Sorority grants local girl’s wish

Mikaela Akuna

One little girl will embark on the trip of a lifetime thanks to more than $6,000 raised by Cal Poly’s Chi Omega Sorority through its Make-A-Wish Foundation fundraiser.

Chi Omega fulfilled the wish of Julissa Esparza, an 11-year-old girl from Santa Maria, who has leukemia. Esparza will leave this Thursday for Walt Disney World in Florida. The sorority adopted the wish from the Tri-Counties Make-A-Wish Foundation. They raised the money through a Casino Night, the first charity event held by the Omicron Mu chapter. The sorority made a few small-scale fundraising attempts prior to Casino Night, but none raised enough to fulfill Esparza’s wish.

Psychology sophomore and philanthropy chair for Chi Omega/Vanessa Dowell decided they would put more preparation into this year’s event to heighten its success.

“I had so much help,” Dowell said. “Sometimes when you plan things you feel like you’re doing everything yourself and this was not the case. I had overwhelming help from everyone.”

Disney is a large supporter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation and donates more than $11 million each year. The corporation also helps arrange visits to sporting events, television and movie sets for gift recipients.

The Tri-Counties Make-A-Wish Foundation has been active in the area since 1985, granting wishes of children who have life-threatening medical conditions. It is staffed with only five people but has more than 100 volunteers and has granted more than a thousand wishes in the last 28 years in Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.

Presentation parties are held for every gift recipient. Esparza’s was held at Rancho Bowl in Santa Maria last Sunday and members of Chi Omega went to the party to join the family and the Wish Granters in the celebration. There, the sorority got to meet Esparza for the first time.

“It was a success,” said presentation-coordinator for the Tri-Counties foundation Heather Bennett. “We had a great turnout and the sorority was there to help with the presentation.”

Cal Poly sorority Chi Omega raised money to send a Santa Maria girl fighting cancer to Walt Disney World in Florida. They raised more than $6,000 at this charity event.
Bart and other members of the Federation of Teachers will be lobbying Democrats to reject the centerpiece measure, Proposition 1A, because it would create a state spending cap.

"It's the natural consequence of the legislative leaders cutting a secret backroom deal with the governor without consulting with the other members of their party," Bart said.

In a twist, many conservatives also oppose Proposition 1A. If voters approve it, increases to the sales, income and vehicle taxes would continue an additional one to two years.

Two of the potential gubernatorial candidates, Brown and Villaragosa, are supporting the full package of ballot measures and endorsed them at news conferences with Schwarzenegger.

Newcomb said he reluctantly supports Propositions 1A and 1B, which would repay schools more than $9 billion, but opposes the other measures.

Wish continued from page 1

"We bowed for the first hour and got to talk to the family during that time," Dowell said. "I didn't know until later but during the presentation her grandma started crying and it was nice to see how it really impacted people." With much help from the community and student life, Chi Omega met their goal of adopting a wish. The winning plan to make "Chi Omega Casino Night" an annual philanthropic event for Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"All our work paid off!" Dowell said. "It was nice to know we made a difference in her life and give her and the family something they might not otherwise get to experience."

Fuel continued from page 1

alternative fuels supported the rules as critical to helping California meet its goals to cut greenhouse gas emissions. But some representatives of the ethanol industry, which had expected to profit from the low-carbon mandate, argued that California’s new rules would leave them out. They said regulators oversimplified the negative environmental effects of making corn-based ethanol.

They were especially critical of the air board’s intention to tie global deforestation and other land conversions to biofuel production in the United States. For example, air board scientists said Brazil has converted rainforest into soybean plantations as a direct result of the growth in corn-based ethanol.

Ethanol producers also complained about unfairness, saying the air board had failed to hold oil and gas companies accountable for similar consequences tied to their operations.

"For a coal company representing the Amazon urged the board to ban all fuel made from crops, saying trees are being cleared to make room for sugar cane, a main source of biofuel in Brazil. But the same in the petroleum industry warned that California was moving too quickly without any assurances that the alternative fuels they will be required to sell will be available for a mass market. Representatìves asked the board to delay a decision until next year.

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Representatives for BP PLC and Chevron Corp. said their companies supported the new standards.

Transportation has long been a target of California air regulators because it accounts for 40 percent of the state’s greenhouse gas emissions. Two years ago, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger directed air regulators to develop a rule that would boost the amount of renewable fuels sold in the state.

has been cut in half despite the fact that ethanol production has increased by a factor of four or five," said retired Gen. Wesley Clark, co-chairman of Growth Energy, a coalition of ethanol companies.

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Meanwhile, a coalition of activists representing the Amazon urged the board to ban all fuel made from crops, saying trees are being cleared to make room for sugar cane, a main source of biofuel in Brazil. But the same in the petroleum industry warned that California was moving too quickly without any assurances that the alternative fuels they will be required to sell will be available for a mass market. Representatives asked the board to delay a decision until next year.

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**State Briefs**

**FRESNO, Calif. (AP) —** A former criminal law student faces at least 50 years in prison after being convicted of killing one man and wounding two others in a dispute over a Sony PlayStation console.

A jury found Jonquel Brooks guilty Thursday of first-degree murder in the death of 10-year-old Brant Daniels and attempted murder for shooting at Roderick Buycks Jr., Drew Pfeiff and Kodi Shiflett. Buycks and Pfeiff were wounded.

Brooks was a freshman at California State University, Fresno, in May 2007 when police say he opened fire at the men. They had apparently gone to Brooks' apartment to look for their stolen PlayStation. At trial, Brooks said he feared they were going to attack him and acted in self-defense. Police did not find the PlayStation at Brooks' apartment.

**NEW YORK (AP) —** Facehook invited the 200 million people who regularly use the site to vote on its governing documents. But it's unclear how much of a difference it will make.

Facebook launched the vote after concerns erupted about who controls users' personal information. The site gave its members until Thursday afternoon to choose either the current terms of use, or a revised set of documents that reflect input from users over the past 30 days.
Craigslist
continued from page 4

University medical student Philip Markoff, charged with murder, armed robbery and kidnapping for the killing of a 25-year-old masseuse he met through Craigslist and the robbery of another, has intensified long-standing concerns about the site.

In Illinois, Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart said Craigslist last month, saying the site not only allows the solicitation for prostitution, but also has actively created "the largest source of prostitution in America."

Craigslist rejected the sheriff's contentions, saying the company cooperates with law enforcement, has taken several steps to prevent illegal use of the site and pulls inappropriate ads.

"The Internet is still fairly new, and there's a tendency to focus on any crime story that has a connection to the Internet, as I suspect was done in the early days of the telephone as well," Jim Buckmaster, Craigslist's CEO, told The Associated Press.

The Web site is among the most popular for posting classified ads, with 42.2 million visitors in the United States in March, a 45 percent increase from a year earlier, according to Andrew Lipsma, director of industry analysis for Comscore Inc.

South Korean protesters hold pictures during a rally against North Korea in Seoul, South Korea April 2, 2009.

North Korea said it has formally decided to indict two U.S. journalists arrested on its border with China more than a month ago.

Laura Ling and Euna Lee, journalists working for former Vice President Al Gore's San Francisco-based Current TV, were arrested after they allegedly crossed the border from China on March 17 while reporting on North Korean refugees.

North Korean media did not immediately detail charges under the indictments, but the North said last month that the female reporters would be put on trial on charges of illegal entry and unspecified "hostile acts."

Pyongyang's Korean Central News Agency said in a short dispatch Friday that the North concluded an investigation and formally decided to indict them "based on criminal data confirmed."

If convicted of espionage, the women could face at least five years in prison under North Korean law. U.S. Embassy officials in Seoul were not immediately available for comment.

Their prolonged detention comes amid tensions on the Korean peninsula after the North fired a rocket on April 5, and then kicked out all international monitors from its nuclear facilities, vowed to restart them and quit disarmament talks.

Separately, the North has also been holding a South Korean worker at a joint industrial complex for weeks for allegedly denouncing Pyongyang's political system.

-N. Korea will indict 2 U.S. journalists

N. KOREA WILL INDICT 2 U.S. JOURNALISTS

South Korean protesters hold pictures during a rally against North Korea in Seoul, South Korea April 2, 2009.

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-Associated Press
Afrika Bambaataa influenced the creation of hip-hop culture with his classic track "Planet Rock" in 1982. Now the pioneer is coming to San Luis Obispo to help cultivate Cal Poly's cultural awareness.

The Cal Poly chapters of Hip-Hop Congress and Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity are bringing the legendary performer to play a show at Downtown Brewing Co. on Sunday night.

Bambaataa, also known as the "Amir Ra of universal hip-hop and the father of electro funk," is often referred to as the "grandfather," or "godfather" of hip-hop.

Graphite, communications major and Hip-Hop Congress member Rachel Cherry credited Bambaataa as being one of the founders of hip-hop and having a significant influence on the development of the genre and today's artists. He is recognized for co-opting the street gang the Black Spades into the Universal Zulu Nation.

"One of the cool things about him is that there is a lot of modern hip-hop songs have sampled Bambaataa's work," Cherry said.

Business junior and Alpha Epsilon Pi president Jordan Leib also acknowledged Bambaataa's influence on the music industry.

"He is a huge name and I am really excited for this opportunity," Leib said. "I have known about him for a long time and he has influenced so many artists and I heard him in so many other songs."

Bambaataa is originally from the South Bronx in New York and was actively involved with gangs there before traveling to Africa and getting involved with the music industry.

"His story is that he used to be in gangs in New York and after his trip to Africa, his mindset changed and he came back and began to promote peace and love through music," Leib said.

Hip-hop has evolved in various directions since Bambaataa laid the foundation for it.

"I think that hip-hop has gone in a lot of different directions and that Bambaataa embodies the true spirit of what hip-hop is supposed to be," Cherry said.

Hip-Hop Congress is a national social action network composed of chapters that operate through schools, communities and artists. "We work for positive social change through hip-hop music," Cherry explained.

This is Bambaataa's first time performing in San Luis Obispo, and Cherry is hoping that he will bring a little bit of the original essence of hip-hop to town with him.

"At Cal Poly we struggle a lot because of the way the school and community are," she said. "We are trying to change the stereotype we feel that a lot of people have about hip-hop, trying to show the positive side, the way it used to be."

Tickets for the show are available for $30 presale at Boo Boo Records and $32 at the door. Proceeds from the show will be split between Cal Poly's Hip Hop Congress chapter and Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity.

"Any profit we make from this show will go towards sending our members to our national conference in Seattle at the end of July," Cherry said.

In addition to Bambaataa, Cal Poly student Ryan Benedicto or IJF Blindsale and Los Angeles band Me and Heath will be performing.

Bambaataa was nominated for induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2007.
Log out. Facebook is lowering your GPA

Last week while I was out with friends, one started talking about a disgusting but funny bumper sticker she saw. She proceeded to explain it in full detail until another friend spoke up: "Who would ever put that on their car?" he asked, failing to realize she was talking about a virtual bumper sticker. Facebook's bumper sticker application had altered the definition in her mind. And according to a study done by Ohio State University, that's not the only aspect of life it has affected.

Researchers recently announced results that found Facebook users spent less time studying and had lower GPAs than students who weren't logged on:

For their sample subjects they picked 219 Ohio State students: 102 undergraduates and 117 graduate students. According to the study, those people on Facebook reported having GPAs ranging from 3.0 to 3.5 whereas non-users reported GPAs of 3.5 to 4.0.

When asked about how many hours a week they study, the Facebook users averaged one to five hours whereas non-users averaged 11 to 15 hours, the study indicated.

I've been on Facebook since the full of my freshman year. I admit it can be distracting and I would prefer to be scrolling through photos albums than finishing math problems, but I don't think it could possibly have the affect on grades as this study concludes.

Or so I thought when I began writing.

Then I monitored myself. While I studied for a test, wrote an article, researched for a project and read a textbook, I was mysteriously back on the site. I was writing on a friend's wall, commenting on spring break pictures and changing my status. Meanwhile, I hadn't even noticed the amount of time I had wasted or how my homework wasn't going to do itself.

I had originally planned to write from the angle of refuting the researcher's claims based on their small sample size. I mean, how could they draw a meaningful conclusion when they only surveyed 219 students? And who knows, maybe these Ohio students don't have anything better to do than waste time sitting on their computers.

But then it hit me. All of a sudden, Freud's theory of denial came rushing back into my head. According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, one of the definitions for denial is "a psychological defense mechanism in which confrontation with a personal problem or with a reality is avoided by denying the existence of the problem or reality."

So the reality is, I've been ignoring the existence of my Facebook problem. I haven't acknowledged the fact that the site has taken up valuable study time that could have helped me ace a test or be better prepared throughout the quarter. It's funny that Facebook isn't on my 'to-do' list, yet sometimes it's one of the only things that gets done.

And I'm not alone. Look at the Kennedy Library's computer lab; student laptops and iPhones and see how many people are sucked in, glued to the screen. In extreme cases, students are even getting their fix in the classroom appearing to be a good student typing their notes when really they are instant messaging about how much fun last weekend was.

What results might we have if we just spent a little less time on Facebook and a little more time studying? The hours add up quickly and now I've begun to regret all the time I've spent sending virtual gifts, uploading numerous photo albums and having meaningless chats.

I challenge all of you Facebook users to actually monitor your time on Facebook — it might surprise you.

Jennifer Tizomto is a journalism and graphic communications junior and a Mustang Daily reporter and copy editor.

MUSTANG DAILY

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Friday, April 24, 2009

Editor in chief: Marlize van Romburg
Managing Editor: Giana Mangnoli
mustangdaily@gmail.com

www.mustangdaily.net

You've been polled by The Mustang Daily
Poke them back at www.mustangdaily.net

Hey, we've got a real news feed too.
Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

“Our tests revealed massive tissue damage to your liver. By any chance, do you consume a lot of alcohol, Mr. Capp?”
As the 71st selection, but many ex-games (scong by the Philadelphia Eagles) was taken by the Dallas Cowboys in the third round by the Atlanta Falcons and defensive end Chris Dime- troff is expected to start to the top offensive player in the NFC. The No. 12 Cal Poly baseball team will visit UC Santa Barbara in a crucial Big West Conference road series starting at 2 p.m. on Friday. The Mustangs (27-9, 8-4) and UC Santa Barbara (22-12, 5-4) are old rivals on the diamond having met 195 times previous to this series with the Gauchos owning a 107-88 advantage in the series. Cal Poly is coming off a sweep of UC Davis last weekend, out-scoring the Aggies 35-22 in the three-game set. They have won 10 of 12 and continue to climb in the national polls. A big reason for the team’s hot start to the season has been its offense. Currently seven Mustangs are batting over .300 and Kyle Smith hitting .348. Cal Poly trails UC Irvine by three games in the Big West. The Anteaters (28-10, 11-1) are currently ranked No. 1 in the nation according to the BaseballAmerica.com Top 25 poll. The top two teams in the conference will be virtually assured of a spot in the NCAA regionals. The Mustangs have never qualified for the postseason at the Division I level.

**MUSTANG DAILY**

**SOF TBA LL**

**NCAA TOP 25**

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**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 feedback and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to mustangdaily@calpoly.edu.

- **An article in yesterday’s edition of the Mustang Daily incorrectly reported that the Rex Center pool contains 600 gallons of water. It actually contains 600,000 gallons. We apologize for the mistake.**

**LOOKING BACK**

Jim Litke

The NFL draft hasn’t even begun, but we already know who won.

That would be Atlanta Falcons general manager Thomas Dimitroff for the second year in a row. While the hype this weekend will be focused on who gets the glam-boy quarterbacks — Matthew Stafford of Georgia, Mark Sanchez of Southern California and Josh Freeman of Kansas State — Dimitroff has already been there and done that.

A year after he took a big gamble on quarterback Matt Ryan with the third pick, Dimitroff proved how savvy he really is. This time around, he not only saved some money, but probably locked up another winning season, another playoff appearance and maybe even another NFC executive of the year award.

All because of what he did on Thursday.

“Every team in this league dreams of having Tony Gonzalez run out of the tunnel for them,” Dimitroff said after trading away a 2010 second-round pick and Kansas City Pro Bowl tight end for the perennial All-Pro tight end.

Every GM in the league also dreams of having Gonzalez running past heading into the weekend. But Dimitroff has already filled the Falcons’ most pressing offensive need, freeing him to find a quality linerbacker at a good price. That’s a much easier order to fill with the No. 24 pick. And as a few of his picks are about to be revealed, there’s no bigger gamble than trying to find a franchise quarterback at the top of the draft.

They’re all prohibitively expensive, and most who go to a team with too many other needs wind up failing. They’re an even-bigger risk when they’re underclassmen, like Ryan in the past. He was a first-round pick, but a second-round pick.

The Falcons will need that, too, after losing a handful of defensive starters to free agency during the offseason. So look for the Falcons to grab defensive tackle Peria Jerry out of Mississippi later this weekend.

Dimitroff knew that before he drafted Ryan, then handed him the richest rookie contract ever. While Ryan adapted to the pro game faster than a rookie should, in hindsight, Dimitroff’s bet wasn’t as risky as it seemed. Ryan was a four-year starter at Boston College, and the Falcons had a serviceable offensive line to protect him, something they built around emerging running back Michael Turner, and an aging, but still solid, defense to take off some of the pressure.

Though Dimitroff couldn’t have known the pieces would fall in place so fast, you can bet he had a good idea.

He’s the son of NFL player, scout and coach Tom Dimitroff, and spent plenty of time scouting in Canada and other football backwaters before falling in with the Bill Belichick mob in New England. There, he was tutored by then-Patriots player personnel director Scott Pioli.

Everyone else in the NFL treats the draft like a chess game. But Belichick and Dimitroff always keep their options open. They’re a team with three key areas that need improvement. They’re all critical to winning a championship game built around emerging run-ning back Michael Turner, and a stingy, but still solid defense.

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