Students solve Texas housing problem, win prize

Chris Jagger

Construction management students once again proved they could compete with some of the top construction programs in the nation. Cal Poly's student team took third place in the four-year-school division at the Residential Construction Management Competition in Las Vegas, hosted by the National Association of Home Builders.

"A lot of people were impressed with our work this year," said construction management senior Chris Jagger. "All in all it was an awesome experience that provided groundwork for a career in the residential industry."

According to Hickey, the team was given documentation of a large-scale residential project in San Antonio and had to apply their knowledge about the home building process to solve a residential construction problem. Two of the team members even flew to Texas to survey the chosen housing development area.

The team put together a 275-page proposal that included a detailed construction plan, marketing plan and financial allocations. As chief analyst, Hickey was in charge of creating a marketing strategy. Her business-oriented work involved researching the demographics of the area as well as determining the spending power of the residents.

Cal Poly competed against 39 other universities. Many of these schools, including first place Brigham Young University and runner-up Middle Tennessee State University, have a full time residential curriculum.

Despite the fact that Cal Poly only offers one residential class, the team is a perennial contender and won in 2006 and 2007.

To assemble the group, faculty adviser Scott Kelting selected construction management students with good grades and a high level of interest in residential construction. Starting in mid-October, these students devoted three months to the intensive project. Seven students participated: Hickey, Chris DeHaan, Matt Anderson, Patrick C'Neill, Darrin Bigus, Josh Hoffman, Harley Smith.

"We had been looking to get involved because many of our members are coming out of Cal Poly," Phillip said. "It's a natural symbiotic relationship I suppose. We are certainly going to try to support the student chapter in years to come."

"We were looking for copper, magnesium elements in the aluminum, and we have that capability in one of our labs using a scanning electron microscope," she said.

"We can tell whether this material is what it should be, but if it's the plane Amelia Earhart flew, they're going to figure out on the show," Hickey said.

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PBS show to use Cal Poly facilities to test possible Amelia Earhart plane remains

By Genevieve Loggins

PBS' "History Detectives" are coming to Cal Poly to test the remains of what might be one of the planes Amelia Earhart flew.

The project will be tested in an engineering lab facility on campus.

Part of the landing gear was found from a plane off the coast of Hawaii, perhaps one of Earhart's practical flights, materials engineering department chair Kathy Chen said.

"The show will be about if this piece of the plane could really be the same one that Amelia Earhart flew," she said.

The metal will be tested to see if it is a piece of one of Earhart's practical planes, Chen said.

"We're looking for copper, magnesium elements in the aluminum, and we have that capability in one of our labs using a scanning electron microscope," she said.

"We can tell whether this material is what it should be, but if it's the plane Amelia Earhart flew, they're going to figure that out on the show."

Earhart brought her Lockheed Electra 10E airplane to Cal Poly for repairs in 1936, where students helped repair her Boeing 100 aircraft.

"Cal Poly is one of the first colleges at the time to design and build their own aircraft," library assistant Catherine Trujilo said.

"She needed to get some repairs done on her plane, and this was the closest place to come," Trujilo said.

Earhart's goal was to travel more than 34,000 miles around the world, and in July 1937 she set out for Howland Island for another 7,000 miles. Despite the "unusual radio frequencies and series of storms, she flew to her destination only to disappear, according to the University Archives."

The piece of aircraft being tested at Cal Poly is not from the same plane Earhart disappeared in, but it will reveal what the piece of aircraft is, University Archives Director Ken Kenyon said.

"History Detectives" investigates modern technologies and solves historical mysteries in order to help solve myths existing in today's history. It airs at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday on PBS.

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Justice Joyce Kennard called the
Katie Shea, right, holds a picture of slain politician Harvey Milk as people watch court proceedings on a giant screen during a demonstration on the issue of Proposition 8 in San Francisco Thursday.

Calif. Supreme Court weighs same-sex marriage ban

Lisa Leff and Paul Elias
ASSOCIATED PRESS

As thousands of demonstrators chanted slogans and waved placards outside, California’s highest court on Thursday skeptically grilled lawyers seeking to overturn the state’s ban on gay marriage.

Attorneys for same-sex couples argued the public’s right to change the constitution doesn’t extend to depriving an unpopular minority of the right to wed.

But questions and statements from the justices indicated a wariness to override what Associate Justice Joyce Kennard called the constitution’s “very, very broad, well-established” authority to amend the state’s governing framework at the ballot box.

“What I am picking up from the oral arguments is that this court should willfully disregard the will of the people,” said Kennard, who just 10 months ago voted that prohibiting same-sex marriages violated the civil rights of gays. “The people established the constitution; as judges, our power is very limited.”

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“It’s about the right to wed,” said Mary Mohier, liberal studies junior.

“I’ve actually never gone on a date, but I’d probably be more traditional. I wouldn’t say I’d never try new methods, but it’s not my first choice.”

Mary Mohier, liberal studies junior

WORD ON THE STREET
“Do you use traditional or new dating methods?”

“I use traditional methods... through (mutual) friends or someone I know. I’m not into the whole online method. I’ve never had a blind date or anything.”

Emily Claus, recreation administration freshman

“I see what happens. If I meet somebody cool and it works out and we end up hanging out then it kind of just goes forward. I don’t really go looking for anything.”

Zak Suddsian, chemistry junior

“I’ve definitely more traditional. Online’s cool, but it’s not as direct. I’d rather just go up and talk to a girl.”

Justin Liu, business sophomore

“I would definitely say I’d never try new methods, but it’s not my first choice.”

Mary Mohier, liberal studies junior

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Mustang Village
Sierra Vista
SLO PD
SLO Regional Rideshare
SLO Transit
Stenner Glen
University Housing
Valencia
Watson Manor
Woodstocks
Music, sports and the act of giving will unite the Damon Castillo Band and Chase McBride as they headline Downtown Special Olympics benefit concert at Downtown Brewing Co. Friday, March 6. Damon Castillo Band will play material off their recently-released album, "Latin Land," named after the San Luis Obispo county street where the band got its start.

The band will fuse its unique jazz, funk, rock and soul sound in an effort to raise money for the San Luis Obispo County Special Olympics. "As far as benefits go, we've always been approached by Damon Castillo, who was honored when the Downtown Brew and Special Olympics approached the band about playing a benefit concert," said Damon Castillo, who is also the coach and linenist coordinator, for the San Luis Obispo County Special Olympics. "It's going to be a titty night. We are really excited about it." The 10-member group is comprised of both students and community members that have been preparing since January to put on what Cal Poly ethnomusicology professor Kenneth Habib said is sure to be an exciting and educational show. Arriving at Cal Poly three years ago, Habib's specialties in Middle Eastern and American popular music have allowed him to begin the ensemble, and with great success. "This year we are doing a little bit more of a mix of music," he said. "One of the things we try to show is that the larger Middle East is a very diverse place with a lot of inner-connection between groups." The students involved in the show are in a class aimed at helping them understand how to play traditional Middle Eastern instruments, as well as read notes and symbols that are not applicable to American music. "Not only do you have to know how to play them, you have to know how to hear them," Habib said. "It is very much like learning a new language." Instruments such as the Oud, a traditional flute, and the Buzuki will be featured, as well as an array of drums. Habib gives individual lessons to students in addition to class time, because as he said, "There is an enormous amount that might not be obvious that you would not expect a person to know." In addition to the music, one of the highlights of the performance will be the dance segment. Jenna Mitchell and Saundra Samoff of the World Rhythm and Motion Studio created the dance portion of the ensemble and have been working with dancers on incorporating choreography and incorporating that represent the Middle East. The dancers are mostly community members with the exception of a few students, and they will be performing three dances in the show including two Egyptian dances and one Greek dance. Mitchell said that people should be interested in this performance because it is something that we are not exposed to regularly as a community, and describes the performance as "amazing and intimate." "The dancers complement the music and are based on the culture," she said. "It is important to show the common ground that we have, especially in the arts." If someone has never seen Middle Eastern music or dance on the different costuming, it is very different than Western music, it will be a great experience to see and hear and feel a different culture," she said. 

Habib said that music is important to society no matter what genre or culture it comes from. "Music is one of the few universals in the world," he said. "It's not a universal language, but rather it exists universally. I think sometimes we don't realize how important it is." Habib described the show as an expression of a music culture in the world and an attempt to bring more cultural diversity to Cal Poly's campus. "It is certainly my aim that we would increase that," he said. "We need to see a lot of expressions of culture on campus, music only being one kind." The ensemble is set to perform tonight at 8 p.m. Tickets are $10 for the public and $5 for seniors and students. They are on sale at the Performing Arts ticket office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.
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Last month, State Assemblyman Tom Amundson (D) of San Francisco brought forth trailing legislation, Assembly Bill 390: The Marijuana Control, Regulation, and Education Act, to legalize and regulate the commercial production and sale of marijuana to adults 21 and over. Marijuana is already the most widely-used drug in the United States, despite being prohibited since 1937.

What’s the yearly price tag on enforcing this ban? Upwards of $88 billion a year. In addition, the war on drugs has not only allowed a multimillion-dollar network of organized crime to thrive on the wallets of pipe-toting Americans, but it has overtaxed our prisons with non-violent drug offenders.

What’s the estimated annual sales revenue estimate that legalization could bring to California? The Los Angeles Times estimated that it could be as much as $14 billion — which would generate approximately $1 billion in annual tax revenue for the state. If you further take into account the money saved on prison systems and all the jobs it would bring non-medical shops growing houses to Californians, it’s like Christmas, but better.

Our culture is already saturated with references to marijuana. Movies from “Pineapple Express” to “Reefer Madness” to “How High” can be found in every store; musicians from Tom Petty to Lil Wayne express their admiration for the plant frequently. Even President Obama has admitted to trying a puff. Why wouldn’t the state want to jump on in on the fun, legalizing the substance would allow for restrictions (hence the proposed 10 plan maximum for personal use) to be placed on usage and driving high would amount to a similar penalty as a DUI.

OK, so as wonderful as this all sounds to me, I can sort of see where some of the opposition to this comes from. Would this make marijuana accessible to kids? Yes — but only as much as alcohol and cigarettes are available to them. Good thing marijuana is not nearly as harmful as alcohol or cigarettes. I’ve never seen someone take a toke and start a fight, vomit down her front, or deride college students who let alcohol even seep into the party scene.

This is a billion dollar industry that is only expanding. If they could repeal the prohibition of alcohol for the Great Depression, we can repeal marijuana for the mess we’re in now. As we watch with great hope that Bill 390 passes, we wait for the depravities regulations stating how and where it would be sold, we can at least take heart in the fact that the predicted price for an ounce of premium grade, pesticide free, state-grown marijuana will be around $50.

Britney Fluehr is a social sciences sophomore and a Mustang Daily guest columnist.

Count booze intake by servings, not drinks

I have chosen alcohol as my word this week, so all of you under 21 should stop reading right now. Anyway, I know none of you undergraduate college students will let alcohol even touch your lips. As Cal Poly students, we have been bombarded with those “Under Four” campaign ads. Personally, I feel a night of “Under Four” is not that different from a night being the “designated driver,” but I can appreciate the general goal of the ad campaign: If college students understand more about the use of alcohol, then they will make more responsible decisions concerning alcohol.

The “Under Four” phrase comes from a statistic that says the majority of Cal Poly students drink four or less drinks in a given sitting, 25 percent less than what they think everyone else is drinking.

While I truly enjoy some of the “Under Four” posters, trying to calculate the average amount of drinks I have in a given sitting is just too complicated for this liberal arts major. What am I supposed to do? Keep a detailed record of how much I drink for a month, then use Excel to compute my average per sitting? Does that mean it’s OK to black out on Saturday night, then have one drink every day for the next six days so I average under four? These confudums have caused me to abandon the “Under Four” strategy and create my own.

I call my drinking responsibly strategy “Under 10.” The idea is as follows: Under 10 means that you consume more than 10 servings of alcohol in a given 24 hour period. This is a simple system (assuming you can count to 10) that allows one to participate in drinking games without vomiting in the backyard. To implement the Under 10 strategy, you need to know exactly how many servings of alcohol are in your drink of choice. So, I have compiled a list of approximate serving sizes.

1. Beer: 12 ounces
2. Wine: 5 ounces
3. Hard Alcohol (90 proof): 1.5 ounces
4. A Long Island Iced Tea would count as four servings of alcohol, not one drink. And, while a red plastic cup of beer only counts as one, a red plastic cup of wine counts as two servings of alcohol. Unless, of course, you’re drinking that wine straight from the box, in which case you’d definitely no longer “Under 10.”

Marc Palla is a public policy graduate student and a Mustang Daily guest columnist. "Marc’s "Mind of the Week" explores some of the more important ramifications of college life, one week at a time.

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Houses for Sale

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**CAL POLY 70, LBSU 63**

**Mustangs fall late to Long Beach**

Cal Poly senior forward Titus Shelton is double-teamed by Long Beach State defenders during the Mustangs' 63-60 loss on Thursday night. Shelton led Cal Poly with 15 points. For a full recap of the game go online to www.mustangdaily.net

**Late rally pushes Poly past LBSU**

The Cal Poly women's basketball team capitalized on a 14-4 late run to beat Long Beach State at the Walter Pyramid on Thursday night.

The Mustangs were led by sophomore forward Kristina Santiago who scored 17 points. Cal Poly (19-9, 11-4 Big West Conference) forced the 49ers (8-20, 4-11) into 23 turnovers.

The Mustangs trailed by three midway through the second half before going on their game-breaking run that ended with a Megan Harrison 3-pointer.

Cal Poly sophomore guard Rachel Clancy contributed 10 points in the first half, hitting five of seven from the field.

The Mustangs took the lead for good on a layup by Clancy with 5:24 remaining.

**CAL POLY 63, CAL POLY 60**

**Mustangs conclude their regular season at 5 p.m. Saturday against undefeated San Jose State**

The Mustangs first four games of the season were against teams that qualified for the 2008 College World Series including national champion Fresno State. Cal Poly defeated the Bulldogs 13-11 in a slugfest on Feb. 24.

Junior outfielder Luke Yoder and junior shortstop Kyle Smith both hit .545 against the Hornets while junior infielder Adam Buschini and junior right fielder Adam Melker hit .429.

The Mustangs hit .343 as a team over the weekend.

While the Cougars are off to a slow start this season after finishing last year 42-24 and qualifying for NCAA regional play, their last four losses have been to teams in the top 10.

**Cal Poly will finally begin its home schedule after opening with 14 road games at 2 p.m. Friday when it hosts the Mustang Classic at Bob Jansen Field.**

The Mustangs (8-6) will play Temple (1-4) and Sacramento State (3-9) on Friday. On Saturday Cal Poly will face Utah State (3-12) before a rematch against the Hornets. Sunday closes out the tournament schedule with return games against the Aggies and the Owls.

Cal Poly is likely rely heavily on the pitching of sophomore Anna Cahn over the course of the weekend. Cahn was named Big West Pitcher of the Week after a week in which she had a 0.33 ERA and held opposing batters to just a .130 batting average in four appearances.

The No. 75 Mustangs will play a critical Big West dual at No. 44 Long Beach State (6-3, 4-0) on Saturday morning.

Cal Poly (3-3, 3-1) has gotten a lift from the play of junior Brittany Blalock this year. Blalock, who is normally known for her double's play with partner Steffi Wong, defeated No. 8 Maria Sanchez of USC, giving he Mustangs the best singles victory at the Division I level.

The win catapulted Blalock into the national rankings (No. 78) and earned Big West Player of the Week honors. Blalock has a 16-5 overall record in singles this year, but is 7-1 in the first or second slots, having lost only once in her last ten singles matches.

**NICK CAMACHO MUSCANT DAILY**

Cal Poly sophomore Matt Leonard throws during the Mustangs' 6-2 win over Sacramento State last Saturday at Baggett Stadium.

Cal Poly sports
news and views • odds & ends • videos

**Have your say by commenting at:**

**http://apps.mustangdaily.net/offthepage**

**MUSTANG DAILY CORRECTIONS**

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

• An article in Wednesday’s edition of the Mustang Daily claimed the Cal Poly Rugby Club got no school support. The club receives money from ASI Club Funding. They are eligible for up to $2,000 a year. We apologize for the mistake.