Students broaden their horizons

Cal Poly students have many opportunities to study abroad with over 20 different programs in countries around the world.

Jandy Jones

The once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of studying abroad is one of the best ways to gain valuable experience. Last year, more than 680 Cal Poly students participated in one of the many abroad programs offered at Cal Poly.

In the category of institutions offering up to a masters degree, Cal Poly was ranked No. 4 in the nation for the amount of students it sends abroad every year. Students who study abroad have opportunities to learn first-hand about other cultures. Currently, Cal Poly offers over 20 different programs that students can choose from.

"There is a study abroad experience for every type of student," said John Battenburg, director of international education.

Battenburg said there are specific benefits when students study abroad. For example, students in the London Study Program can take a course called Shakespeare in London and see different plays while also studying Shakespeare in class. Students can take Shakespeare courses at Cal Poly but they don't offer the same experience, he said. "They (students) are living the experience in ways very different than what we can do at Cal Poly," Battenburg said.

Study abroad programs incorporate classes that fulfill general education requirements as well as fulfill certain major requirements. Study abroad programs offer anywhere from eight to 16 units. Cal Poly offers several ways students can study abroad such as faculty-led programs, CSU international programs, exchange student programs and internships.

Battenburg said that there is a Web site that lists different study abroad opportunities as well as information meetings held every Wednesday.

Robyn Chevalier, a liberal studies junior, studied abroad and advises students who are thinking about studying abroad to plan ahead because it takes about a year to prepare before you leave. While some students know exactly where they want to go, others may find it tough to decide.

It's Elementary

The film "It's Elementary," a film that deals with issues regarding children's acceptance and willingness to understand the meaning of being gay or lesbian, was shown on Monday in the Chumash Auditorium.

The film dealt with issues regarding children's acceptance and willingness to understand the meaning of being gay or lesbian. "It is important that elementary students have the information (regarding gays and lesbians)," said Stephen Cohen, volunteer coordinator for the Orientation Programs. "Very often they are confused and are getting the wrong information."

The goal of showing the film was to provide ideas of how to address questions children might have surrounding the issue of gays and lesbians. Cohen said the film was not intended for only educators to view but anyone, he said.

Jason Mockford, an Orientation Programs assistant, heard about the film while at the Change the Status Club. He decided to show the film at Cal Poly. "It's Elementary" addresses issues such as teaching children about gays and lesbians. It featured children from first grade to eighth grade discussing homosexuality and other words associated with it.

Film teaches elementary children about gay issues

Jandy Jones

Student Life and Leadership, along with Orientation Programs, sponsored the film "It's Elementary: Talking about Gay Issues in School" on Monday in the Chumash Auditorium.

The students who showed the film were for the first time that the film was shown and liked it. The students were excited and happy about the news. The students were positive about the film and thought Cohen said that he hadn't heard of any opposition to the film before it was viewed.

Lisa Bruce, assistant director of Orientation Programs, viewed the film for the first time the night it was shown and liked it. She said the issue is extremely important and it helped educators see how the topic might be addressed.

Bruce and Mockford held a discussion with the audience before the film was shown. They asked questions regarding how children might respond to the topic of homosexuality and who or where children might learn it from.

Many audience members said children learn through media influence, through church or other religious affilliation. Bruce and Mockford held another discussion after the film and asked audience members what they thought of the film.

see Film, page 2

Liberal arts professors lecture on their last thoughts

Liz Soteres-McNamara

The College of Liberal Arts host “The Last Lecture Series” tonight featuring two professor’s thoughts on their last lectures.

Professors were selected by the College of Liberal Arts Student Council to give a lecture to students about their disciplines and beyond.

The College of Liberal Arts will offer students lectures that represent not only the professor's professional expertise, but also their life experiences.

"It's more of life gleaned from the professional discipline," said professor Mary LaPorte of her lecture. "It's an opportunity to reveal the
Coach

continued from page 1
said Alison Cone, Cal Poly director of athletics.
At Cal Poly, Firman’s teams broke 24 school records over the last five seasons, including Nate Williams’ mark of 51.25 seconds in the 100-meter backstroke this past season. The program also produced its first Big West Conference champion since 2004 as Daniel Lara won the men’s one-meter diving event.

Rich is an exceptional technical swim coach, and I know that hundreds of current and former swimmers at Cal Poly appreciate the significant improvements they have made as swimmers and as individuals in his program,” Cone said.

Other Big West champions under Firman’s guidance were Eric Wyles (100-meter breaststroke, 1997), Jose Schonberger (100 and 200-meter breaststroke, 2000, 200-meter IM, 1999), Ben Palmer (100 breaststroke, 2003; 200 breaststroke, 2004), Ian Pyka (200 breaststroke, 1997 and 1998, 200 IM, 1998), Garrett McLaughlin (1-meter diving, 1999, Creighton Meeds (3-meter diving, 1999) and Araya Kademuker (1-meter diving, 2003.

The Mustang men’s team twice placed third in the Big West Championships while the women placed fourth for five consecutive years from 1996-2001. Cal Poly joined the Big West Conference in swimming prior to the 1994-95 season.

Lecture

continued from page 1

most important things in life.” LaPorte has taught in the art and design department at Cal Poly for over 20 years. She has lectured before about her fine art work, but insists that this lecture will be a different experience.

“IT is not standing up and showing artwork,” LaPorte said.

English professor Kevin Clark said, “It is an honor to be chosen for this.”

Clark said he wants students “thinking about art and poetry in a world that makes us numb.” He said that the arts, including poetry, add to our lives when the world makes a need for other kinds of stimulants.

Clark called his lecture a “middle ground between poetry and lecture.”

Clark teaches creative writing and contemporary poetry at Cal Poly and has lectured at the university since 1988. He was honored with the Cal Poly distinguished teaching award in 2002.

The event also features an award ceremony for graduating students. Honored students will be recognized by the College of Liberal Arts.

The Last Lecture Series will take place tonight, April 19, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in agricultural engineering building 08, Room 123.

Film

continued from page 1

Some people responded that they were surprised by what the children and the teachers said. Audience members were impressed with the willingness to accept homosexuality in the lower grade levels.

Other topics that came up in the discussion were comments about the wide variety of schools used in the film with perhaps the most acceptable school being from San Francisco.

Bruce was amazed at how open the audience was and how good the insights were.

“I was really thrilled,” she said. “They had good comments and conversations.”

McKold said he didn’t know what to expect but was impressed with the wide range of people that showed up.

Members of the audience included students from ethnic studies classes, students interested in becoming educators, resident advisors and teachers.

“There are a lot of good things in it (the film),” Cohen said. “Anyone can benefit from it.”

Expenses can be another cause of concern for many students. However, Battenburg says prices of the trips can vary and in some cases studying abroad can even be cheaper than being at Cal Poly.

The London Study Program and Japan are two of the most expensive trips because the cost of living is higher in those cities, he said.

Ashley Rummberg, an English senior, said that studying abroad is “worth every penny” and it’s the best thing a person can do.

For students worried about having to speak another language, they can rest assured because many of the programs that are offered are in English-speaking countries.

“I know that studying abroad was different than anything I knew,” Stone said.

Seeing new people and learning their culture was the best part, he said.

Despite language barriers and apprehensions, former study-abroad students encourage enrolling in programs abroad.

“Do it,” Rummberg said regarding study abroad. “If you have any hesitations put them aside and do it.”

If students are interested in study abroad contact the International Education and Programs at 756-1477 or check out study abroad online at www.calpoly.edu/~iep/.

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“I love that it (studying abroad) is finally coming to Cal Poly,” said Alison Cone, director of athletics.

“The Mustang men’s team twice placed third in the Big West Championships while the women placed fourth for five consecutive years from 1996-2000. Cal Poly joined the Big West Conference in swimming prior to the 1994-95 season.

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Wednesday, April 19, 2006

Under Fbour

...or head in the can?

THE AVERAGE CAL POLY STUDENT DRINKS UNDER FOUR DRINKS IN ONE SITTING

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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3X3 box contains each digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

9 8 1 4
2 7 4 6 2 1
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# 15

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WHO SAID THAT?

We've heard that a million monkeys at a million keyboards could produce the complete works of Shakespeare; now, thanks to the Internet, we know that is not true.
— Robert Wilensky

If there were in the world today any large number of people who desired their own happiness more than they desired the unhappiness of others, we could have paradise in a few years.
— Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970)

But the fact that some geniuses were laughed at does not imply that all who are laughed at are geniuses. They laughed at Columbus, they laughed at Fulton, they laughed at the Wright brothers. But they also laughed at Bozo the Clown.
— Carl Sagan (1934 - 1996)

Wordly Wise

Chthonic: Dwelling in or under the earth; also, pertaining to the underworld.

The Face of Cal Poly

Meet the Editors

Name: Chris Gunn
Year: senior
Hometown: Petaluma
Major: journalism

Favorites

Color: Red
Punctuation mark: Ellipses
Movie: "Equilibrium"
Book: "The 11th Commandment" by Jeffrey Archer
Footwear: Surfing booties

If You Could...

— fight a great white shark for eternal happiness, would you? No, they scare me.

— transport into the body of any musician and live out your life as them, who would you be? Dave Matthews. Great music, big crowds and worldwide fame.

Either/or

— Cat or dog?
Dog

— Rain or sun?
Sun

— Old school or new school?
Old school

Under Four... or 'walk of shame'?

THE AVERAGE CAL POLY STUDENT DRINKS UNDER FOUR DRINKS IN ONE SITTING

67% of female Cal Poly students drink less than two times a week.
Two Duke lacrosse players face rape and kidnap charges

DURHAM, N.C. — Two Duke University lacrosse players were arrested early Tuesday on charges of raping and kidnapping a stripper hired to dance at an off-campus party, and the district attorney said he hopes to charge a third person soon.

The indictment, unsealed Tuesday, did not indicate what possible evidence or arguments led the grand jury Monday to indict Reade Seligmann, 20, and Collin Finnerty, 19. District Attorney Mike Nifong would not discuss the evidence.

"It had been my hope to charge all three of the assailants at the same time, but the evidence available to me at this moment does not permit that," Nifong said. "Investigation into the identity of the third assailant will continue in the hope that he can also be identified with certainty."

Seligmann posted a $400,000 bond shortly after his arrest, and his attorney waived his court appearance.

Finnerty, who posted the same amount later Tuesday, made a brief appearance in Superior Court wearing a jacket and tie. The next court appearance for both players was set for May 15.

Both Seligmann, a 6-foot-1 sophomore from Essex Fells, N.J., and Finnerty, a 6-foot-3 sophomore from Garden City, N.Y., were in handcuffs when they stepped out of a police cruiser before dawn.

Seligmann is "absolutely innocent," said his attorney, Kirk Osborn. "He's doing great." Asked what led to the indictments, Osborn said: "Apparently it was a photographic identification. And we all know how reliable that is." Finnerty's attorney, Bill Thomas, said: "We're surprised that anybody got indicted, quite frankly."

"It had been my hope to charge all three of the assailants at the same time, but the evidence available to me at this moment does not permit that," Nifong said. "Investigation into the identity of the third assailant will continue in the hope that he can also be identified with certainty."

From Here...

Tim Whitmire
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two Duke lacrosse players face rape and kidnap charges

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11-12:15 pm
PAC Philips Hall
The College of Liberal Arts

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Where Do We Go From Here... Career Forum
A speakers panel on careers for current and prospective students in Liberal Arts.
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Ann Marie Devine (Speech Comm.)
Cherese Young (Graphic Comm.)
Nicholas Shantar (Philosophy)
Shannon Chaffin (Psychology)

Robert Burns
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Robert Burns
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WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Tuesday he is not thinking of quitting despite several retired generals' calls for him to do so. He discount­ed any suggestion of widespread dis­sent within the military's officer corps.

At a Pentagon news conference, Rumsfeld sought to portray the recent public airing of grievances against him by some former Iraq war commanders and other retired gen­erals as an inevitable consequence of his hard push for fundamental changes in the military establishment to fight the war on terrorism.

"When you make a decision, you make a choice, somebody is not going to like it," he said. "It's per­fectly possible to come into this department and presume and not make choices, in which case people are not unhappy, until about five years later when they find you haven't done anything and the country isn't prepared."

He cited several examples of tough choices he has made that have angered some inside the Pentagon. He mentioned a reorganization of the Army's combat units that has been under way since the Iraq war began.

"By golly, one ought not to be surprised that there are people who are uncomfortable about it and complaining about it," he said. "It's also true that I have a sense of urgency, I get up every morning and worry about protecting the American people and seeing if we are doing everything humanly possi­ble to see that we do the things that will make them safe."

He said he recalled on his way to work Tuesday that in his first term as defense secretary — in the Ford administration in the mid-1970's — he went against the Army's preferred choice in the design of the M-1 Abrams tank, which remains the Army's main battle tank today.

"Well, you would have thought the world had ended," he said. "The sky fell. Can you imagine? Can you imagine making that decision and breaking tradition for decades in this country? Can you imagine over­turning what the service had pro­posed for a main battle tank? Well, it went on and on in the press, and it was a fire storm, and there were con­gressional hearings and people say­ing how amazingly irresponsible it was. And it calmed down eventually."

Among the recent complaints against Rumsfeld is his management style. Admirers call him tough. Detractors say he is disrespectful.

"The current secretary of defense is dismissive, contemptuous and arrogant," retired Maj. Gen. John Batiste said Tuesday in an e-mail exchange about Rumsfeld. "Many of us have worked for far longer than he and are more aggressive men, but those lead­ers understood leadership, the value of teamwork, and that respect is a two-way street."

Batiste is one of six retired gener­als who have publicly criticized Rumsfeld in recent days. He is a for­mer commander of the 1st Infantry Division, which fought in Iraq for about two years, mainly in northern and north-central Iraq. He retired last year.

Defense secretary has no plans to quit, sees no widespread dissent among officers

Duke lacrosse player Collin Finnerty, right, sits with his father Kevin Finnerty as he waits to appear before a judge in a courtroom at the Durham County Judicial Building in Durham, N.C. on Tuesday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nominations sought for the President's Diversity Award
For more information, visit the UDEC website at www.academicprograms.capoly.edu/spcialinitiatives/diversity

Deadline for Applications is May 1

"The next jury will hear the entire story, which includes our evidence, and we're confident that these young men will be found to be innocent," he said.

The exotic dancer, a 27-year-old black woman and mother of two chil­dren, told police she was attacked March 13 by three white men in a bathroom at an off-campus party held by the lacrosse team.

Bill Thomas, a defense attorney representing one of the team captains, said Tuesday that neither Seligmann nor Finnerty had any contact with the woman that night. "We are ... totally shocked," he said. "We always thought she would pick out someone who at least had a conversation with her or paid her."

Thomas said "multiple witnesses and a coroner's transcript" indi­cated one of the charged players wasn't at the party. And defense attorney Robert Ekstrand, who represents other players, said neither Seligmann nor Finnerty was at the party "at the relevant time."

"By golly, one ought not to be surprised that there are people who are uncomfortable about it and complaining about it," he said. "It's also true that I have a sense of urgency, I get up every morning and worry about protecting the American people and seeing if we are doing everything humanly possi­ble to see that we do the things that will make them safe."

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than ever, musician reunions seem like a marketing gig instead of a creative rebirth. When bands burst over the scene so quickly, that new- found zest of financial windfall and taps expec- tantly into a nostaligic longing that hasn't had time to ripen. No deal.

The flip side is, of course, that more established and defunct past bands are also singing new tunes nowadays, and this places our gen- eration in the unique position of being asked to miss something we never experienced the first time. This still seems more honest than being asked to submerge into boy bands again (and some bands — "The Eagles Live at Caesar's Palace"!") promos), but it also shows how our prime entertainment sources have become when they will only sell advertising to music that has endued for ages, and not actually play their music. And sometimes the regroupings is often a disappointing spectacle — why did the Doors bother to reform when their only interesting member is six feet under in France?

So should we care and pay exorbitantly, as these aging voices ask us to? Only if these bands do it right. And that means a respectable mourning period since the band's last inception (1.5 decades sounds about right, a longevity that encourages new artists (This is why the INXS show implied the start, new material that doesn't sound like rejects from their most indies pejoratively bashed, and not being the Eagles under any circumstances).

Nuns 'N' Rorses is an apt example; having paid their dues and split apart, audiences would eagerly welcome that damn 'Chinese Democracy' album if it came out tomorrow (Though, 15-plus years in the making, it remains more culturally significant in its absence.)

The Pixies wasted their turn and trample the mould before 13 years before a here's welcome in 2004, and they actually seemed happy together. Same with the Stooges; their mysterious silence garnered more buzz than the newest guitar ever could.

In some cases, reunions are a truly thrilling concept — but nowadays, most bands get it all wrong. Beyoncé, Billy, are you listen- ing? We'll be here for you if you're there the wait, but you have to give us time to miss you first.

Stacy Anderson is a journalism and music writer, KCPR DJ and might main conductor. Catch her Sunday, from 7 to 8 p.m., and Wednesday, from 3 to 4 p.m. on 91.3 FM or e-mail her at standard@kpel.org.
OPINION EDITORIAL

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

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Editor in Chief: Dan Watson
Managing Editor: Kristen Oato

COLUMNIST

Tylor Middleswart

with ASI President Tylor Middleswart

Editor in Chief: Dan Watson
Managing Editor: Kristen Oato

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COMM Men 土

Education in the squeeze

This week, the California Legislature resumed its budget session and is considering higher education funding levels for the coming year. Even though it’s common knowledge in Sacramento that education is practically under-funded ($1.5 billion deficit in the CSU alone), that student fees have increased 76 percent in four years (not including campus-based fees) and that last year alone over 117,000 eligible students were denied Cal Grants, there still doesn’t seem to be a consensus that higher education needs to be a priority.

The good news is that the tide seems to be turning in our favor, at least for now. In January, the governor’s budget proposal included a buy-out of the proposed fee increase, which would prevent state fees from rising next year. While this proposal looks favorable for the time being, increasing student fees yet again looks like a potential option to generate the revenue needed to restore funding to outreach programs that were cut, a solution students are not likely to support.

But the fact remains, difficult decisions must be made, and education continues to be on the chopping block. Education is in the squeeze, and it’s going to take more than state support to keep our university strong into the future. At Cal Poly, we’ve tightened the budget a small amount with our campus-based fee model, which is now being looked to as a long-term solution for other universities around the state.

While it’s true that we have to plan for long-term growth, and the state must be willing to contribute our fair share for the increasing costs of education, it’s too early to let the state lawmakers off the hook. After all, California is the nation in per capita spending on the prison system and No. 42 on education. The state will always face challenges meeting the competing demands for funding, but it’s the priorities that will determine the outcome.

In recent lobbying meetings with our state legislators in Sacramento, both Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee and state Sen. araç Maldonado’s office countered our requests for increased support for education by listing all the competing interests: health care, corrections, mental health, social services, etc... Then they dropped the million dollar question: “Why is higher education more important than these competing issues?”

As a result, if we hope to get funding for education we will be plagued with exploding costs in all of the areas they mentioned.

COMMEN!
Source says Cal Poly still has Faith in women’s basketball coach

By Fran Stranzl

The Tribune's claim and said on the Tuesday that Mimnaugh would be back on the sidelines of Mont Gym next season with a one-year contract. Following positive meetings with the players and a near 300 season, Cal Poly has decided to bring Mimnaugh back. Why, then, has an official announcement been made? The sports information department is mum for now, until they receive word that the contract is official.

More importantly what’s the rationale behind the contract extension? Perhaps the reason for the delayed announcement is athletic director Alison Cosom having second thoughts about Mimnaugh’s career record at Cal Poly, or more slightly slab 54-152 in her nine years as head coach. I’d probably be instant too.

Or maybe Mimnaugh has yet to put her John Hancock on the contract. That doesn’t make sense though, because if it were I wouldn’t sign any contract offered to me. I don’t care if they offered me minimum wage, but I would consider it a gift with that record.

There have been coaches fired for less over the years. Take, for example, Mike Davis at the University of Indiana. Davis succeeded the infamous Bobby Knight at Indiana and led the university to three consecutive 25-plus win seasons and trips to the NCAA Tournament for four years, but his coach in Indiana University history to do so. His teams made the tournament final six of his six head coach, defeated four nationally No. 1 ranked opponents and compiled a 115-75 overall record. Not too shabby you might say. Don’t “success” was met with an instant firing.

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The Gauchos were expected to struggle in 2006, but so far this year that is not the case when it comes to hitting. Santa Barbara is second in the Big West in team average at .298, only behind Fullerton, and seven of Santa Barbara's nine starters are hitting over .300. Also, Gauchos sophomore Alden Carrithers and junior Chris Valaika are No. 1 and No. 3 in average in the Big West, hitting .372 and .355, respectively. Pitching is a completely different story, though. Santa Barbara has the second-worst team ERA in the conference, though. Santa Barbara has the second-worst team ERA in the conference, though. No. 2 and No. 3 in average in the Big West, hitting .355 and .348, respectively.

Expected to be ranked No. 22 in the nation and Powerful this year, although his average has fallen way short, as they are below .500 overall at 16-17. They are 4-1 in the Big West, but after a loss against Long Beach earlier in the season, they could be knocked out of the Big West competition.

The Titans rolled into the 2006 season with high expectations, and so far they have fulfilled every one of them. The two-time defending Big West Conference Champions are back on top again. Overall, and are ranked No. 4 in the country by Baseball America, Collegiate Baseball and the USA Today. The Titans are led at the plate by senior infielder Jared Hugues, who leads the team in runs batted in with 11 and has a .344 average, although his average of .241 is still good enough for second place in the conference for starts. Behind them, though, Irvine has nothing special on the mound. With the lack of depth expect Irvine to continue to struggle throughout the Big West schedule and glide into the postseason.

UC SANTA BARBARA

UC IRTNE

Although the mighty Anteaters have a similar record to favorites Long Beach and UCLA, they have a lot of returning starters hitting .300 or better and are as strong as ever. The Anteaters are only batting .265 overall but have the highest team average in the Big West. On the mound the Anteaters are led by senior closer Matt Berezay, who leads the Big West in saves, with 10. Berezay is second in the Big West with 10 saves, and his ERA of 3.88 is the best in the conference. With good depth, the Anteaters should continue to pound the ball throughout the season. With eight-of-nine starters returning, the Matadors’ problem is not hitting. Sophomore first baseman Brett Blumenthal ranks fifth in the Big West with a .348 batting average and junior shortstop Raymond Ravago (.319) and freshman infielder Scott Lyons (.308) are helping out as well. Northridge’s pitching is similar to Santa Barbara’s, except Northridge is worse. Their team ERA of 4.97 is by far the worst in the conference. Although the Matadors are only two games under .500 at 18-20, it’s going to get worse as the schedule conference continues. Expect Northridge to be a cellar-dweller once more.

CAL STATE NORTH RIDGE

UC RIVERSIDE

With eight-of-nine starters returning, the Highlanders have high hopes for 2006. Their offense has no huge threat like Cal Poly’s Jimmy Van Osstrand, but it’s well-rounded with seven-of-nine regular starters hitting over .300. Aaron Grant returned after a very strong junior year during which he led the Highlanders in average and runs scored. The Highlanders’ situation on the mound is very similar. They have no dominating ace like Fullerton’s Roemer, but they do have a well-rounded roster of very solid starters in senior Jailyn Harper, sophomore Josh Lansford, junior Taylor Bills and sophomore James Simmons. Expect Riverside to give Cal Poly a run for second place, but end up in third with a bid to Regionals as well.

University of the Pacific

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カリフォルニア州立大学ノースライド

UCリバーサイド

ユニバーシティオブザパシフィック

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カリフォルニア州立大学

2006 The Titans are a team led by mostly seniors, but they have some very good underclassmen as well. Matt Berezay is second in the Big West with eight home runs. Sophomore Justin Baum, who led the Big West in home runs last year and was named a Freshman All-American by Baseball America, also returns to play third base and continues to pound the ball out of park this year, although his average is way down. Pitching-wise, the Titans have their ace in senior Luke Massetti, and some very young second- and third-starters in freshmen Ty-Rell Harris and Joey Centanni. If the Titans want to finish at the top of the Big West, Baum and Harris are going to have to turn it around, but if they do, look out for Pacific. Expect them to finish fifth.

Long Beach State

Cal Poly

The Titans won the series opener with a 5-2 win on Wednesday, but Cal Poly came back with a 2-1 victory on Friday to take the series two games to none. The Mustangs’ season so far has been a bit of a rollercoaster. With a hot start, winning 10 of their first 12, it looked like this could be the year that Fullerton would knock off the Big West throne, but then the Mustangs cooled down and currently sit at a respectable 21-17, including 5-4 in the Big West. The Titans’ offense is all about senior Jimmy Van Osstrand. Van Osstrand leads the team and the conference with 11 home runs and 11 .411 batters batted in, and is a huge presence in the middle of the lineup. Infielder Josh Lansford is also helping out, leading the team with a .355 average, which is second in the conference. Poly’s weakness so far this year has been their starting pitching. Juniors Bud Norris and Gary Dally are both out of the starting rotation. They have not pitched as well as they could, with respective records of 7-3 and 4-5, and ERAs of 4.21 and 3.82. If the Mustangs want to jump over Fullerton and win their first ever Big West title, the starters’ pitching is really going to have to come around. At this rate it looks like Poly should end up in second place, and earn a bid to Regionals.

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