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Renters may be the biggest winners in the current housing slump, especially in areas hardest hit by foreclosures and skyrocketing inventory.

J.W. Elphinstone

Renters may be the biggest winners in the current housing slump, especially in places like Florida, Las Vegas and Southern California, that have thousands of vacant-for-sale and foreclosed homes and condos on the market.

Apartment vacancies are edging up in many areas of the country as frustrated sellers instead try to rent out their homes and condos in once red-hot housing markets. And that is making it harder for landlords to raise rents. In the toughest markets, apartment owners are even offering lease incentives to snag renters.

This "shadow market" of investor-owned homes and condos accounts for almost half of the rental stock, and attracts displaced homeowners more often than their typical apartment renter.

"What's different now is the degree of excess homes and condos being put on the rental market. The sheer volume is creating more competition for traditional rental markets," said Hesam Nadji, managing director at Marcus & Millichap Real Estate Investment Services, which analyzed the data for The Associated Press.

After staying relatively flat last year, apartment vacancies bumped up in the first quarter from the end of last year, the research showed. The vacancy rate is expected to rise by a half-percent this year to 6.1 percent as the market absorbs about 3.3 million more rental home and condo units.

Nadji also predicts rent growth nationwide will slow to 3.5 percent from 4.6 percent.

The national trend, however, belies the happening in the country's most beleaguered housing markets. Areas that experienced explosive condo development and conversions of apartments into condos for sale are finding those units unloaded onto the rental market because developers can't sell them.

Sharp increases in vacancy rates plague most Florida markets where condo development was rampant, especially in Jacksonville, for example, rental vacancies spiked to more than 10 percent in the first quarter, up from 5.8 percent in the prior year. Orlando and Ft. Lauderdale had the next highest gains in vacancies.

"As the sale activity for condos and single-family homes declined over the last 24 months, investors decided to rent them instead of trying to sell them at reduced prices," said Ron Shaffer, president of Esslinger-Wooten-Maxwell Realtors Inc. in Miami.

Since the beginning of the year, the number of rentals on the Miami and Ft. Lauderdale markets combined has risen more than 11 percent to 10,000 from 9,000.

"Our rental activity is about three times what it was three years ago," Shaffer said. "Today, for the first time ever for the firm, we're renting more properties than we're selling."

In San Diego, single-family homes being placed on the rental market are hurting luxury apartment communities, said Rick Snyder, president of the California Apartment Association.

The new supply is preventing some landlords from increasing rents, and other are even being forced to offer freebies like one free month with a one-year lease or upgraded unit features.

"People realize they're getting substantially more value than what they're spending on that rental," said Snyder, who is also president of apartment manager R.A. Snyder Properties Inc.

But there could be some unwise rules behind these bargain shadow rentals. Renters who got homes or condos on the cheap may find a thrill knocking at the door with an eviction notice if their landlord fails to pay the mortgage.

"Some investors will take any dollar amount to have any cash flow," Nadji said, noting that the rent often only covers a portion of the mortgage payment. "We're seeing a lot of tenants being displaced when landlords get foreclosed upon."

In Southeast Florida, renters have taken notice and have begun to avoid those properties, said Susan Whitney, property management company Riverstone Residential Group in Boca Raton, Fla.

"The shadow market battered the rental market in the last two years," Whitney said, as renters opted for investor-owned homes and condos, which helped to drive down rents in the area. But as news spread of tenants getting burned by delinquent landlords, renters returned to the traditional market.

"They've become more wary about investor homes and condos, and now concessions in the market have started to decrease," she said.

Meanwhile, renters in some of the costliest cities aren't getting any relief, to their dismay. Rents in pricey San Francisco surged 11.5 percent last year, while New York rents shot up 9 percent and rents in San Jose, Calif., climbed 8.7 percent, Marcus & Millichap said.

Elizabeth Pulido, an administration manager at a New York hedge fund, recently signed a lease on a 600-square-foot one-bedroom apartment in Manhattan for $2,800 a month. Pulido, who moved from the Bay Area in California earlier this year, originally had hoped to pay only $1,500 per month.

"I quickly found out that you can't get anything decent in Manhattan for that. I think I can get a studio but it's basically a box really," the 31-year-old said. "If I go back to California, I could get double that for the same price and something nicer."

But if job losses continue to mount, rents even in the most robust markets could shrink while vacancies rise, Nadji said.

"Employment has the closest correlation to rental absorption," he said. "Demand for studios and one-bedroom rooms is weak, while we're starting to see more demand for multi-bedroom, multi-bathroom units because people are doubling or tripling up to save money."
Fewer Poly graduates than last year

College of Engineering sends most graduates into 'real world' with 779 total

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Shannon Boren
HOMETOWN: Bakersfield

As spring quarter comes to a close, thoughts of graduation fill the minds of eager seniors ready to complete their time at Cal Poly. What may not come to mind, however, is how they stack up against graduates of the past, and students of the future.

This spring there will be 2,635 students earning their degrees at Cal Poly, while the 2007-08 combined graduate totals for all quarters amount to 3,706. This number may seem large, but it falls short of last year's 3,984 total by 278 students.

Though this year's number of graduates is lower, there is no reason to sound the alarm. The number of degrees awarded at Cal Poly have continually fluctuated up and down over the past 17 years, with a low of 3,132 awarded in college year 1990-91 and a high of 4,083 awarded in college year 2003-04.

The College of Engineering leads the pack, sending a total of 779 graduates to live and work in the “real world,” which accounts for 21 percent of Cal Poly’s total graduates.

In a close second is the College of Liberal Arts, which will produce 16.7 percent of this year’s graduates for a total of 726 students. Last year, the college accounted for 21.6 percent of Cal Poly’s graduates.

Showing the greatest jump in graduates is the College of Architecture and Environmental Design, which had an increase of 1.5 percent from the previous year in the number of students completing their programs for a total of 384 students.

As these graduates take their experiences and knowledge out into the work force and begin a new life with the skills they have obtained, Cal Poly awaits the arrival of a new batch of students to restart the process and create new graduates in 2012.

A total of 11,117 freshmen students were selected for attendance in fall, out of 33,345 applicants, which is 2,586 more students than were selected for fall 2004, when most of this year's graduates were admitted.

The average high school GPA for students enrolled in fall 2004 was 3.77, which is substantially lower than the 3.87 average GPA for those selected to attend in fall 2008. The average SAT score for fall 2008 freshmen is 1266.

Though numbers change year to year due to budget constraints or other factors, there seems to be a fairly consistent trend in the high quality of students coming in and going out of Cal Poly each quarter.
Federal employers covet college grads

Rustin Partow
THE GW HAWK (GEORGE WASHINGON U.)

Todd Jarpe started working security at the Surf & Sand Hotel in Laguna Beach, Calif., four years ago. Now the graduating senior will work at the Department of Homeland Security — one of a growing number of students to secure government jobs out of college. The job market is especially good for GW graduates who want to work for the government, said Tim McManus, vice president of education and outreach for the Partnership for Public Service.

A third of the people working in the federal government are expected to retire in the next five years, making it easier to find a job in that sector, he said. In addition, the recession makes government jobs more attractive because of the extra security and stability.

"The government isn't exactly going to go away," he said. Job prospects for students graduating in a few weeks may be better than in spring 2007, but reports show the recent mortgage crisis has made the market tougher than expected. Employers are expected to hire 8 percent more graduates this year than last year, but this estimate was about twice as much prior to the crisis, according to a report from the National Association of Colleges and Employers, a research firm focused on college graduate employment. Salaries are also expected to increase by 5.5 percent, the association said.

"What makes the biggest difference is not a recession, but how and when a student taps his/her network," GW Director of Employment Anne Scammon wrote in an e-mail. She said this includes working on job search skills and utilizing the Career Center.

Networking and personal connections, in addition to Internet job listings, were more useful than any other resource for last year's job searchers, a Career Center survey found. Alumni said internships during college were a student taps his/her network, GW Director of Employment Anne Scammon wrote in an e-mail. She said this includes working on job search skills and utilizing the Career Center.

Networking and personal connections, in addition to Internet job listings, were more useful than any other resource for last year's job searchers, a Career Center survey found. Alumni said internships during college were more parallel to their current profession than their academic major. Also, one third of last year's graduates now work for the government or nonprofit organizations.
WEST POINT, N.Y. (AP) — The class of 2008 graduated Saturday from the U.S. Military Academy, 972 men and women who were saluted by the top Army official for their willingness to serve during deadly conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Army Secretary Pete Geren told the cadets that 11 West Point graduates have died in service to their country since last May's graduation ceremony. He lauded their cadets that West Point graduates-to-be assembled at the U.S. Military Academy for their willingness to serve in Iraq or Afghanistan. About a dozen of the graduates have already served as enlisted troops in Iraq or Afghanistan.

** PRINCETON, N.J. (AP) — Stephen Colbert, the host of his own Comedy Central show, Emmy winner, faux presidential candidate and best-selling author, added to that esteemed collection an award from Princeton University. The Great Princeton Class of 2008 Undergraduate Vanity Award. The award was mounted on a mirror.

"I have to say, I've never seen anything more beautiful," Colbert on Monday told the 2,611 Princeton graduates-to-be assembled at Class Day, which is held each year the day before commencement. Senior Class President Tom Hume pointed out that the ceremony was held in front of ivy-covered Nassau Hall in an area where Gen George Washington defeated the British in the Battle of Princeton.

"Mr. Colbert is, as George Washington was, a great patriot," Hume said. "He stands firm against the liberal tyrannies of our time. In other words, he fits right in."

COLUMBUS, Ohio (The Lantern, Ohio State U.) — The city of Columbus is researching ways to convince more than 120,000 local college students to stick around after graduation rather than move home or relocate for work. A recent survey of local students, conducted by Collegia, identified ways in which Columbus can engage and retain its students. The Wellesley, Mass, consulting firm labeled Columbus as a prime market for college student retention, noting the city already has the resources to attract young professionals.

"College students are too often an underutilized economic and social force in their community," said Todd Hoffman, president of Collegia.
Robert Frost vandals get classroom penance

About 25 ultimately entered plea — or were accepted into a program that allows them to wipe their records clean — provided they understand the Frost instruction. Some will also have to pay for some of the damage, and most were ordered to perform community service in addition to the classroom sessions. The man who bought the beer is the only one who went to jail; he got three days behind bars.

Parini, 60, a Middlebury College professor who has stayed at the house before, was eager tooblige when Quinn asked him to teach the classes. He donated his time for the two sessions.

On Wednesday, 11 turned out for the first, with Parini giving line-by-line interpretations of "The Road Not Taken" and "Out, Out," weaving on parts with particular relevance to drum parallels to their case.

"Two roads diverged in a yellow wood," he thundered, reciting the opening line of the first poem, which he called symbolic of the need to make choices in life.

"This is where Frost is relevant. This is the irony of this whole thing. You come to a path in the woods where you can say, 'Shall I go to this party and get drunk out of my mind?'" he said.

"Everything in life is choices."

Even the setting had parallels, he said. "Believe me if you're a teenager, you're always in the damned woods. Literally, you're in the woods — probably too much you're in the woods. And metaphorically you're in the woods, in your life.

Look at you here; in court diversion! If that isn't 'in the woods,' what the hell is 'in the woods?' You're in the woods!'"

Dressed casually, one with his skateboard propped up against his desk, the young people listened to Parini and answered questions when he pressed them. Then a court official asked them to describe how their arrows and the publicity affected them.
Graduation marks a time of transition for many Cal Poly students, including members of local band Still Time, who will shelve their chosen careers at least temporarily as they follow their dreams of becoming full-time musicians.

Members of the popular local band are unofficially done with their education this year. Bassist Paul Smith-Stewart completed his associate’s degree in jazz studies at Cuesta College last semester and drummer John Vincich will graduate this weekend with a degree in mechanical engineering. Nick Blich and Chris Arntzen graduated last year with English and electrical engineering degrees, respectively.

Now, the band can finally focus solely on its music.

“This is when it really gets sweet because I’m no longer worried about, ‘Oh, can I do a show this week in between my midterms’?” Vincich said. “I’m now able to put 100% into what we’re doing.”

Local band Still Time, whose members are all almost graduated, will embark on a West Coast tour this summer.

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Still Time
continued from page 10
from doing maybe a show or two a week to doing five shows a week and maybe even more.”
“It’s finally sinking in that this is going to be our job, how we’re going to pay our rent and buy our food,” added Dan Curcio, the band’s vocalist and a guitarist. “We’ve been working on putting together a summer tour up and down the West Coast, and we’ve even gotten ourselves a luxury van with a trailer.”
The band will continue to base itself out of San Luis Obispo, largely due to its essentially equidistant location between the music Meccas of San Francisco and Los Angeles.
Band members can now gear up for their first extended tour, as they’ve only been able to tour on winter and spring breaks previously due to their school schedule. However, with college behind them, members of Still Time are looking forward to what lies on the open road ahead.
“It’s been real intense being an engineer and a drummer in a band, especially this quarter with senior projects,” Vucinich said. “But it’ll be a lot different doing month-long tours, as we’ve only slept in our luxury van a handful of times. We’re accepting ramen donations, to be sure.”
The band’s West Coast tour will make stops at various points between Seattle and San Diego.
“We’ll be hitting up people’s hometowns when they’re back home over the summer as he sure to bring the crew and come check us out,” Curcio said.
The band members’ degrees will not be completely shelved, however, as Arntzen has put his electrical engineering skills to good use by building a PA system, the band’s merchandise display and an LED display of the Still Time logo for the band. And it’s good to know that, should they ever find themselves in a bind, the members will very likely be able to engineer their way out of it.
Looking back on their experiences at Cal Poly and in San Luis Obispo, the members of Still Time assessed where they stand related to students in similar situations.
“I think that we’re a testament that you don’t have to go out and get a job right away after graduating,” Arntzen said. “You can travel and pursue other things, like missionary work, the Peace Corps or whatever. Now’s the time to do it.”
Vucinich agreed, saying that he, too, is looking forward to focusing solely on the band’s music.
“Your should take advantage of where you’re at in your life,” he said. “I feel really fortunate to have this opportunity, and to have no other ties than to be working on music.”
Still Time will play the first Concerts in the Plaza show at Mission Plaza Friday at 5 p.m. The free show is open to visitors of all ages. Then, the band will begin its summer tour.
For more information on the band or its tour, visit stilltimeimusic.com.

We’re a testament that you don’t have to go out and get a job right away after graduating.
— Chris Arntzen
Still Time band member

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May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face, and the rains fall soft upon your fields.

THE WORD ON THE SCREEN
movies. podcast. tv. tech
How to... make your cap SPARKLE

Jennie Eastridge • Senior Project

Stilth ... I'm going to let you in on a little secret: my mortarboard (you know, that hideous cap-looking thing us graduates have to wear at the ceremony) is going to be better than yours. And it's all because of my fabulous craft skills.

See this wrinkled Endpaper; reproducing the Sudoku page of this lovely publication (and maybe some other pretty things) to my cap. Then, I'll attach several sheets of the popular publication (and maybe some other suggestions for boss:
c.iii ■li.i.e' 'vi prytty h.it. I  lere are
(a) 'rite says in— "I'll foe over!" (for those superiors who think, seven or eight years to finish their degree). "How waht?" (for those like me, still unsure what
to do next). "Hi, Mom!" (across from 7-Eleven)
...- y .

Games!

- Like my Sudoku idea? Fine, go online biisiiess ('ap-tions has your

3-D Models
Floating throughout cyberspace are images of graduates wearing
caps adorned with giant stuffed-owls or Lego replicas of soccer
fields, complete with goal posts and players (seriously). Come up with your own; a 3-D model that reflects your interests to add to your cap. Mom and Dad will have no trouble spotting you in the crowd.

A nice, cool fan
Don't you see what the weather will be like come Saturday, but there's a
good chance it may be freakin' hot. One contributor to shoutwire.com
toasted a computer fan that (actually, up to your graduation hat so
did he keep cool for step-by-step instructions to make your own

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Ladies and gentleman, wedding season is upon us. With flowers replacing those pesky showers, June officially marks Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson’s favorite time of the year. According to the Greeting Card Association, June and August mark the most popular months for weddings. A wedding is one of the best excuses to party, especially with the apocalyptic post-college world rapidly approaching, and a fair share of the receptions have seen my “patented” dance moves. (Let’s just say I definitely kick it with “Kool & the Gang.”)

Even if the actual ceremony makes drying concrete exciting, the receptions are can’t-miss social events filled with good company, fantastic food and memorable music — the essential lubricants for my “moves.” But this summer, my wedding guest career enters a whole new stage

In fact, I have never been the biggest advocate of commitment or long-term relationships and fully expect to be on the backside of that average. I mean, I’d eventually like to find the one and settle down, but I have been putting off accomplishing things for so long that I owe it to any future spouse(s) to try and make something out of myself.

My concern is not for the current state of marriages, rather, the National Center for Health Statistics reports that the urban legends of 50 percent divorce rates are skewed and do not paint the real picture. For instance, the divorce rate is now at its lowest since 1970, and only 24 percent of couples who get married for the first time after the age of 25 will get divorced.

The apprehension I feel is rooted in the transition from single to the realm of relationships. It is only a matter of time until my brothers-in-arm begin going down harder than a San Diego State fraternity.

Already, when I venture out of our isolated college environment, I take notice of shiny diamonds on ring fingers. Believe me, this is not an adjustment I welcomed but for the sake of my self-confidence, it’s adapt or walk in self-pity. The individual who is committed to staying free must deal with a variety of changing circumstances.

Have you ever noticed how your friends in relationships are always trying to hook you up with one of their friends? Is it that uncomfortable to hang out with a lone ranger or is it so hard to believe that the world won’t end if you don’t have that special someone?

If I ever resort to the world of awkward blind dates, then I will know that things have gone terribly wrong. Granted, it is too early to rule out the ever expanding world of online dating. (Code-red last resort: C’mon, eHarmony.)

Eventually, and sometimes sooner rather than later, relatives get in on the act. Mothers, aunts and grandparents wonder when you are going to bring a nice girl around instead of showing up to family functions with bed head and a wrinkled shirt.

Once you have proven yourself incompatible for a relationship (i.e., in the workplace among acquaintances), expect to be inundated with complaints of how undesirable available suitors are.

In severe prolonged situations, don’t be surprised to be segregated from events and trips as you are slowly relegated to the singles section. After all, who wants the kids around the smelly bachelor that teaches little Joey all the naughty tips to “Grand Theft Auto?”

Maintaining your availability becomes an increasingly daunting task in the face of mounting pressures from every angle. Societal norms portray single life as lonely and depressing, but most would agree the opposite is true.

Without attachments, we are free to pursue other interests without being responsible to another individual, leading to unpredictability and excitement. In the end, we should focus more on enjoying the ride along the way and be less preoccupied with finding Mr. or Mrs. Right. Let’s sit back and not rush things; when it happens, there will be plenty of time for everything else.

But if you do happen to find that perfect someone, don’t push your happiness on me. I’m perfectly content with pure longing and a reporter for the Mustang Daily.

Kory Harbeck is a journalism senior and a reporter for the Mustang Daily.

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Diamonds were gift to campus

Shannon Boren

Though Cal Poly is known for its agriculture production of fresh fruits and vegetables, there are fields on campus that can sometimes be forgotten—the sports fields. While strawberries are nice, they pale in comparison to the feeling of watching a ball game, pepper in hand, cheering for the home team.

This luxury is now afforded to Cal Poly sports fans since the completion of the sports complex in 2001 that allowed students and community members to take in a game right on campus—something that wasn't always available.

The 4.7-acre complex comprised of Baggett Stadium for baseball, Bob Janssen Field for softball and seven competition fields for soccer and football, granted a much-needed relocation to the Cal Poly sports program seven years ago, and now teams and fans alike are reaping the benefits. Prior to the opening of Baggett Stadium, the baseball team had not played on campus for almost 30 years. Instead, it used Sinsheimer Field where the new diamond is located, used to practice on.

Sinsheimer was named after the Cal Poly community, and are connected by the Ozzie Smith Plaza.

In addition to a quality field, the stadium provides on-site locker rooms, dressing and staff facilities. The facility seats 1,734 people, bringing with it a sense of excitement and camaraderie for student-athletes alike.

"I think the field has brought a recruiting boost to the program," Condon says. "It's a great place to play, its location is beautiful and it's one of the top facilities in the country. We won our first conference championship at home last year playing on our own field, and probably every record in the book has been broken since we started playing here," she says.

The fields have also served as a helpful selling point when bringing in recruits. "I think it's made a huge impact on the success of the program," Condon says. "Don't think it would be nearly as successful without it. It's helped sell a recruit on a great academic and athletic institution with a facility that is not comparable here at Cal Poly we have a great facility and great academics."

Both fields were named after valuable members of the Cal Poly community.

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**LIL GRAD NOTES**

Kev and Mike, Those SLI classes were tough, but we prevailed! Good times—Hee

Nejira, you are a shining star! We are proud of you! Love, Shukira and Roger

Corrigan, you're done! Congrats, best wishes, lucky you! Big hug behind you. Love S

To my English ladies, Great times, great quotes! Miss you already! Love Sarah

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Congratulations on your graduation Nicole Mintz! We both love you! Brian and Maxwell

Jules, your hard work, dedication, eagerness to learn, and delightful personality will be missed! Congrats, Jess L

Lauren, You are so talented! Thank you for your hard work and dedication...sincerely, Jess L

Congratulations, Charlie Brown! Finally, huh? Love, Little Sister

Goodbye APO Seniors! You will all be missed, thank you for everything! Alpha Iota Class

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**TRAVEL**

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Avila Beach 3 Star Resort 4 Days & 5 Nights. Call 805-528-1155. sanluisbayinn.com LOVE S

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**Dome anticipates joining Mustangs**

Sara Wright  
**Sports**

OF USC and Cal Poly, which would you choose to attend? For tennis star Andre Dome, the decision was simple.

The Arroyo Grande High senior signed his letter of intent to play at Cal Poly in the fall on a full-ride scholarship — despite offers from USC — a program which has one 15 NCAA Division I men's singles titles, in addition to Washington State and every Big West Conference school.

"It's such an honor just to be recruited," Dome said.

Cal Poly turned out to be the right place for him. He said the area is nice (he was born in Indonesia but has lived in Arroyo Grande since he was 5) and thinks highly of Cal Poly.

"Cal Poly is academically one of the best schools in California," he added. "It's a good opportunity to grow."

Dome gives colleges good reason to recruit him. He was ranked No. 32 in the final 2008 USTA United States Tennis Association National Junior rankings.

On May 2, Dome fought hard for a 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 victory over San Luis Obispo's Julian Arnold for his fourth-straight PAC 7 League championship.

Dome hopes to gain a lot from the one-on-one coaching that Cal Poly can offer under Justin McGrath, who will be entering his third year at the helm.

"I can't wait to get on the courts next year," Dome said.

His decision to remain in the area was influenced by a number of locals who have helped him grow and improve, and can continue to help him here. His longtime mentor, Hugh Bream — the Cal Poly women's tennis head coach — has been coaching Dome on a personal basis since the latter was 12 years old.

"He started coaching me individually because I wanted my game to grow," Dome said.

Bream said Dome could help building Cal Poly into a top-tier program.

"He has a lot of potential," Bream said. "With a lot of hard work, he can be a great Division 1 player."

Bream noted that Dome is excited to play in front of the friends and family he has known in growing up on see Dome, page 18

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**Cal Poly surf team continues to improve**

Aaron Gaudette  
**Sports**

At the close of the 2008 season, the Cal Poly surf team has continued to improve upon the foundation that was laid by the club's resurrection last year.

The club finished in the top 10 in the California division, and looks to improve upon that standing in national competition later this month.

"The club was restarted last year about halfway through the season, and it had moderate success," said Jordan Stern, a construction management freshman and the club's treasurer. "We did pretty well this year, especially since we were self-funded, with no financial help from the school."

"They did compete last year, but it was more of signing up for individual competitions and dabbling in a few of them," agreed Nick Mestre, an environmental engineering freshman and the club's president. "So we filed a few more papers and got recognized as a real club, and we've become a real contender in the league."

The surf club competes in the California Division of the National Scholastic Surfing Association, a non-profit organization that "promotes discipline
Last year the club sent only one team to compete in events, but this year the club sent two, each comprised of six shortboarders, two female surfers, and one longboarder. And because the entry into the league has a variety of fees and equipment costs, the club has found support in the assistance of various businesses around San Luis Obispo.

"We've gotten a tremendous amount of help from San Luis Surf Company, who give us insane discounts, help us with fees, and help prepare our boards before competitions," Mestre said. "Trader Joe's also gives us a hand, giving us $100 of free groceries for every competition that we have to make a road trip to compete in."

Although surfing is not a team sport, the communal nature of going out and riding waves has really helped the club flourish, with members relishing the opportunities to go out and meet other surfers to both ride with and go on trips with.

"Being in the club has really helped with being a student here at Cal Poly, as I only really knew of one other surfer who went out consistently before I joined the club," said Andrew Crane, a business sophomore and the team's top overall scorer for the season. "It's given me people to carpool with to the beach and formulate potential excursions that the club might go on in the future."

Because the club's officers and a number of its members are all either first or second year students, the club will have a steady hand to help guide it in becoming one of the premier clubs on campus. Over the next couple years, the club hopes compete in more events, especially closer to the Central Coast, and may even eventually host an event of its own.

"There's always going to be a learning curve, and some mistakes will inevitably be made," Crane said. "But we did more than we could have hoped for this year, and next year looks to be even better."

"We're all making a lot of friends and networking, and so everyone's real stoked on the club as it stands right now," Mestre agreed. "A word spreads, more and more people will come and try out for the team, or will join and be a member non-competitively."

The Cal Poly Surf Club will be sending one team to compete in nationals, which will take place at Salt Creek near San Clemente on June 18.

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