Poly receives high rankings

Nicole Small

U.S. News and World Report has named Cal Poly one of the best public master's universities in the west for the fifth consecutive year. Overall, Cal Poly took seventh place in the Best West category. The only other two California colleges that ranked higher than Cal Poly in the list were Loyola Marymount University at fifth place and Santa Clara University at second.

BY THE NUMBERS

15
The university's ranking for "Happiest Students".

14
Number of years in a row that Cal Poly has been named one of the best public master's universities in the west.

7
Cal Poly's ranking for the Best in West category.

2
The College of Engineering's ranking for public school programs among public universities.

CSU system and faculty association fail to agree

Ronnie Meehan

The California State University system and the California Faculty Association were unable to come to terms on several salary issues last month, but the CSU system does not believe the failure in negotiations will interrupt classes.

"It will be business as usual on the CSU campuses," said CSU media relations specialist to the chancellor's office, Paul Browning.

While the organizations have already come to an agreement on several economic issues, including healthcare and retirement, they have failed to come to terms on several others. Total salary compensation, including an incentive and equity pay program for members of the bargaining unit are just a few of the issues that remain unresolved.

"(CFA) did not accept our salary increase... (CSU) is disappointed because we see it as a very generous offer — we feel that if the faculty had a chance to look at it they would too."

—Paul Browning

CSU media relations specialist

Freshman a victim of robbery, assault

Kristen Marschall

A Cal Poly student was a victim of robbery and assault with a deadly weapon on Friday night. Ryan Alcaraz, 19, was found unconscious on the sidewalk near the corner of Monte Vista Road and California Boulevard, according to a San Luis Obispo Police Department press release.

The biochemistry freshman was transported to Sierra Vista Hospital at about 10 p.m. The police were contacted near midnight after emergency personnel determined that Alcaraz had been struck on the head and was the victim of an assault. Authorities said.

Several people reportedly fled the scene when Alcaraz was found, but the police had not yet obtained a description of the caller.

see Alcaraz, page 2
Three hundred Gal Poly students said companies within the students surveyed at 301 schools.

"It's always nice to be noticed," Oliveira said.

And Kyle' said the rankings help the students with more experience.

"It's good for our personal self esteem," Oliveira said.

Wolfe shared that even though a graduate of an Ivy League school graduate with a higher grade point average, a company rather hire a student with more experience. Cal Poly requires engineering students to take a lab each quarter, offering more experience.

"We believe this is a big deal," said Mike Ratliff, executive director of the American Civic Literacy Program. "You are ready at different points in your education to study history in greater depth."

Cal Poly ranked 16th of 115,000 students surveyed at 361 schools.

Three hundred Cal Poly students participated in the Princeton Review survey.

Questions included in the survey pertained to how the students rated campus food, professors and social activities offered in the area. Cal Poly students polled they were "very" happy.

To see where other colleges ranked in comparison to Cal Poly for the Best Schools in the West, check out www.usnews.com.

Alcaraz continued from page 1

The CFA represents 22,000 faculty members and lecturers at the 23 CSU campuses.

The CSAU system is the largest system of senior higher education in the United States, with 23 campuses, approximately 405,000 students and 44,000 faculty and staff members.

The CFA represents 22,000 faculty members and lecturers at the 23 CSU campuses.
Lower gas prices won't last, UC Davis professors say

MIKE DERIEH / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drivers line up to buy gasoline for $1.98 per gallon at this Getty station in Jersey City, N.J., on Friday, Oct. 6.

The California Aggie (UC Davis)

E. Ashley Wright in Jersey City, N.J. on Friday, Oct. 6.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2006

THE CALIFORNIA AGGIE (UC DAVIS)

DAVIS — Although consumers may be pleased with the price breaks they have recently received at the gas pumps, oil-consumption experts warn that the long-term effects of depletion may result in higher prices in the near future.

Several explanations for the lower prices, down $0.077 per gallon since last week and $0.290 since October, 2005, have been given. But some experts said the evolving landscape near The University of California at Davis geography department and former geologist for the Gulf Oil Corp, the price of oil-per-barrel is constantly fluctuating and cannot be accounted for by any particular factor.

"The thing about oil prices is that it is so utterly unpredictable," he said. "There is no real grand scheme of setting the price of gas at all." Recent models suggested that the price of oil-per-barrel could go into prices at the pump that the consumer cannot control. "We think that prices could not realistically be affected by political motivations," said the chairperson of the Department of Economics.

With the midterm elections approaching, Democratic Party candidates and critics have speculated that the Republican administration is manipulating prices to offset criticism of the party's stringent energy platform.

However, said John Theobald, a member of the University of California at Davis geography department and former geologist for the Gulf Oil Corp, the price of oil-per-barrel is constantly fluctuating and cannot be accounted for by any particular factor.

"The inevitable is switching over from hydrocarbons to alternative forms."
MOVIEW REVIEW

‘The Departed’ raises the bar for crime drama

Ryan Chartrand

“Heaven holds the faithful departed,” will be the last line you will ever experience. “The Departed” is Scorsese’s return to the days of Hollywood to kill each other on-screen since he directed “Taxi Driver” in 1976 when he started getting the best actors in the world to kill each other on-screen.

It’s no surprise then that his most brilliant works have always had something to do with a guy getting a bullet stylishly planted in a head; it’s a storyline he plays. “Goodfellas.” The film is evidence of how contemporary Scorsese's return to the days of Hollywood was. Just waiting to intersect with one of the real standouts doesn’t go to either of today’s pretty boys, but rather to the legendary Jack Nicholson. Seeing him in the best love/hate role he’s had since The Joker from “Batman” was probably the sole reason Scorsese took on the project (at least it should have been). Top it off with Mark Wahlberg, in an unbelievably fitting role as a hero, bumbling Boston cop (despite Wahlberg’s real-life history of being arrested by them) and you’ve got a cast that was born for such a brilliant story.

But what makes it all one truly worthwhile package isn’t the fact that Scorsese’s name and a dozen others are flashing in bright lights all over it; the film works because of Scorsese’s filmmaking soul and the cast’s untapped talent were injected into the film’s core. DiCaprio says it best half-way through the film with the line “I’m in the room with a mass murderer and my heart rate is jacked...but my hand is steady.” Scorsese skillfully creates a vicious Boston crime world with so much history. It tosses you in with casual, believable killers and all the while your heart is racing the Indy 500. But you’re stable, your head is steady and you are fully aware of all that is happening around you in a world you don’t want to be in. “The Departed” is an experience. Period.

Despite a background love story that never quite goes anywhere and a runtime of 2 1/2 hours that will cut up your day, “The Departed” is easily one of the most ruthless, fast-paced and painfully satisfying films you will see this year. As for those wondering if it’s better than “Goodfellas” or “Casino,” stop asking stupid questions. It’s a Scorsese mafia film and as they say in Boston, “nuff said.”
Get some cash as a Hearst tour guide

Brigette Barbosa
MUSTANG DAILY

Low on cash? Determined to stay in San Luis during breaks, but not the behind the desk type? Leading tours through the grounds of one of California's state monments may be just what you're looking for.

California State Parks is hiring Hearst Castle tour guides. Instead of heading home to mom and dad, you could be taking visitors on a tour through Casa Del Sol, Neptune and Roman pools, the castle library, Casa Grande and more.

"One thing people would like to do is stay in the area over the summer. This is one of the times this particular job can help," said Hearst Castle director of public relations Dan Eller. Eller has worked part-time at Cal Poly as a lecturer for the College of Liberal Arts.

The job applies to Cal Poly students in a number of ways. "It is excellent exercise and there is a uniform, so you don't have to worry about buying an extensive wardrobe, which can get expensive," Eller said. Tour guides would work during the times of the year people travel the most because a majority of the visitors to the castle are tourists.

"Weekends, holidays, they're when people travel. This can work out around the student's schedule," he said.

The positions available are the guide trainee and the guide I known as the permanent-intermittent (PI) position. To qualify for the PI position you must have at least six months of prior public speaking experience. Eller said the experience doesn't necessarily have to come from a paid job. It can be from volunteering for the Red Cross and having to speak, being a member of ASI or different things on campus that would require you to face and speak to a large variety of people.

If you haven't had any prior experience you are required to start at the guide trainee level. Trainees work one season to gain the needed experience and then take a civil service exam to try and move on to the PI position.

"There are so many interests and aspects about this monument that it can work out for any student," Eller said. The experience gained and the improvement of public speaking skills are a few of the highlights, he said.

Working for a state agency entitles the employee to certain health benefits if they qualify. "These are benefits above and beyond hourly pay," Eller said.

Those interested are encouraged to attend Farmers' Market on Oct. 12, Oct. 26, and Nov. 9, to visit the information booths.

On Dec. 8 and Dec. 9, a one-hour informational workshop will be held at Hearst Castle. To make an appointment to attend the workshop, call (805) 927-2494. Dec. 3 to Dec. 6 between 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. according to the press release.

"Our reputation with Cal Poly students is really strong," Eller said. "Years ago there was a class on campus that taught you how to be a guide. Now we do all the training at Hearst Castle." Eller said people who are interested right now can call the Guide Supervisors Office at (805) 927-2085 for answers to basic questions, but highly encourages people to visit their information booth at Farmers' Market.

Queen

continued from page 4

to grow frustrated while watching the vastly privileged interact, revealing their complete lack of understanding of the modern world. Despite all their titles and money, it becomes clear that this family resides in a completely different universe. It's an existence dominated by money and prestige, and move on. The performance of the royal family creates the tension in the movie that carries it along. It's one thing to watch scene after scene of leisure and meaningless banter. The scenes following Diana's death highlight the bureaucratic nature of the throne.

Their various reactions to Princess Dv's death drive this point home. The royal monarchy is so bound by rules and tradition they can't even conceive of displaying any human emotion. They can do little more than watch helplessly from their country home's TV sets.

To provide a different perspective, Blair and his cabinet immediately react in order to capitalize on the opportunity, making endless promises to the public. The film even features a recreation of a famous press conference that transforms Blair into a press darling, much to the dismay of Elizabeth.

The second half of the film centers solely on Elizabeth, as the remainder of the characters fade to the background. Somehow, it seems as if Frears is attempting to stone for his less-than-flattering treatment of the royal family with the final scenes.

Frears tries to end the movie by focusing on the Queen's half-hearted attempts to understand the world in which she now lives. It is difficult, however, to muster sympathy for a woman who believes her position in the world is a matter of divine right. Although much of the second half lags, the movie functions well as a whole, holding up beautifully under the pressure of topics as sensitive as these. "The Queen" is a simple film, refreshingly stripped of the usual Hollywood trappings, and its superb ensemble cast allows it to capture the sorrow and intrigue of a significant event in modern British history.

1921 Babe Ruth hits his first World Series home run.

1947 First telephone conversation is made between a moving car and a plane.

1965 Beatles "Yesterday," single goes No. 1 and stays No. 1 for four weeks.

1984 Kathy Sullivan becomes the first U.S. woman to walk in space.
It is nearly impossible to...
Freshman forward Andrew Cruz had two shots on goal and scored for Cal Poly.

The Cal Poly men's soccer team scored three straight goals and won with a 3-2 victory over rival UC Davis (3-2-0) on Saturday afternoon in Davis.

Sophomore goalkeeper Eric Branigan-Franco recorded three saves and picked up the win.

At the 32-minute, 39-second mark, UC Davis' Mariano Arreza scored on a header on the right side of Dan Campbell. The Mustangs rebounded early in the second period on a unassisted goal 10 yards out by freshman Domenico Papa.

Cal Poly freshman Andrew "Buster" Cruz continued the offense and at the 54:18 mark put in a goal from the left side on an assist from Julian Alvarez.

Cal Poly's Jeff Meyer Jr. scored his third goal of the season in the 79th minute on a breakaway pass from junior Todd Combs.

Cal Poly's record in the competitive Big West Conference stands at 7-2-0.

The Mustangs return home for a matchup with Cal State Fullerton at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Sports Complex.

Women's Soccer
continued from page 8
Berkhame, who had one shot on goal. "(Cal Poly) got a lucky break on us at the end." Before the game, Croner said the Mustangs are getting a good rhythm in their strategy to attack and remain in control of the ball.

"We are getting better each week and should be peaking toward the end of the season," he said. "We play very good soccer and it's exciting to watch."
Mustangs edge rival Aggies, 23-17

The Cal Poly football team defeated UC Davis in San Luis Obispo for the first time since 1996.

Tristan Arel
SPORTS EDITOR

Matt Brennan called it redemption.
The sophomore quarterback had every right to helping the Cal Poly football team to a 23-17 Great West Football Conference win Saturday night over visiting rival UC Davis in front of 8,435 fans at Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

Brennan, whose 1-yard touchdown run gave Cal Poly a 20-10 lead as time expired in the third quarter was referring to a 20-13 loss at UC Davis last year in which he was 9 of 29 and absorbed six sacks in his first career start.

"This game means so much to the seniors," Brennan said. "I really felt terrible, almost like I let the team down last year. The game wasn't anyone person's fault, but the quarterback touches the ball every step. I used that feeling to find myself to get pumped up for this game!"

Brennan completed 6 of 15 passes for 96 yards Saturday. Saturday and his lone interception worked like a punt. He has now quarterbacked two consecutive comeback victories.

Cal Poly (5-2, 0-1) dominated the opening game and raced to a 15-8 lead. The Mustangs (13-4, 5-0), off to the second-best Big West Conference play.

The turning point was a safeties' out victory against Cal State Fullerton. Will Hames III (72) look on. Brennan has led two straight comeback wins for the Mustangs, who rallied past the Aggies 23-17 Saturday night at Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

Cal Poly sophomore quarterback Matt Brennan (3) evades the tackle of UC Davis senior cornerback Nevan Bergen (20) as Fred Hives II (6) and Will Hames III (72) block him. Brennan has led two straight comeback wins for the Mustangs, who rallied past the Aggies 23-17 Saturday night at Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

The 426 fans packed into the Sports Complex for the first time since the 19th-ranked Aggies (2-3, 0-1) moved to the I-AA level in 2003. After the game, Cal Poly players and coaches celebrated on the sides around the Golden Horsehead trophy.

"It's one of our season goals every year," Cal Poly head coach Rich Ellerson said of the victory. "We come up with four or five goals and that's right there at the top."

Cal Poly's defense, led by 117 Division I-AA teams in fewest points allowed per game (9.7), held UC

When Wes Pryor blocked Gabe Ellis' punt for a safety, the Mustangs looked lethargic and sopped at the time. Version 2.0 looked hungry and proved it right out of the gate—all this version needed was one play to capitalize on that hunger.

It came on the first possession in the third quarter. After Cal Poly nose tackle Chris White sacked UC Davis quarterback Jon Grant, the Aggies were forced to kick from the down 2-yard line. Junior middle linebacker Wes Pryor provided the spark that carried the Mustangs through the rest of the night.

Pryor blocked a Gabe Ellis punt, which was recovered by the Aggies in the south end zone for a safety. Neither UC Davis nor Cal Poly was the same team after that.

Although Cal Poly was only dealt one adjusted penalty in the Mustangs was penalized on the sideline, silence was replaced by that back-up line Ol' J-T of the game. Cal Poly football team takes momentum and has no intention of relinquishing it.

Brennan returned a third-quarter interception 23 yards to set up Brennan's touchdown run. The play, Chism said, was Cal Poly's all-time record for interceptions (17).

"They were missing it up," UC Davis pressed All-American receiver Tony Kay said of the Mustang's defense. "I think No. 1 (defense) in the nation isn't too far off!"

The Mustangs swept Cal State Fullerton 3-0 and are 5-0 in Big West Conference play.

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

Sophomore outside hitter Kylie Atherstone led all players with 17 kills and No. 20 Cal Poly failed to trail at any point Saturday evening in remaining perfect at Mont Gym courtesy of a 30-22, 30-21, 30-26 victory against Cal State Fullerton and Big West Conference-leading Cal Poly (13-4, 5-0), off to the second-best league start in program history, hasn't dropped a game at Mont Gym in 2006 following sweeps of UC Davis (Sept. 19) and UC Riverside (Oct. 6).