Professors prefer face time to Facebook

Katie Koschalk
STAFF WRITER

Besides a few pictures from a Thailand trip and basic personal information, Daniel Waldorf, a Cal Poly professor of industrial and manufacturing engineering, does not provide much insight into his personal life through his Facebook profile.

Despite increased social networking opportunities for students on popular sites like Facebook, Cal Poly students' professional contacts, accumulating 30 friend requests and limits the amount of personal information they share, Jennifer Becker, a Cal Poly sociology professor, maintains a "no students policy" on Facebook.

"Personally, I prefer to maintain boundaries between my personal life and my professional life," Becker said. "I don't feel that the information, including personal stories, pictures, daily activities, group affiliations, political, spiritual, social views shared through Facebook is necessarily information that my students (or others with whom I have a primarily professional relationship for that matter) should be readily privy to."

Becoming friends with professors on Facebook can provide students with a lot of private information about professors that they would not know through day-to-day student-professor communications in the classroom, which Becker believes crosses a line.

"I feel that the exchanges on social networking sites like Facebook are rather intimate and personal, and extend beyond the context of the student-professor relationship. As well, I do not feel it is appropriate for me to have access to my students' personal information, photos and exchanges," Becker said.

Allowing professors to view personal information about students could also create issues, with maintaining fairness or equity within the classroom and could provide opportunities for the information shared on Facebook to be misused, Becker said.

Wounded soldiers looking for fair treatment

Kevin Maurer
STAFF WRITER

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP) — Soldiers recovering in special Army medical units have faced inconsistent discipline because the military hasn't adopted standards for how they and their commanders should act, according to a military review.

The report obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press said the units were set up two years ago to help Warriors in Transition contributes to misperceptions among soldiers and leaders and leads to inconsistent application of Army regulations and discipline," reads an executive summary of the report by the Army Surgeon General, which reviewed all discipline taken against soldiers in Warrior Transition units. The 34 Warrior Transition units were set up two years ago to help soldiers navigate the medical system and monitor their progress and treatment following the scandal over shoddy conditions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

Army officials said Wednesday they've clarified expectations since the review was completed in May, but stressed that a new standard was not created.

"This policy is basically a re-communication of things that apply to all soldiers with the added uniqueness of the WTU's situation," said Robert Moore, spokesman for the Warrior Transition Command.

The May report by the Army Surgeon General said that overall it appeared injuries weren't being overlooked in disciplinary matters at the units.

The Army's discipline policy for wounded soldiers will become more consistent after complaints that officers were indifferent to medical conditions.

Starkey case moves forward

A San Luis Obispo County judge ruled on Tuesday that there was enough evidence to proceed with the trial of Zacary Ellis and Hareth Ibrahim. The two former Cal Poly students are standing trial for the fatal hazing of Carson Starkey.

The trial of both men will begin Sept. 17. They have both been charged with one felony violation of hazing resulting in death and one misdemeanor violation of providing alcohol to a minor.

Starkey died Dec. 2 after he was given large amounts of alcohol at a Sigma Alpha Epsilon pledge event known as "Brown Bag Night." Ellis and two other Sigma Alpha Epsilon members allegedly

STARKEY case moves forward

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

The ruling came after the testimony of other members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon who attended the social event where Starkey died.

The trial of both men will begin Sept. 17. They have both been charged with one felony violation of hazing resulting in death and one misdemeanor violation of providing alcohol to a minor.

Starkey died Dec. 2 after he was given large amounts of alcohol at a Sigma Alpha Epsilon pledge event known as "Brown Bag Night." Ellis and two other Sigma Alpha Epsilon members allegedly

see Starkey, page 2
Facebook

continued from page 1

"For instance, when my student's paper is late, should I be able to go on Facebook and read that she was down in Santa Barbara at the beach all weekend?" Becker said. "While I assume that most-student-professor interactions on Facebook are rather benign, the potential is there for boundaries to be crossed in ways that are problematic."

Like Becker, Katy Neidhardt, a psychology and child development professor, has no student Facebook friends because she wants to restrict her involvement in her students' personal lives.

"I believe there should still be limits to the relationship. I don't want to be thought of as their buddy. I want to be thought of as their professor who they feel comfortable talking to, but not about the killer party they went to over the weekend," she said.

Viewing students' profiles could let professors see personal information, which Waldorf said agreed could lead to student bias.

"My opinion of a student has been affected by their Facebook content. Just as it would be if I learned any number of things about someone through other means. Of course, I try hard not to let that affect the fair treatment and professors' relationship with a student," he said.

While equity issues within the classroom might be a concern for some professors, Waldorf also acknowledged the benefits of communicating with students through Facebook.

"I now have a significant interaction Waldorf has had with students who have groups that he accompanied on study-abroad trips, one with a student club (Engineers Without Borders) and one with a group he accompanied for a quarter in Thailand. He found that Facebook was a good medium to keep students updated about trip information. "Pictures and videos of the trip were the most common information exchanged over Facebook. I was also able to keep up-to-date on student questions, concerns, etc., regarding the trips," Waldorf said.

Just as professors vary on their willingness to become friends with students on Facebook, students also have mixed opinions.

"I think becoming friends with professors on Facebook, they admit that there are some professors that they would be more inclined to become Facebook friends with than others, she said.

"If the young professor is, the more you can relate to them and the less awkward it would be if you were to become friends on Facebook. The older the professor, you just would have to wonder, 'Why are they friend me? whereas with a younger teacher it would seem less weird,'" Shea said.

Husstad feels that professors who are more friendly in class wouldn't be as weird to be friends with on Facebook.

"It would depend a lot on the way they are in class. Some teachers you're just more comfortable around. It's the ones that are not really that friendly in class that would be more weird," Husstad said.

Soldier

continued from page 1

told the Secretary of the Army earlier this year that they feel for­ gotten by the military and that combat duty would be better than the treatment they get now, according to a memo obtained by the Associated Press.

The Surgeon General's report suggested ways to improve communication between command­ ers and soldiers.

"Commanders at all levels must establish routine interaction and personal meetings with either individual soldiers, or small groups of soldiers to establish confidence that the chain of command is ac­ cessible, responsive and compas­ sionate," the report concluded.

Most of the units are spread out in different buildings. The Army is spending close to a bil­ lion dollars to build wounded warrior facilities across 20 campuses, in­ cluding Fort Bragg, to help cen­ tralize things and improve com­ munication, Check said.

"It's a monumental task for me how critical it is that we build those things if we really want to do this mission correctly," the general said.

The review also recommend­ ed an additional training program for company commanders and First Sergeants to "better prepare them for command," Check said. "Commanders need to meet with their troops, one-on-one, to build a re­ lationship."

"The chain of command has got to be accessible, responsive, and compassionate," Check said. "Some improvements are already underway. Lt. Col. Terry McDowell, who took command in April of Fort Bragg's Warrior Transition Battalion, said incoming soldiers now have a timeline and a set of goals. He keeps the wounded soldiers motivated and allows doctors to set a target date to move them out of the unit.

Squad leaders, case managers and staff also now complete a two-week course that teaches them how to deal with medical issues like traumatic brain injuries and post traumatic stress disorder. It also explains the mission of the warrior transition unit and how it works."

"When dealing with WT is­ sues, you need to have multiple levels of treatment. It's important to know when to put your arm around the soldier and prop them up, and when you need to tell them to drive on with their mission," said McDowell, 42, from Bonnaire, Ga. said in a June interview.

Starkey

continued from page 1

bought the alcohol. Ibrahim was Starkey's "Big Brother" and report­ edly selected the alcohol that he was required to drink for the event.

Ellis allegedly told Starkey and 16 other underage pledges to finish the provided alcohol. The pledges were reportedly drinking in a circle surrounding a trashcan. They were also given shots of 1.5-proof Ex­ clear.

Police said that when Starkey was found unconscious later in the night, a few members of the frater­ nity started to drive him to the hospital but turned around after he threw up in the car.

Starkey died the next morning of alcohol poisoning. His blood-al­cohol content was between .39 and .45 percent.

Tim Miller and Kate McKeen con­ tributed to this report.

Iraqi forces recover stolen Picasso

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD (AP) — Special forces have recovered a stolen Pica­ so and arrested a man planning to sell the painting during a raid of his house in southern Iraq, Iraqi police said Wednesday.

The painting, "The Naked Woman," apparently had been among the artwork looted from Kuwait during Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion, said police spokesman Maj. Muha­ ma na Khalid.

It was seized Tuesday in a raid on the house below the suspect near the mainly Shiite city of Hillah, about 65 miles (95 kilome­ ters) south of Baghdad.

Khalid said the man was trying to sell the painting for $450,000, but some Iraqi church leaders said the painting was sold for worth $80 mil­ lion.

The painting, which was signed by Pablo Picasso and bore inscrip­ tions from "The Museum of Ku­wait" was being held - evidence while the suspect was interrogat­ ed, Khalid said. It appeared to have been sold to a private gallery as a true of the painting that was released.

Gloves and artwork from the same neighborhood where the stolen homes and its national museums were handed back to Iraq after de­ termination of the Gulf War.

To. "The Museum of Ku­wait" was being held - evidence while the suspect was interrogat­ ed, Khalid said. It appeared to have been sold to a private gallery as a true of the painting that was released.

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State

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A jury has been selected for the trial of a Los Angeles filmmaking couple accused of bribing Thai officials to run the Bangkok International Film Festival.

Opening statements are expected to begin Wednesday afternoon.

Gerald and Patricia Green have pleaded not guilty to charges that accuse them of paying $1.8 million in bribes to Thai officials so they would be awarded lucrative business contracts. In return, prosecutors say the couple earned about $14 million.

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The nation's second-largest city made broad appeals for conservation, imposed restrictions on landscape irrigation, raised rates and fielded inspectors to look for violators and save lives.

The Department of Water and Power said single-family homes cut water use nearly 21 percent, multifamily properties cut usage more than 8 percent, businesses cut usage more than 3 percent, and government properties reduced usage more than 34 percent.

National

LANSONG, Mich. (AP) — Two alternative energy companies planning to buy a closed Ford Motor Co. factory near Detroit want to convert it into the country's largest renewable energy park, with at least 2,800 workers building storage batteries, solar panels and possibly wind turbines.

The proposed $725 million project outlined to state lawmakers Wednesday would be a coup for a state in desperate need of jobs.

Michigan, with the highest unemployment rate in the nation, hopes to become a major player in the green economy.

Xenit Power of Kyle, Texas, and Clinareon Energy of Santa Barbara, Calif., said that if state tax incentives and federal loans are approved, they will purchase and refurbish the sprawling 320-acre Wixom Assembly Plant.

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A Louisiana man was convicted Wednesday of gunning down five teenagers in a grisly crime that prompted the governor to bring National Guard troops back to New Orleans to help curb violence in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Michael Anderson, 23, was found guilty of five counts of first-degree murder. The jury that convicted him will now decide whether he should face the death penalty.

International

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North and South Korean officials held their first talks Wednesday in nearly two years on arranging reunions of families separated by the Korean War more than five decades ago, the latest sign of easing tension on the divided peninsula.

The three days of talks, being held at North Korea's Diamond Mountain resort, come as the communist regime adopts a more conciliatory stance toward South Korea and the United States after months of provocations including a nuclear test in May and a barrage of ballistic missiles tests launches.

The two delegations, led by Red Cross officials, expressed hope their meeting would help improve inter-Korean relations. Although still at odds over the timing of the family reunions they are expected to announce an agreement on Friday.

BEIJING (AP) — China has launched a national organ donation system to try to reduce its dependence on body parts harvested from executed prisoners, who make up the majority of donors, state media reported Wednesday.

Organ transplantation in China has long been criticized as profit-driven and unethical, with critics arguing death row inmates may feel pressured to become donors, violating personal, religious or cultural beliefs.

Supporters of Honduras' ousted President Manuel Zelaya protest in front of the U.S. embassy in Tegucigalpa Wednesday. The US decision to suspend the issuance of all non-emergency and nonimmigrant visa services at the U.S. Embassy became effective Wednesday.

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Local artists hang on by a string

Participation in ARTS Obispo’s Open Studio

participants this year: 224
participants last year: 280
20% decrease

Low participation is projected for one of the county’s largest arts events — just one sign that the local arts community is hurting in the economic downturn.

According to Alissa Maddren, the program director for ARTS Obispo — known formally as the San Luis Obispo Arts Council — involvement for their largest exhibition, Open Studio, is down 20 percent.

“FOR us, that’s a sign that it’s tougher than usual,” Maddren said.

Open Studio showcased 280 local artists last October, but this year, only 224 have signed up to join the exhibition.

And ARTS Obispo isn’t alone. The impact on the local art community is two-fold: People have stopped buying art and local funds are being cut.

On the municipal level, art funding has dropped. In 2008, the city adopted a public art policy that required every business to give 1 percent of its development toward funding public art in San Luis Obispo. At the start of the economic decline in January 2009, the city cut that to .5 percent.

Because of the decrease, ARTS Obispo had to get rid of a staff member and end its grant program.

She said that the drop in funds impacts the local artists ARTS Obispo serves.

Lauren Rabaino
MUSTANG DAILY

"Would you friend your professors on Facebook?"

“Definitely. It helps to know them on a personal level. If they asked me to have a beer with them I would say yes.”

-Ryan Hansen, graphic communications senior

“Yes, I am friends with my professors. The more you see about each other’s lives, the more open the relationship.”

-Julianne Grinstead, journalism senior

“I would friend any professor because it is an extra form of contact. (It would be OK) as long as it wasn’t the only form of communication.”

-Jeff Bauer, graphic communications senior
“It really trickles down because we can’t provide much infrastructure,” Mad CNS said. She said if funding and sales don’t improve, many local art organizations will cease to exist.

“It needs to turn around soon because we’re on a shoestring and we can only survive so long,” she said. Elsewhere in the county, Morro Bay Art Association is just one example of a gallery forced to close in doors one extra day a week starting in October, said Cathy Olson, the gallery director.

“We felt a big decline in visitors spending money,” Olson said. “I do feel that in general that’s turning around. We’re starting to see more sales.”

The Morro Bay gallery re-opened to five days a week starting July 1, and Olson said they’ve already seen the number of visitors return to pre-closure levels.

The strong art culture on the Central Coast helps keep Morro Bay’s art culture alive, Olson said.

On three big holiday weekends throughout the year, the association holds an Art in the Park event that draws thousands from around the state and keeps its finances out of the red.

Although economic woes may be lessening at some galleries, individual artists are slower to get back on track. Olson herself is a watercolor painter who went on an artistic hiatus in March. “I’m not buying another canvas,” she said. “They’re closing all through the state.”

“A year later it could be worse,” Robbins said. “Last year I thought would be my worst year and it was financially successful,” Robbins said. “A year later it may change.”

But she hasn’t let it get her down. “When you’re an artist, you’re compelled, no matter the circumstances,” Robbins said. “I don’t paint to sell. I paint because I love it.”

Paso Robles painter, Sarah Afana, blogs about her artwork and sells it via Emy.com — an online network for artists.

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"Ugly ducklings" unhappy with their appearance should consider options

Are the ugly ducklings forever destined to remain alone? A 2004 study by Exeter University developmental psychologist Alan Slater revealed that contrary to the popular adage "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder," objective standards do exist.

Slater found that newborn infants spent more time looking at photographs of people with attractive faces than of people with average faces.

"Babies are born with a detailed representation of the face that allows them to detect and recognize faces," Dr. Slater said in New Scientist.

"So attractiveness is not simply in the eye of the beholder, it's in the brain of the newborn infant right from the moment of birth, and possibly before birth.

Three researchers from Northwestern University and Smith College, wrote in "The Political and Gender Gap: Gender Bias in Facial Inferences that Predict Voting Behavior" that we prefer an ingrown because of our evolutionary history and expectations imposed by society.

They found that we naturally associate certain facial features with attractiveness, dominance and affiliation or approachability. For example, "facial attractiveness in females has been associated with higher estrogen levels," meaning a woman with a "beautiful face" is more likely to produce offspring.

So we also find some facial features more attractive due to expectations imposed by society, according to their research. For instance, they write that females are considered more attractive when their faces have "baby-faced" features like small chins or thin eyebrows because society has labeled women as less physically strong and assertive than men when they have thick eyebrows, square faces and large chins.

So should people without the so-called desired facial features deal with it? Do you play the hand you're dealt, or do you ask for a re-shuffle?

A new ABC show called "Dating in the Dark" poses that question to three male and three female contestants in each episode. As the name implies, they get to know each other without the lights on, taking looks out of the equation. They later have the opportunity to see what their date looks like. Most of the contestants have chosen not to go on another date after seeing someone even though they had connected in the dark.

While I'm not planning on getting cosmetic surgery, I can't speak for a duckling drenched too many times. If someone believes altering physical appearance will improve his or her quality of life, I say go for it.

A study by an University of Buffalo professor had 133 college students turn in essays about a comment someone made that stuck with them. The essays about negative comments were mostly related to physical appearance.

The authors expected to be rejected based on their appearance. Many were interested in cosmetic surgery.

Over 10.2 million cosmetic procedures were performed in the United States in 2006, according to the American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery.

"So attractive is the most popular overall with 2,461,123 procedures performed in 2006 for patients between the ages of 19 and 34.

Maybe cosmetic surgery is drastic and maybe you should work with what you've got. But I'm not going to blame someone for throwing their cards down on the table and demanding a better hand.

Kate McPhie is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily reporter.

Editor in chief: Emilie Egger
Managing Editor: Alex Kaick
mustangdaily@gmail.com

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Thursday, August 27, 2009

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Punters change channel on Jones' $40 million TV

Jim Litke
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones has 75,000 paying guests and a dozen free loaders over to his new house the other night to watch football. Punters for the visiting Tennessee Titans immediately showed their gratitude by using his $40 million TV set for target practice.

"I hit it probably a dozen times in seven or eight minutes," veteran kicker Craig Hentrich said.

"I guess," he added a moment later, "they should have tested things out before they put that thing in place.

"That thing" is the 1.2-million pound, four-sided video board hanging from the rafters exactly 90 feet above the field in the new Cowboys Stadium, the centerpiece of Jones' $1.15-billion shrine to himself.

The big screens along either sideline are 160 feet wide stretching from one 20-yard line to the other and 72 feet tall. Throw in the "smaller" screens above the end zones and you've got a gig mixing video and football.

It's been almost 15 years since Jones' last serious run-in with his NFL brethren, so maybe he needs a refresher. The problem with building an empire is that sooner or later, you run into someone else's.

The last time, Jones was upset that the Cowboys merchandise accounted for one-quarter of the league's $3 billion annual licensing sales — divided equally among the teams — and cut his own side deals with Pepsi and Nike. One measure of how clever his colleagues were at the time was apparent when legal papers for their $3 million image suit were served on Jones.

Now it's 164 feet high — Jones insisted he won't budge when it comes to football.

"You don't need to move it. You gotta be trying to do it," he said about punters hitting the TVs. "The rule is very clear. You just kick it over." Yet the clock won't restart after Trapani clanked a punt off the underside of the goal line; unless the NFL changes the rule, and fast, a team could run plenty of time off the clock simply by pattering the ball off the video board as often it likes.

"It does not matter where you kick it from, it is just right there in the middle of the field," Trapani said. "It's always something that you're going to be thinking about.

Jones is deservedly proud of his new emporium, which opened to rave reviews. Some fans will find $60 pizzas hard to swallow. And those setting in the last row might not be thrilled that after shelling out $20,000 or more for seat licenses — plus $170 for each ticket — the last thing you do is tempt guys with strong legs to see if they can change the channel with their feet.

**SPORTS**

**MUSTANG DAILY**

**Volleyball**

**Mustangs open season at Asics Classic Friday**

NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY STAFF PHOTO

The Mustangs will be without career ace Kyle Atherstone.

**su/du/ku**

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Titanic coach Jeff Fisher, above, challenged a play after a punt hit the scoreboard at the new Cowboys Stadium.

**Cal Poly loses 6-0 to SDSU**

The No. 23 Mustangs failed to convert 11 shots against San Diego State in their first exhibition match Wednesday night. Cal Poly compiled 10 fouls compared to the Aztecs' 12, one player from each team was sent off in the 80th minute.

Jim Litke
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones had 75,000 paying guests and a dozen free loaders over to his new house the other night to watch football. Punters for the visiting Tennessee Titans immediately showed their gratitude by using his $40 million TV set for target practice.

"I hit it probably a dozen times in seven or eight minutes," veteran kicker Craig Hentrich said.

"I guess," he added a moment later, "they should have tested things out before they put that thing in place.

"That thing" is the 1.2-million pound, four-sided video board hanging from the rafters exactly 90 feet above the field in the new Cowboys Stadium, the centerpiece of Jones' $1.15-billion shrine to himself.

The big screens along either sideline are 160 feet wide stretching from one 20-yard line to the other and 72 feet tall. Throw in the "smaller" screens above the end zones and you've got a gig mixing video and football.

It's been almost 15 years since Jones' last serious run-in with his NFL brethren, so maybe he needs a refresher. The problem with building an empire is that sooner or later, you run into someone else's.

The last time, Jones was upset that the Cowboys merchandise accounted for one-quarter of the league's $3 billion annual licensing sales — divided equally among the teams — and cut his own side deals with Pepsi and Nike. One measure of how clever his colleagues were at the time was apparent when legal papers for their $3 million image suit were served on Jones.

Now it's 164 feet high — Jones insisted he won't budge when it comes to football.

"You don't need to move it. You gotta be trying to do it," he said about punters hitting the TVs. "The rule is very clear. You just kick it over." Yet the clock won't restart after Trapani clanked a punt off the underside of the goal line; unless the NFL changes the rule, and fast, a team could run plenty of time off the clock simply by pattering the ball off the video board as often it likes.

"It does not matter where you kick it from, it is just right there in the middle of the field," Trapani said. "It's always something that you're going to be thinking about.

Jones is deservedly proud of his new emporium, which opened to rave reviews. Some fans will find $60 pizzas hard to swallow. And those setting in the last row might not be thrilled that after shelling out $20,000 or more for seat licenses — plus $170 for each ticket — the last thing you do is tempt guys with strong legs to see if they can change the channel with their feet.