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 Calvin Hickey. "All in all it was an awesome experience that provided some 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 detailed construction plans, 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'Nean, Darrin Bigus, Josh Hoffman, Hannah Salling and Kelting.

"The time commitment was crazy," Hickey said. "We spent almost all of Christmas break working on it."

The group traveled to Las Vegas to compete during the third week of January to give an oral presentation regarding their proposal in front of a panel of actual project managers from NAHB companies. For three days they presented their work, answered questions and defended their findings.

"Las Vegas was crazy," Hickey said. "Apart from the construction aspects, I learned a lot about how to talk in front of people and look professional."

The Home Builders' Association of the Central Coast sponsored Cal Poly's team. Jennifer Phillips, the executive officer of the Central Coast NAHB, raised $2,000 to support the team's efforts. Half of the money came from Phillips' annual golf tournament.

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

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

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 piece 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 practice flights, materials and 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 practice 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 electroscope," 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 it out on the show."

Amelia Earhart (fourth from left) came to Cal Poly in 1935 where students helped repair her Boeing 100 aircraft. She is shown in front of Cal Poly's Aeronautics Unit with (from left) aeronautics instructor M.C. Martinsen, colleague and Hollywood pilot Paul Mantz, student Phillip Jensen and student Harley Smith.

Earhart bought her Lockheed Electra 10-E airplane to Cal Poly for repairs in 1936, where students repaired her Boeing 100 aircraft.

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

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

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 corresponded 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.
Justice Joyce Kennard called the question on the issue of Proposition 8 in San Francisco Thursday.

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

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 people'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 willy-nilly disregard the will of the people," said Kennard, who just 10 months ago voted for Proposition 2, which was known as Proposition 8, which was approved in November with 52 percent of the vote.

"I use traditional methods...through (mutual) friends or someone I know. I'm not into the traditional methods," said Zak Suddjian, chemistry junior.

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."
Wednesday, March 11
11 am - 2 pm on Dexter Lawn

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Damon Castillo plays downtown benefit concert

Krizia Torres

Music, sports and the art of giving will unite the Damon Castillo Band and Chase McBride as they headline a Special Olympics benefit concert at Downtown Brewing Co. Friday.

According to Todd Landsman, the Damon Castillo Band will play material off their recently-released album, "Lauder Street." Named after the San Luis Obispo 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 arrant and Damon Castillo was who how about playing a benefit concert."

This will be the second time local singer-songwriter and Cal Poly student Chase McBride takes the stage with the Damon Castillo Band, after opening up for them at a November CD release party.

"The Damon Castillo Band has great music and it’s going to be a fun night. The more people that come, the more fun it will be," said McBride. "He will be performing songs off of his newly-released debut EP From the Mountains to the Sea."

According to Todd Landsman, mechanical engineering junior, Special Olympics coach and benefit coordinator, there has never been a strictly music-only fundraiser held for the San Luis Obispo County chapter until now.

All of the proceeds will go toward funding the local Special Olympics chapter.

The San Luis Obispo County Special Olympics is a nonprofit organization that works with over 700 local athletes with intellectual disabilities, making it the largest chapter in the county and one of the biggest in the country.

"It’s a wonderful organization. They’re doing a lot of good here in our community," Castillo said.

Math senior Matt Forman plans to attend the first show and has seen the band perform many times before. "I own them. They’re really nice guys," he said. "This (benefit concert) shows that they’re actually trying to do something good with their music and not just make money off of it. They’re trying to make people come aware of the causes that they’re passionate about.”

Middle Eastern music comes to Poly

Chelsea Bierker

The sounds of the Middle East are coming to Cal Poly Colorful costumes and intricate instruments will showcase a unique culture, as well as the talent of students and community members alike.

Encompassing an entirely different music theory, the Arab Music Ensemble will be performing in the Performing Arts Center showcasing traditional forms of Middle Eastern music and dance.

The 32-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 lute, and the Buzuq was 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 segments. Jenna Mitchell and Sandra Sarfati of the World Rhythm and Motions Studio created the dance portion of the ensemble and have been working with dancers on incorporating choreography and costumes 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 costume, 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. "I’d love 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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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 under-age 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 of 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.

I call my drinking responsibly strategy “Under 10.” The idea is as follows: Under no circumstances should anyone of my size ever 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 (80 proof): 1.5 ounces
4. With information I got from Wikipedia on ‘edu.’ The predictions for an ounce of premium grade, pesticide free, state-grown marijuana will be around $50.
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 49ers out-shot and out-rebounded the Mustangs but when the game was on the line Cal Poly was able to force a number of Long Beach State turnovers.

The 49ers had a very limited bench contribution with just 12 points not coming from the starting five.

The Mustangs shot 53 percent from 3-point range.

The Mustangs conclude their regular season at 5 p.m. Saturday when they visit conference-leading UC Riverside.

Mustangs fall late to Long Beach

Joining Santiago and Clancy in double-figures were senior guard Lisa McBride and senior forward Megan Harrison, both with 11 points.

LaTorra Barbee led Long Beach State with a game-high 18 points, adding three rebounds. Center Whitney Fields had a double-double scoring 12 points and gathering 11 rebounds.

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 on three of her first four shots. She finished with 16 points on 6-of-9 shooting.

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