultations
Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc.
Theravance, Inc.
*Corporate Sponsors

Services Offered:
► Hardware & Software Upgrades
► Complete Service, Repair, Maintenance
► Data Recovery & Restoration

► We come to you
On-Site: $50.00 per hour +
S7 Travel Charge *
OR
► Drop off your computer here
In-Shop: $55.00 per hour
(No Travel Charge)

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► Fast, Friendly, Certified Technicians!
► Best Rates in Town!

NEWS
4 Thursday, April 28, 2005
False alarm sends Bush to underground shelter

For the first time since September 11, President, first lady and other White House officials rushed to safety bunker

Terence Hunt
associate press

WASHINGTON — President Bush was rushed from the Oval Office to an underground shelter and vice President Dick Cheney was taken to a secure location Wednesday on fears that an unidentified aircraft had entered restricted space near the White House. Officials said it was a false alarm.

The brief scare lasted only a few minutes before officials determined there was no threat, White House counselor Dan Bartlett said.

The incident was sparked by a blip on a radar screen that turned out to be a false alarm and no aircraft actually entered restricted air space, said Brian Roehrkasse, a Homeland Security Department spokesman. Helicopters scrambled to investigate and confirmed the lack of an errant aircraft, he said.

Secret Service spokesman Jonathan Cherry would say only: "There was a report of a possible violation of restricted air space which has since been cleared."

— JONATHAN CHERRY
Secret Service spokesman

"There was a report of a possible violation of restricted air space which has since been cleared."

— JONATHAN CHERRY

STOP PAYING RENT

Being a Cal Poly graduate, I know how expensive rent can be. I also know what a great investment San Luis Obispo real estate can be. Save yourself and your family the thousands of dollars you would waste on rent and make a smart investment in San Luis Obispo real estate. Call me for a list of available properties!

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Kevin Teixeira
Diverse coalition rallies to stop horse slaughter

Hillary Rose
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A coalition of celebrities, race track leaders and others has called in from across the country hoping their voices push forward legislation that would end or limit the slaughter of wild horses.

Lawmakers have been pushing for years to stop wild horses and burros from being killed at three U.S. slaughterhouses that send the meat overseas for consumption. The effort picked up steam after Congress last year replaced a 34-year-old ban on selling wild mustangs and burros with a provision that allows the sale of older, unwanted horses.

Supporters of two proposed measures — one that would stop the commercial sale of wild horses and burros and one that would ban horse slaughter in the United States — are trying to pull together as many people as possible to back their cause. So far, they have been able to counter the powerful opposition of some ranching groups, which say horses eat habitat needed by cattle. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association, for example, said there is "simply not enough habitat to support the number of horses out there," a spokeswoman said.

Horse advocates have solicited comments from actors — including Richard Gere and Mary Tyler Moore — and have drawn support from horse racing leaders and others.

Thomas Meecker, the president of Churchill Downs Inc., parent company of the legendary Kentucky race track, sent a letter of support. Ford Motor Co., maker of the Mustang sports car, this week stopped delivering mustangs to buyers while it investigates whether the slaughter violates a federal contract requiring the animals to be treated humanely.

But even the glitterati haven't condoned slaughter. But 41 of the nearly 1,000 wild mustangs sold and delivered this year were brought to slaughterhouses.

Rep. Ed Whitfield, R-Ky., a lead sponsor on both House measures, said that confirmed his fears that allowing sales would lead to some horses being slaughtered.

The Interior Department this week stopped delivering mustangs to buyers while it investigates whether the slaughter violates a federal contract requiring the animals to be treated humanely.

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And not all horse groups back the proposed legislation. The National Quarter Horse Association believes the government has spent too much to keep unacceptable horses at sanctuaries, and repealing the slaughter ban was a "fiscally responsible" move, said Tami Case, the association's senior manager of public policy.

He said the group also worries about what would happen to the horses that are now slaughtered if the practice was ended.

"Being neglected or abused would be worse than a humane euthanasia," Case said.

No hearings have been scheduled on the proposed legislation, but lawmakers said they'll use other tactics to get their way.

Whitfield and Rep. Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., this week asked the Bureau of Land Management to stop the sale of horses and develop formal regulations on the new law, a process that would include holding a public comment period.

Horse trainer Roelf Jannon works with a wild horse, Monday, March 28, at La Estancia Alegre in Alcalde, N.M.

``I don't think the ban is the answer," Meecker said. "It's not a solution. It's a Band-Aid solution."

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Horse trainer Roelf Jannon works with a wild horse, Monday, March 28, at La Estancia Alegre in Alcalde, N.M.
Hoping to create an alternative to fossil fuels, physicists reproduced the energy of the sun and stars in tabletop experiment

Alicia Chang
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Los Angeles — A tabletop experiment created nuclear fusion — long seen as a possible clean energy solution — under lab conditions, scientists reported.

But the amount of energy produced was too little to be seen as a breakthrough in solving the world's energy needs.

For years, scientists have sought to harness controllable nuclear fusion, the same power that lights the sun and stars. This latest experiment relied on a tiny crystal to generate a strong electric field. While falling short as a way to produce energy, the method could have potential uses in the oil-drilling industry and homeland security, said Seth Putterman, one of the physicists who did the experiment at the University of California, Los Angeles.

The experiment's results appear in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature.

Previous claims of tabletop fusion have been met with skepticism and even derision by physicists. In 1989, Dr. B. Stanley Pons of the University of Utah and Martin Fleishmann of Southampton University in England shocked the world when they announced that they had achieved so-called cold fusion at room temperature. Their work was discredited after repeated attempts to reproduce it failed.

Fusion experts noted that the UCLA experiment was credible because, unlike the 1989 work, it didn't violate basic principles of physics.

"This doesn't have any controversy in it because they're using a tried and true method," said David Ristie, professor of nuclear and plasma engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "There's no mystery in terms of the physics."

Fusion power has been touted as the ultimate energy source and a cleaner alternative to fossil fuels like coal and oil. Fossil fuels are expected to run short in about 50 years.

In fusion, light atoms are joined in a high-temperature process that frees large amounts of energy.
A reporter's journey to find the best all-American burger

Nothing's better than biting down on a juicy, mouth-watering, flavor-filled hamburger.

San Luis Obispo has its fair share of places to enjoy a hamburger. In fact, it was harder to find a different meal companion to go eat with every day than it was to find another hamburger joint. As a college town, price, location and service are just as important as taste.

The first stop on my burger-lovin' journey was Mother's Tavern. Mother's, located at 725 Higuera, most commonly known as a bar but also has a large menu. "The Tavern Burger" is a half pound and comes with a choice of side salad or fries ($6.50 without cheese). I can't enjoy a burger without cheese, so I ordered it with every burger I ate. The burger was served on a potato bun which was fluffy and delicious, but was more suited for a sandwich than a burger. The inside was pink and juicy, but the outside was a little too black for my taste.

Marti's Bar & Grill, located at 673 Higuera St., is a new restaurant in town so I thought I would give it a chance. "The Basic Burger" ($4.75 without cheese) was the smallest I ate. The burger was cooked perfectly, but there was no flavor in the meat. Marti's was the only place that actually grilled the bun which was nice, but it came slathered in aioli (garlic mayonnaise), which was not stated on the menu. I had to ask for a new bun. The atmosphere more than made up for the condiment incident. The open seating and bright colors made for a relaxed experience.

Firestone Grill, located at 1001 Higuera St., is probably the most well-known burger place in town. The burger had a third of a pound of beef ($3.69, or $3.99 for cheeseburger) but was quite dry. It had good flavor, but there were no delicious juices flowing. I went in during a down time when there was no wait. Normally, the line is out the door, and a burger takes awhile to make. Sometimes, Firestone is just not worth the wait.

I thought that maybe price would equal quality, so I tried Tahoe Joe's, located at 485 Madonna Road. "The Black Jack Burger" ($8.75) is a half pound and comes with bacon and cheese. To be fair, I ordered it without bacon so all the burgers would be similar. Instead of a bun, it came on a Kaiser roll. It may be good with steak, but it was too much bread with a burger. The smoked flavor was better than the rest, but became overpowering and made it taste too much like wood.

My pick for the best burger in San Luis Obispo goes to the wonderfully flavored and perfectly juicy The Shack hamburger. The half-pound burger ($5) comes on a sesame seed bun. I asked for cheese and was amazed at the selection. I had pepper jack and other unique picks. The cheese was not quite melted enough for me, but

see Burger, page 7
The smoked flavor was better than the rest, but became overpowering and made it taste like wood.

The Shack is located at 763 Foothill Blvd. When I walked in at 7 p.m. on Thursday, there were a few people and everyone was smiling. My roommate and I sat at a table and munched on the free peanuts while we waited for our food. Every few minutes, people would cheer for the sports on television. I had a wonderful setting to go with the best burger I’ve eaten in San Luis Obispo.

After a week of eating hamburgers, I think I’ve overdosed. But I know that as soon as I get a craving for one, I will be back to The Shack in a flash.
WASHINGTON — The House passed a bill Wednesday that would make it illegal to dodge parental consent laws by taking minors across state lines for abortions, the latest effort to chip away at abortion rights after Republican gains in the November elections.

By 270-157, the House sent the bill to the Senate, where the policy has new momentum as an item on the Republicans' top 10 list of legislative priorities.

Reflecting rising public support for requiring parents' involvement in their pregnant daughters' decisions, the bill would impose fines, jail time, or both on adults and doctors involved in most cases where minors were taken out of state to get abortions.

In a statement, President Bush praised the House for passing the measure.

"The parents of pregnant minors can provide counsel, guidance and support to their children and should be involved in most cases where minors are involved in abortions," Bush said. "I urge the Senate to pass this bill." Major party Leader Frist, R-Tenn., expects to bring up the legislation in the Senate.

"In a statement, I urged the Senate to pass the measure," he said from the Senate floor. "The Senate would set new momentum as an item on the Republicans' top 10 list of legislative priorities.

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"The parents of pregnant minors can provide counsel, guidance and support to their children and should be involved in most cases where minors are involved in abortions," Bush said. "I urge the Senate to pass the legislation in the Senate, where the policy has new momentum as an item on the Republicans' top 10 list of legislative priorities."
Want the truth? Watch and read

It is a paradox in the news industry these days to provide responsible content that is not sensational. The public, it seems, wants entertainment, "reality" shows and celebrity gossip, forcing the press to compete with their superficial interests.

And the result is a thriving industry. Recent Nielsen Media Research findings indicate that people would rather watch "Friends," "The Real World," and "American Idol" than tune into reports about foreign affairs, global politics or hard-news stories. "I don't feel compelled to watch the news," said graphic design senior Lukas Lien, who reads fashion and celebrity magazines, and watches MTV at 9:30 and reruns when she has the time. "It's not that I don't care... I just don't make the time.

Wherever I tell someone I'm entering the journalism industry, they roll their eyes in contempt and reply, "What?" It seems that journalists have gained the status of social car salesman on the job force, people who can only offer their services by the publication of sensational and irrelevant stories, and not actually informing the public. However, this is hardly the reality of the news business. Responsible news coverage is the driving force behind the passion of journalists, and editorial decision makers every news organization are trained to reflect the truth about American people.

But the question is, do they want it? The trend of entertainment elevating impacts on the quality of journalism, especially as corporate conglomerates own the media and pressure them for profit, ignoring the fact that sometimes the truth should prevail. The result is a blurred line between news and entertainment. "It's a catch-22. People get exasperated with the news coverage, but people don't watch it, which makes it worse," said graphic design senior Allie Lautner, who admits she rarely stays informed, but is annoyed by sensational news coverage. "No one sees the correlation between their actions and the truth in journalism.

The reality of the American press is it reflects the country's capitalistic system, and to survive, it must be profitable. If news organizations have to compete with entertainment venues, like MTV Entertainment, to attract a Magazine, then the coverage will start to be entertaining.

Even when Sept. 11 shook the souls of America in 2001, motivating the media to develop the news and to forget about celebrity gossip, viewing went up to a certain extent. Stories about airline safety, duct tape and terrorism suspects dominated their interest, but when detailed reports about the source of the conflict in the airwaves, such as Saudi politics and U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, people tuned them out.

As a future journalist, I am troubled by the lack of cohesion for the news by any means because our actions as Americans have dramatic impacts on the rest of the world, with consumer behavior to government policy. But in general, the college lifestyle in 2005 does not embrace political discussion and staying informed. Entertainment, technology and sexual images are at the top of Generation Y.

We cannot ignore the incredible mass of the fact that we wish to install democracy around the world when we don't take advantage of our freedoms, such as accessing information from a free press. No news can the truth be profitable? It can start to ignoring "Deepthink Housewives," and Brinney's pregnancy, and turning into the things that really matter in the world.

CARRIE McCOY is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily columnist. E-mail me at carrie06rd@gmail.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Privatization means young workers lose either way

Social Security privatization is indeed a commercial topic in American society. It is one of those few government programs in which everyone is required to participate, in the form of payroll taxes. Politicians have told us that Social Security will run out of money by around 2052. President Bush wants us to save Social Security by privatizing a portion of it. That basically means a person can take a portion of their payroll taxes and invest them in some private investment accounts. Although I believe that the benefits of Social Security might run out in the future (since many baby boomers are retiring), the current solution to fix the problem is one we do not need to start. There is always an risk when investing. Because the investment is unpredictable, you might end up with a benefit cut if the markets fare worse than expected. On the other hand, if you do better in the market, you might also end up with reduced benefits (since the government uses it to pay Social Security taxes). Young workers, that means we lose either way. Next, the government's decision to privatize social security is going to be embarrassing to pay for and to add to the national debt. That doesn't sound responsible to me.

Well, if privatization will make things better, what are the alternatives? You could always pay more taxes. But that is also an incentive to make more money, and tax hikes always hurt the poor. Perhaps the people in the country should work together, help and instead of complaining about a few extra pennies, they should be happy to help others in need.

Isaiah Narciso
Environmental engineering freshman

Mustang Daily

column interesting but sometimes inaccurate

I have never known anything to be done correctly. From what I'm reading, the paper is filled with interesting news stories, most of which are inferring rather than explicitly obvious. But lastly, I have never known something that brought me up short.

In his article "Snuck in the past," looking at how Social Security works, Matt Bushman said, "For about 40 years... except for a few administrations, the government has not done anything.

"Does he even check his research?" Since the end of World War II, this country has had five Democratic presidents (Truman, Kennedy, Johnson, Carter and Clinton) and six Republican presidents ( Eisenhower, Nixon, Ford, Reagan, Bush I and Bush II). Even if we take his past 40 years out of context, that only knocks off Kennedy, Eisenhower and Truman, increasing the Republican lead even more.

Perhaps instead of trying to frame himself and his candidate, Bushman should just present the facts and let us decide for ourselves.

TROY KAERTER
Senior marketing sophomore

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Market is the best judge

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring communities. We appreciate your leadership and are thankful for your careful reading.

Please send your correspondence to editor@mustangdaily.net

I have never known a team so driven to work hard to earn their money. I have never known a team so driven to work hard to earn their money. I have never known a team so driven to work hard to earn their money.

Let's do our part to help.

If you have ever known a group who is working as hard as the students, you know he will care for the students body just as he does his friends.

Beckley is the perfect complement to his experience and passion to do so what is best for Cal Poly. I have never known a team so driven to work hard to earn their money. I have never known a team so driven to work hard to earn their money. I have never known a team so driven to work hard to earn their money.

I have never known a team so driven to work hard to earn their money.
HELP WANTED

ACROSS
21 Long time
25 Flat device
15 Topical palm
14 Panasonic competitor
30 Other
33 Petri dish
40 5 A.T. sight
41 Hen length, maybe
42 Things to crunch
46 Relativist of a glockenspiel
49 "Hardy, a
57 Father of, with ""I'm..."
59 Princess born in 1815/1950

DOWN
1 Yellowish, for one
2 Black-and-tan
3 Success is counted
4 Gate fastener
5 Popular tea maker
6 Greek god with a conch-shell trumpet
7 On Frodo
8 Slip...
9 Place for a sink
10 Box
11 Like some peaches
12 Dice
13 Net
21 Diet
22 Drift
27 Went
28 “Oh...”
34 Up
35 Opposite of mature
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39 Proximity
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42 Sway
towards.

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Answered by: Steve

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Tony Strickland
MUSTANG DAILY
Caleb Guest said he joined the Cal Poly Triathlon team in his sophomore year, "a crucial time in his life" because he was considering transferring to another school. "I just wasn't finding something I was really into," he said.

That all changed when Guest, now a kinesiology senior and triathlon team president, realized he found his place at Cal Poly.

"Once on the team, I discovered it was totally my thing," he said. "I found friends and a combination of three sports I love doing."

He also said the friendship and support that Rick Ellison, the triathlon team's head coach for the past six years, brought was essential to his involvement in the club.

"I wouldn't be involved in the sport if not for him," Guest said. "He knew how to formulate a training plan for any skill level." Ellison is a volunteer coach for the team while serving the university as associate vice president of advancement. He will leave both jobs to become vice president for advancement at Chico State.

Ellison said he has completed more than 100 triathlons in his life, including five Ironmans. It's funny to think that Ellison was once a college basketball player.

"Eighteen years ago I watched a race similar to Wildflower and it captivated me," Ellison said.

He said coaching Cal Poly triathletes has been a growing experience. "I want these students to really stretch themselves beyond their limits. It's not a normal sport with normal thinking involved and it tests all of us on that," he said.

Through strictly fundraising, Guest said the club has collected between $15,000 and $20,000 per year to send its athletes to nationals and Wildflower, nearly subsidizing all travel expenses.

"That's not a merchandise or 3-PART SERIES" Ellison said that since Wildflower is "Cal Poly's backyard," it's especially important.

"Cal Poly is uniquely positioned to allow almost all our members to take advantage of it," he said.

The team does this by organizing a Chains of Love sprint around Valentine's Day and Parent's Weekend as well as a March Warm-Up Triathlon for collegiate athletes from all over to train in before nationals.

"The Chains of Love is mostly fun because parents usually run the sprint with their kids," Guest said.

Team camaraderie, Guest said, is an important aspect of the final leg, the 10K run to the Wildflower finish line.

"Passing each other, giving the high five, we all definitely use that energy in a race," he said. "You gain more motivation every time you see someone in the green and gold."

COACH NEARS HIS FINISH AT CAL POLY

Erin Myers: An unexpected catch

Megan Alpers
MUSTANG DAILY

When Erin Myers was in fifth grade, her father coached her softball team. None of the other girls on the Angels wanted to play catcher, so Myers' dad asked her to put on the mask and gear and help the team out. And she has been behind the plate ever since.

"I fell in love with it from the start," said Myers, a journalism senior. "I got stuck back there, but I guess it was meant to be."

Today, Myers is Cal Poly's starting catcher and has been the heart of a lifetime, both at and behind the plate. She has 342 and has nine home runs, more than twice as many as any other Mustang.

Along with leading the team in home runs, RBIs, and slugging percentage, coach Terry Condon said Myers is contributing to the team's successful season by being a leader and stepping up when the team needs her.

"She's very unselfish," Condon said. "Not only is she leading in home runs, but she is also leading in sac-bunts, which shows that she is willing to do what needs to be done for us to be successful."

Myers said she is excited to finally contribute on-field.

"I spent my first two years in the bullpen, which was difficult," she said. "But it helped me get to know the pitchers really well and was worth it."

Myers had never been tested as a hitter before and surprised many with her success at bat, because until this season she had never hit a home run.

"I never go up there trying to hit a home run," she said. "I just want to be there. It's been great getting to help the team."

Myers' teammates say that her work ethic and positive mental attitude inspire them.

"When we get into the huddle, she is the one that makes up the cheer," Nelson said. "Her hard work shows the younger girls how it is done."

After 12 years of kneeling behind the plate, Myers' knees have taken a beating in recent seasons.

"If it was anyone else they wouldn't have been catching," Nelson said. "But she stuck it out for us."

Myers' mother, Deborah Brown, travels seven hours from Redding to watch every home game.

"It was always fun to watch her play," Brown said. "She has quite a fan club going. I couldn't be more proud of her because she has done it all herself."

Myers' statistics, along with those of many other returning players on the team, have impressed dramatically since Condon took over the coaching position this season. Condon attributes the success to new hitting strategies the team is using.

"Mechanically we changed some things," she said. "We are more linear, more attack. Everyone's numbers are better than they have been in the past."

The team's new strength is catching the attention of other schools in the Big West Conference.

"They've had a mission: they wanted to win," Condon said. "They wanted to change how other teams viewed Cal Poly softball, and they've earned the respect from others since."

Looking back over the year, Myers said her senior season with the Mustangs has been her favorite because of the team's closeness and level of accomplishment.

"This is the closest-knit team we've had since I've been here," she said. "We like to be around each other on and off of the field. It's nice to know you have 15 friends who are there for you."

Myers does not plan to pursue a career in softball after college, but instead wants to attend graduate school.

"These will be my fondest memories of softball, not just because it's very last year, but because of what we've done as a team."