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.

WILLIAM PERICH

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.

Bruce and Mockford held a discussion after the film and asked audience members what they learned from watching the film, decided.

Aric Stone, a sensor in mechanical engineering, knew he wanted to go to Spain. He started planning the trip during his first year at Cal Poly. He took the trip in his third year.

Once the decision on the desti­nation is made, students can sign up to study abroad and receive credit for the course they choose.

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TODAY’S WEATHER

High 71°

Low 41°

Baseball is in the middle of the pack with a month and a half to go.

Battle of the Bands compete at Downtown Brew tonight.

IN SPORTS, 8

IN DIVER SIONS, 5

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

www.mustangdaily.net

MUSI ANG DAILY

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MUSI ANG DAILY

Volume LXIX, Number 114

Liberal arts professors lecture on their last thoughts

Liz Soteros-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.

“I’ll be more life gleaned from the professional discipline,” said professor Mary LaPorte of her lecture. “It’s an opportunity to reveal the world to our students that we don’t have the opportunity to share in the classroom.”

Leonard Beesemer, an art and design senior, enjoys a sunny afternoon on Dexter Lawn. Tuesday temperatures soared to 74 degrees and despite all the rain over the weekend, the weather is expected to stay sunny and warm through the weekend.

Whitney Guenther

Swim coach dives into retirement

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

Rich Firman, who has coached Cal Poly’s men’s and women’s swimming and diving programs for the last 19 years, has announced his retirement.

Firman, who was hired Sept. 23, 1987, said he is leaving to pursue other interests and to spend additional time with his family.

The past 19 years I have had the enjoyment of coaching fine student-athletes, and more importantly, quality individuals,” Firman said. “I will greatly miss the interaction with the friends that I made over the 19 years within the Cal Poly community.”

Phil Yoshida will assume the duties of interim head swimming and diving coach through Spring Quarter. A national search will be conducted during the quarter for a new head coach, see Coach, page 2

Rich Firman
Abroad

continued from page 1

nation has been made, students must make sure his or her passport is up-to-date and will not expire during the trip. Stone said learning another language was difficult in the beginning but he did so to be able to communicate with others.

Other items to keep in mind are health insurance, vaccinations and to plan finances for the actual trip. Battenburg recommends students to travel with less luggage and more funds.

As with the current riots in Paris, he said that students should be prepared for unexpected situations while abroad.

Keep an open mind regarding the customs of the country, Battenburg said. Don’t be naive about pickpocketing and keep street smart, he said.

James Keese, resident director for the Mexico program, said to know the culture because it can be fun one can learn a lot from that culture.

A common misconception is that studying abroad will postpone graduation and Battenburg said that if students plan accordingly, they can graduate on time.

Some said that the fact he studied abroad and took the time to learn Spanish will benefit him in the future.

“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.

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.

“I am not standing up and showing artwork,” LaPorte said.

Clark said he wants students “thinking about art and poetry in a world that makes us numb.”

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 accepting school being from San Francisco.

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

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

Stone 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.”

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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.

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

Favorites

- Colors: 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?
- Rain or 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 posting 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 Conner, said: "We're surprised that anybody got indicted, quite frankly."

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

"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 — actually 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 commercial transaction" 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.

"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 and are more aggressive men, but those leaders understood leadership, the value of teamwork, and that respect is a two-way street."
Bands battle for the top spot

Downtown Brew hosts 'Battle of the Bands' to reveal local talent and benefit VH1 Save the Music

Christina Casi

"We are all playing against each other, but we are doing the same thing; working for the same purpose — so there's some love there."

The free exposure will be a huge thing for the smaller bands, Dragovich said.

Downtown Brew today at 6 p.m. All ages welcome.

Play It By (above) is one of five local bands competing in 'Battle of the Bands' at Downtown Brew today at 6 p.m. All ages welcome.

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Zionism and the ongoing Israeli terrorism

It is truly disappointing to find any moral person defending Israel's violation of U.N. resolutions and War Court rulings. Are we then going to defend the expansion of millions of Palestinians from their homeland? And the hundreds of atomic warheads that Israel has? And the Palestinian homes that are destroyed daily in order to build Jewish settlements? And the illegal wall that has devastated the Palestinian economy and continues to separate Palestinian families? While some may claim that this wall minimizes suicide bombings, it actually instills resentment and hatred in people's hearts against those they rightly view as the aggressors. And then we claim we want peace? It is an old game to accuse anyone who criticizes Israel of being anti-Semitic. Jewish people aren't the problem; Zionism is.

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The solution is investing in the future by providing necessary funding to higher education. The CSU provides over 80 percent of the state's degrees in criminal justice, education, social work and public administration and over 50 percent of the degrees in business, communications and engineering. The CSU also grants over 50 percent of all degrees in California awarded to Latino, African American and Native American populations.

We can adequately provide opportunities for all children in California, regardless of their socioeconomic status, we will continue to struggle with crime rates, high school drop-out rates and the need for social services. We've got to invest in education to begin solving high-risk populations today so that we can shape role models and leaders for those communities for future generations to follow. If you agree, now is the time to let your legislators know. We've got two months to make education a priority.

Tylor Middelstadt is the ASI president of Mustang Daily columnist. He can be reached at 576-3828; AIM: CPASMPresident; e-mail: tmiddilha@calpoly.edu.

Edward A. Schwartz is an architectures student and Mustang Daily guest columnist.

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

COMMENTARY

Editor in chief: Dan Watson
Managing editor: Kristen Oato
www.mustanddaily.net

Education in the squeeze

This week, the California Legislature resumed its spring session and is considering higher education funding levels for the coming year. Even though it's common knowledge in Sacramento that education is practically underfunded ($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 175,000 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 1 percent 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 lightened the burden a small amount with our campus-based fee model, which is now being looked at 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 we 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 first 1 nationwide 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 lobby meetings with our state legislators in Sacramento, both Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee and Sen. from Santa Maria, who recently received 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?"

Unleash the beast until fund education we will be plunged with exploding costs in all of the areas they mentioned.

Zionism and the ongoing Israeli terrorism

It is truly disappointing to find any moral person defending Israel's violation of U.N. resolutions and War Court rulings.

Are we then going to defend the expansion of millions of Palestinians from their homeland? And the hundreds of atomic warheads that Israel has? And the Palestinian homes that are destroyed daily in order to build Jewish settlements? And the illegal wall that has devastated the Palestinian economy and continues to separate Palestinian families? While some may claim that this wall minimizes suicide bombings, it actually instills resentment and hatred in people's hearts against those they rightly view as the aggressors. And then we claim we want peace? It is an old game to accuse anyone who criticizes Israel of being anti-Semitic. Jewish people aren't the problem; Zionism is.

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UC SANTA BARBARA

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 .295, only behind Fullerton, and seven of Santa Barbara's nine starters are hitting over .300. Also, Gauchos sophomore Alden Carrithers and junior Chris Vahula 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 fielding ace like Fullerton's Roemer, but they do have a tandem-headed monster of very solid starters in senior Haley Berezay, 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.

UC IRVINE

Although the mighty Anteaters have a similar record to favorites UC Santa Barbara, they have been hurt by injuries. The status of third baseman Jared Haase and freshman starters Scott Greig and Eric Kim is in doubt. But with a core of very good players, but not many, the Anteaters are expected to finish fourth in the Big West. On the mound the Anteaters are led by senior closer John Badger and freshman starters Scott Greig, Eric Kim and sophomore Eric Lucas. Irvine's pitching is good enough for second base in the conference for starters. Behind those two, though, Irvine has nothing special on the mound. With the lack of depth expect Irvine to continue to struggle against the Big West schedule and look to win.

CAL STATE NORTHROPED

Northridge has finished in the Big West cellar for the last two years, and so far this year, it does not look like it's going to be any different. Just like UCSB, the Matadors' problem is not hitting. Sophomore outfielder Brett Bluemethal ranks fifth in the Big West with a .348 batting average and junior shortstop Raymond Ragovao (.319) and freshman infielder Scott Lyon (.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 conference schedule continues. Expect Northridge to be a cellar-dweller once more.

UC RIVERSIDE

With eight-nine starters returning, the Highlanders high hopes for 2006. Their offense has no huge threat like Cal Poly's Jimmy Van Ostrand, but it's well-rounded with seven-of-nine regular starters hitting over .300. Aaron Grant returns 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 tandem-headed monster of very solid starters in senior Haley Berezay, 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.

UCSB

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 .295, only behind Fullerton, and seven of Santa Barbara's nine starters are hitting over .300. Also, Gauchos sophomore Alden Carrithers and junior Chris Vahula 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 fielding ace like Fullerton's Roemer, but they do have a tandem-headed monster of very solid starters in senior Haley Berezay, 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.

CAL POLY

The Mustangs' season so far has been a bit of a roller coaster. With a hot start, winning 10 of their first 12, it looked like this could be the year that Fullerton would be knocked out of 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 Stangs' offense is all about senior Jimmy Van Ostrand. Van Ostrand leads the team and the conference with 11 home runs and a .348 batting average, which is second in the conference. The team's pitching weakness so far this year has been their starting pitching. Juniors Bud Norris and Gary Daley are the Mustangs' top starters, but have yet to pitch 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, they need their starting pitching is really going to have come around. At this rate it looks like Poly should end up in second place, and earn a bid to Regionals.